

A history of Ivanhoe Women's Institute

Ivanhoe Women's Institute was organized early in 1910. This event took place in the Orange Hall. The charter members were Mrs. D. L. Fleming, Mrs. John Clement, Mrs. Albert Clement, Mrs. Hulsie Rollins, Mrs. Jos. Rollins, Mrs. William Shaw, Mrs. Samuel Shaw, Mrs. William French (Madoc). North Hastings Review, 1910: —

"Ivanhoe W.I. held its first meeting at the home of the president, Mrs. Andy Downey. It has a membership of 22. Subjects for discussion were "The Production of Eggs, Children's Rights and Cake Baking" A reading was given by Mrs. D. L. Fleming and a duet by the misses Timmermans."

The second meeting was held at the home of Miss Jennie Tanner and for a number of years, this spacious, hospital home was an ideal setting for the Institute Annual "At Home." Visiting Institutes were also entertained here. There were only two officers at this time; president Mrs. Downey and secretary Miss Nettie Benson.

In 1914, committees were appointed for war work. The women of the Institute were untiring in their efforts. Knitted goods and bandages were sent overseas. Home relief was also given.

January 9, 1943 — They sent 40 lbs. of fur to the Red Cross, Toronto, for seaman's vests. Moira sent the largest box. In 1940, birthday gift, — it gives me much pleasure to publish the following letter received by the

British Minesweepers Auxiliary. Dear Friends:

Please find enclosed \$2.00 to buy a water repellent sweater for some mine sweeper. This is my 75th birthday and I send this as a birthday gift. It is from the sale of crochét work which I do when Red Cross wool is not available for knitting sox.

Mrs. Baldwin Reid, Ivanhoe, Ont., Canada. Blood donors, Madoc Clinic, Feb., 1944: W.I. member, Mrs. Etta Mitz.

Edith Sills was a tireless worker in the red Cross, being a Red Cross nurse in the 1914-1918 war. Annie Fleming boxed, addressed and mailed every parcel.

On June 28, 1935, the Institute celebrated its silver anniversary by holding a luncheon in the Township Hall. There were 70 members and guests present. Mrs. D. L. Fleming, a former president, graciously acted as Toast Mistress.

A former president, Mrs. J. C. Sills, while responding to a toast to the charter members, recalled her war work in France and mentioned the splendid contribution from Hastings County in the war effort. In reply to this toast, Mrs. John Clement made reference to a few members who had passed on: Mrs. Thos. Trummon, who had knit 200 pairs of socks and received a Life Membership certificate and pin from the Red Cross.

There were seven past

presidents present and in token of their services, each was presented with a china cup and saucer. The guest speaker was Mrs. Jos. Wilson, wife of Hastings County Agricultural Representative, of Stirling, who chose as her subject "Other Hills to Climb." A delicious lunch was served. A large, tastefully decorated, three tiered fruit cake was made by Mrs. Richard Haggerty. This bore an array of 25 candles. The ceremony of lighting and cutting the cake was conducted by Mrs. Jas. Haggerty, Mrs. A. Clements and Mrs. C. A. Mitz.

Another milestone in the history of Ivanhoe W. I. was marked June 29, 1960 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary when 68 former members and neighboring Institutes gathered in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, West Huntingdon, and were welcomed by two charter members, Mrs. William Shaw and Mrs. William French. A warm welcome was extended by Mrs. K. Rooney on behalf of Mr. Rooney and the Session of St. Andrew's.

Mrs. Barton Haggerty, president, presided and added words of welcome. Mrs. Haggerty compared the life of women 50 years ago with women of today, saying in spite of all the changes, the women were carrying on today with the same principles and high standards. A memorial service was conducted by Miss Jayne Gay. A solo was sung by Mrs. Milton Shaw.

Readings were given by Mrs. Harold Chambers, Bannockburn and Mrs. John Carlyle, Wellmans; community singing with Mrs. Reg. Haggerty at the piano; a piano solo by Mrs. Gerald Clancy, Wellmans.

The tea table was appointed with damask cloth, silver tea service, gold candles and low bowls of roses, baby's breath and Centerbury bells.

Candles were lighted on the beautifully-decorated anniversary cake by Mrs. Kenneth Nicol, district president, and former member of St. Andrew's church. The candle ceremony was conducted by Mrs. Henry Wallace and Mrs. Thos. Lawson. Mrs. Arthur Woods and Mrs. John Wright poured tea. Guests were present from Stirling, Madoc, Eldorado, Bannockburn, Harold, Tweed,

Foxboro, Read and Wellmans. The guest speaker, Mrs. Geo. McCrimmon, Eldorado, district president, North Hastings, spoke on "Friendship."

There are many milestones and landmarks on the road of life, placed there by careful hands for one's direction and our guidance, footprints as it were on the sands of time and sometimes seeing them we take heart again.

I have been thinking of this organization and its beginning. There were few labor-saving devices in the homes; no baby sitters to enable the members to attend the meetings. There were no comfortable cars to ride in, yet our Institute grew, reached out and moved forward. The foundations were well and truly laid. Some of the constructive things done in the past included a school bell on Ivanhoe School.

Then, there was the annual Hallowe'en party — the keeping of our children off the roads and away from wanton mischief; placing a piano in the Township Hall; contributing dishes, curtains and equipment. They contributed money to help buy a tractor for a village in Greece; the Tely Milk Fund; World Refugees; Hospital for Sick Children and many other causes.

The W. I. has benefitted the community in many ways. It has broadened the vision of the homemakers, enlarged their sympathies and enriched their social life.

We, as Canadian women, have hopes which we share with women all over the world — peace and freedom.

Let us hand our goodly heritage, not only unspoiled and undiminished, but enriched and enlarged.

Past presidents: — Mrs. Andrew Downey, Mrs. D. L. Fleming, Mrs. James Haggerty, Mrs. Richard Reid, Mrs. Sam Donnan, Mrs. John Wallace, Mrs. Morley Haggerty, Mrs. John Clement, Mrs. William Shaw, Mrs. A. Clement, Mrs. George Cook, Mrs. J. C. Sills, Mrs. S. J. Kilpatrick, Mrs. Tom Fleming, Mrs. C. Mitz, Mrs. Oscar Wager, Mrs. J. Wallace, Mrs. William French, Mrs. C. Wright, Mrs. E. McMaster, Miss Jane Gay, Mrs. John McInroy, Mrs. Keith Bray, Mrs. Barton Haggerty, Mrs. Ted Pollock, Mrs. H. Vinnicombe, Mrs. A. Revoy, Mrs. R. Sills, Mrs. K. Tuinman.