

LORD AND LADY TWEEDSMUIR

In 1935 Lord Tweedsmuir came to Canada as Governor-General accompanied by Susan, Lady Tweedsmuir. Lord Tweedsmuir was born John Buchan in Scotland, August 25th, 1875. He was called to the bar in 1901, was historian, novelist and author of several biographies. "Memory Holds the Door" was his autobiography. He died in 1940.

Lady Tweedsmuir was an ardent Women's Institute member in England and was made an honorary life member of the F.W.I.O. She advocated that the Women's Institute organization across Canada compile the histories of our local communities and villages. She returned to England following the death of her husband.

In her honour the histories were called Tweedsmuir Books. Lady Tweedsmuir, died March 24th, 1977, at her Oxfordshire home in England at the age of 94.

Lady Susan Tweedsmuir

Lady Tweedsmuir, widow of Lord Tweedsmuir, late Canadian Governor General, died March 24 at her Oxfordshire home in England at the age of 94.

She was responsible for introducing the idea of gathering historical community data and compiling the information into book form. Because of her encouragement Women's Institute members in Ontario compiled Tweedsmuir History books at branch, district, area and provincial level.

Lady Tweedsmuir was generous enough to write the foreword which appears in all Tweedsmuir History books. Today, Tweedsmuir Histories in Ontario are considered authentic historical data and recognized by the Ministry of Education as a true source of information for students.

Completed Ontario Tweedsmuir Histories are on microfilm at the Ontario Archives. These valuable books are certainly not only in Ontario but in all provinces. National Tweedsmuir History competitions have been held at FWIC Conventions over the years. Statistics show over 1300 branches in Ontario have local histories ranging from a single volume to as high as nine volumes.

Women's Institutes are grateful to the foresight of Lady Tweedsmuir and the support given to encourage branch members to record histories of local communities that otherwise would have been forever lost.