

Brown's Women's Institute

The following is a talk prepared and taped at radio station C.K.C.O. in Woodstock by Mrs. John Brown and Mrs. John Hawkesworth in 1963.

A group of girls who belonged to a Sunday School class at Brown's United Church, met at the home of their teacher, the late Miss Ethel Rumble on Friday, May 17, 1936. As an outcome of this meeting and because of the interest shown by the girls and their teacher in community activities, a Junior Institute was organized.

On May 6, 1938 out of this beginning, the Missouri Women's Institute was formed with a membership of twenty. This group was a branch of East Middlesex district.

In May 1943 the name Missouri was changed to Browns and the branch transferred to the district of North Oxford.

In September we plan to celebrate our twenty-fifth anniversary. The membership has increased to forty-three, nine of whom are charter members.

During these twenty-five years there have been discouragements and triumphs as shown by the minutes of April 15, 1943 when a vote by ballot was taken to decide whether the Institute would continue. The result of this vote we understand was close and is ever a warning that we must guard well these rights and privileges as well as the responsibilities which we as Institute members must assume.

Since that time our branch has gone on to better things.