

# INTRODUCTION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Lady Tweedsmuir

In 1950, Lady Tweedsmuir, the wife of the Governor General of Canada at the time, became concerned that Canadians, due to the fact that they were such a young country, were not appreciative of the happenings in their communities and were not preserving them. She encouraged the Women's Institutes to assume this responsibility. On learning that they had taken on the challenge, she responded thus:

*"It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women's Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten, and women should be on the alert always to guard the traditions of their homes, and to see that water color sketches and prints, poems and prose legends should find their way into these books. The oldest people in the village will tell us fascinating stories of what they can remember, which the younger members can write down, thus making a bridge between them and events that happened before they were born. After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us, and your village histories will be the basis of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future. I am proud to think that you have called them the Tweedsmuir Village Histories."*

Since Women's Institutes were rural associations, the project was extended to include House Logs and, in particular, Farm Histories. In 1950, Mrs. Lena Fox became convenor of Historical research and Current Events. Her interest in

local and family history contributed to the first volumes of Tweedsmuir History for Springford Women's Institute. She was assisted by Margaret Anstice Smith another avid local historian, who compiled a comprehensive history of the area, from which many others have been written. Both these women, however, had the few but invaluable sources written by such people as, early settler Milton Cameron, William Bell, and others. It is said that Mrs. Fox had the first volume full in the first year and was on to the next. Her collected information was the foundation from which the next Tweedsmuir Curator, Mrs. Lillian White, was able to research and write most of the Springford Village History and many of the farm histories.

With the intent to publish Lillian's work, it became obvious that an attempt should be made to include the rest of the farms of the community. The determination of the "Community" was difficult. From the beginning people socialized in neighbourhoods and through church affiliation, and inter-married within these groups. We have chosen an area from the Spitler River west to the Dereham Townline, southerly including the south half of concession 7, concession 8, and the north half of concession 9. We have also included two farms in the south half of concession 9, west of Springford, and the three neighbouring lots in Dereham Township because St. Charles Anglican Church was the nucleus of the Springford Anglican community.

Our historical account is not without flaws. In some cases memories differ and even records and statistics can be mis-