

SPRY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Spry Women's Institute was organized in 1914. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Herb Richardson. There were 28 original members. Mrs. Bill Warder was first President, and Mrs. Herb Richardson first Secretary. Some of the original members were: Mrs. Warder, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. W. Walpole, Mrs. Jenks, Miss Shouldice, Mrs. Bray, Mrs. E. Scott, Miss L. Hawes, Mrs. Slocum, Mrs. E. Walpole, Miss Slocum, Mrs. Currie, Mrs. F. Hawes, Mrs. Herb Richardson, Mrs. Gillies, Mrs. Belmore and Mrs. Shaw. The dues were 25¢ a year.

In 1922 the Orange Hall was leased to the Women's Institute for 99 years.

The ladies were quite active — they had booths at various events such as Fairs, Picnics and Garden parties to raise money — they sponsored the 4-H Club and — they knit for the soldiers.

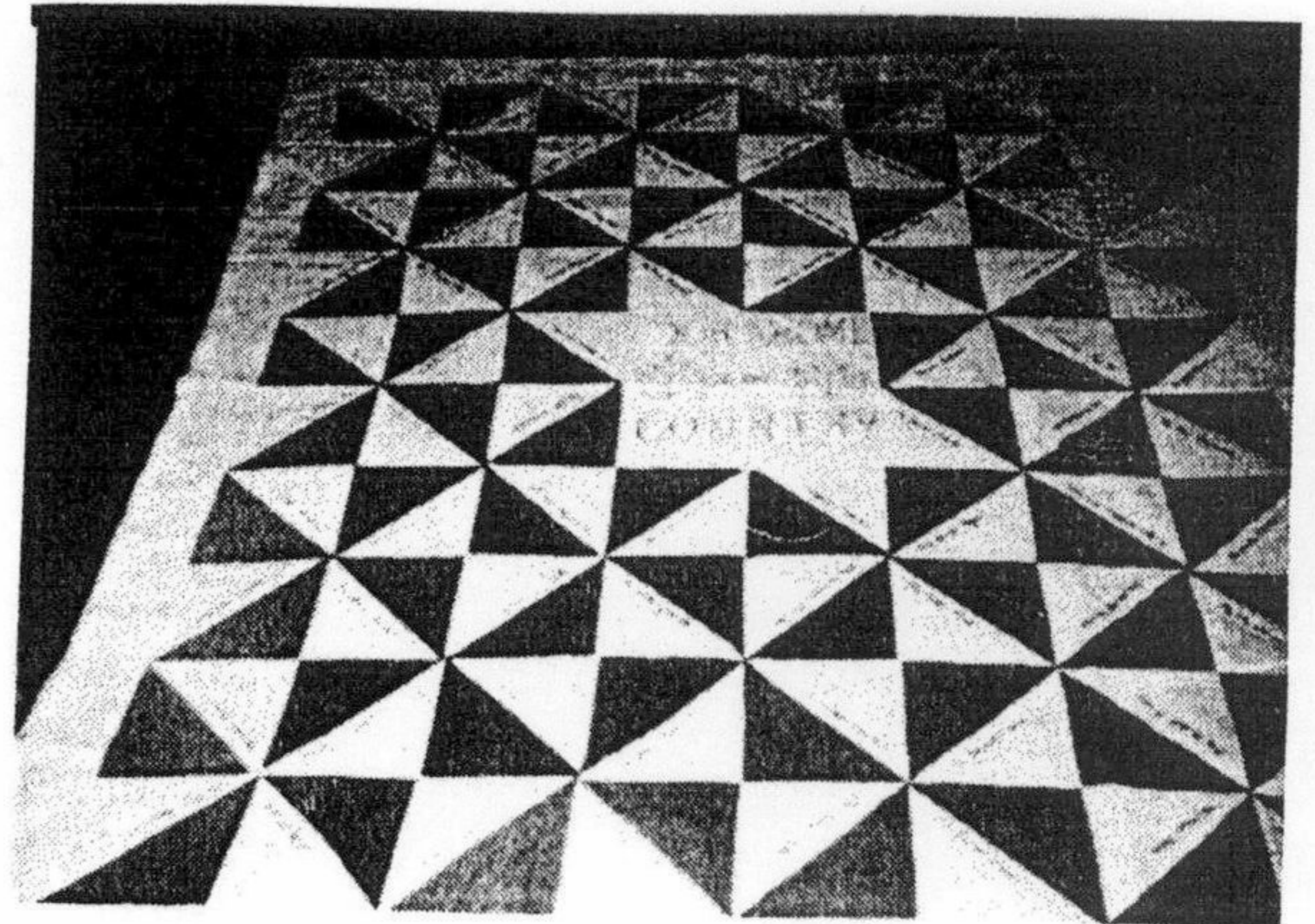
In 1976 they disbanded due to a lack of members.

QUILTING

The word "Quilt" is derived from the Latin word "Culcita" meaning a sack, mattress or cushion filled with feathers, wool or hair and used as a covering for warmth. It is believed to have developed in Egypt during the time of the Pharaohs as a protection from the extreme heat of the sun. In China, and later in India and Greece, quilted fabric was found to block out the cold and retain body heat. In the eleventh century, Crusaders wore quilted undergarments to protect their bodies from irritation and high temperature when wearing their suits of armour. The nobility constructed quilted garments and coverlet of silks, satins and velvets, often lavishly embroidered. The poor peasant however wore clothing of cheap material and often held together with scraps and patches to give some warmth during frigid weather.

When our ancestors came to the new land, they brought with them their thimbles, needles and dreams. Because of the shortage of material, every little scrap was saved and sewn together to make a coverlet; thus the "Crazy Quilt" and the "Log Cabin" pattern came into being.

In those early days, it was truly a labour of love to make a quilt. To begin with, the sheep had to be sheared, the wool picked, carded and spun. Roots were dug, bark and nuts from many different trees were collected, and the big pot hung to make the dyes. This method had been passed down through the centuries and came to Canada with our pioneers.



"Name Quilt" made by the Spry W.I. during W.W. I with names of 76 enlisted men.

TAKEN FROM BENCHMARKS -
HISTORY OF EASTNOR TOWNSHIP