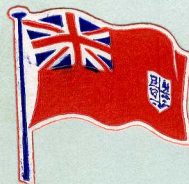
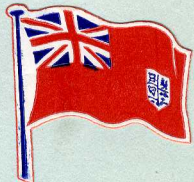


NOBLETON WOMENS' INSTITUTE

FORMED IN APRIL, 1908.

COMMENCEMENT OF COMPILATION OF TWEEDSMUIR

VILLAGE HISTORY-----1954.

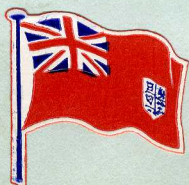
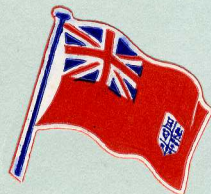


“FOREWORD”

I am so glad to hear that the Women's Institutes of Ontario are going to compile village history books. Events move very fast nowadays; houses are pulled down, new roads are made, and the aspect of the countryside changes completely sometimes in a short time.

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 colour 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 remember, which the younger members can write down, thus making a bridge between them and events which 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”.

—Written by Lady Tweedsmuir.



"The History of the Tweedsmuir Book"

It was during the years from 1935 to 1940 when Lord Tweedsmuir was Governor General of Canada that Lady Tweedsmuir was inspired to attain a record of the local history.

Lady Tweedsmuir was an accomplished writer whose published work included historical studies, biographies, several fantasies and childrens' books.

During the four and one half years of her husband's term as Governor General, Lady Tweedsmuir had the opportunity such as few people have of becoming familiar with all parts of Canada.

Her vivid descriptions of the provinces, and the lives and varied occupations of the people are given with many lively personal touches in the short history of Canada which she wrote for the British Commonwealth in picture series. This history revealed Lady Tweedsmuir's wide sympathy and understanding of Canadian problems.

Historically Canada is a young country and Lady Tweedsmuir felt we were not enough concerned with the records of the past. She challenged the women of the nation to gather together the history of the villages and towns while the facts were still available that they might be saved for posterity.

The Womens' Institute accepted the challenge and to honour so revered a lady called them the "Tweedsmuir Village Histories".

The compilation of these histories was commenced in 1940. Some of our early history was recorded at that time, but was not put into a book until 1954.

We are now on our second book, 1970.

Present Curator: Verna Chamberlain



MRS. ADELAIDE HOODLESS

Founder of Womens'
Institutes at Stoney Creek
February 19th, 1897.



MRS. ADELAIDE HOODLESS.

Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, founder of Women's Institutes, was born near St. George, Ontario, in 1857. She was brought up on an Ontario farm; her brothers all were university-educated and she grew up in a home of culture. But on some subjects she was woefully ignorant; just how ignorant she didn't realize until tragedy struck in the early years of her married life.

Her first baby died when he was 18 months old, and Adelaide Hoodless was so grief-stricken when she realized her child's death was caused by her own ignorance about impure milk that she decided to do all she could to prevent other babies dying from wrong feeding and improper care.

Mrs. Hoodless, who in the year 1896 lived in Hamilton, Ontario, agitated for the teaching of domestic science in the public schools. When she was invited to address an annual meeting of the farmers at Guelph, she told them that the health of their families was more important than the health of their cattle.

One of the gentlemen was so inspired he organized a meeting of his local Farmers' Institute where the women could hear her, and this led to the establishment of the first Womens' Institute on February 19th, 1897, in the village of Stoney Creek.

It's thrilling to know from this beginning by a Canadian woman, Women's Institutes have been set up not only in all the provinces of Canada, but all over the World, which led to the eventual formation of the Associated Countrywomen of the World.

Adelaide Hoodless always linked together a women's responsibilities as a homemaker and as a citizen, so its entirely in keeping with her plans that the Institutes now have standing committees on such things as Social Welfare and Citizenship, running from a woman's part in the local section right up to international affairs.

This unusual woman who founded the Women's Institutes, was the first president of the Y.W.C.A., was an organizer of the National Council of Women, and got the teaching of domestic science started in the public schools. She truly gave her life to her work, for it was while pleading with the women of Toronto to raise money for university courses in household science that she dropped dead on the platform at the age of 52.

In the year 1900, thirty-three Womens' Institutes were functioning in the province of Ontario. In 1948 there were 1,387. This number has increased until now branches may be found in every inhabited of Ontario.

Not only have the Institutes grown in numbers and membership but their function has developed in line with the needs of the changing circumstances in living. With the steady progress of science and art, greater returns are possible each year to the homemaker who is a member of the Women's Institute.

Institute members must be thrilled to know they are a part of the largest organization of women in the world.