

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY

KETTLEBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

ADELAIDE HOODLESS HOME

(Birth place of the founder of the Women's Institute)



This tribute to Mrs. Hoodless was placed on a plaque at the Homestead by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board.

"Adelaide Hunter Hoodless 1857-1910"

Adelaide Hoodless was born in this farm house and lived here until she married John Hoodless 1881. On February 19th, 1897 she organized at Stoney Creek the world's first Women's Institute. It was her belief that in this organization rural women could discuss their problems and work together to improve their standard of home-making and citizenship. The movement spread rapidly throughout Ontario and later to other provinces. Mrs. Hoodless, a natural leader and forceful speaker, introduced the teaching of domestic science into Ontario schools and obtained funds for the building of MacDonald Institute at Guelph.

The Homestead was purchased by the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada in 1959 - It is being restored and furnished in the period when Adelaide Hunter Hoodless lived there. This is a project of all Inst-

itutes in Canada.

A cairn bearing this inscription stands at the junction of Highways 5 and 24, a half mile from the Homestead.

"To commemorate the birthplace of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, 1857 - 1910, who founded the Women's Institute, February 19, 1897, erected by the Women's Institutes of Brant County, unveiled by her Excellency Lady Tweedsmuir, Oct. 7, 1937"

When the Scottish Rural Institute members made a tour of rural Canada in 1939, a flag pole and flag were dedicated in the Adelaide Hoodless Memorial Park.

The South Dumfries Township Council erected a plaque in 1958: "Birthplace of Adelaide Hoodless, Founder of Women's Institutes".

The National Historic Sites and Monuments Board erected a plaque in June of 1962 proclaiming Adelaide Hunter Hoodless an eminent Canadian.



"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.

LORD AND LADY TWEEDSMUIR

Susan Tweedsmuir was the daughter of the late Honorable Norman Grosvenor, a member of the ducal family of Westminster, and also descended from a sister of the great Duke of Wellington. She wrote several books as well as being interested in drama, having written some short plays. She was Past President of the Elsfield Women's Institute of England, and for some years was President of the Federated Institutes of Oxfordshire. She was also Honorary President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Speaking to the Women's Institute, City View and Merivale Branch of Carleton County, at the beautiful farm home of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Caldwell, ten miles from Ottawa, on March 26th, 1936, she told of the work of her own branch in England of 36 members, and said: "I cannot help but compare this comfortable meeting place to ours, which is a fourteenth century barn with a stone floor and the stove away in a corner. Our programme is like yours - the business, then a speaker or play and the social hour. Our branch is small in numbers but I like that, as there is not apt to be jealousies and cliques, and it is friendlier when we all draw up to the fire for our tea. I am a country woman and I am always happy to be with other country women. It is so good to be at a Women's Institute meeting again and I am particularly pleased to meet some of the Canadian pioneer workers here to-day, she concluded."

John Buchan was born in Scotland on August 26th, 1875, his father a minister and his mother the daughter of a minister. Bursaries helped ease the burden of sending him through Glasgow University and then on to Oxford. He was admitted to the English bar in 1901, and soon after he went to South Africa as private secretary to the High Commissioner, Lord Milner, where he learned much of the secrets of the Empire during the Boer War. Two years later on returning to England he gave up his private practice of law to join his Oxford friend, Thomas Nelson, in the publishing business. As well as his active management of the firm, he released several novels, histories, biographies and newspaper articles. During World War I he saw active service in the Intelligence Corp and was later promoted to Director of Information under the Prime Minister. After the war his literary work grew and he added to his reputation of being a great scholar that of being a distinguished figure in the world of letters.

From 1927 to 1935 he was a member of Parliament for the Scottish Universities and in 1934 was Lord High Commissioner to the Church of Scotland. In 1935 he was commissioned to be Governor General of Canada, a position lauded by all Canadians, as heretofore it had been given to those of royal blood or at least of hereditary aristocracy. But shortly thereafter John Buchan was made the first Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfield. He will ever be remembered by Canadians, not only through his books, but as a kindly man at home with Canadians from coast to coast, and as the only Governor General to serve under three monarchs. We, as members of the Women's Institute, will always be grateful to Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir for their inspiration to compile our village histories.

(Given at Historical Research Meeting
March 1960)

PROGRAMME
1911 - 1912

KETTLEBY BRANCH

of the

NORTH YORK

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

MEETINGS HELD THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

AT THE HOMES OF THE MEMBERS

AT HALF PAST TWO

FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

Nov. 22nd	Home of Mrs. H. Ramsden
	Christmas Preparations - Mrs. H. Ramsden
	Inexpensive Christmas Gifts - Mrs. W. Curtis
January	Home of Mrs. L. Watson
	Subject selected - Mrs. C. F. Doan
February	Home of Mrs. J. A. Marshall
	Social problems and how to meet them
	- Mrs. H. Davis
March	Home of Mrs. J. Tatton
	Spring house cleaning - Mrs. T. Ellison
April	Home of Mrs. W. Curtis
	The value of cheerfulness - Mrs. B. Hilborn
	The evils of fault finding - Miss E. Hambleton

PROGRAMME - 1911 - 1912

May

ANNUAL MEETING

Home of Mrs. B. Hilborn

How we are benefited by meeting together
- Mrs. J. A. Marshall

June

Home of Mrs. J. Spragg

Color and its effects on interiors
- Mrs. R. Fox

Furnishing the living room for comfort
- Mrs. W. Bogart

OFFICERS

President	-	Mrs. L. T. Watson
vice-Pres.	-	Mrs. B. Hilborn
Sec. Treas.	-	Miss M. Elliott

DIRECTORS

Mrs. R. Hughey	Mrs. J. Spragg
Mrs. J. A. Marshall	

COMMITTEE

Mrs. F. Walton	-	Mrs. R. Fox
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Mrs. Levi Watson - First President
of Kettleby Branch of the Women's
Institute



W. I. meeting held
at Ruth Edwards Wilson's
in Kettleby when a con-
test of the making of
hats from kitchen utin-
sels was put on. These
were some of the better
models - Sadie Billings,
Dora Conover, Lillian
West, Nora Blackburn,
Audrey Schmidt, Anne
Sproule, Peggy Blatch-
ford and Grace Burns.

FEB • 55 •



Canada Packers Cooking School

October 1954

FEB • 55



NEWS ITEMS OF KETTLEBY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

1954 - With their respective presidents, Mrs. N. G. Sproule, Mrs. Howard Morning and Mrs. Albert Farren, 40 members of King Ridge, Snowball and Kettleby W. I. branches were guests of the King City branch on May 11th. They were welcomed by the President, Mrs. Austin Rumble. Brief highlights of the W.I. Presidents' Conference at Guelph were given by Mrs. Rumble. Mrs. Archie Campbell read a bulletin from the Canadian Consumers' Association.

Visiting branches contributed to the program when a skit was given by Mrs. Pat McGeean, Mrs. Aston and Mrs. Sproule of King Ridge. Mrs. Ken Carson sang a solo, accompanied by Mrs. Verdun Gordon, King City. From Kettleby Mrs. Robert Carson and Mrs. John Davis sang two duets, accompanied by Mrs. Herbert Webster. Miss Sheila Davison, representing the Snowball group, sang two numbers, accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Wm. Davison. On behalf of Miss Jessie Gellatly, Mrs. T. L. Williams conducted a contest for the local branch.

Mrs. E. Reddick, Snowball, district president, spoke briefly and Mrs. A. E. Jarvis thanked the visitors for their hearty response and splendid turn-out. Mrs. Norman Wade convened refreshments.

1954 - Kettleby branch met at the home of Mrs. Robert Carson with Mrs. A. Farren, president, in the chair. It was decided to take the annual treat to the folk at York County Home for Thanksgiving.

The flower report was given by Mrs. R. Warlow. The guest speaker was Miss Frances Miller, public health nurse at School Area No. 1. She spoke of the great opportunities the children of to-day had through the Health Unit, and explained how this unit carried on. At her conclusion there was a question period and much valuable information was received. A piano solo was given by Robert Carson and a contest on fruits and vegetables was held.

Hostesses were Mrs. R. Jewitt, Mrs. G. Cook, Mrs. W. Hodgson and Mrs. G. Tienkamp.