

Lady Tweedsmuir

Lady Tweedsmuir (Susan Charlotte Grosvener) was born in London, England, a daughter of the Honourable Norman Grosvener and his wife Caroline Stuart Wortley. She received a private education. She was married (attended by eight bridesmaids) to John Buchan on July 15, 1907. They lived in Edinburgh for a short time, then moved to London. There were four in their family-Alice (the eldest), John, born in 1911, William in 1916 and Alastair in 1918.

When her husband became Governor-General of Canada in 1935, she became the chatelaine of Rideau Hall. She was extremely interested in the work of the Women's Institutes. In England she had held various offices. While in Canada she attended branch meetings and conventions and frequently gave talks to the members. She accepted the office of Honorary President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and later was made a Life Member. Her keen interest gave great impetus to the Women's Institute movement in Canada.

It was she who suggested that the branches compile community histories which became known as Tweedsmuir Village Histories. This was the origin of our present Tweedsmuir Histories, not only branch, but district, county, area and provincial.

It was she, at the request of the Provincial Board, suggested that they be called Tweedsmuir Histories and she consented to write the foreword which appears in all books. To-day, in Ontario, these histories are considered authentic historical data and recognized by the Ministry of Education as a true source of information for students.

Lady Tweedsmuir is the author of several books and plays. She passed away March 24, 1977 at her Oxfordshire home in England at the age of 94.

Women's Institutes are grateful to her for her foresight in encouraging Women's Institutes members to record the history of the local community, which might otherwise have been lost forever.