

Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir

Lord Tweedsmuir was born John Buchan in Scotland on August 25, 1875, the son of Rev. John Buchan. He was called to the Bar in 1901. Lord Tweedsmuir was an historian, novelist, (his best known works are "The Thirty-nine Steps" and "Greenmantle") and Governor-General of Canada from 1935-1940. Lord Tweedsmuir enjoyed great popularity in Canada, travelling the length and breadth of this country, taking great interest in all aspects of Canadian life. On February 11, 1940, Lord Tweedsmuir died in Montreal, and Canadians remember his fine contribution as Governor-General.

Lady Tweedsmuir was an ardent Women's Institute member in England. She was made an Honorary Life Member of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario. During Lord Tweedsmuir's term as Governor-General of Canada, Lady Tweedsmuir took a great interest in the Women's Institutes of Canada.

Lady Tweedsmuir advocated the compilation of local community and village histories across Canada. Her suggestion materialized in 1940 when the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario began compiling "village History Books". In 1945 a list of "Suggestions for Compiling Tweedsmuir Village Histories" was published in Home and Country. The word "village" was later dropped so that all Institute branches were free to compile a history whether covering a village or not. The history book idea was initiated at the Federated Women's Institute of Canada in 1946.

Lady Tweedsmuir returned to England following her husband's death. Her death occurred in the winter of 1977, at the age of 94 years.