

# Our Heritage in Macdonald Institute

THE ONTARIO WOMEN'S INSTITUTES naturally feel that they have a heritage in Macdonald Institute. When Adelaide Hoodless persuaded Sir William Macdonald to give the funds to build this school of Home Economics — they called it Domestic Science then — she had a triple purpose in mind. First she wanted a school where farmers' daughters could study home economics for the betterment of their own homes. Second, she could foresee the need of trained teachers to carry homemaking education to the new organization for rural women, the Women's Institutes. Already the Institutes were asking for such help and the very limited number of home economists available in the province had received their training either in the United States or at what was called the "Ontario Normal School of Domestic Science and Art". This school had been opened in Hamilton in 1900 through the influence of Mrs. Hoodless with the Y.W.C.A., the Hamilton City Council, the Ontario Department of Education and a number of wealthy friends. (The school later merged with Macdonald Institute.)

Mrs. Hoodless was also crusading to have Domestic Science taught in public schools — a beginning had already been made in the schools of Hamilton; and if this was to be extended, numbers of Domestic Science graduates would be required as teachers. Again a school was needed as a teachers' training ground. There were difficulties in financing

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IN A MUSEUM  
By Carrie A. Hall

Rare old quilt, of faded hue —  
Once a bride's most precious treasure  
Hidden in her dower-chest,  
Loving hands that fashioned you  
Stitch by stitch, in careful measure  
Long ago, are now at rest.

Your patches tell a wondrous story  
Of treasured scraps and handicraft;  
Of love and home, and dreams come true.  
For honored guests your pattern'd glory,  
Enfolding them, caressing, soft —  
And baby hands have lightly touched you.

Now you're worth your weight in gold  
To lie in state your only duty,  
In pleasant ways your lot is cast  
And to the world your tale is told.  
To those who love your patterned beauty  
You recreate the fragrant past.

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the Hamilton institution so Mrs. Hoodless looked about for other possibilities. Her son was a student at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph and she knew the President Dr. James Mills. She discussed her problem with Dr. Mills and he encouraged her to try to find funds for a building which could be located at the O.A.C. Mrs. Hoodless took her appeal to William Christopher Macdonald, millionaire tobacco manufacturer; the funds were provided and Macdonald Institute was opened in 1903.

At this time Miss Mary Urie Watson, a native of Ayr, Ontario was principal of the Hamilton School of Domestic Science and Art, and she moved with the School to Guelph, to become the first principal of Macdonald Institute. Miss Watson had an extensive education for a young woman of her day, with post graduate studies at Columbia University. She had a natural aptitude for home economics, high standards for her students and a progressive outlook. Some years after her retirement in 1920, she expressed her special interest in the expansion of practical education in home management and child study at Macdonald Institute.

When Miss Olive Cruickshank of Wingham, the second principal came to Macdonald Institute in 1921 there was a growing demand for graduates and for more professional training. Some of the shorter courses were discontinued and most of the students entered the two-year Associate Course. An outstanding piece of Miss Cruickshank's work was the development of very streamlined food laboratories much in advance of what was common in other schools of home economics at that time. In 1941 Macdonald Institute was closed as a school, to provide accommodation for the Army Force; and Miss Cruickshank took a war-time position with the Dominion Government until her sudden and untimely death in 1948.

When the Institute was re-opened after the war, Miss Dorothy Lindsay, now Mrs. Frank Walden, came as Associate Director. She had the heavy duty of helping to get the building renovated after its military occupation. At this time, in 1946-47, there were no professional courses, only a one-year Diploma Course; but the staff worked with an Advisory Committee to plan a four-year Degree Course which was introduced in 1948 with Dr. Margaret McCready as principal.

Ontario Women's Institute members are fa-