


Open houses planned at homesteads

A Day of Discovery



ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

Plan a day and visit **3** historical sites

from 1857 until 1881, when she married John Hoodless.

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless believed that rural women could discuss their problems and work together through WI to improve their standard of homemaking and citizenship. A natural leader and forceful speaker, Mrs. Hoodless introduced the teaching of domestic science into Ontario schools and obtained funds for the building of the MacDonald Institute at Guelph.

Incidentally, plans are underway for some special events to take place at both the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead and the Erland Lee (Museum) Home during the winter season.

A Christmas open house at the Hoodless Homestead on December 9 will feature an exhibit of heritage

Christmas decorations, carol singing, holiday treats and tea.

Christmas at the Lee will be celebrated December 4 and 5 with old-fashioned decorations and festivities with a heritage flavor.

And be sure to mark your calendar for February 17, 1986 when the third annual Heritage Day open house will take place at the Hoodless Homestead.

The event is a combined celebration of Heritage Day (the third Monday in February), the anniversary of Mrs. Hoodless's birthday (February 27, 1858) and the 89th anniversary of the formation of the first WI (February 19, 1897).

Displays and demonstrations of heritage crafts by local artisans will be featured.

spirited, broad-minded farmer and followed his ancestors in mixed farming with purebred Jersey cattle, fancy dairy butter, maple syrup and fruit.

In the autumn of 1896, Mr. Lee attended a meeting of the Farmers' Experimental Union, held at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, where he heard a stirring address given by Adelaide Hunter Hoodless of Hamilton. Inspired by her ideas and enthusiasm, Erland Lee invited Mrs. Hoodless to speak at a ladies' night of the Saltfleet Farmers' Institute.

The following week, Mr. Lee and his wife travelled the roads of Saltfleet Township encouraging all women to attend a meeting in Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek on February 19, 1897. It was at that meeting the first WI in the world was organized.

The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, birthplace of the founder of the WI, is located near St. George — one kilometre west of the junctions of Highways 24 and 5 East on Blue Lake Road.

It was purchased by the FWIC in 1959, and was restored as the rural home in which Addie Hunter resided

When was Adelaide Hoodless born?

Is there someone out there who can let us know, *with certainty*, the year in which Adelaide Hunter Hoodless was born?

Home & Country recently received a brochure from the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead in St. George, which quoted the inscription on a cairn located at the junction of Highways 5 and 24, a half mile from the birthplace of the founder of the Women's Institutes.

It gives 1857 as the year in which Mrs. Hoodless was born.

But a press release sent to us by Nancy Dodsworth, curator of the homestead, announced the date of Adelaide Hunter's birth as February 27, 1858.

When we called Mrs. Dodsworth to double check which year was correct, 1857 or 1858, the curator explained that no one seems to know for sure.

"There's a conflict in the dates," Mrs. Dodsworth told us. She said she's done some research into the subject, and found the family Bible



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless

gives the year as 1858. To make matters more interesting, however, the "8" appears to have been written in on top of another number — perhaps a "7".

Until we receive evidence to the contrary, we plan to observe the 1858 date. What do you other WI historians have to say about this?