

**Life of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless**  
(by Mrs. W. A. Hoskin)

A young mother, Adelaide Hoodless, in Wentworth County, lost her first born child, whose death at 12 months was attributed to the lack of knowledge of infant feeding. Mrs. Hoodless found, too late, that the milk being fed to her child was unfit for human consumption and she felt that she should

have known. But she did not bow under her grief. It rather gave her a great longing to save others from the pain she suffered and drove her to try to bring within the reach of all, the education necessary to prevent such tragedies. She felt boys and girls should be educated to fit their proper sphere in life.

It was about this time that the Provincial Department of Agriculture was beginning to work on the improvement of farm animal health. Mrs. Hoodless felt that the health of the human family was of more vital importance than farm stock. She therefore approached the Department of Education, urging that the rudiments of homemaking should be taught in the public schools, but received no encouragement.

Mr. Erland Lee, a prominent and public spirited young farmer from Saltfleet Twp. in Wentworth heard Mrs. Hoodless deliver a stirring address and he was so impressed that the following February, 1897, the Farmer's Institute was meeting in Stoney Creek and Mr. Lee invited Mrs. Hoodless to speak in the evening when the ladies were invited.

In her address, she suggested that the women should have an organization similar to the Farmer's Institute, to assist them in their most important work of ministering to the health, comfort and general welfare of the family in the rural home.



Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless  
Founder of Women Institutes

On the following Friday, February 19, 1897, Mrs. Hoodless to her amazement, found on her arrival at Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek, 100 women and 1 man (Mr. Lee). Here was organized a "Women's Department of Domestic Economy in affiliation with the Farmer's Institute of South Wentworth."

Officers were elected. They met again the next week and shortened the name to "Women's Institute of Saltfleet." Later when another Institute was formed in the township this was changed to Stoney Creek Women's Institute.

Mrs. Hoodless went farther. In 1899 she asked the Government to make provision for scientific education of women by establishing a women's department of the Ontario Agricultural College where women might be qualified as instructors in subjects directly connected with the department of the Ontario Agriculture as related to women's life and work. She went to Sir William Macdonald of Montreal and interested him to the extent that he contributed the sum of \$200,000 towards the erection of a building at Guelph for the training of rural girls in homemaking and household science. This is known as Macdonald Institute; in a prominent place in the Reception Room is a life-size portrait of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, who played a very important part in educational progress in the Gay Nineties.

**MEMORIAL DEDICATED  
TO  
ADELAIDE HOODLESS  
IN BRANT COUNTY**

Women's Institutes everywhere honour the memory of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and in Brant County they hold her in tender reverence as it was the place of her birth. To express this respect, the Brant County institutes erected a cairn at the crossroad near St. George in memory of Mrs. Hoodless. On Saturday, October 3, this cairn was unveiled by Her Excellency The Lady Tweedsmuir in the presence of three hundred spectators. Lady Tweedsmuir considered the occasion a historical one and expressed her belief in the value of the work of institutes in exalting home standards.

Mrs. A. E. Linnington of Paris, chairman of the Memorial Committee, introduced the speakers among whom were: Mayor M. M. MacBride of Brantford; Mrs. Travers Stewart, president of South Brant Women's Institute district; Mrs. A. E. Walker, president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada; Mr. H. J. Moore, creator of the Peace Garden; and Mrs. H. M. Bostwick, a daughter of Mrs. Hoodless.

The inscription on the cairn reads as follows:

*"For Home and Country"*

To commemorate the birthplace of  
ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS  
1858—1910

Who founded the Women's Institutes  
February 19th, 1897.

Erected by the Women's Institutes  
of Brant County.

Plans for a garden are being made  
in order that the cairn may have a  
suitable setting.



Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless  
President Ontario School of  
Domestic Science  
and Art



CHARTER MEMBERS OF STONEY CREEK W. I.  
Front row (left to right): Mrs. John B. Smith, Mrs. B. E. Thompson, Mrs. Geo. W. Millen, Mrs. Walter Denne, Mrs. Henry P. Van Wagner. Back row: Mrs. John Budge, Mrs. Fred E. Madden, Mrs. George A. Gliddin, Mrs. J. McKinley Morden. Inset: Mrs. J. B. Davis.

The above ladies were present at the founding of the Women's Institute in Stoney Creek in 1897 and are looking forward to celebrating the fiftieth anniversary in 1947.