



MRS. ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS

One hundred and one women gathered at Squire's Hall in the village of Stoney Creek on the cold winter night of February 19, 1897 to listen to Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless.

She had come to tell them that if men needed organizations to help them grow crops and raise beasts, farm wives had even more need of mutual aid to educate themselves in the art and science of homemaking.

Mrs. Hoodless had been

asked to speak by Erland Lee, a young Stoney Creek farmer, who was inspired by her concern for the practical education of country women.

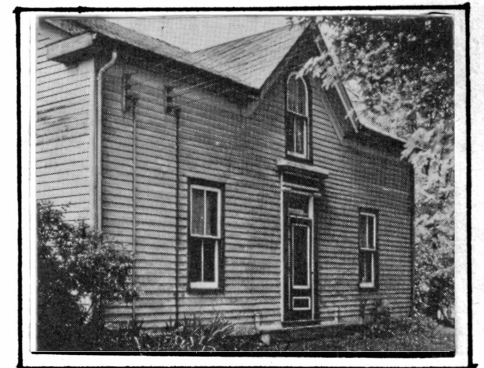
The evening brought fame to both of them--to her as the honorary president, and to him as the founder of the world's first Women's Institute.

By 1915, the idea had caught on from coast to coast and in 1919, the various Institutes linked together in the Federated Women's Institute of Canada.

W.I. missionaries inspired the U.S. Farm and Home Bureau, now a powerful national organization, and they also carried the idea to Britain and throughout the world.

Finally, in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1933, these world-wide groups, all patterned after the organization conceived in Stoney Creek, formed themselves into the Associated Country Women of the World.

The watch-word of the Women's Institute is FOR HOME AND COUNTRY and from the outset they have stressed that a nation cannot rise above the level of its homes.



Birthplace of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, near St. George, Ontario