

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless

Born Feb 27th 1858 ——— Died Feb 25th 1910.

Adelaide Hunter was one of thirteen children of Mr and Mrs David Hunter of near St George, South Dumfries. She grew up in a home of culture and uncompromising Presbyterian ethics. She married Mr John Hoodless of Hamilton.

She became interested in the Hamilton Young Women's Christian Association work and especially furthered its efforts to teach girls better methods in household affairs. Under her presidency, the Hamilton Y.W.C.A. introduced domestic science into public school work there and later with the aid of Lord Strathcona, the Hamilton city council and other interested parties established the Ontario Normal School of Art and Domestic Science.

In 1897 on invitation of Mr Erland Lee of Stoney Creek, she addressed the members and their wives of the Farmers Institute of that place. So interested were the ladies in her talk that when she suggested the formation of an organization for women along the same lines as the mens Farmers Institute.

The outcome was the organization of the Stoney Creek Womens Institute on Feb 19th 1897, the first in Canada.

In 1899 Mrs Hoodless suggested that the Womens Institutes ask the government to provide for the scientific education of women by establishing a woman's department at the O.A.C. Guelph. She approached Sir Wm Mc Donald of Montreal and told her story so well that he contributed \$200,000 for the building at Guelph now known as Mac Donald Institute also Mac Donald Hall, the women's residence.

Mrs Hoodless was only 52 years old when she died. She had seen the teaching of domestic science started in public schools and a permanent school of Home Economics established at Guelph but she felt the need for a course at some university to give more advanced training in household science. The government was not willing to commit itself to capital expenditures. So, as usual, Mrs Hoodless set out to find the capital. While she was pleading with the women of Toronto at a special meeting at the Federation of Womens Clubs on February 25th 1910 she dropped dead on the platform.

This woman believed that "no higher vocation