

Unveil Plaque Honoring Adelaide Hoodless



Mrs. Keith Rand, of Port Williams, Nova Scotia, former national president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, Saturday unveiled a plaque honoring Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, found-

er of the Women's Institute. The unveiling took place at the birthplace of Mrs. Hoodless, eight miles north of Brantford near the village of St. George. (Photo by Jim Harding)

Plaque Honoring Adelaide Hoodless Unveiled at WI Founder's Homestead

PARIS — A crowd of 200 interested citizens gathered at the birthplace of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless — founder of the Women's Institutes movement and pioneer advocate of domestic science education in Canada — on Saturday afternoon near St. George for the unveiling of a plaque honoring her contribution to Canadian life.

Plaque Unveiled
The plaque was placed just to the right of the door of the small farmhouse where Mrs. Hoodless was born in 1837. It was installed by the historic sites division of the national parks branch on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. It was unveiled by Mrs. Keith Rand of Port Williams, Nova Scotia, former national president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and chairman of the organization's National Homestead Committee.

Dr. Donald C. Creighton of Toronto, an Ontario member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, was chairman for the ceremony. The address was given by Dr. John A. Charlton (PC member for Brant - Haldimand and assistant to Hon. Alvin Hamilton, minister of agriculture), a descendant of a pioneer family of the district. Dr. Charlton referred to Mrs. Hoodless, 1837-1910, as a remarkable woman who received little

honor in the press of her day, but whose drive and determination left a heritage for the women of Canada.

"One of her favorite slogans was 'A nation cannot rise above the level of the home' and she campaigned actively for 'The education of mothers to make better homes'."

At the time of her death the Hamilton Spectator which had criticized her in life remarked editorially, "She had a prophet's vision of what ought to be."

Letter From Queen
Mrs. James Haggerty, Napanee, president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, read a letter of greetings from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. She stated that Adelaide Hunter Hoodless was a "great woman of

the past who challenged us today."

Mrs. Hoodless lived at Hamilton after her marriage to John Hoodless, a prosperous businessman. It was there that she launched her campaign to raise the standards of home management by offering formal training in domestic science to women. In 1895 she started a household science course at Hamilton YWCA.

Mrs. Hoodless helped found the National Council of Women which sponsored the spread of the household science education program to other parts of Canada. She was instrumental in establishing the Macdonald Institute at Guelph and the Macdonald College at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, for the training of domestic science teachers.

In 1897, she initiated the organization of the first Women's Institute at Stoney Creek, Ontario. Mrs. Hoodless died in 1910 while beginning a speech on the need for an improved domestic science college to the Women's Canadian Club of Toronto.

Reeve James Howell, of South Dumfries Township Council, announced from the platform that the council had purchased two acres immediately to the west of the homestead to be used as a park area. Since the FWIC in 1961 acquired the farmhouse and three acres of land to the north and east, the historic site will be "protected and encouraged," he said.

Mrs. Horace Lockman, curator of the building which has been restored and is being refurbished appropriately, outlined the history of the project.

She pointed out that in 1837 Lady Tweedsmuir unveiled a cairn at the park on adjacent No. 5 Highway. In 1939 a flagpole and flag was unveiled there. In 1959 the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario unveiled a plaque at the Homestead.

Committee members in charge of the ceremony were: Mrs. John Charlton (convener), Mrs. Ewart Hunt and Mrs. H. C. Nixon.

Tea was served by the North and South Brant Women's Institutes after the program. Paris Citizens' Band, under the direction of Walter Williams Jr. provided music.

Special guests were entertained by the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Committee, assisted by the Hine Lake and Auburn Women's Institute, whose president is Mrs. William Westover, at a luncheon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Charlton, before the ceremony.

The committee returned there to dinner and for a meeting in the evening under the chairman, Mrs. Keith Rand.

Committee members are: FWIC, Mrs. James Haggerty, of Napanee; FWIO, Mrs. L. G. Lymburner of Port Colborne; Mrs. R. J. Fletcher, Miss Helen McKercher, Mrs. Ewart Hunt, Mrs. H. C. Nixon; chairman, Mrs. Keith Rand; secretary, Mrs. J. Charlton.