

MRS. ADELAIDE HOODLESS



Adelaide Hoodless - Adelaide Hunter before her marriage, was born on a farm near St. George in Brant county, Ontario, one of thirteen children. The first Women's Institute was organized at Stoney Creek on February 19, 1897 by her.

It is an interesting coincidence that the founder of the movement, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless was born in 1857 so in 1957 was the hundredth anniversary of her birth and also the same year the sixtieth anniversary of the Womens Institute. Through her grief of the loss of her eighteen months old baby who died from unsafe milk she felt the need for adult education.

ADELAIDE HOODLESS HOUSE

By Maryn Pardy

So this is the house  
Where an inspired woman lived.  
A woman who was distraught  
As she saw her young child die.  
A woman who berated herself  
For her own ignorance  
Of the things needful to sustain  
Life in small bodies.  
Then, out of her grief,  
A thought came nagging.  
There was so much ignorance  
Of common things among  
The women of her day.  
And yet there were those  
Who knew and could teach  
These women of the farm  
If only they could be got together.  
So this great woman  
With her mind on fire  
With an idea, set forth;  
And out of her determination  
Grew a great movement  
Which has spread  
And grown and enriched  
The lives of many thousands.  
We then revere this house  
And count it as a shrine,  
For because of the death  
Of one small child  
Countless other children  
Have had better lives.  
Step softly then, you who enter,  
For here a grieving mother lived and dreamed.



House before restoration