

**ADELAIDE HOODLESS** founded first W.I. on Feb. 19, 1897, to promote rural sanitation after her baby died from drinking contaminated milk.



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless was an extraordinary trail-blazer. She was the youngest of 12 children born in a small clapboard farmhouse near St. George, Ont. Her father, David Hunter, an Irish Presbyterian immigrant, died shortly after her birth on Feb. 27, 1857, and her family endured a hard struggle.

When she was 24, Adelaide married a well-to-do businessman, John Hoodless of Hamilton, Ont. She might have become just another housewife: A buxom beauty, with widely spaced blue eyes, blonde hair piled high, a touch of stubbornness to her finely modelled chin. But then her baby, John, Jr., died at 18 months from drinking contaminated milk. Adelaide Hoodless was shocked to learn that thousands of farm infants were similarly perishing from a lack of sanitary measures. Out of her grief and anger, she became a reformer, determined to educate rural women.