

ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS HOMESTEAD

A plaque sponsored by the Blue Lake and Auburn Women's Institute was unveiled June 13, 1959, by the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board, Ontario Department of Travel and Publicity, at the birthplace of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, founder of the Women's Institute. All levels of Women's Institutes - branch, district, area, provincial, national and international were in attendance; the latter represented by an Area Vice-President of the Associated Country Women of the World.

In July 1959, at Charlottetown, P.E.I., the Board of Directors, Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, decided to purchase the birthplace with approximately three acres of land for \$11,500.

In 1961, the sum of \$5,000 was set aside for renovations. The Horticultural Department of the Ontario Agriculture College, Guelph, planned and did the landscaping around the Homestead for \$550. Sturdy and attractive steps, both front and side, were constructed, with a stone walk leading to the driveway.

By September 1961, the renovations to the Homestead were completed. North and South Brant District Women's Institutes entertained at Open House. It was an historic day - an end and a beginning. It was the end in the first stage in the planning done at the Board Meeting in Charlottetown, and the beginning of the next stage, planning for the furnishings.

June, 1962, was also an historic month. The National Historic Sites and Monuments Board, Canada Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, unveiled a plaque marking the birthplace of Mrs. Hoodless as a National Historic Site and proclaiming her an eminent Canadian.

Two acres of land adjoining the Homestead were purchased by the South Dumfries Township Council, landscaped as a Centennial Project and dedicated as a Park in 1967.

Expert advice on the furnishings was given the Homestead Committee by the Museum Division, Ontario Department of Travel and Publicity, and Upper Canada Village consultants. These were to be the replica of a modest rural home of the period when Mrs. Hoodless lived there (1857-1881). The furnishings would be donated individually, or by groups of Women's Institute members. This, as one of the Centennial projects of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, was completed in 1967.

Two International Presidents of the Associated Country Women of the World have visited the Homestead: Mrs. Gerda van Beekhoff, The Netherlands, in June 1963, and Mrs. Aroti Dutt, Calcutta, India, June 1967.

Five National Presidents have also been there during their term of office: Mrs. Keith Rand, Nova Scotia; Mrs. E.J. Roylance, British Columbia; Mrs. James Haggerty, Ontario; Mrs. J. Philip Matheson, Prince Edward Island; and Mrs. George Clarke, Newfoundland.

Soil from Canada's provinces from west to east was carried to the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, June 10, 1967, for a symbolic tree-planting ceremony which marked the completion of a centennial project dear to the hearts of all members of the Women's Institute. Two sugar maples, one symbolizing the international, the other the national organizations, were planted in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Women's Institute and Canada's Centennial.

Tables in the picnic area and inside the basement, (seating capacity for 45) as well as cups, saucers, spoons and equipment for making tea and coffee, are provided for those bringing a picnic lunch to the Homestead. Kindly make arrangements in advance with the Hostess, -

Mrs. Horace Lockman,
R.R. #1,
St. George, Ontario.

Telephone: Area 519: 448-1514