



"THE WILLOWS"

ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS

1857 - 1910

Adelaide Hunter was born in this farm house and lived here until she married John Hoodless in 1881. On February 19th, 1897 she organized at Stoney Creek the world's first Women's Institute. It was her belief that in this organization rural women could discuss their problems and work together to improve their standard of homemaking and citizenship. This movement spread rapidly throughout Ontario and later to other provinces. Mrs. Hoodless, a natural leader and forceful speaker, introduced the teaching of domestic science into Ontario schools and obtained funds for the building of MacDonald Institute at Guelph.

The Homestead was purchased by the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada in 1959. It has been restored and furnished in the period when Adelaide Hunter Hoodless lived there. This was a project of all Institutes in Canada. An apartment was added to the building in 1979.

The National Historic Sites and Monuments Board erected a plaque in June of 1962 proclaiming Adelaide Hunter Hoodless an eminent Canadian.

THE CAIRN INSCRIPTION

A cairn bearing this inscription stands at the junction of Highways 5 and 24, a half mile from the Homestead.

"To commemorate the birthplace of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, 1857-1910, who founded the Women's Institute, February 19, 1897, erected by the Women's Institutes of Brant County, unveiled by Her Excellency Lady Tweedsmuir, October 7, 1937."

When the Scottish Rural Institute members made a tour of rural Canada in 1939, a flag pole and flag were dedicated in the Adelaide Hoodless Memorial Park.

The South Dumfries Township Council erected a plaque in 1958: "Birthplace of Adelaide Hoodless, Founder of Women's Institutes".

This tribute to Mrs. Hoodless was placed on a plaque at the Homestead by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites board in 1959.

