

MRS. ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS ... Continued

sip of water and collapsed on the platform where she died within a few minutes. She had barely finished her fifty-second year but she had lived long enough to have received international recognition for her work. She had founded or helped to found The Young Women's Christian Association of Canada, (Y.W.C.A.), The Victorian Order of Nurses, The National Council of Women, The Macdonald Institute at Guelph, The Women's Institute across the World. The Homestead was made an Historic Site at an unveiling ceremony on June 13, 1959. Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless was cited as a National Figure whose inspiration sparked the movement which now embraces six million women in thirty-six countries, at an impressive unveiling of a plaque in her honour at the Homestead on June 21, 1962 by the National Historic Site Board.



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.