



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless

**MRS. HAGGERTY, FWIC PRESIDENT,
PAYS TRIBUTE TO ADELAIDE
HUNTER HOODLESS**

Today, we honour the memory of a woman who will live on in spirit in homes throughout Canada and around the world. Her portrait hangs in the Archives at Ottawa and in Macdonald College at Guelph. Across Canada from East to West, you may find copies of this portrait in the Tweedsmuir histories which have been compiled by some 1500 Branches of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. Copies grace the walls of Provincial Offices of the Women's Institutes and of the National Office in Ottawa.

Across the seas in England, Ireland and Wales, in the Scandinavian countries in Europe, in Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Africa, the name and memory of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless is revered by more than seven million women.

During her brief life of 52 years, she founded or helped to found the Young Women's Christian Association; the Victoria Order of Nurses; the National council of women; Macdonald Institute at Guelph; and the Women's Institutes Organization which has spread around the world embracing 30 countries.

Adelaide Hunter was born February 27, 1858, the youngest of twelve children, and lived her early years right in this house. Her father died when she was an infant and the family had a serious economic struggle. Thus, in her early life, she gained a knowledge and understanding of the problems of farm women which stimulated her to help homemakers whenever she could.

In 1881, she married John Hoodless a business man from Hamilton, Ontario. To this union four children were born, the eldest, John Harold died at the age of 18 months from drinking impure milk.

Out of her grief and self-reproach for the death of her son, for she felt that had she been better informed on child care the tragedy might have been avoided, she resolved to devote all her spare time to better education for wives and mothers, to raising the standards of homemaking, with special attention to sanitation, nutrition, and care of children.

Out of this resolve, between 1893-1908, Mrs. Hoodless succeeded in having Domestic Science Courses introduced in 32 centres operating under School Boards and other government organizations, in addition to private schools: in 1897 she assisted Lady Aberdeen in the formation of the Victorian Order of Nurses; and, greater than her other efforts, the Women's Institutes was born at Stoney Creek on February 19th, 1897, which has affected women in a larger field, even to many countries. The real objective of the Women's Institutes was to raise the standards of homemaking. At her suggestion, the motto "For Home and Country" was adopted in Ontario and is used by thousands of Branches in many parts of the world.

In 1919, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was organized, and this organization is made up of Branches from all Provinces, with a membership of approximately 75,000 women.

On February 25, 1910, Mrs. Hoodless dropped dead on the platform, during a meeting of the Federation of Women's Clubs while she was pleading with the women to establish a Course in Home Economics in some University. Her plea was not in vain for today we can see the results of her hard struggle for Technical Education for Women.

She was a "Woman with a Vision." She saw what was right for the women of Canada and set out to fight for it. She was a firm believer that "no higher vocation has been or ever will be given to women than that of Homemaker and Citizen Builder."

Her story taken from the Women's Institute newsletter of July, 1962, whose heading is on Page 2.