

MRS. ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS



Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless

In June 1962 the National Historic Sites and Monument Board in co-operation with F.W.I.C. placed a plaque on the homestead bearing the following inscription:

*"Adelaide Hunter Hoodless 1858-1910"
Adelaide Hoodless 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. The movement spread rapidly throughout Ontario and later to other provinces. Mrs. Hoodless, a natural leader and forceful speaker, introduced the teaching of domestic science in Ontario schools and obtained funds for the building of Macdonald Institute at Guelph."*



House before restoration.

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.



The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, purchased for preservation by the Federated Women's Institute of Canada. The plaque was erected by the Historic Sites Board of Ontario.