



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless

ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS

Adelaide was born on February 29, 1857, the youngest of a family of twelve. Her father, David Hunter, died several months before her birth, so she knew how to work to survive on a farm. She went to public school and ladies college, sponsored by her oldest sister Lizzie, who married well and had no children. She was Presbyterian by faith.

She married John Hoodless in 1881 and they had four children. The youngest son died at 18 months caused by drinking contaminated milk. She felt shw should have known better and set out to educate women to prevent similar tragedies. Her husband was chairman of the Hamilton School Board, so she worked through him (don't we all), to try to get Domestic Science taught in School. She was 'put down' by the press and from many a platform as the 'despised new woman' and told she should stay home and take care of her family. But she had a vision and was far ahead of her time in her thinking, and aren't we glad she was so determined. She used to say "Women must learn not to waste valuable time on non-essentials".

She was asked by the Minister of Education of Ontario to write the text book in Domestic Science. As more teachers were need, the government (being men) stopped the funds. Adelaide enlisted the assistance of Lord Strathcona and in 1902 we find the Ontario School of Domestic Science was affiliated with Ontario Normal School. From here it grew. She enlisted the support of Sir William MacDonald, a tobacco millionaire, who donated funds to build the Institute of Household Science at the Ontario College of Agriculture in Guelph. Adelaide also helped Lady Aberdeen found the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Erland Lee heard Adelaide speak on the fact that girls should be educated in Domestic Science in schools and he invited her to speak at the Farmer's Institute in Saltfleet Township where Adelaide said the women should have an Institute. On February 19, 1897, 101 women and one man, Erland Lee, attended a meeting in Squire Hall, Stoney Creek, where she questioned a Professor of Bacteriology as to why they failed to do anything for women and children when they were so interested in the care and breeding of livestock.

On Thursday, February 19, 1987, the Stoney Creek Women's Institute was organized, the FIRST Women's Institute in the world.

On the eve of her 52nd birthday, Adelaide was in Toronto addressing a Federation of Women's Clubs in Massey Hall. She complained of a bad headache, but spoke anyway. Halfway through her brilliant speech, she stopped, smiled, took a sip of water and fell to the floor. She died on February 26, 1910. Thanks to her, the seed was well sown. Institutes began to spring up all around Ontario. The second one was in Whitby, but as minute books were lost - the secretary burned them in a bonfire - we believe Maple was second. The Motto 'For Home and Country' was suggested by Adelaide.

From Canada it spread to England, Holland and all around the World. The associated Country - Women of the World was formed in 1933 and we Canadians can be justly proud.

There was a one-day convention at Guelph in 1902 and in 1903, held at New Macdonald Institute. In 1904 it went to two days at Massey Hall, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. The Minister of Agriculture gave us a grant of \$3.00. Blue and Gold were chosen for our colours. By 1914 the Convention, covering all of Ontario, had 29,000 members and it was decided to have three Convention Areas, Toronto, London and Ottawa. Toronto area went to a three-day until 19____. Now it is a two-day convention at the Royal York Hotel.

In 1919 the F.W.I.O. was formed and our governing body is the Provincial Board of Directors and our Provincial President.

Mr. F.W. Hodson, Superintendent of the Farmer's Institute became our first superintendent of the Women's Institute. Dr. Creeland was next and then Mr. Geo. Putman in whose term the Farmer's Institute passed out of existence and the branch was then called the Women's Institute Branch.

Miss Bess McDermard was head of Local Leaders Training, then Miss Mary A. Clarke, who in 1945 resigned for our own Anna P. Lewis. She was in office until 1955 when she resigned to marry Prof. W.T. Ewen; then Helen McKercher. Most of us will remember Miss Florence P. Eadie at our 4H Homemaking Clubs. She retired in 1962 and Jean M. Scott took over. This is where I learned a great deal about the new materials and new practices in food, clothing, shelter and management, including consumer education and family living. I, as well as many of you here

today, wear our County and Provincial Honour pins with pride, and we remember our 'Judging Competition' days and going to the Exhibition to 'Judge'. It is hard to imagine our girls and boys of today who take 33 projects as did our York County Dairy Princess Miss Janet Beynon.

Over the years, we as Institute members have been helping in many ways. Do you think re-cycling is NEW? We did that in 1950 until the price fell for newspapers. We volunteered for Baby Clinics, TB Clinics, Polio shots and Polio Vaccine, Hurricane Hazel Relief (we sent \$50 for rubber boots). We helped fireman, kids go to the dentist, swimming lessons for kids.

Do you remember the Radio Programme of CJRH Richmond Hill?

Widows self help in Greece?
Litterbug Campaign?
Unitarian Service Committee?
Layettes for Arab Babies?
Sweaters for Korea?
Korean Flood Relief?
The Tely Milk Ship?

We sponsored Relief Families, UNESCO Gift Coupons. We helped buy the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Home for F.W.I.C. and Erland Lee home for F.W.I.O.

We need not hang our head to any other organization. We should stand up and advertise our work so Adelaide's vision is still there for us to work at.

Thank you for listening to my story.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD POSTAGE STAMP

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

"FOR HOME
AND
COUNTRY"



"LA TERRE
ET LE
FOYER"



COMMEMORATING
THE ASSOCIATED
COUNTRY WOMEN
OF THE WORLD



King City Women's Institute,
King City,
Ont
c/ of Mrs A. Runkle.

On Wednesday, May 13th, 1959, the Canadian Government honoured the Associated Country Women of the World with the issue of a five cent Commemorative Postage Stamp.

The design was the work of Mrs. Helen Bacon who is known in art circles by her maiden name, Helen Fitzgerald. The stamp symbolizes growth as cultivated by Country Women of individual organizations into the world associations represented by the globe. The women and the globe are outlined in black; the tree and border are green. The stamp also honours the Canadian women, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and Mrs. Alfred Watt, founder of the Women's Institutes and the A.C.W.W.

To the little town of Stoney Creek, Ontario went the honour of mailing the First Covers, because it was the place where the first Women's Institute was organized by Mrs. Hoodless and the late Mr. Erland Lee.

After many days spent in addressing these First Covers, they were brought by car from Ottawa by Mrs. H.G. Taylor national secretary to the home of Mrs. C.G. Hopkins secretary-treasurer of the Stoney Creek W.I. who with Mrs. Angus B. Jackson Stoney Creek W.I. president was in charge of mailing the 10,000 First Day Covers and 1000 others asked for, were stamped and sent to Stoney Creek Post Office before 5 p.m. and so these envelopes will bear the postmark of the town where this organization was born. The crest of the A.C.W.W. also appears on the envelopes.

History was surely made over again in this historic little town with its monument to the Battle of Stoney Creek in the War of 1812 and the beginning of the Women's Institutes in 1897, when the sale of these commemorative stamps was opened there in 1959, May 13th.

"HOW TO MAKE THE BEST OF LIFE"

A Paper read by Miss Edna Kearn at a meeting of King East Branch in 1912.

One has said every man is the architect of his own fortunes. Or in other words the forces concealed within us are much more important in making life a success than the environments of life. The wise will welcome help from whatever source it may come, yet self effort should ever be considered as the great secret to the greatest success.

The successful know in nine cases out of ten that success in life is achieved by their own earnest endeavor.

In the first place there must be some definite purpose or aim in order to secure success. An aimless life is sure to be a failure. Then there must be careful and well laid plans, half the failures in life arises from this defect, some people never think of planning out their work. A haphazard way of doing things is not the best way. Order is the greatest law of the universe, let it be so in every home, and in every undertaking. We should never forget that to attain the best in life we must pay attention to what is called the little things of life. As it is sometimes stated "Look after the pence and the pounds will look after themselves.

The perfection of the whole depends upon the perfection of its parts. Life is made up not of great deeds, efforts and sacrifices, but of little things in which words and smiles and kindnesses given habitually are what makes life enjoyable to ourselves and to those around us and secure for all the best results in life. All work should secure our careful attention. The work in the kitchen has its place in making the best in life as well as the drawing room or the parlour. To prepare a meal and set it up properly has its place in making home attractive and life happy as well as any function of so called society. Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well. It should be the aim of all to secure the highest degree of perfection possible in all avocations of life.

Industrious habits should be cultivated. The word of inspiration sends the sluggard to the busy ant to consider her ways and get wisdom. He who lived the most beautiful and most exemplary of all lives, said, "I must work the work of Him that sent me." What the world needs today are men and women to go forth in the steps of Him who went about doing good.

There is something in all of us if wisely used and directed will lead to success. It was the non-use of the talent that was condemned, but still how many are doing the same thing today? It is better to wear out than to rust out is a homely proverb with more meaning than is commonly supposed. Rust consumes faster than use. Many fail in life's race because they are too lazy to work or determined to do as little as possible.

A beggar is sitting by the side of the road, where the race of men go by. The men who are good, and the men who are bad. As good and as bad as I, I would not sit in the scorners seat,

nor hurl the cynic's lear, but live and be a friend to man. Am I my brother's keeper has but one answer. This is what will constitute success in the great day of Judgement. "In as much as ye did it unto one of these little ones, ye did it unto me and these shall go away into eternal life." This is making the best of life.

There appears to exist a greater desire to live long, than to live well. Measured by man's desires he does not live long enough, and measured by his good deeds he does not seem to live long enough, but measured by his evil deeds he lives too long.

Reading the biographies of great and good men and women often becomes inspiration to nobler living. It breathes into our nature a virtuous pride which leads to noble deeds.

Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime, and departing leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time. Life is a race and we should all run impelled by the highest motive. A hound having started a hare from its ambush rushed after it. The chase was kept up for a long time, but the hare had the best of it and got off. A goat near by jeered at the hound, but the hound replied, "It is one thing to run for your dinner and another thing to run for your life." Some seem to be running the race of life for their dinner and their great concern is "What shall I eat and wherewithall shall I be clothed?"; but this is too low for anyone who realizes the true dignity and destiny of his being. A philosopher asked a man which of the two lives he would rather live, that of Croesus, one of the richest of men, but very wicked, or that of Socrates, one of the poorest of men, but good. The answer was, "In life I would like to be Croesus, but in death Socrates."

The highest success in life does not consist in what one accumulates as much as in what one distributes. There is a greater blessing in giving than in receiving. In helping others than in being helped. How many are living without this one of the greatest joys of life. "He who lives for self lives for a mean man." Let us live for the good we can do. We are not here to play and to dream, to drift. We have hard work to do and loads to lift, Shun not the struggle, face it, 'Tis God's gift. We will close this paper with the words of Solomon. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing whether it be good or evil.

The Friends of France

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216 Poplar Plains Road, Toronto,

Jan. 31st 1919

Miss Alice A. Ferguson
Secy Treas. King E. Women's Institute,
King East.
Ontario.

Dear Miss Ferguson,
The Friends of France want to gratefully
acknowledge the generous gift of fifty
dollars from the Women's Institute of King East.
It has come at an opportune time, as we
are receiving many letters from authoritative
sources, telling us that the need of the people
in the freed districts is desperate, and
begging us to go on with our work. We feel
that money is the best thing to send them
just now, it goes so quickly, and can
often give immediate relief. Thanking
you again, we are,

Faithfully yours

(Mrs A. E. Wells) Mary P. Wells President
THE FRIENDS OF FRANCE,