Ada Knowlton Chew (1877 - 1948)
In Service to Society

Born in Massachusetts and a graduate of Smith College, Ada Knowlton's early life was typical of upperclass society. After her marriage to Oswald Chew in 1908, Ada's life became one focused on service to others. With other female members of Philadelphia society, Ada advocated for green spaces for poor children and suffrage for woman. From 1916 until 1919, Ada served the Allied cause during World War I as a nurse and translator in France. When she returned to the United States, she helped unite organizations focused on women who served during the war into the national Women's Overseas Service League. The organization's aim was to serve others and continue the camaraderie fostered during the war.