



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.

above right: Ex-Service Women Meet in First Convention, *Patriot*, May 4, 1921
below right: Plan Suffrage Dinner, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 21, 1916
below: Mrs. Oswald Chew of Phila., Women's Overseas Service League, May 1, 1922, Library of Congress

EX-SERVICE WOMEN MEET IN FIRST CONVENTION

Philadelphia, May 3.—The women's Overseas Service League, a national organization for all women who served in the allied cause overseas, held its first convention here today.

The purpose of the new organization is to continue the work among men and women who became disabled while serving abroad. It was emphasized that a number of women workers, as well as men on the battlefield, were disabled by wounds and gas, and the organization plans to keep in touch with these women and determine what can be done for their relief.

Among the committee named today was that on credentials, of which Miss Alice Hill Chippenden, of New York, who served as assistant to the Red Cross commissioner in Europe, was named chairman. Other committees include legislative, service, nominations and publicity.

Resolutions were passed expressing friendship and good will to similar organizations amongst the Allies and pledging the support of the league to "perpetuate the common ideals to which their services were dedicated."

Mrs. Oswald Chew, of Radnor, was elected president of the league.

PLAN SUFFRAGE DINNER

List of Patronesses Announced by Chairman

Patronesses of the Equal Suffrage Society banquet, which will be held in the ballroom of the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Thursday, January 27, were yesterday announced by Chairman Mrs. Frank Miles Day as follows: Mrs. Pope Yeatman, Mrs. Isaac Clothier, Mrs. Edgar Scott, Mrs. Albert A. Jackson, Miss Florence Sibley, Mrs. Joseph N. Snellenburg, Mrs. James D. Winsor, Mrs. Morris Jastrow, Jr., Mrs. Christien A. Hagan, Mrs. Edward W. Biddle, Mrs. Joseph M. Gazam, Mrs. Edward Wetherill, Mrs. Charlemagne Tower, Mrs. William Roteh Wister, Mrs. Oswald Chew and Mrs. Matthew Bard.

The chief speakers at the banquet will be Mrs. Raymond Brown, of New York, and A. J. McKeelway, of the National Child Labor Committee.

