

LAWSON, ROBERTA CAMPBELL

INTERVIEW

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Effie S. Jackson  
Interviewer  
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Interview with  
Mrs. Roberta Campbell Lawson  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In an interview with Mrs. Roberta Campbell Lawson before her recent departure for Washington, D. C. she suggested that I make a survey of her historical collection. The collection is in the care of Mrs. E. Barger Miller, a Tulsa pioneer. This collection is at the Lawson home, 1008 Sunset Drive.

Mrs. Lawson is president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of the United States. She is considered an ~~authority on Indian lore and music. She is a grand daughter~~ of the Reverend Mr. Charles Journeycake, the last chief of the Delawares. She is the owner of a noteworthy Indian collection. One prized Indian relic in her possession is ~~the ancient tobacco pouch said to have been used by William Penn~~ when he traded with the Delawares. This tobacco pouch had been handed down from chieftain to chieftain of the Delawares tribe until it came into the hands of Chief Journeycake. Another outstanding item in her collection is the lovely old pewter communion set which Chief Journeycake brought into the Indian territory when he founded his church

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at Alluwe. This was the first Baptist Church established in Oklahoma.

The clubroom of Mrs. Lawson's at 1008 Sunset Drive, Tulsa, is devoted to her private collection of Indian relics. This is said to be the most extensive private collection of Indian relics in existence. This room is almost filled with glass cases in which are neatly arranged and carefully identified; arrowheads by the score, weapons, utensils, garments and a miscellany of articles belonging to various periods of Indian life.

Eastern collectors and the representatives of National museums have placed a very high value on this collection.

Mrs. Lawson also has a library of over five hundred volumes and bulletins dealing with the Indian. Most of these books and bulletins are old, out of print and many are first editions. In this library information may be found upon any phase of Indian life and lore, histories of Indian blankets, stone ornaments, pipes and smoking customs, books treating of the history and legends of each of the numerous Indian tribes in this country and Mexico, and books of Indian poetry and music. There are also hymn-books written in the Delaware and Cherokee dialects and there is an Indian book

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printed in German, in 1852 entitled "Interessante Webenteuer  
Unterben Indiantrn."

Among the rarest books in Mrs. Lawson's collection is a three volume set entitled "Tales of an Indian Camp" published in 1829. There are, too, several histories of early territorial days--now long out of print, and a yellowed little volume bearing the date 1810 and headed as follows:

History  
of the  
Discovery of America  
of the  
Landing of our Forefathers  
at Plymouth  
and of their most  
remarkable  
Engagements with Indians  
in New England  
from their landing in 1620 until the final subjugation of the  
nation in 1679.  
Written by a  
Citizen of Connecticut.

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This volume, about a hundred and twenty five years old, contains the estimate of the Indian as expressed by a writer of the early days of American colonization.

Mrs. Lawson has an unusual way of getting old books. Her best "finds" have resulted from advertisements placed in the Sunday editions of newspapers in the small towns of

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Missouri and Oklahoma. Mrs. Lawson has found some of her rarest books in second-hand book stores in Washington and New York.

In Mrs. Lawson's Indian Collection there are some rare paintings portraying different phases of Indian life.

Some of these paintings were made by Indians of National fame and some by Indian Artists whose work is internationally known.