

LAWSON, ROBERTA CAMPBELL. . . AUTOBIOGRAPHY: 1943

General Federation of Women's Clubs
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MRS. ROBERTA CAMPBELL LAWSON
President
General Federation of Women's Clubs

Mrs. Roberta Campbell Lawson, President of the
General Federation of Women's Clubs.

With the keynote, "Education", and the conviction that "Whatever women make up their minds to accomplish, they can accomplish," Mrs. Lawson assumed command of the largest organization of women in the world.

Perhaps the most outstanding of Mrs. Lawson's many and varied qualifications for the position she now holds are the vision and stamina of the pioneer. For she is a pioneer in every sense of the world. She was the first president of the first women's club of Nowata, Oklahoma, organized in 1903. Mrs. Lawson herself was born at Al-lu-we, Indian Territory, the daughter of a Kansas pioneer and granddaughter of the Reverend Charles Journeycake, the last tribal chief of the Delawares. Her ancestors, the Scotch Argyle Campbells of Virginia, the Lockharts of Pennsylvania, and the Benvers of Colorado were all pioneers.

more than three decades of unflagging service in the club world have contributed to Roberta Campbell Lawson's understanding of the unique functions of organized women in present-day society. For seven years, she served on the Executive Committee of the General Federation, which determines the most important policies of the organization; her election to the presidency was preceded by three years as first vice president and four as second vice president. As the Federation's Extension Secretary for Foreign and Territorial Clubs, Mrs. Lawson has had an especially fine opportunity to observe the possibilities of "linking together the hearthstones of the world", for there are 86 federated clubs in 28 foreign lands. In 1933, Mrs. Lawson was a member of the Federation's first world friendship Tour to European Capitals, and in the summer of 1934 she was one of the three delegates from the Federation to the Pan-Pacific Conference in Honolulu.

In her own State Federation, Mrs. Lawson has held many distinguished positions. During the world War, she was president of the Oklahoma Federation and, through Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, was named state chairman of the National Council of Defense. She has also been General Federation Director for

her State. Oklahoma in particular knows her as an executive of rare ability. Will Rogers, one of her most enthusiastic admirers, in 1931 appointed her executive chairman of the committee which administered the large charity fund that he collected for Southwestern drought sufferers. Mrs. Lawson was named by a committee created by the Governor as the first of 24 outstanding women of her State. Senator Thomas P. Gore has said of her, "Those who know her best prize and praise her most." Mrs. Lawson for the past 16 years has been a regent of the Oklahoma College for Women. She has also served as director of the Oklahoma Historical Society and a member of the Tulsa Art Association. The National Committee on the Mobilization for Human Needs has enlisted her active service.

Known throughout the country for her passionate interest in Indian culture, Mrs. Lawson has collected and placed in the museum in her home in Tulsa, relics of American Indian history from the mound builders to the present. Her private library contains numerous

rare volumes on this subject. She had done more than any other woman in the country to create an interest in the preservation of the history, music, art and legends of the early American. During her trip to Europe on the World Friendship Tour, Mrs. Lawson presented several programs of Indian music. The General Federation president is the author of "Indian Music Programs" which she is elaborating, and the compiler of a recent collection of Delaware Clan songs. She is gifted both as a pianist and singer and has studied under Karver Scharwenka, world famous composer. Educated first by private tutors, Mrs. Lawson later attended a girls' seminary at Independence, Missouri and Hardin College, Mexico, Missouri.

She has one son, Edward Campbell Lawson, a prominent business man of Tulsa, and an adorable grandson who occupies a tremendous place in her interest. Mrs. Lawson's husband passed away in 1931.

FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, STAR MRS. ROBERTA C. LAWSON.
AUGUST 1, 1935.

NEW HEAD OF
THE WOMEN'S CLUBS OF AMERICA
-AN F.F.V.- IS PROUD OF INDIAN BLOOD



*From Kansas City, Missouri, Star
August 1, 1935*

(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)

TULSA, OK., Aug. 3.—The big red brick colonial house with its wide portico, back among the trees, has in itself a quality reminiscent of Old Virginia, as does the white-coated Negro who opens the door at the home of Mrs. Roberta Campbell Lawson, the recently elected president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of the United States.

Beyond the woolly head of the Negro your eyes get a glimpse of a magnificent oil painting of two Navajo women at work on a blanket, hanging above the wide mantel in the walnut-paneled living room. On the same wall is the coat of arms of the Campbells of Scotland.

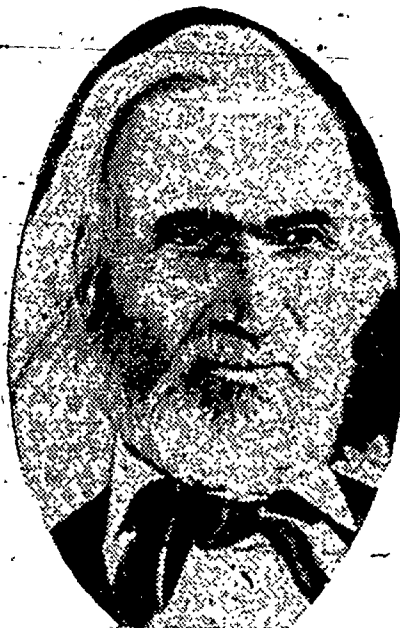
Cordial and Gracious

In another moment Mrs. Roberta Lawson comes in, smiling, erect, cordial, carrying both Southern graciousness and the whole-hearted hospitality of the West in her manner. Mrs. Lawson, in personal appearance, is a woman one never forgets. Her well-molded figure is the envy of her friends, her face has a dark, almost oriental quality, with its creamy skin beneath her black hair which she wears in a coronet about her head.

This is the woman who won the presidency of the largest woman's organization in the world in one of the hardest fought battles the federation ever has known. Did she fight? No. Instead she exhibited the same quality of leadership she has exhibited in every situation in her life.

She is one woman who has never known defeat. As regent of the Oklahoma women's college where she has built up a library of 20,000 volumes, she campaigned for new buildings and got them. She headed the Red Cross

in Oklahoma during the World War, she was state president of the women's clubs in Oklahoma, director of the Tulsa Art Association, and for fifteen years a member of the board of regents of the Oklahoma College for Women. She is a D. A. R., a Daugh-



ter of 1812, a regent in the United Daughters of the Confederacy, a proud grandmother, and a director in the oil company which her husband, an attorney, founded, and which now is headed by her son, Edward C. Lawson. This is only a sketchy resume of her activities, but it indicates Mrs. Lawson's capacity for living.

FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI STAR. MRS. ROBERTA C. LAWSON.
AUGUST 1, 1935.

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MRS. ROBERTA CAMPBELL LAWSON BEING GREETED IN TULSA BY HER PASTOR, THE REV. CHARLES H. KERR, AFTER HER ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF THE UNITED STATES. AT THE TOP IS HER MATERNAL GRANDFATHER, CHIEF CHARLES JOURNEYCAKE, LAST CHIEF OF THE DELAWARE INDIANS, AND AT THE BOTTOM HER PATERNAL GRANDFATHER, EDWARD C. CAMPBELL, OF WHOM SHE IS EQUALLY PROUD.

FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, STAR: Mrs. ROBERTA C. LAWSON.
AUGUST 1, 1935.

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THE KAW RIVER WAS SWOLLEN, SO CHARLES JOURNEYCAKE, THEN A LAD OF 12 OR LESS, PLUNGED INTO THE SURGING RIVER ASTRIDE A HORSE AND LED TWELVE OTHER HORSES TO SAFETY ON THE OTHER SIDE.