GFWC Women

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CHASESMITH
WARDHOWE
ROOSEVELT
ADDAMS
ROSS
LATHROP
DEMOREST
MCCARROLL
WOODWARD
LANDES

GFWC Women

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GFWC HISTORICAL WOMEN WORD SEARCH

Did You Know.....

Margaret Chase Smith...was an active member of GFWC Sorosis Club of Skowhegan, Maine. She was the first woman to ever be elected to both Houses of Congress and in 1964, became the first woman to campaign for the presidential nomination of a major political party. FUN FACT...Margaret Chase Smith wore a red rose on her lapel every day when Congress was in session!

Julia Ward Howe...best known for authoring the poem, The Battle Hymn of the Republic," Julia Ward Howe, was a prolific writer, a leader in the suffrage movement and a respected lecturer. She helped organize the New England Women's Club in 1868 and eventually serving as President of the Massachusetts Federation of Women's Clubs. FUN FACT...Living in Boston, Julia Ward Howe's circle of friends included Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Eleanor Roosevelt...was a First Lady, social reformer, teacher, and political activist. She was a tireless advocate for the poor and disadvantaged and exercised her influence as a speaker and writer. She served on the first U.S. delegation to the United Nations (UN) and drafted the Declaration of Human Rights while chairing the Human Rights Commission for the UN. She was an active member of the Chautauqua Woman's Club in New York and had strong ties with GFWC throughout her years as First Lady. FUN FACT...Mrs. Roosevelt often hosted groups of GFWC members in the White House. In 1936, during a tea given by Mrs. Roosevelt, President Roosevelt unexpectedly joined the group!

Jane Addams...founded Hull House, a settlement home for immigrants, the poor and homeless in Chicago. She was a vocal advocate for working women and child labor laws. Miss Addams was a member of the Chicago Woman's Club and served as Chairman of the GFWC Committee on Child Labor. FUN FACT...In 1931, she became the first woman awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Nellie Ross...became the first female governor of Wyoming in 1924. Following her term, she served as vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee. In 1922, she became the first woman to be appointed Director of the United States mint. She was a member and past president of the Woman's Club of Cheyenne. **FUN FACT...**Six days after her husband died from appendicitis, state officials asked her to run for governor herself in the election being held to replace her husband. She accepted at the last minute and defeated her opponent.

Dr. Julia Lathrop...was the first woman to lead a government agency when President Taft, in 1912, appointed her to lead the Children's Bureau in the Department of Commerce and Labor. After living and working in Hull House in Chicago, she became a vocal advocate for major problems such as infant mortality, poor nutrition, and juvenile delinquency. As a member of the Chicago Woman's Club, she assisted the club in working for juvenile court laws, including providing education for boys in county jail and worked tirelessly to provide a separate school for boys. FUN FACT...under her leadership, a nationwide baby week was initiated to study and work in child hygiene, education, and labor laws.

Ellen Demorest...helped revolutionize the fashion industry in the 1860's with the invention of mass-production of paper dress-making patterns. She owned a successful dressmaking shop in New York City and a popular magazine which featured Jennie June as one of the chief writers. She was a founding member of the Sorosis Club, serving as vice-president and treasurer of the club. FUN FACT...Jennie June is also known to us as Jane Cunningham Croly, founder of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Dr. June McCarroll...was a pioneer doctor in Southern California, who developed the idea for white center highway lines. In 1917, while driving her Model T Ford to see a patient, she was run off the road by a truck. Through her membership in the Indio Woman's Club, she launched a statewide letter writing campaign for all highways to have center stripes. The idea was finally adopted in 1924, by the California Highway Commission. FUN FACT...while waiting for the Highway Commission to act on her idea, she took a can of paint and a brush and personally painted the first stripe on Indio Blvd!

Ellen Woodward...An active member of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, she was elected to the state legislature in 1925. After serving her state in various leadership positions, she was asked to come to Washington DC and serve in the administration of Franklin Roosevelt in Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Soon after, she headed up a division of the Works Progress Administration – at its peak she had 480,000 women in her area. Fun Fact...next to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins, Ellen Woodward was said to be the most important woman in the New Deal.

Bertha Landes...held positions of leadership in several women's organizations. In 1921, as President of the Seattle Federation of Women's Clubs, she organized a weeklong manufacturer's exhibit staffed by more than 1,000 clubwomen. In 1926, after many accomplishments on the Seattle City Council, Bertha Landes was elected mayor of Seattle, becoming the first woman to be elected mayor of a major city. Despite her success in office, Landes lost her bid for re-election in 1928, under the sentiment that a city of stature should be led by a man. FUN FACT...Perhaps it's ironic, that her male successor was recalled in 1931 by angry voters.