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Mrs. Julia Norris was a devoted Tampa Club Woman

By Hampton Dunn

Julia Harrison Norris was a super-clubwoman. Her "charge" to serve her community, state and nation came from her parents, who held: "What talents my Heavenly Father has given to me were not for my benefit alone, but for those with whom I associated and lived, so it has been my desire in life always to be encouraging, forgiving, helpful, kind and understanding." She followed that pattern through the 89 years of her lifetime.

Mrs. Norris was a native of Tampa, born in 1875 to Judge Charles E. and Arianna Eliza (Givens) Harrison, truly pioneer citizens. She was the sixth generation of her family born in Florida! She was graduated from Hillsborough High School.

ACTIVE IN POLITICS

She was active in politics from the time women first obtained the ballot. She was instrumental in helping to change the City government of Tampa to the Commission form (since discarded) and eventually headed a Civil Service Board for 18 years.

When the American Red Cross chapter was organized in Tampa during World War I, Mrs. Norris became secretary and held the post until it became necessary to employ a fulltime person.

She was a member of many Tampa organizations, heading the Hillsborough County Federation of Women's Clubs when the Federated Clubs Building was built at a cost of $50,000.

A CONFEDERATE 'DAUGHTER'

Mrs. Norris was especially devoted to the United Daughters of the Confederacy and in 1942 she rose to become an Honorary President of the U.D.C. nationally, and a Tampa chapter of the group is named in her honor. Her husband, Amos Hendry Norris, whom she married in 1893, once remarked, "She is a member of and works in many organizations but I am satisfied if she were cut into, after she passes away, they would find 'U.D.C.' engraved over her heart."

Mrs. Norris also was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Tampa Women's Club and an endless number of other clubs. She was a member of the First Methodist Church where she was a teacher in Sunday School for many years and was organist for that department.

The energetic lady died in 1964. Her brother, Samuel G. Harrison, was Postmaster of Tampa for a number of years.