

August 15, 1933

Mr. C. W. Brandon
c/o Kemmerer Gazette
Kemmerer, Wyoming

My dear Mr. Brandon:

F. M. M.

I have just read with very great delight your very informing article in the Kemmerer Gazette for August 11 about the Ghost cities of Johnson County. I am working on material of this kind with semi-satisfactory success. I wish to say that when Mrs. Sherlock Smith was alive, being the mother of Peter Sherlock, I took her to the place where she directed me, where was the front door of Mrs. Esther Morris' cabin, in which she held a dinner and to which she invited both William H. Bright and Captain H. G. Nickerson, the former the Democratic candidate for the Legislature and the second the Republican. Before the assembled members of the dinner she had these men arise and affirm that which ever one was elected to represent Fremont *What is now* County in the First Territorial Legislature, would introduce and foster a bill for women's suffrage. Mr. Bright was elected and made President of the Council, corresponding to our present day Senate and of course he fulfilled his obligation. Mrs. Smith witnessed me haul in a steel wheelbarrow many loads of stones which I put into a cairn in memory of Mrs. Morris, her cabin and the inception of the Women's Suffrage bill. From the foundation of the jail, the foundation of the post office, the house in which Mr. Bright lived, the house in which Ben Shiek had his office, and many other foundations I took rocks and carried them in the wheelbarrow and put in the cairn where Mrs. Smith said Mrs. Morris lived. On this I placed a wooden marker and by which I conducted a ceremony composed mostly of "America" and the "Stars Spangled Banner" because our flag rested on the monument, and I gave an address telling who Mrs. Morris was, and on Mr. Bright, and also of Mr. Ben Shiek who opposed women's suffrage in both the First and Second Territorial Legislatures. I also spoke about Mr. Nickerson. Mr. Nickerson afterwards printed it on a piece of marble that he got at the tomb stone store, a little more permanent marker for the cairn than I had made. It wasn't good looking but at least somewhat substantial. I have asked the Land Mark Commission to at least put an iron fence around the spot because it is quite sacred but it is so far off the road and women's suffrage is so firmly established, and the money is very limited for this commission, that this monument or cairn has been overlooked, but a fence should be put there while the stones are there, and I should like to put an affidavit on file that it is the spot as given to me by Mrs. Smith. Peter Sherlock will verify my above statement.

There is only one reason why women are recognized at this time and that is due to Mrs. Esther Morris with Mr. Bright, and Mr. Bright's able championing of the bill that he introduced in the First Territorial Legislature, and which became a law on December 10, 1869, at 8:30 in the evening when signed by Governor John A. Campbell.

Mr. C. W. Brandon

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Franklin
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Just at this moment we can remember that Wyoming gave to the world the first woman governor and because Nellie Ross was a success as a governor it is no doubt that the inspiration came from Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt that Mrs. Frances Perkins (Mrs. Wilson) became a member of the President's Cabinet and Mrs. Ruth Owen was sent as a representative of the United States to Denmark, and Mrs. Ross became Director of the Mint, and Mrs. Marian Glass Banister has become the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. There is no telling how long women's suffrage would have been postponed if Mrs. Morris had not been successful particularly with our Territorial Legislature, or when women would have had women's suffrage which is now in twenty-seven different nations.

I wish that someone who was not so vitally interested in women's suffrage and who had not located accurately the actual site of the cabin where Mrs. Morris did make up this matter, and at least have an iron fence put around the spot,, and have it properly identified, and perhaps a cement base in which would be embedded firmly by screws, and cement, a tablet to Mrs. Morris and women's suffrage.

I am tremendously glad you mentioned this in your facinating article. With appreciation, I am

Respectfully yours,

GRH:EE