

Hon. J. M. Carey.  
So. Pass.  
Woman Suffrage.

January 4, 1935

Mr. William C. Deming  
Wyoming State Tribune  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

My dear Mr. Deming:

I have been reading with great pleasure as one day follows another day of your recent extracts from your notebook. I am particularly interested in what you have written about the Hon. Joseph M. Carey and his final decision to locate in Cheyenne rather than South Pass City away back in 1869. The complete history of old South Pass City has never been written. I should be done and I believe soon, and I am in hopes there are many more letters or newspaper cuttings in Senator Carey's collection than have so far been given to the public.

Just what do you think would have happened to Wyoming as a Territory and State if Judge Carey had never located in Cheyenne, but had taken up his abode and life in South Pass City? Would this have given a more central development for Wyoming? Would the Union Pacific Rail Road have run through that interior bustling mining camp? Various amounts have been stated of the gold extracted from South Pass as high as seven millions. I am very glad you are on the path of seeing the files of Judge Carey because I know you will make a very cautious examination of a tremendous amount of historical data which his family has carefully and faithfully preserved.

Of course, we must always remember that South Pass City will be a shrine or a Mecca to which pilgrims will make their journeys because it was the city of the birth of woman suffrage through the efforts of Esther Morris and her influence over William Bright and Captain H. G. Nickerson who represented South Pass City in our first Territorial Legislature in its Senate and House of Representatives. It was at this city at a dinner given by Mrs. Morris at which she extracted the promise from both Mr. Bright and Mr. Nickerson if they were elected they would not only introduce but champion a bill giving the women in Wyoming equal suffrage. Mr. Bright was the successful candidate at this time. This was the initial step for the success of passing a United States Constitutional amendment giving the women of all the states and territories the right to vote. It is impossible to enumerate in a short time what this has meant. This has meant the election of Mrs. Ross as the first woman Governor in the world and also her appointment as "Madame of the Mant," of Miss Perkins in a Presidential Cabinet, Ruth Bryan Owen the first woman minister to a foreign country--Denmark, Miss Roche of Colorado in the United States

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Department of Health and a number of women in the United States Senate and a larger number in the House of Representatives, Mrs. M. A. Ferguson, Governor of Texas, members of the legislatures, women professors on the Board of Trustees of the University of Wyoming and women professors on the faculty. South Pass City is a wonderful spring of life for the enfranchisement of women and one must hope and believe for the betterment of governmental affairs.

Respectfully yours,

Grace Raymond Hebard  
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