## CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT 404 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK

My dear real Doctor: Janua Deure you miel want to Kurrabout my anties after leaving Laranine Jarria at Ames mit no more important event love and that the heat which was wellnigh torrid They asked me first their upon arrivaly I would go to the ATA house and receive a sesters pin It was my husband's fraternity and he had helped There get cheer house. I was the first sister So they presented me week the piwand just be fore Slift, one look me aff in the corner and told me that the pin I wasto have had not arrive me that the pin I wasto have had wastogere and this was only a shaw which I wastogere I h back when I much away! The rish of Friesday was feel mich au Clecurin bauguet un the Ene The gradue ing extreises mreat 10.30m/hd-nesday. The class munhered something vor

500 and the Faculty is about 300. The Frances and high up all orrow Doctor hoods (which poor things they had hadle earn and art the rest spheracuth and class mil in capaus going There was a forcessen across the campus, mused and the light hundred made quite an unpressive phorning. after my address, che deignees mu bislomid and I mas reelled last. I God only a few orndstaid ver me and I got a ralled up diploma Tiel mit rebbon, just like the where. Horhering cras taid, about a hood, but tatue I wastald that when they arranged to give me the degree, it was los latelo order a hood, do I think they intereded by skip it, but the nur State Brood 7 Education has mo nur fady menchers, both expressedents afthe State Suffrage association, and both coelege promeer, so me said where's the hood! and when the ausiver come tack, there is none! She said, met me neust send her one. So

Jam Whom one at Donne unturradate Itals miss tay that must of the their of had got, I had it got mer it not for your hood Ishould hon nothinglishen lind Brooklyn folkwho usest hat I shael make a speech in the rig. I shael teel them that Escher Monis story. mit the connection made by her and by Lov Campbell mit the organized movement. it shows clearly hat morning mas a part and q resent afit and I thuit that is grat. I found a recognition pen in my robe of tale, but it is concing tack to Laranize or her the hood dors. I love my gaval, and much grander than certificate which is somuch for the the Lora one. I enjoyed you all very very much, and I shall, mite the tetter Jaquedle, do, but your are getting yours first taket not heepe for hat miserable could which took me, I should how had a reafgalardan-as it mus. it mas no. A mas. it was very nece and I am glad toung

The are still in a drought here, but it had not been hat, which Scousider Strange My ald callege is so changed there was nothing famuliar about it. For hundred and fifty students, ran around a very beg campus mut branche fiel clumps of trues in ail derections. now the building him crowded that campas and 4000 students meander through the struts mkere once there mere none dasked the questem afserval: Isit love aflearing wehr hape tomake a better living which brings the back aut girls here. They told me it was the latter. I like the Small college triller (perhaps because that is all I ever knew. They would last long and monings ail mel bring peaker and the peakers children met jøstle you at the Munersely before you relie Grangins, you are such a comfort. De frank and me and muselfish. I pray mobile armestly chab all your inner mash wirry milrork and should for many a growth comed Love you very nuch and I denothere those love you be hon mistatures. May God blessay whom he much you remember metry me sester whom he make you remember to sproud hon uped he maked he maked he would have to be somether to be someth I am sure you will want to know about my antics after leaving Laramie. I arrived at Ames with no more important event to record than the heat which was well nigh torrid. They asked me first thing upon arrival if I would go to the  $\Delta T\Delta$  [Delta Tau Delta fraternity] house and receive a "sister" pin. It was my husband's fraternity and he had helped them get their house. I was the first <u>sister</u>. So they presented me with the pin and just before I left, one took me off in the corner and told me that the pin I was to have had not arrived and this was only a [show? sham?] which I was to give back when I went away! The rest of Tuesday was full with an alumni banquet in the evening.

The graduating exercises were at 10:30 on Wednesday. The class numbered something over 500 and the Faculty is about 300. The Deans and high ups all wore Doctor's hoods (which poor things they had to earn) and all the rest of the Faculty and class were in cap and gowns. There was a procession across the campus with music and the eight hundred made quite an impressive showing. After my address, the degrees were bestowed and I was called last. I had only a few words said over me and I got a rolled up "diploma" tied with ribbon, just like the others. Nothing was said about a hood, but later I was told that when they arranged to give me the degree, it was too late to order a hood, so I think they intended to skip it, but the new State Board of Education has two new lady members, both ex presidents of the State Suffrage Association and both college women, so one said "Where's the hood!" and when the answer came back "There is none" she said well, we must send her one. So I am to have one at some unknown date. I told Miss Hay that most of the things I had got, I hadn't got. Were it not for your hood I should have nothing to show to the Brooklyn folk who insist that I shall make a speech in the rig. I shall tell them that Esther Morris story. With the connection made by her and by Gov. Campbell [with?] the organized movement it shows clearly that Wyoming was a part and a result of it and I think that is great.

I found a recognition pin in my robe of state, but it is coming back to Laramie where the hood [does?]. I love my gavel, and my Wyoming certificate which is so much grander than the lowa one. I enjoyed you all very very much and I shall write the letter I agreed to do, but you are getting yours first. Had it not been for that miserable cold which took me, I should have had a real gala [illegible] — as it was it was very nice and I am glad I could go.

We are still in a drought here, but it had not been hot, which I consider strange.

My old college is so changed there was nothing familiar about it. Two hundred and fifty students 40 years ago ran around a very big campus with beautiful clumps of trees in all directions. Now the buildings have crowded that campus and 4000 students meander through the <u>streets</u> where once there were none. I asked the question of several: Is it love of learning or the hope to make a better living which brings the boys and girls here. They told me it was the latter. I like the small college better (perhaps because that is all I ever knew.) They won't last

long and Wyoming's oil will bring people and the people's children will jostle you at the University before you retire.

Dear girl, you are such a comfort. So frank and true and unselfish. I pray most earnestly that all your inner machinery will work as it should for many a year to come. I love you very much and I do not like those I love to have misfortunes. May God bless you and be with you. Remember me to your sister whom I did not see so much as I should have liked.

Lovingly,
Carrie Chapman Catt

## Notes:

- Catt delivered a commencement speech at Iowa State College (now Iowa State
  University) in Ames, Iowa, on June 15. She was the first woman to deliver a
  commencement address at the school. Catt had graduated from the school in 1880
  when it was known Iowa Agricultural College. She completed a bachelor's degree in
  general science and was the only woman in her graduating class.
- Hebard is known today as a historian who popularized the Esther Hobart Morris story. As explained by the article "Grace Raymond Hebard: Shaping Wyoming's Past" in WyoHistory.org at <a href="https://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/grace-raymond-hebard-">https://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/grace-raymond-hebard-</a> shaping-wyomings-past: "Early in 1870, soon after the Wyoming Territorial Legislature had given women the right to vote and hold office, Morris was appointed justice of the peace in the gold-mining town of South Pass City. Two generations later, Hebard and a surviving resident of early South Pass City, H. G. Nickerson, began telling the story that two candidates for the territorial legislature, Nickerson and William Bright, met with Esther Morris and others at Morris's home—a story that Nickerson himself seems to have originated in 1916. According to this story, Morris extracted a promise from both men that whichever of them was elected to the legislature would introduce a bill supporting suffrage for women in Wyoming. Bright introduced the bill and it passed, giving women in Wyoming the right to vote and hold office. Hebard described Morris as "The Mother of Woman Suffrage." As with many of her other romanticized stories, Hebard found an individual—Nickerson—to corroborate everything she claimed as fact. Hebard claimed that some of her information had been received in a letter from Bright's wife, but the letter Hebard wrote to Julia Bright was returned marked "addressee deceased." By contrast, in a letter to the suffrage paper *The Revolution*, Robert Morris, Esther's husband indicated that the first meeting between William Bright and Esther Morris did not take place until after the suffrage bill had been signed into law. At no time during her life did Esther Morris ever claim to have had anything to do with the introduction or passage of the suffrage bill in Wyoming. And yet the story has shown

remarkable staying power because people often seem to prefer the romanticized version to the facts. Hebard was a dogged researcher who hunted for every bit of information she could find on her subjects. Problems arose, however, when the facts did not mesh with her often predetermined outcomes. Hebard was a dogged researcher who hunted for every bit of information she could find on her subjects. Problems arose, however, when the facts did not mesh with her often predetermined outcomes. Hebard's papers in the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming are filled with documents—like the unread letter to Julia Bright—that contradict her often romanticized versions of events. That is, she knew what she was doing. She knew her work contradicted the work of distinguished historians and often times was not supported by the documents she herself located."

• Wyoming Territorial Governor John Allen Campbell was the first territorial governor to sign a woman's suffrage bill into law.