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**CLARA BEWICK
COLBY AND THE
WOMAN'S
TRIBUNE:
CHAMPIONS FOR
WOMEN
WORLDWIDE**

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Jill O'Neill has been an active member of the information community for more than thirty years, most recently managing the professional development programs for NISO (National Information Standards Organization). Her publishing expertise was gained working for such prominent content providers as Elsevier, Thomson Scientific (now Clarivate), and John Wiley & Sons. Jill continues to write for a diverse set of publications, including NISO, Information Today and the Scholarly Kitchen blog.

Clara Bewick Colby and *The Woman's Tribune*: Champions for Women Worldwide



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Rated “Highly Recommended,” The Woman’s Tribune is one of only 11 digital resources selected for 2022. This resource is noted to support the research needs of faculty, advanced undergraduates, and graduate students,” particularly those researching American or international suffragist movements.”

— Pam Marino, Program Director for Advertising, Sponsorships & Underwriting, ACRL/CHOICE

“The Woman’s Tribune newspaper collection provides essential historical content and opens broad avenues for research covering every aspect of late 19th Century Women’s history and suffrage. This collection highlights Accessible

Archives' ongoing commitment to provide complete runs of indispensable newspaper content, with high-quality images and XML-coded full text with metadata, to the research community."

— Iris L. Hanney, President, Unlimited Priorities LLC

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Clara Bewick Colby, circa 1880s

"You may kill this bill, gentlemen, but you cannot kill the principle of individual liberty that is at issue. It is immortal and rises Phoenix-like from every death to a new life of surpassing beauty and vigor. The votes you cast against the bill will, like the dragons' teeth in the myth of old, spring up into armed warriors that shall obstruct your path, demanding of you the recognition of woman's right to 'equality before the law.'"

As the second-longest-running woman suffrage newspaper, **The Woman's Tribune** was significant for several reasons – unlike many other Suffrage newspapers, the **Tribune** was designed as a general circulation newspaper. Colby believed that her newspaper should connect suffrage to other issues of importance and interest to women, particularly to the rural women of the

Midwest and West. In addition, political and international issues were presented in the newspaper – Colby was the first officially-recognized woman war correspondent representing a woman's newspaper during the Spanish-American War. Second, the **Tribune** was probably the first woman's paper published by a woman. Finally, Suffrage movement leaders highly regarded the **Tribune**. Elizabeth Cady Stanton considered it "the best suffrage paper ever published" and allowed it to serialize two of her most important works, her autobiography, and *The Woman's Bible*.

Equal Before the Law": The Work of Clara Bewick Colby

The initial way in which we encounter historical figures often influences how we perceive the individual and their impact on events. As an example, see how the woman, Clara Bewick Colby, appears in two separate settings. **Frank Leslie's Weekly**, in an issue dated September 1898, she is described this way:

*"Brigadier-General Colby went to the front accompanied by his wife, Clara Bewick Colby, who received the first war correspondent's pass issued to a woman. Mrs. Colby represented her paper, **The Woman's Tribune**...Mrs. Colby is of English birth, and is related, on her father's side, to Thomas Bewick, the famous wood-engraver, and on her mother's side to General Monk, who helped restore Charles II to the throne."* [1]



*General Leonard Colby,
Frank Leslie's Weekly,
September 29, 1898*

Conversely, in Chapter XLIX of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's **History of Woman Suffrage, Volume III**, Clara Colby is introduced to the reader in a different way, one that spotlights her talent apart from her relationships to others.



*Clara Bewick Colby, Frank
Leslie's Weekly, September
29, 1898*

*"**CLARA BEWICK COLBY**, the historian for Nebraska, is of English parentage, and came to Wisconsin when eight years of age. In her country home, as one of a large family, she had but scant opportunities for attending the district school, but her father encouraged and assisted his children to study in the winter evenings, and in this way she fitted herself to teach in country schools. After a few terms she entered the State University at Madison, and while there made a constant effort to secure equal privileges and opportunities for the students of her sex. She was graduated with honors in 1869, and at once became a teacher of history and Latin in the institution... in 1883 she started **The Woman's Tribune**, a paper whose columns show that Mrs. Colby has the true editorial instinct. For several years she has been deeply interested in the movement for woman's enfranchisement, devoting her journal to the advocacy of this great reform. In addition to her cares as housekeeper and editor, Mrs. Colby has also*

lectured extensively in many States, east and west, not only to popular audiences, but before legislative and congressional committees.” [2]

A footnote from the same chapter includes this summation of how Colby was perceived by her contemporary colleagues, “Having visited Beatrice twice to speak in different courses of lectures arranged by Mrs. Colby, I can testify to her executive ability alike in her domestic and public work. She can get up a meeting, arrange the platform, with desk and lights, and introduce a speaker with as much skill and grace as she can spread a table with dainty China and appetizing food, and enliven a dinner with witty and earnest conversation.” [3]

Seen in a modern light, Clara Bewick Colby was an energetic, educated woman whose daily life as a professional woman and working mother contributed greatly to a shifting perception of the roles women could play and the success of the suffrage movement.

Given the societal norms of the nineteenth century, Clara Colby's achievements were secondary to those of her husband who, besides holding the rank of General in the U.S. Army, would also serve for a time as an Assistant U.S. Attorney General in the Department of Justice in Washington D.C. As a military figure, however, he had ties to events at Wounded Knee as vividly reported in 1891 in the pages of **The Woman's Tribune**.

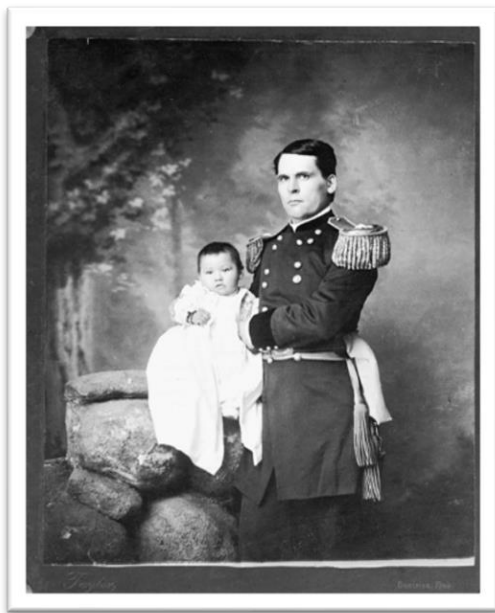
“The camp of a hundred and twenty lodges was at once surrounded by over five hundred well-armed soldiers, and the process of disarming commenced. The Indians, although not openly hostile, were filled with bitterness at their wrongs, and at what they thought was the bad faith of the Government in failing to issue them the full amount of beef. They believed that their own disarming was but the first step in the same dreaded fate which awaited them.



“What's Left of Bog Foot's Band,” Survivors of Wounded Knee Massacre, Library of Congress, 1891.

At the signal of throwing a handful of earth in the air, the savage shriek and war-whoop sounded across the pine bluffs and echoing canons rifles rang, hatchets were thrown, and the uneven struggle for liberty of a hundred and twenty warriors against five hundred repeating rifles and four death-dealing Gatling and Hotchkiss guns began and closed the Battle of Wounded Knee on Monday, December 29th. The gloom of evening rested upon the lifeless forms of some forty soldiers, and over two hundred Indians, including many women and children.

Reliefs from the Agency carried the dead and wounded soldiers, and many of the wounded Indians in, till the work was stopped by darkness. Next day came the attack on the Agency, the fire-arrows shot into the buildings, the retreat of four thousand hostiles to the Badlands, the skirmishing at the outposts; then the terrible snowstorm and blizzard and the dangers from the elements as well as from the ambushed savages, prevented the hospital and burial details from finishing their duties on the field of the massacre. However, on Thursday, January



Portrait of General L. W. Colby of Nebraska State Troops Holding Baby Girl, Zintkala Nuni (Little Lost Bird), 1890.

1, 1891, the fourth day after the battle, as the sad work was resumed, there was found on the field, by the side of a dead woman, partly covered with snow, a dusky baby girl, alive and well. The child was apparently about seven months old and was only slightly frozen upon her head and feet. She had been snugly held in the papoose “postant” or bonnet, by the lifeless mother's body, during all those days of darkness, carnage and storm; and the snow had kindly covered her with its blanket. She was at once taken to the lodge of an Indian called Yellow Bird, where she was cared for, for a week or more, when she was

allowed to be removed to the hostile camp, which was then only two miles from the Pine Ridge Agency. General Colby, who is said to

have some Indian blood in his veins, was touched by the pathos of the story of the little waif, and through the assistance of two ladies...”

“When the hostiles surrendered and the troops returned, the General took her to his home in Nebraska, and adopted her as his own child, giving her the Christian names of Marguerite Elizabeth, after the two ladies who assisted him in his undertaking. The Brulés, to which tribe of Sioux she belongs, have however, given her the melancholy but musical and soft-sounding Indian name of Zintka Lanuni, which means “Lost Bird.” [4]

The adoption of the baby would have a far-reaching impact. Leonard Colby would ultimately have an affair with the child’s nurse, fathering an illegitimate child with her. He would lose his prestigious position as an Assistant U.S. Attorney General and leave Clara, Zintka, and their adopted son, Clarence, without financial support. His reputation suffered as well from legal charges of corruption and embezzlement. The Colbys would divorce in 1906. Although she would marry, Zintka would never be fully accepted into 19th century society, ultimately dying from syphilis. Clara would herself become impoverished in caring for her daughter.

Colby’s Activism in the Woman Suffrage Movement

Elizabeth Cady Stanton noted in her ***History of Woman Suffrage, Volume III*** a condensed history of the women’s rights movement in the state of Nebraska and its commitment to the cause. Serving as a member and historian for the local suffrage organization Clara Colby played a key role in documenting much of what Stanton included in that account.

“Nebraska became an organized territory by the Kansas-Nebraska bill in 1854, including at first Dakota, Idaho and Colorado, from which it was separated in 1863. The early settlers were courageous, keeping heart amid attacks of savages, and devastations of the fire-demon and the locust. Published history is silent concerning the part that women took in this frontier life, but the tales told by the fireside are full of the endurance and heroism of wives whose very isolation kept them hand to hand, shoulder to shoulder, and thought to thought with their husbands. It is not strange then that the men of those early days inclined readily to the idea of sharing the rights of self-government with women who had with them left home and kindred and the



Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Eminent Women of the Age, Hartford, Conn: S.M. Betts & Company, 1869.

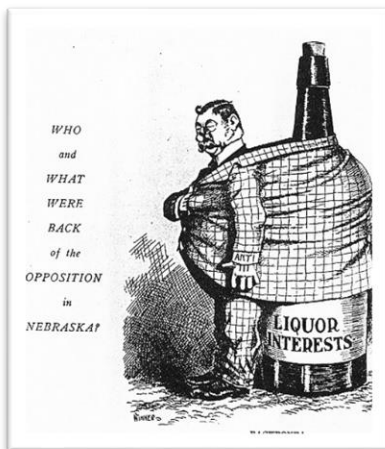
comforts of the older States. But it is remarkable, and proof that the thought belongs to the age, that, thirty years ago, when the discussion of woman's status was still new in Massachusetts and New York, and only seven years after the first woman-suffrage convention ever held, here—half way across a continent, in a country almost unheard of, and with but scant communication with the older parts of the Republic—this instinctive justice should have crystalized into legislative action.” [5]

The chapter notes that Amelia Bloomer was an early presence in the state in promoting the rights of women in the waning days of 1855 and the opening of 1856. Efforts to win women the vote in Nebraska were suspended over the course of the Civil War but were renewed with the end of hostilities as Nebraska applied for statehood. “Congress admitted Nebraska, but provided that the act should not take effect until the [state’s] constitution should be changed to harmonize with the fourteenth amendment. After some discussion, the condition was accepted, and Nebraska was thus the first State to recognize in its constitution the sovereignty of all male persons.” Throughout the 1870’s, continuing efforts toward granting women in the state a similar right of

sovereignty (with the right to vote) by amending the new state constitution were unsuccessful. Grassroots efforts via creation of suffrage associations on a local level were viewed as the next step and initiated in 1878.

A concerted effort was once again made in 1882 to amend the state constitution and allow women to vote. It looked as if it might well be successful, but:

“Towards the close of the campaign, it became evident that the saloon element was determined to defeat the amendment. The organ of the Brewers’ Association sent out its orders to every saloon, bills posted in conspicuous places by friends of the amendment mysteriously disappeared, or were



"Who and What were Back of the Opposition [to Suffrage] in Nebraska? Backbone! (Liquor Interests)", *History Nebraska*, RG2608-1265

covered by others of an opposite character, and the greatest pains was taken to excite the antagonism of foreigners by representing to them that woman suffrage meant prohibition.” [6]

Another try in 1883 was equally unsuccessful but Clara Colby was granted an opportunity to speak to the state legislature:

“On motion, Mrs. Colby was unanimously requested to address the Senate on behalf of the bill. Senator Butler escorted her to the clerk's desk, and she delivered an extemporaneous address, of which the Journal reporter gave a fair synopsis. Foreseeing the defeat of the bill, she said, in closing, “You may kill this bill, gentlemen, but you cannot kill the principle of individual liberty that is at issue. It is immortal and rises Phoenix-like from every death to a new life of surpassing beauty and vigor. The votes you cast against the bill will, like the dragons' teeth in the myth of old, spring up into armed warriors that shall obstruct your path, demanding of you the recognition of woman's right to ‘equality before the law.’” The grave and reverend senators joined in the applause of the gallery, and carried Senator Reynolds' motion “that the thanks of this Senate be returned to Mrs. Colby for the able, eloquent and instructive address to which we have listened” [7]

Early Years of The Woman's Tribune

“A love for freedom once born into the heart of humanity, nothing can destroy it. Discouragement and delay are but incentives to patience and more faithful labor to obtain the desired boon, and in that very labor lies the development of soul, which is the grandest reward of all effort “Whether in chains or in laurels liberty knows nothing but victory,” said Wendell Phillips. Viewed in this light, the vote on the amendment last autumn should not be counted as a defeat, but as a victory. So many votes gained...What the N. W. S. A. has now to do is to those who stand by us now are worth counting; up its organization. It is important that we keep a record of the men and women who are our friends, that when a few do the work, as must always be the case, it may be known and felt that they have a large constituency behind them. Only thus can they hope to have any political influence. The organization must be kept up that we may educate ourselves and prepare for the ballot, that women may learn to see where the ballot would help them, and where with it they could help the



Clara Bewick Colby, illustration taken from History of Women's Suffrage by Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

race. So, from our defeat and delay shall come a stronger, better purpose, a clearer knowledge, and an immortality for the principles we advocate.” [8]

Colby launched her newspaper in 1883 on the recommendation of the Nebraska Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA). **The Woman’s Tribune** was intended to provide general news as to the status and on-going contributions of women and the progress made towards general suffrage to the women of Nebraska. It launched as the official mouthpiece and sought to address ordinary women’s daily concerns by covering a full spectrum of interest – political concerns, cultural concerns, education, health, and more.

As examples, an August 1883 issue offered the following reports on work in two of the state’s counties. Mrs. E.B. Knight reported frankly on the experience in Webster County:

“The Webster county W. S. A. held their annual meeting June 22, 1883 and elected the following officers: President; Mrs. E. B. Knight, of Inavale; Vice-President, Mrs. M. S. Ballard, of Red Cloud; Secretary, Mrs. A. A. Baird, of Bed Cloud; Treasurer, Mrs. A. McNitt, Bed Cloud. This society was organized two years ago, through Mrs. Colby’s efforts. The last fall election demoralized it a good deal, find a meeting had not been held since; but quite a number of our best members responded to the call for the annual meeting, and were fully as enthusiastic in the cause as they were a year ago. In fact, nine-tenths of the women of this county would like to be enfranchised. And let woman suffrage once become popular among men, and not a woman would raise her voice against it. The great need of the present time is to educate the men up to that point where they will see the justice and necessity of granting to women equal rights with themselves.” [9]

Camille Harrison of Hall County reported on the plans of the Grand Island Suffrage Society, a group in existence for only about six months:

“Our President is Mrs. K. Kernohan; Vice-President, Mrs. E. Hurford; Secretary, Mrs. E. Abbott; County Agent, Mrs. M. Murphy. We are determined to do what we can in the way of study and work...Hall county may be proud of its suffrage workers, as a society. We have made some money in our efforts. With good management, and the hand of our friends, we will make more, so that when money is needed it will be at hand to help our cause and work, for it is money we need, and, woman fashion, we will make the most of what we have. We have about fifty members. Every meeting we receive new names. The object of

our meetings is to become acquainted, sing, read, have debates, and study our state laws. We try to interest ourselves in city affairs, as far as we are allowed, relieve the poor by Sewing for them, and visiting their homes.” [10]

The same issue reported on the workings in Congress:

“The bill for the Sixteenth Amendment to the constitution of the U. S. reached its third reading in both houses of congress last session. Mr. White of the select committee of the house made the following pithy and comprehensive report in favor of the amendment:

Report (to accompany house resolution 255.) In attempting to comprehend the vast results that could and would be attained by the adoption of the proposed article to the constitution a few claimed by friends of woman suffrage to be worthy of the most serious attention, among which are the following:

- 1. There are vast interests in property vested in women, which property is affected by taxation and legislation, without the owners having a voice or representation in regard to it. The adoption of the proposed amendment would remove a manifest injustice.*
- 2. Consider the unjust discriminations made against women in industrial pursuits, and against, those who are compelled to earn a livelihood by work of hand or brain. By conferring upon such the right of suffrage their condition, it is claimed, would be greatly improved by the enlargement of their influence.*
- 3. The question of social and family affect as many women and men. Giving to women voice in the enactment of laws pertaining to divorce and the custody of children, and the division of property would be merely recognizing an undeniable right.*
- 4. Municipal regulations in regard to houses of prostitution, of retail liquor traffic, and all other abominations of modern society, might be shaped very differently and more perfectly were women allowed to ballot.*
- 5. If women had a voice in legislation, the momentous questions of peace and war, which act with such fearful intensity, might be settled with less bloodshed.*
- 6. Finally, there is no condition or status in life, of rich or poor; no moral or political question; no interest, present or future; no ties, foreign or domestic; no issues, local or national; no phase of human life in which the mother is not equally interested with the father, the daughter with the son, the sister with the brother.*

Therefore, the one should have equal voice with the Other in molding the destiny of this Nation. Believing these considerations to be so important as to challenge the attention of all patriotic citizens, and that the people have a right to be heard in the only authoritative manner recognized by the Constitution, we report the accompanying resolution with a favorable recommendation, in order that the people, through the legislatures of their respective states, may express their views." [11]



Helen Hamilton Gardener, Carrie Chapman Catt and Maud Wood Park (from left to right) on the balcony of Suffrage House, the Washington headquarters of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, 1891. Wikipedia.

In her role as the **Tribune**'s editor, Colby included as well a summary of suffrage efforts in England and elsewhere:

"A most interesting discussion, of which we give some extracts, recently took place in the House of Commons, on a resolution for conferring parliamentary franchise, introduced by Mr. Mann who said it was a great act of injustice that women who performed the duties of citizenship already possessed should stop short of the vote for members of the House.

Baron de Worms seconding the resolution, referred to the number of women who owned land. According to the return of owners of land in England and Wales in 1872, called the New Domesday Book, the number of women landowners of one acre and upwards was given as 3,800, out of 209, 547. Thus, the proportion was 1 in 7. In Ireland, the proportion of women owners of land was 1 in 8. If they assumed the proportion of women householders to men

householders to be the same in the non-municipal as it was in the municipal towns there would be between 300,000 and 400,000 who, being householders and rated to the relief of the poor, who would be entitled to exercise the right of voting. These appeared to him to speak for themselves. It had never been assumed that women were less loyal or less patriotic than men. They were educated and intelligent; and what reason could there be, in the face of the facts like these, why the House of Commons should withhold from women so qualified the privileges and Tights to which, in his-opinion, they were as much entitled as men...

Mr. H. Fowler said what he wished to know was whether the right honorable gentleman proposed to tax women in order to obtain a fund out of which to pay 660 men for passing Acts over which they would not have the least control. The House of Commons passed laws which applied exclusively to women and had the power of inflicting upon them grievous penalties which would be intolerable to men. Supposing there existed some assembly over which men had no control, but which, nevertheless, could pass laws affecting their welfare, there would not be one man in a million who would not recognize the monstrous injustice of such a state of things. To his surprise, an honorable member on his side of the House had put forward the "time immemorial" argument. Had we always adhered to practices consecrated by time, instead of being the foremost nation of the world, we should now be a number of painted savages. It was proposed to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women, who, equally with men, were separate individuals and owners of property, who discharged all the duties of property, and who claimed all the rights of property. He thought the House overlooked and neglected many-questions in which the deepest interest questions affecting the happiness and progress of their children as well as of themselves...It was for this reason, and also because he could not ignore the historical fact that the influence of women in this country during the last 50 years had always been on the side Of the good and the true, that he should be glad to see women brought within the pale of the Constitution." [12]



WSPU leaders Annie Kenney and Christabel Pankhurst, 1908.

A practical business woman, Colby sought to ensure that her readership understood and could take advantage of the economic expansions in the state, taking in paid advertising from a variety of businesses, including the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad to corset makers as well as those local medical practitioners who specialized in the needs of women and children.

“...A NEW ROUTE TO THE PACIFIC COAST,

BURLINGTON ROUTE

THE BURLINGTON ROUTE

BURLINGTON & MISSOURI RIVER R. R.

The marvelous development of southeastern Nebraska in the past few years has been largely owing to the untiring efforts of the enterprising managers of this company, who have spared no expense to supply this region with a railway system which is rarely excelled in many of the older states.

At the present time there are in operation by this company over 1,250 miles of first-class, well-ballasted track, crossing the state in four directions and affording a ready means of communication with all the towns south of the Platte river.

They also operate two lines between the river and the Missouri river, one reaching to Kansas City via Atchison and the other to Omaha, and via Pacific Junction and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad to Chicago, making the shortest and quickest route and the only one under one management between these cities. The recent completion of the Denver & Rio Grande railway to Salt Lake and Ogden, in connection with the Burlington route and Central Pacific railways, has opened to the public

A NEW ROUTE TO THE PACIFIC COAST,

which for scenic attractions is unsurpassed in the world. The tourist passes en route a gorgeous panorama of lofty mountain peaks and roaring canons, and a thousand other attractions found only in Colorado, the "Switzerland of America," which have hitherto required a special tour to view.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE ARRANGEMENT OF THROUGH TRAINS FOR THE TOURIST SEASON OF 1883,

FROM OMAHA.—The Colorado express leaves daily at 8:15 a.m., connecting at Lincoln for all Nebraska points, and runs via Crete, Hastings, and Red Cloud to Denver, arriving in the Union depot next morning at 7:30.

Immediate connections are made with the Denver & Rio Grande railway for all parts of Colorado and Utah, with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway for New Mexico, Arizona and southern California, and with the Union Pacific railway for Wyoming, Utah, and California via Cheyenne and Ogden.

The Pacific express leaves daily except Sundays, at 8:35 p.m., and runs via Lincoln, Crete, Hastings, and Red Cloud to Denver, arriving in the Union depot at 7:25 p.m. the following day. Immediate connections are made with the Denver & Rio Grande railway for Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, and Oregon, via Salt Lake and Ogden and the Central Pacific railway.

FROM KANSAS CITY.—The Pacific express leaves the Union depot daily at 9:55 p.m. for Denver, running via Atchison, Falls City, Wymore and Red Cloud, and arrives in Denver Union depot the following evening at 7:25 p.m. making immediate connections for Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California and Oregon via the Denver and Rio Grande Railway.

EQUIPMENT.

The equipment of the Burlington route is unsurpassed in the West. Pullman palace cars and elegant day coaches of the latest designs are run on all through trains between Missouri river and Denver, over a splendid steel track, and every attention is paid by courteous employees to insure the comfort and safety of the traveler. The dining halls located at Lincoln, Red Cloud, McCook, and Akron are under the immediate supervision of the company and have a reputation equal to that of their famous dining cars, run east of the Missouri river.

Connections at all principal points are made in Union depots thus avoiding vexatious delays and transfers.

As a summer resort, Colorado has no equal, and its many natural attractions are heightened this summer by the national Mining Exposition held at Denver from July 17th to September 30th.

ROUND TRIP TOURIST TICKETS Via the **BURLINGTON ROUTE** AT REDUCED RATES are on sale at all the principal ticket offices in the country, and any information concerning the various routes, time tables, maps, etc., will be cheerfully furnished upon application to

P. S. EUSTIS,
General Ticket Agent.

which for attractions is unsurpassed in the world, the tourist passes enroute a gorgeous panorama of lofty mountain peaks and roaring canons, and a thousand other attractions found only in Colorado, the "Switzerland of America," which have required a special tour to view.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE ARRANGEMENT OF THROUGH TRAINS FOR THE TOURIST SEASON OF 1883,

FROM OMAHA.—The Colorado express leaves daily at 8:10 a. m., connecting at Lincoln for all Nebraska points, and runs via Crete, Hastings, and Red Cloud to Denver, arriving in the Union depot next morning at 7:30 .

Immediate connections are made with the Hoover & Rio Grande railway for all parts of Colorado and Utah, with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway for New Mexico, Arizona and

southern California, and with the Union Pacific railway for Wyoming, Utah, and California via Cheyenne and Ogden.

The Pacific express leaves dally except Sundays at 6:35 p. m. and runs via Lincoln, Crete, Hastings, and Red Cloud to Denver, arriving in the Union depot at 7:25 p. m. the following day. Immediate connections are made with the Denver & Rio Grande railway for Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, and Oregon, via Salt Lake and Ogden and the Central Pacific railway..." [13]

A sampling of other brief items included for readers that give further indication of the possibilities that Colby wanted to make known to women – those who might then be brave enough to challenge social norms of the day:

"The first colored woman to receive her diploma as a law student has just been graduated from the law school of the Howard University in Washington.

There was recently staying in San Francisco a lady whose presence is well worth remark. She is Prof Mary Krom, principal of the Denver School of Mines, and is believed to be the only practical female assayer in the United States.

Twenty-four women received honors at the University of London this year, and sixteen obtained the degree of B.A. Two ladies received medical and surgical degrees, the first ever given by this University. The Dean of the college which the two medical students had attended, herself applied 21 years ago to this University for admission to examination for this degree." [14]

A year later, Colby would include a summarization of the Eleventh Congress of the Association for the Advancement of Women in Chicago where Julia Ward Howe, a celebrity of the day as the composer of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," spoke to the audience:

"Our association was then in its infancy, having only completed the first year of its existence. Our hopes concerning it were large but vague. We then felt as



"The only article in the way of a corset, or waist, or support, which the Tribune endorses, is Mrs. Newell's Perfection Support." Subscribers were urged to order through the newspaper. Source: The Woman's Tribune, 1906..

keenly as we now feel it – the need of a wide co-operation and a good understanding among the thinking women of the United States. We feel even more than we did then the difficulty of a sufficient concert, and a correspondence between individuals living at great distances from each other, burthened usually with the heavy cares and responsibilities of private life, and in many instances, with professional and public duties.

Many who would gladly join us on these occasions are kept at home by matters which cannot properly be neglected. More of those who would gladly send us their written word are hindered from doing so by the lack of time and of strength. It becomes us, therefore, who are able to meet here to employ to the utmost an opportunity so precious and which presents itself at such long intervals. To our spiritual sense, the claim of these about us should be ever present. Their good wishes, their prayers are with us. Their sympathy making itself felt from a distance helps and inspires us. Thus, endeavors to think and act in



Anna Ella Carroll, 1815-1894, from a Frontispiece from the Maryland Historical Society. Wikimedia.

concert that valuable results shall return from our meeting to the many well-wishers who cannot meet with us in this place. They cannot hear our voices or see our friendly faces. But what shall be done here in love and faith will reach them, and the spirit of our proceedings will be spiritually discerned afar as spiritual things are.

One of the then that come to me on this occasion is that such enterprises as this congress of ones have at first a symbolical character, a symbolical value. They picture much which they are not and cannot be, the general improvement and uplifting of our sex to wide views of human obligation and power the great unfolding of the mother heart of the world,

which, long in bud, should certainly be ready by this time to burst into full blossom. We have promised these things—we have not yet attained them. But so blessed a promise, so high an intention, is in itself a boon, because it gives us so noble an outlook toward the future. And if we hold on to these and do not barter our convictions for some cheap and easy success which may in the end prove to be the saddest failure, our symbol will become real. Our holy wishes will body themselves in holy acts and faith." [15]

Throughout the decade of the 1880's, Colby's paper would introduce to an expanding readership the progress and inroads that women were making in such professions as agriculture, industry, medicine, journalism, and more.

Such awareness was critical in bringing pressure to bear on the legislative activities of the government in recognizing both the needs and the rights of women. Upon the introduction of a bill for consideration by the Congress, **The Woman's Tribune** in March of 1890 would champion the cause of compensation for Anna Ella Carroll, a controversial figure who had contributed materially to the Union cause, offering sound strategic advice to Lincoln during the Civil War.

In the same issue, the paper noted and criticized the erasure of women's efforts by public servants in a variety of settings:

"It seems ungracious to criticize omissions when so much was said concerning the noble record of John Bright by Robert Collyer in his Monday evening lecture. Yet how almost impossible it seems that a lecture could have told the story of this life and omitted all mention of two equally great and strong souls who were his kin. Mrs. Margaret Bright Lucas, the leader of the temperance hosts in England and the first president of the World's W. C. T. U., whose death but just now the whole world of women associated in reforms is mourning; Priscilla Bright McLaren, one of the strongest advocates of the enfranchisement of women, and the loving sister who laid aside her own career and entered John Bright's home to help him bear his sorrow until time had healed the wound and given him again courage and hope; surely a mention of these great women would have added another laurel to the crown with which the lecturer honored the sturdy old reformer. John Bright, too, seemed to lose his hold upon reforms in his old age and become conservative as he himself once said he thought was the case, and while the lecturer made an apology for him that he did not follow Gladstone in his advocacy of Home Rule for Ireland, he ignored the fact that John Bright deserted the standard of his family and his own previous action by voting unfavorably in late life on the enfranchisement of women." [16]

The Woman's Tribune would continue to expand its efforts both nationally and internationally. An 1894 issue listed the following efforts on behalf of suffrage:

"The Conventions in the State of New York in December were but the tuning of the instrument in the master's hand the grand march of progress which is now to be played in the two States which are to be the fields of action for this year. It fairly takes one's breath away to read the word that comes from headquarters."

The New York Campaign starts out in earnest January 8th, with a Constitution Convention Grand Rally in Rochester and another January 10th, in Buffalo. The calls for both are signed by the leading men and women of their respective cities...The new year up to February 25th is to be devoted to meetings in the different counties, organizing local campaign clubs and on March 26th will begin the "big sweep" of Conventions at the county seats of the sixty Counties, at the rate of ten Conventions a week, so overlapping as to keep Susan B. Anthony, Rev. Anna Shaw, Carrie Lane Chapman, Mary Seymour Howell, Lillie Devereux Blake, Martha H. Almy and others speaking each of the six nights of every one of the necessary ten or eleven weeks to accomplish the round, with the Rev. Anna Shaw preaching every Sunday for a change and rest...

Kansas is not to be neglected. The preliminary work is being rapidly done by the efficient women of that State whose long activity in this line and participation in municipal politics has fitted them to do better work for themselves than the women of any other State. But after the great round of Conventions in New York is finished, the National speakers will rally to the hurrah that is to go up from the one hundred and six counties of Kansas." [17]

The June 1906 issue noted the move of the paper's editorial offices across the country. At the time, the suffrage movement had just suffered a tremendous loss in Oregon in legalizing the vote for women and Colby's transfer to Portland was as much an opportunity to influence suffrage efforts there as it was to minimize the scandal of a divorced woman working on behalf of the movement:

"The Woman's Tribune was founded in Nebraska 23 years ago, and after five years it was moved to Washington, D. C. This address it retained in coming to



"The woman-suffrage movement in New York City. Society leaders securing signatures to petitions to be presented to the constitutional convention - scene at Sherry's," Frank Leslie's Weekly, May 3, 1894

Portland in October, 1904, that casual readers might know it was the same paper which had been published so many years in the national capital. In order to be identified more closely with the warfare in Oregon, it is Portland only from this time forth. Now that the immediate exigencies of the campaign are over it will have more space to deal with national and international matters relating to the enfranchisement of women, but everything that can help the campaign in Oregon will have right of way.” [18]

Sadly, due to financial issues associated with the scandal of her divorce and necessary care of her adopted daughter, Clara Colby would be forced to close **The Woman's Tribune** in 1909. Ten years later, the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution would pass, finally ensuring the right of women to vote.

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Accessible Archives Collections Used in Preparing This White Paper

Accessible Archives provides diverse primary source materials reflecting broad views across American history and culture have been assembled into comprehensive databases. The following collections were utilized in composing this white paper.

Frank Leslie’s Weekly, 1855-1922

Full run of issues and includes articles on: slavery and abolition; politics, elections, and political parties; the Civil War; industrialization and technology development; business, commerce, and commodities; society and culture; women’s rights and suffrage; African American society and economics; immigration; the world in conflict; labor and radicalism; religion; and featured columns on music, the stage, fashion, fine arts, sports, and literature.

History of Woman Suffrage, Volume III

Edited by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Matilda Joselyn Gage, this e-book is a major source of first person accounts – essential primary documentation -- about the women’s suffrage movement from its beginnings through the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment.

The Woman’s Tribune, 1883-1909

Consists of articles and news on women’s suffrage and political rights, suffrage leaders, rural women of the Midwest and West, political and international issues,

local, regional, & national politics, labor laws, Women's Leagues, Woman's Political Party, national political parties, anti-suffrage, marriage and divorce, property laws, reproductive rights, African Americans, tradeswomen, international suffrage movement, crime, national women's suffrage organizations, law enforcement, Spanish-American War, Native American women, health and medical practice, education, National Federation of Women's Clubs, women's patriotic organizations, and others.

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