

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

Lori Lynn Enicks-Kniss for the Masters of Arts in
History presented on _____.

Title: “The Lady from Seward” – Minnie J. Grinstead, the first woman elected to the
Kansas House of Representatives.

Abstract Approved: _____

Kansas native, Minnie J. Grinstead, made significant contributions to the history of Kansas. Born at a time where women had few political rights and little social freedom, she grew to become an influential speaker for prohibition and equal rights for women. She succeeded, further, by becoming the first woman legislator in the State of Kansas. Opening doors for all future female representatives, Grinstead has a unique story to tell. To facilitate a discussion of Grinstead, this thesis begins with a brief overview of the women’s suffrage movement and the culture of Kansas at the time Grinstead was entering into the political realm. It includes, briefly, her childhood and early life, with the main focus on her years in office as a state representative between 1918-1924.

The first chapter examines Grinstead’s early life, her first political race, and her actions as the only woman legislator during her first term in office. The next two chapters explore her legislative actions during her last two terms as a Kansas State Representative. Included is a chapter introducing three other Kansas women legislators who were elected during Grinstead’s second term in office and a short comparison with Montana native, Jeanette Rankin, the first female ever elected to

the United States House of Representatives. The thesis concludes with a literature review of the many primary and secondary resources consulted and utilized for creating Grinstead's biography, and an extensive bibliography.

Keywords: Baptist minister, campaign, controversial bills, convention, Coolidge, coverture in Kansas, Darline Grinstead, education, Education Committee, Emporia Normal School, Ida Walker, Janette Rankin, Kansas House of Representatives, Kansas legislator, lecturer, legislature, Liberal, Kansas, Mineola Johnson, Minnie J. Grinstead, Minnie Minnich, Minnie Tamar Johnson, mother, Nellie Cline, *Plaindealer*, Principal, progressive, prohibition, Public Welfare Committee, Representative, Republican, School Code Commission, Seward County, teachers in Kansas, V.H. Grinstead, W.T.C.U., Wade Grinstead, women politicians, Women's Christian Temperance Union, women's movement in Kansas, women's rights, women's suffrage in Kansas

“The Lady from Seward” - Minnie J. Grinstead

The First Woman Elected to the Kansas House of Representatives

A Thesis

Presented to

The Department of Social Sciences

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirement for the Degree

Masters of Arts

by

Lori Lynn Enicks-Kniss

April 2014

Approved by the Department Chair

Committee Member

Committee Member

Approved by the Dean of the Graduate School and Distance Education

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First and foremost, I must thank Dr. Karen Manners Smith; having you for a mentor has been such a privilege and a total blessing. I learned more from your example and guidance than you will ever know and for that I am truly grateful. You were the one who inspired me to write this thesis to begin with and instilled in me the confidence that I could absolutely do it. Your advice in topic selection and encouraging me to “go for it” is the reason Grinstead’s story is told. I will forever be indebted to you for all you have done for me. You will never be forgotten. I would also like to thank Dr. Amanda Miracle and Dr. Deborah Gerish for encouraging me to “stay the course” through one of the worst times in my life. If you both had not been there supporting me through my mother’s passing, giving me extra time with my school work for your classes, I am sure I would have quit altogether. Thank you for keeping me focused and for working with me to get to this point. You three women are truly great educators and mentors. Many people can teach, but not all teachers know what it truly means to be an educator. Your influence goes beyond just writing a syllabus and lecturing content, it is so much more than that. Being influenced and taught by such strong women and leaders in the field of history has truly been an honor for me. I also want to send a big thank you Dr. Lidzy for jumping on board with my thesis committee and being excited about my topic; it is truly appreciated and not overlooked.

I want to profusely thank my husband Dr. Darrel “Dean” Kniss, who is my rock and biggest cheerleader. Being married to you for 19 years has been the biggest thrill ride of my life. We have been all over the world together and have had

adventures people only dream of and it is an honor and a true blessing to be your wife. Thank you, thank you, thank you for supporting me in every decision pursuing this dream, reading EVERY paper I have written and being the “first” editor of them all. I could not have done this without you or your helpful advice. You listened to every idea, wiped away every tear and encouraged me without fail. It is YOU who keeps me sane through all the madness... I love you to the moon and back.

There are so many people I have to thank for this project coming to fruition. Without their kindness and help, Grinstead’s story would have not have been as detailed. I want to thank my daddy, Ronald C. Milroy for letting me “live” with him for two months while I conducted my research and putting up with my abusive overuse of his computer and printer. You are the best daddy in the world.

Thank you to Sarah Tenfelde-Dubois at The Kansas State Library in the Capital Building in Topeka, Kansas, who made PDF copies of pages in the Kansas House Journals that I needed to tie up the loose ends in my research. The time you took out of your workday to help me is so appreciated.

Thank you to Janette Mauk at the Pittsburg State University Library for trying to find where Grinstead taught school in Pittsburg, Kansas. Thank you to the folks in the Pittsburg Public Library in Pittsburg, Kansas for putting me in touch with Ms. Mauk. Thanks to the folks at the Coronado Museum in Liberal, Kansas for sending me the information that they had on Grinstead. Thank you to Gabrielle Thompson, Attorney at Law in Manhattan, Kansas, who was friends with Darline (Grinstead) Conover, who sent me a few wonderful stories about Grinstead. Thank you to Nancy

Selbe for talking with me about Darline and giving me the information you had on Grinstead.

A huge thank you goes out to the people at Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka, Kansas Thank you for all the help with pulling out files, making hundreds of copies, assisting me with equipment, helping me with forms and procedure, and putting up with me every day for over a month. I want to especially recognize Nancy Sherbert in the Acquisitions Department in the Archives, Jocelyn Wehr a digital archivist, Susan Forbes a reference librarian and Debbie Greeson a research room assistant for helping me out the most.

I would also like to thank Minnie Grinstead's family: Tom Petit (grandson) of Palm Springs, California, Phil Grinstead (grandson) of Chicago, Illinois and David Taggart (great-grandson) of Miami, Florida and Tom Lutgen (grand-son-in-law) of Palm Springs, California. My research and constant digging through the layers of information, led me to you all. Thank you for responding to my emails and taking my phone calls. You made the connection to Grinstead very real for me. It has truly been an honor telling the story of such an important person in your family. Grinstead was an important woman to the State of Kansas and still continues to be. She deserves her place in history and it is my hope that I have made you proud with my work.

Lastly, this endeavor is dedicated to my mother, M. Joyce Milroy, who instilled in me the importance of being a strong and independent woman. She taught me to live life to the fullest, voice my opinions, stand up for what is right and to never sit on the sidelines. Mom would have enjoyed Grinstead's story and seeing

me finish pursuing this dream. Even though she is no longer here and able to see this project come to its full completion, I feel her presence around me every moment of every day and I believe she knows this truly is for her. Somewhere beyond this realm she is telling her friends how proud she is of me, smiling, laughing and saying, "See, I don't know why she fretted so much, I knew she could do it all along." I love you mother and you are missed more than any words could describe or ever be expressed on paper. Thank you for being the greatest role model I could have ever hoped for, it was an honor having you for a mother.

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER I – Grinstead’s Beginnings	8
CHAPTER II – First Term 1918-1920 Legislative Session	24
CHAPTER III – Second Term 1920-1922 Legislative Session	39
Third Term 1922-1924 Legislative Session	53
CHAPTER IV – Grinstead among other women legislators	61
CONCLUSION	71
LITERATURE REVIEW & RESEARCH	77
APPENDIX I: Photograph of Minnie J. Grinstead	88
APPENDIX II: Political Cartoon found in <i>The Bismarck Tribune</i> , Bismarck, N.D., February 16, 1921	89
APPENDIX III: Photograph of Minnie J. Grinstead at her desk in the House of Representatives	90
APPENDIX IV: Picture of Grinstead after 1918 election win and a typical political ad	91
APPENDIX V: Photograph of Grinstead found in her scrapbook	92
WORKS CITED	93
WORKS CONSULTED	103

INTRODUCTION

American women's rights and enfranchisement were topics of debate long before the Civil War. Women's rights became a nationwide movement when women who had been abolitionists became prompted to take up their own cause. In 1848, the first convention on women's rights took place in upstate New York. It led to subsequent annual meetings discussing the plight of women and the plan of action to gain universal suffrage.¹ Women activists understood their predicament of being excluded in the work place and isolated from economic and political developments, and they knew the only sphere in which society believed they belonged was the realm of domesticity.² However, after Reconstruction, changes for women did begin to accelerate in the United States. Starting with Wyoming in 1869, certain western states granted full suffrage to their women. While many other states granted partial suffrage, allowing women to vote only in local contests, such as school board elections, the ability to vote in national elections was withheld for several decades. By 1900, only Idaho, Colorado and Utah had joined Wyoming in passing full women's suffrage. The State of Kansas had local suffrage for a number of years before it finally passed full suffrage rights for women in 1912. It would take eight more years for a constitutional amendment (the 19th) to grant women throughout the country full voting rights.

¹ Barber, E. Susan and Barbara Orbach Natanson. *One Hundred Years Towards Suffrage: An Overview*. Aug-26-97. Library of Congress. *see bibliography for web address. The Library of Congress provides a timeline of American Women's plight with suffrage rights from 1776-1923.

² DuBois, Ellen Carol. "Feminism and Suffrage: The Emergence of an Independent Women's Movement in America, 1848-1869." Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1978: 22. In Chapter 1, DuBois explains how the women's right movement started emerging not only from self awareness of their position in society, but became an issue out of the abolition movement and Antebellum politics.

Settlers migrated out west to the state of Kansas starting in the middle of the 19th century. They sought land acquisition and unfettered personal liberty, but they also had a preference for equality.³ Those pioneers who came to live on the Great Plains of Kansas, looking for individual freedom and opportunity, as well as land, soon found that life on the plains offered many challenges and embodied never-ending work. Reverend Jonas and Martha Johnson migrated to Kansas from Illinois in March of 1867 and laid claim on a piece of land in the western portion of what was then a very new state.⁴ Their daughter, Mineola Tamar Johnson, known as Minnie, was born on those plains in September of 1869. The pioneering Johnsons raised their daughter on a farm and built her character by working through the many struggles of prairie life.⁵ Little did young Minnie Johnson know that she would grow to become a pioneer for women, showing them that through hard work, courage, and drive they could create a destiny most had not yet imagined for themselves. Minnie Johnson's pioneering prairie background prepared her for a life that started out in the education field and ended with a career in Kansas politics.

Growing up in the same years as the women's suffrage movement also had a major effect on Minnie Johnson (later Grinstead). As an adult, she became an active

³ Flentje, H. Edward and Joseph A. Aistrup. "Kansas Politics and Government." Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2010: 5-8. They explain the political culture of Kansas and how individualism became a huge part of politics since many abolitionists flocking to Kansas were also farmers where a natural migration towards equality happened early on and became even bigger during the populist movement.

⁴ The date of Grinstead's parent's migration came from find a grave.com, the website is listed in bibliography.

⁵ "Biography of Mrs. Minnie Grinstead" taken from the Kansas Women's Day Club History. Collection no. 659, Box 3, Folder 1 Club Records, (1933-34) 7th District. Repository: The Kansas State Historical Society (Topeka, Kansas). In this collection, there is a two page typed essay covering Grinstead's early life. It is not numbered and is noted as an incomplete document and from the biography on the finding aid to the Minnie Tamar (Johnson) & Virgil Hooker Grinstead Collection 1878-[not before 1923] Manuscript Collection 365. Repository: The Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

suffragist who educated Kansans about the importance of women having a voice in government. In 1918, she won a significant political race, becoming the first woman legislator in Kansas, solely on laurels she had earned as an honest, intelligent, well spoken, and well-mannered campaigner. She had made it impossible for most of her constituents to discount her capability simply because she was a woman. She became the groundbreaker for the next generation of Kansas women to participate in the state legislature, and she set the example by showing voters, both male and female, how a woman could handle the task of voting and having a career in politics all while maintaining her femininity and domesticity.

Minnie Johnson Grinstead's unique story provides a few noteworthy points for exploration. First, in the gendered context of American culture that persisted throughout the 19th century, women's roles mainly resided in the realm of domesticity. Many males in American society felt that women would lose their femininity if allowed to venture into politics. Second, the media—newspapers, magazines, and books--played an important part in perpetuating societal attitudes about women's place that helped to maintain the status quo of domesticity. For example, as late as the 1920s, Kansas, even as a forward thinking state, still had newspapers that put articles covering Grinstead's legislative achievements in the "of interest to women" and "society" pages instead of the main news sections. Lastly, Grinstead had a story to tell about her experiences as the first woman legislator in the Kansas House of Representatives. Her strategy was to maintain her "domesticity" while serving the public as a state legislator, and she frequently reminded people that that was her goal. Maintaining her "femininity" while making

and debating law gained Grinstead respect from her colleagues and constituents. She grew quite popular in Kansas and was elected a total of three times.

This essay explores the path Minnie Grinstead followed in becoming the first woman legislator in Kansas, utilizing her skills as a lecturer to gain recognition and develop a following. It also shows how, despite a relatively progressive government and electorate, much of Kansas culture clung to traditional gender roles, as demonstrated by the pro-domesticity biases of the news media during Grinstead's 1918 campaign and her years in office. Finding a way to maneuver through both the established male political system and the media's reductive treatment of her abilities, she evolved into a role model for Kansas women interested in political participation beyond the simple act of voting. Before Grinstead, no Kansas woman had ever tried to become a state legislator. Grinstead's election and victory in 1918 encouraged other women to follow suit, proving to all that commitment to family and husband need not impede the ability to participate in politics.

CULTURE OF KANSAS

Even before Kansas achieved statehood, the territory existed as part of the western frontier where the political culture was relatively liberal and egalitarian in the way the people conducted local government. Many people who settled in Kansas were abolitionists, farmers, and adventurers who had non-traditional views

on women's rights.⁶ In 1861, when Kansas became a state, women had educational suffrage rights granted to them automatically. This meant that women could vote in local school board and curriculum elections. After that, Kansas's acceptance of women's improved rights grew gradually.⁷

In 1859, when Kansas had not yet achieved statehood, thirty-five delegates participated in the Wyandotte Convention. The purpose of the convention was to create a government for the state of Kansas that included a bill of rights, a weak chief executive and a strong bicameral legislature and a judiciary. However, the most important issue was providing for a constitutional prohibition of slavery.⁸ Women who were activists in the cause of abolition, temperance and women's rights, and who would later would form the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association (K.E.S.A.), were present at the convention and participated in the discussions concerning their rights.⁹ It was out of fear that the US Congress would reject the proposed Constitution for Kansas had women been granted suffrage outright, that their requests were denied. Nonetheless, their rights had been considered, and before Kansas became a state, they gained the right to vote in school meetings and elections.¹⁰

⁶ Weatherford, Doris. *A History of the American Suffragist Movement*. Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO Group, Inc. 1998: 99.

⁷ Arnold-Burger, Karen. "A Step Back in Time." *Amicus Newsletter*. Kansas Women Attorney's Association. (Fall 2010): 9. *see bibliography for website information.

⁸ Flentje, H. Edward and Joseph A. Aistrup. *Kansas Politics and Government*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2010: 31-32.

⁹ Caldwell, Martha. "The Woman Suffrage Campaign of 1912," (August 1943), Vol. 12, no. 3: 300.

¹⁰ Flentje, H. Edward and Joseph A. Aistrup. *Kansas Politics and Government*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2010 and in part from Martha Caldwell's "The Woman Suffrage Campaign of 1912."

Kansas became a leading state in addressing the rights of women when it held the nation's first referendum on women's suffrage in 1867. To women's disappointment, women's suffrage, though popular, did not survive the referendum, and full suffrage would not come to pass until 1912.¹¹ Still, the referendum had been significant. Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote an article in *The Revolution*, a New York paper she spearheaded with Susan B. Anthony, singing the praises of Kansas. She wrote:

“...these 9000 votes represent a principle deep in the hearts of the people, for this triumph was secured without money, without a press, without a party. With these instrumentalities now fast coming to us on all sides, the victory in Kansas is but the herald of greater victories in every State of the Union.”¹²

Through the last half of the nineteenth century, the women's movement in Kansas was directly tied to the Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.). Women joined the W.C.T.U. from all over the state in local chapters in order to become united in their efforts to legally prohibit the sales and consumption of alcohol. In Kansas they had a profound effect on state government in regard to the rights of women. Members of the Kansas W.T.C.U were interested in all issues that could affect women in general. They soon became just as concerned with the suffrage issue as they were with banning alcohol.¹³ Kansas was the first state in the country to bow to the pressures of prohibitionists, going dry in 1881. The

¹¹ Weatherford, Doris. "Women in American Politics: History and Milestones, Vol. 1." Los Angeles, California: CQ Press, an imprint of Sage Publications, 2012.

¹² Stanton, Elizabeth Cady. "Kansas." *The Revolution* 1, no.1. (January 8, 1868).

¹³ Smith, Wilda M. "A Half Century of Struggle: Gaining Women Suffrage in Kansas," *Kansas History* 4, no. 2 (Summer 1981): 296. Topeka Room, Shawnee County Public Library Topeka, Kansas.

prohibition law that passed in Kansas, while only receiving a four percent majority, still had a tremendous impact on government and the society of Kansas.¹⁴ Once prohibition had been achieved, the W.C.T.U. came on even stronger and utilized its political power to fight for suffrage for women. Kansas women successfully applied pressure to state government through the temperance unions and through the equal suffrage associations. By 1887, the state had given into the women's demands to be included in all municipal elections, which gave them the right to vote locally for mayors, sheriffs, councilmen, and the like.¹⁵ After the turn of the 20th century, members of the W.C.T.U. and the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association (K.E.S.A.), no longer content with "local suffrage," made a compelling argument that "the women in Kansas were already voters and had only asked for a promotion" and the rest of the state needed to realize this as well.¹⁶

While many women in Kansas participated in women's clubs that were open about gaining the right to vote there were some women in Kansas, as nationally, who adhered to anti-suffrage beliefs. In the main, female anti-suffragists were privileged middle class women who argued that women were better off under the control and protection of men, a protection that was supposed to be accompanied by veneration, and that voting would represent equalization with men, a tumble off the pedestal, and a net loss for women. By the turn of the twentieth century, so many Kansas women were enjoying the right to vote in local elections, that most

¹⁴ Goldberg, Michael Lewis. *An Army of Women: Gender and Politics in Gilded Age Kansas*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997. Goldberg explains how the W.C.T.U. became stronger and organized effectively for women's issues, suffrage being the key issue.

¹⁵ Dinkin, Robert J. *Before Equal Suffrage: Women in Partisan Politics from Colonial Times to 1920*. Westport, Connecticut.: Greenwood Press, 1995.

¹⁶ Caldwell, Martha. "The Woman Suffrage Campaign of 1912." *The Kansas Historical Quarterly* 12, no. 3, (August 1943). Repository: Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

anti-suffragists were men. Some men had stated they were against votes for women because “women had enough to do as matters [were] and the duties of suffrage should not be added to their burdens” so that it would not interfere with their home duties.¹⁷ While many women participated in the suffrage movement in the State of Kansas, those who may have been anti-suffrage remained relatively silent as a group.

Kansas, from its territorial years, embodied a more open-minded political culture than all but a few of the other states. Women in the East followed closely the changes being made for women “out west,” and Kansas’ liberal politics made national headlines in 1912, when the state granted its women the right to vote in national elections and, a few years later, when women, beginning with Minnie Johnson Grinstead, started running for the state legislature.

CHAPTER I - Grinstead’s Beginning

Minnie Grinstead seemed to be a fearless a woman who throughout her career found opportunities for advancement. She took full advantage of those opportunities by working hard. She grew to become a leader in her neighborhood, her places of employment, and, later on, in politics.

Born in Crawford County, Kansas on September 30, 1869, Grinstead graduated high school at the age of fourteen. While too young at the time to be able to teach school, which required teachers to be at least the sixteen years of age,

¹⁷ Estey, Stephen Sewall. “*Woman Suffrage*.” Item No: 206102, Call No. K 324.3 Pam. v. 1 #7. Repository: Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

Grinstead either worked on her father's farm or hired out to help neighboring farms with cultivation or plowing. She gained a lifetime certificate in Education from the Emporia Normal School in Emporia, Kansas, known today as Emporia State University, and started her career teaching public school at the age of seventeen.¹⁸

In the Grinstead collection at the archives of the Kansas State Historical Society there is an autograph book that she had kept over the years. In this book are handwritten notes from students, friends and colleagues she had known throughout the years. The scrapbook spans more than a decade, with the first entry dated 1889 and some of the last dated 1901.¹⁹ The evidence of the many well wishes and notes, demonstrates that Grinstead was well liked and admired. Many of the notes addressed her as "Friend Minnie" or "Dear Teacher." From the entries written by Grinstead's students, it appears they wrote in poetic form various fashionable sayings they might have memorized. Knowing their teacher loved the art of poetry and wrote original poems herself, they all asked her to remember them. One of Grinstead's friends from Medicine Lodge, Kansas, in a note dated March 5, 1900, wrote:²⁰

¹⁸ "Biography of Mrs. Minnie Grinstead" taken from the Kansas Women's Day Club History. Collection no. 659, Box 3, Folder 1, Club Records, (1933-34) 7th District. Repository: The Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas. In this collection, there is a two page typed essay covering Grinstead's early life. It is not numbered and is noted as an incomplete document.

¹⁹ The collection at KSHS is in the Minnie Tamar (Johnson) & Virgil Hooker Grinstead Collection 1878-[not before 1923] Manuscript Collection 365. Many handwritten notes were from students in Pittsburg, Kansas where she taught. Some of the entries were from colleagues and people she met from her lecturing with the W.C.T.U. Repository: The Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

²⁰ These autographed notes from friends are found in the Minnie Tamar (Johnson) & Virgil Hooker Grinstead Collection 1878-[not before 1923] Manuscript Collection 365. Repository: Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Miss Johnson,
May God bless you in the noble work you have chosen.
We appreciate your efforts for mankind in our little
city. Come again.

Your friend
Mrs. J.A.
Runyan

Another friend from Milan, Kansas, in a note dated March 12, 1900
wrote:

*Ever remember me as a sincere friend and one who loves
you. May your chosen life-work be ever abundant in rich
harvest for the Master's Kingdom.*

*Lovingly and truly
Your friend
Ola Watson*

Many of Grinstead's students wrote rhymes or popular yearbook ditties such as
these:²¹

*Dear Friend,
Within this book so pure and white
Let none but friends dare to write.
And may each live with friends help given
Direct the writer through to heaven.
Your friend and scholar
Mary Brumblat*

*Friend Minnie,
It is sweet to be remembered,
Sad to be forgot
But you can do just as you like,
Remember me or not.*

*Truly Yours,
Johnnie Wright*

*Dear Teacher,
When rocks and hills divide us,
And you no more I see,
Remember it was Edna,
Who wrote these lines to thee.*

*Your scholar,
Edna Greenstreet*

²¹ Ibid. Notes from Grinstead's students were little catch phrases commonly used in yearbooks, albums and greeting cards. The three above can be found in Grinstead's autograph book in the Grinstead Collection.

Grinstead was a schoolteacher for about twelve years in Pittsburg, Kansas, and served as Principal for the last five to six years at the East Building.²² In 1895, Grinstead embarked on her first political race after being nominated to run on the Republican ticket for the position of superintendent of public instruction. She lost the race in a Populist landslide that year, but she had enjoyed electioneering and resigned from her teaching position.²³

Grinstead's time as a teacher and as a principal prepared her well for the next phase of her career as a prohibition lecturer. Her public speaking experiences contributed to her taking an active role in the Kansas Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) and she honed those skills further by becoming a paid lecturer for the organization in 1896. Grinstead also practiced her talents as a speaker from the pulpit in the Baptist church where she became a preacher. In November of 1899, Grinstead took a course and earned a license to preach from the Baptist church in Pittsburg, Kansas, and later on in her life she became a pastor of a church in Liberal, Kansas.²⁴ She retained her credentials to preach throughout her life, and she did preach when not in session as a state legislator.²⁵

In 1901, Minnie Johnson married a lawyer named Virgil H. Grinstead who later became a judge in Seward County, Kansas. It was a union of mutual respect

²² Kansas Library Bulletin 4, no.4. (December 1935): 13. Repository: The Kansas State Historical Society Topeka, Kansas.

²³ This paragraph comes from two different sources. A page in the Minnie Grinstead file at the Coronado Museum/Seward County Historical Society, Liberal Kansas and from the biography found in the Minnie Tamar (Johnson) & Virgil Hooker Grinstead Collection 1878-[not before 1923] Manuscript Collection 365, finding aid. Repository: Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

²⁴ Biography found in the Minnie Tamar (Johnson) & Virgil Hooker Grinstead Collection 1878-[not before 1923] Manuscript Collection 365, finding aid. Repository: Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

²⁵ "Conventionalities: Sidelights on the G.O.P. Gathering at Chicago." *Elkhart Truth*, Elkhart, Indiana (June 8, 1920).

and admiration; both were well-known lecturers and prohibitionists and both had very public careers.²⁶ The couple established their home in Liberal, Kansas, where Minnie Grinstead gave birth to four children, two of whom died in infancy. The surviving children were named Darline and Wade. Taking care of the needs of her home and family became a vital part of Grinstead's life, paralleling her desire for a public role in creating a better world in which to raise her children.

Grinstead worked as a paid lecturer for the W.C.T.U. for fifteen years. She was also elected as president of the 7th Congressional District Suffrage campaign while in the fight for women's suffrage rights.²⁷ She traveled all across the state of Kansas and into Missouri to speak about the evils of alcohol that plagued society and to promote the need for ratification of a constitutional amendment on prohibition. Grinstead was the president of the 7th district of the W.C.T.U.

Grinstead did well as a lecturer and was appointed W.C.T.U. State Evangelist in 1900. She traveled to Washington D.C., serving as a delegate at the national W.C.T.U. Convention from November 30 to December 7, 1900.²⁸ Grinstead found a niche in Kansas politics through her efforts working for the W.C.T.U. long before she ran for state office in 1918.

²⁶ "V.H. Grinstead Stricken While at Work Friday," *The Liberal News*, Liberal, Kanas (February 28, 1924).

²⁷ Bakken, Gordon M. and Brenda Farrington. "Encyclopedia of Women in the American West." Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Corp Publishing, 2003.

²⁸ Biography of Mrs. Minnie Grinstead" taken from the Kansas Women's Day Club History. Collection no. 659, Box 3, Folder 1 Club Records, (1933-34) 7th District. Repository: The Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas In this collection, there is a two page typed essay covering Grinstead's early life. It is not numbered and is noted as an incomplete document.

Getting Elected

Grinstead wanted to make changes in society, especially where Prohibition was concerned. For many years she had worked speaking out about the necessity for prohibition and she had “great ambition to become part of the legislative body that would ratify the National (*sic*) prohibition amendment.”²⁹ She had made a name for herself as a paid lecturer for the W.C.T.U., traveling across the state and into Missouri campaigning for both prohibition and women’s suffrage. She had gathered something of a following and, in March of 1914, a substantially large group of friends and citizens of Liberal, Kansas walked directly to Grinstead’s front door to personally request that she become a candidate on the Republican ticket for a Senate seat. She was taken entirely by surprise with their handmade signs that read GRINSTEAD FOR SENATE and their sincere promises to all vote for her if she would just join the election. She thanked her friends and neighbors for the vote of confidence and told them,

“If I should see in any way to become a candidate for a seat in the United States Senate, nothing that shall come to me would bring me more pleasure than this expression of respect by my own home people in coming out this evening in a non-partisan way and thus wishing me the ultimate success...you good people know me, you know I am not afraid to stand squarely for what I believe to be right...”³⁰

²⁹ This is a direct quote of Minnie Grinstead coming from a newspaper clipping from the *Newton Evening News*, (February 21, 1919) that had been cut out and placed in a scrapbook she had made. It is found in the Grinstead Manuscript Collection No. 365. Repository: Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

³⁰ “Liberal Wants Mrs. Grinstead For Senate.” *The Hutchinson News*, Hutchinson, Kansas, (March 16, 1914).

The rumor of Grinstead's possible candidacy for the United States Senate found its way into newspaper articles as far distant as Ohio, Iowa, New Jersey, California, and Louisiana. Her name was becoming nationally known, though many of those articles ended up on the "society" pages and those titled "of interest to women." A lengthy detailed article about her in a Hutchinson, Kansas newspaper happened to be placed in the "want ads" section of the newspaper. Even with women voters behind her, Grinstead chose not to run in the Senatorial election of 1914, as she had been hesitant to challenge the "male-dominated GOP establishment that year."³¹ Nevertheless, the interest of the people in Liberal gave her incentive to seek out a political position four years later.

The Kansas state legislature up to 1918 was comprised entirely of men, but in this male-dominated field Grinstead proved to be a viable candidate. Her successful career as an educator, administrator, and lecturer with the W.C.T.U. across Kansas and Missouri had made her a credible competitor. She was not intimidated nor had she shown any reservations about working in a political atmosphere dominated by men. Her determination to see the ratification of prohibition at the national level heightened the motivation behind her running for a seat in the State of Kansas House of Representatives. Grinstead made a courageous decision in 1918 to run for office and the reasons she gave revolved around prohibition and women's rights. She stated she "didn't seek the nomination for representative for notoriety or because of any desire to dabble in politics;" she

³¹ Bean, Joe Patrick, "Trailblazer: Kansas Legislator Set Winning Example," *Chicago Tribune*, (December 27, 1992).

wanted to run for office for the most part on her opposition to alcohol and her desire to vote nationally to ratify an amendment for prohibition.³²

Grinstead's 1918 political campaign for the Kansas House of Representatives was full of thrills. She was running against the incumbent representative who belonged to the opposing political party.³³ Newspapers, townspeople and many other states in the nation noticed that a Kansas woman had put her hat into the ring running for legislature for the first time.³⁴ Many people in the town of Liberal had encouraged her to run against the Democratic incumbent, A. A. Farmer, reinforcing her belief in the possibility of success.³⁵

Grinstead's campaign was well thought out and fought. Placing a political ad "To the Voters of Seward County," in *The Liberal News* dated July 4, 1918, Grinstead reached out to her constituents with a description of her plan to run for a legislative seat on the Republican ticket. She explained her background, starting with a reminder that she was a native-born Kansan, and continued on highlighting her achievements as a teacher, a preacher, and a lecturer for the W.C.T.U. This letter to her voters gave Grinstead an opportunity to speak of her concerns about the poor, the state's schools, and farmers. She stressed how she would be an advocate for all three once in office. This ad also emphasized her concerns about the management

³² *Newton Evening News*, (February 21, 1919). This article clipping, found in a scrapbook that Grinstead kept which contains many articles she saved that contained information about her, poems and other county information. The scrapbook, presented to the Kansas State Historical Society by her daughter Darlene in 1948, can be found in the Minnie Tamar (Johnson) & Virgil Hooker Grinstead collection 1878-[not before 1923], Col. 365. Repository: Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

³³ McDowell, Lillian G. "Kansas' Four Legisladies Are Home-Makers" *The Dearborn Independent*. Dearborn, Mich., March 26, 1921. Kansas State Historical Society, 328 Clipp v.15.

³⁴ "Woman is in Race," This article is found in Grinstead's scrapbook at Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

of funds for these institutions. Her intention was to frame “laws governing the same, to be careful not to make unnecessary expenditures of public funds.” Grinstead, of course, had no qualms about explaining her disdain for alcohol, stating she had “devoted many weeks and months and years fighting the evil of intemperance and kindred vices both in Kansas as other states.” She finished her plea to the voters by outlining her views on equality, stating:

“I do not believe that a woman is ineligible as a candidate for representative... You are willing for them [women] to take the lead...why not lay aside prejudice and elect a woman to office, if you believe she is capable of discharging the duties of office...and when elected [I] will endeavor to fully discharge my duty as your servant.”³⁶

Grinstead’s opponent, A. A. Farmer, the incumbent Democrat, took out an ad in the competing newspaper, *The Liberal Democrat*, on October 31, 1918, a strategic move only six days before Election Day. In his ad, Farmer explained more about how he was worried his opponent was a woman with no experience than he spoke of his own accomplishments. He did not even name Grinstead. He stated:

“...the other name is that of a lady; a very intelligent, a most estimable lady; one of the highest character and standing in her community. This lady asks to be allowed to represent Seward County in the next Legislature as against the man who represented the County in the last session...”

Farmer’s ad attempted to persuade voters why they *should not* vote for Grinstead due to her shortcomings instead of highlighting why they *should* vote for him. His ad told voters when they got their ballot to stop and think a little when they saw the two names, (Grinstead not mentioned by her name still). He

³⁶ “To the Voters of Seward County,” *The Liberal News*, Liberal, Kansas, (July 4, 1918). This whole paragraph is condensed and quoted from Grinstead’s political ad.

emphasized that the “Lower House is made up of 125 representatives and more than likely 99 percent of the membership will be men,” and because she was a woman who would be in committees with men who got bills passed by talking in “hotel lobbies and in gatherings where friendships are made that help get bills passed,” he asked his readers who would then be the most likely candidate to get bills through? Farmer ended his plea to the voters by asking them to vote for his experience as a male as opposed to the female who had no congressional experience.³⁷ No rebuttal articles appeared in either newspaper, so Grinstead apparently did not try to counter Farmer’s ad. Grinstead only took out a large print ad running the same day as Farmer’s ad, October 31, 1918, with her picture and stating the goals she planned to fulfill once elected. She thanked the people of Seward County for their loyal support and promised that, if elected, she would serve them well. There was not one reference to her opponent, not one negative thing to say, only a last appeal for the people’s vote.³⁸

Taking a position opposite to that of A.A. Farmer, another Liberal, Kansas newspaper wrote about Grinstead, “Let no one reason that because she is a woman Seward county’s interests will not be well looked after in every way, for they will be.”³⁹ Grinstead, then living in Liberal, worked long and arduous hours, driving more than 5000 miles during her campaign, stopping along her path to talk with

³⁷ This paragraph is condensed and contains quotes from the article called “Representative Race” found in *The Liberal Democrat*, Liberal Kansas, (October 31, 1918). This article favors Farmer but seems to not have been written by Farmer himself, it makes reference in many places to “we” but does not give the reader a definite answer as to “who” the “we” incorporated. The article refers to Grinstead as “lady” throughout never mentioning her by name and states Farmer by name three times.

³⁸ “A Personal Word by Minnie J. Grinstead.” *The Liberal News*, Liberal, Kansas, (October 31, 1918).

³⁹ “The Republican Candidates of Seward County” *The Liberal News*, Liberal, Kansas, (October 31, 1918).

numerous farmers and other citizens for a few moments explaining why a vote for her was so important. Later, reflecting on her time in office, she described her opponent as “a lazy antagonist” and said she had never known any woman to get any honor without a lot of hard work. She went on to say, “It is true that a woman danced to get the head of John the Baptist and it was delivered on a silver tray; you may guess I had to work too in [gaining] the nomination” for representative.⁴⁰

Minnie Grinstead had specific views about women that were at opposite ends of the liberal and conservative spectrum. Her liberal side advocated for women’s rights in all aspects of life. She believed that women could achieve anything as long as they put forth hard work. The conservative side upheld the belief that a woman’s most important duty was to become a homemaker, which in her mind always came first. She deemed her own position, as a representative, more as a commission to utilize her influence making things better for families and their homes in the state of Kansas.⁴¹ It was her intention to not only make laws, but to continue her womanly duties of caring for her family and home.

Grinstead was clever in connecting her politicking to her “belief” in femininity, family, and domesticity during her campaign. It was a brilliant strategy she used in getting nominated and winning her seat as a State Representative. It was during her time as a lecturer for the W.C.T.U. that she learned how to play a skilled political game to gain the respect of men and women and to be taken

⁴⁰ This quote came from Grinstead’s own typed document called “My Experience in the Kansas Legislature” it is a two page document that is incomplete or missing pages. It can be found in Kansas State Historical Society in the Minnie Tamar Johnson & V.H. Grinstead Collection 1878-[not before 1923].

⁴¹ “The First Woman Legislator in Kansas,” *Des Moines Iowa Homestead*, Des Moines, Iowa, (March 4, 1920).

seriously as a future politician. By using her femininity, Grinstead assured men, who were still prone to have anti-suffrage beliefs, that she was “still a woman” and was not changing her gender role or her place in society. Grinstead proudly accepted “her special responsibility for domestic activities,” however she refused to concede that those duties prohibited her from participating in politics, making laws to better her community and state.⁴²

Like many women, Grinstead utilized the power of the W.C.T.U. to show anti-suffragists that it was necessary to allow women the vote, as they were the protectors of society. Having full suffrage would enable women both “in their roles as wives and mothers to protect their homes” and children from the influences of alcohol.⁴³ Suffragists used this social utility argument as justification in gaining rights and Grinstead utilized this strategy to her benefit as she was ardently against alcohol and was a seasoned lecturer on prohibition. When a newspaper journalist asked what she would be endorsing in her first session as a lawmaker, she responded without hesitation, “Ratification...I am as strong as onions for ratification of the national prohibition amendment and for the women’s suffrage amendment.”⁴⁴ Grinstead possessed a strong desire to be a member of the assembly that would see the national prohibition law becoming a reality; this had been her main reason for running for office. Furthermore, she had minced no words in expressing her desire

⁴² DuBois, Ellen. “The Radicalism of the Woman Suffrage Movement: Notes toward the Reconstruction of Nineteenth-Century Feminism.” *Feminist Studies*, (Autumn, 1975): 65.

⁴³ DuBois, Ellen. “Woman Suffrage & Women’s Rights.” New York: New York University Press, 1998: 39.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

to snuff out cigarettes and stated she had intentions to propose new legislation against smoking.⁴⁵

Throughout the state of Kansas, Grinstead's campaign coverage was comprised of sparse write-ups placed in peculiar pages of the paper. Local newspapers such as *The Liberal (Kansas) Democrat* and *The Liberal (Kansas) News*, published where Grinstead resided, often ran front-page stories as well as political ads about her. Most ads that were related to the election were printed in these two newspapers only two or three months before it took place. Both of Liberal's newspapers put the Grinstead articles and highlights either on the front page or in the first few pages of the newspaper. Papers in the rest of the country often talked about Kansas having a female candidate for legislature, but many of those articles could be found on the "Society" or "Of Interest to Women" pages, most often in the back pages of newspapers. Obviously, Kansas had a more immediate concern about this election than did the rest of the country.

Grinstead's hard work paid off; on voting day November 7, 1918, the election results reported all over the state revealed that Minnie Grinstead, "The Lady from Seward" had won the election for State Representative, beating her opponent, who was also the incumbent, by an unexpectedly large margin of votes. She surprised many folks not because she won the election, but because she won by such a large margin. Projected to win by a safe measure of possibly a hundred votes, she was not expected to win big, but, when the official electoral returns in Seward County

⁴⁵ Ibid.

were published, Grinstead had 1,041 votes and the incumbent, Farmer, had 566 votes.⁴⁶

The first woman elected to the Kansas State House of Representatives made news across the country. The election had write-ups in papers ranging from Texas to Iowa and Colorado to New York. Some of these articles were found on the front page and some in the back pages. In December of 1918, interestingly enough, a Duluth, Minn. newspaper printed an insignificant little blurb about Grinstead becoming the first woman legislator in Kansas. The blurb appeared under a larger article titled "Package Wrapping is an Art." Since this section of the paper probably attracted few males, the article seems to have been aimed at a female audience. Tucked in ever so slightly that one would not think it out of place, there was also a little commendation about Grinstead's achievement. However, the placement of the article on Grinstead's successful campaign makes it clear that the news signified an afterthought.⁴⁷

Rumblings from men in the State House about having a woman enter the sacred precincts where they dominated began to surface. Newspapers printed many articles enumerating the concerns of Kansas's male legislators about Grinstead's win and her inevitable participation in the Statehouse in Topeka. While the State Constitution of Kansas allowed Grinstead to participate in politics, the news media outside of her hometown emphasized her feminine role as a mother and cast doubt on her abilities to be a good legislator. Newspapers across Kansas perpetuated the social imperative of women's domesticity by hinting that Grinstead

⁴⁶ "Official Vote of Seward County." *The Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, Kansas, (November 7, 1918).

⁴⁷ "Package Wrapping is an Art." *Duluth News-Tribune*, Duluth, Minnesota, (December 22, 1918).

would be too feminine, and too politically inexperienced, to succeed in an overly male dominated atmosphere such as the State House. Various articles in those newspapers reported concerns about Grinstead coming into the fold of legislators as the only woman. For example:

“The solemn faced men among the Kansas statesmen shook their heads in doubt when it was reported that a woman had been elected...they believed that Mrs. Grinstead would be a “fussy” member, and that she would scold and find fault, and “nag” them for smoking cigars...this thing of a legislative session ain’t no pink tea affair”

~*Kansas City Star*, Kansas City, Mo.⁴⁸

“Will she be known as a legislator or a legislatress? Will she stand for cigar or cigarette smoke in the House? What will be her position in matters where swear words sometimes creep into heated discussions? ...It will be interesting to see just how Mrs. Grinstead will take to the legislature and how it will warm up to her.”

~*Chanute Tribune*, Chanute, Kansas⁴⁹

“The men legislators are much perplexed on the problems that will arise in connection with her taking the seat. Not so much as how she will meet her duties as to how they will manage their matters in her presence. It will be interesting to note just how she takes to the job and how the legislature will take to her.”

~*Emporia Weekly Gazette*, Emporia, Kansas⁵⁰

While many newspapers printed stories that introduced a hint of negativity while reporting the facts, some created skepticism about Grinstead’s ability to succeed as a representative. These skeptics kept readers pondering the question

⁴⁸ “A Feminine Quartette in the Kansas Legislature.” *Kansas City Star*, (November 17, 1920).

⁴⁹ “The Woman Legislator” *Chanute Tribune*, November 16, 1918. This article clipping, found in a scrapbook that Grinstead kept which contains many articles she saved that contained information about her, poems and other county information. The scrapbook, presented to the Kansas State Historical Society by her daughter Darlene in 1948, can be found in the Minnie Tamar (Johnson) & Virgil Hooker Grinstead collection 1878-[not before 1923], Col. 365. Repository: Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

⁵⁰ “Kansas Woman Legislator.” *Emporia Weekly Gazette*, Emporia, Kansas, (January 9, 1919).

“How was this “Lady from Seward” going to make it as a legislator?” However, a few papers managed to portray Grinstead in a positive light as a woman highly capable of enacting laws and working amongst a roomful of men. One paper described Grinstead after the election through the eyes of her Republican opponent in the August primary, whom she beat. He was reported to have said: “Mrs. Grinstead isn’t track built, but you ought to see her run.”⁵¹

⁵¹ This is quote about Minnie Grinstead comes from a newspaper clipping from the *Newton Evening News*, (February 21, 1919) found in Grinstead’s scrapbook at the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

CHAPTER II – First Term in Office (1918-1920)

Once elected, Grinstead made every attempt to promote the fact that she was a mother first and a legislator second. It is not possible to discern, at this distance, whether Grinstead really believed this about herself or if it was a wise political strategy to declare for motherhood and domesticity in a world that still believed women were inherently suited to be mothers—and not much else. Grinstead had already established an extra-domestic lifestyle for herself as a lecturer, preacher, and campaigner, but she seems to have taken careful steps to make her career as a legislator acceptable to the gender-role traditionalists in her state, who were many. During that first year she held office, Grinstead brought her entire family with her to Topeka, renting a house downtown on Topeka Boulevard, not too far from the capital building. She wanted to be able to prepare breakfast for them every morning just as she had always done, before she departed to the Capitol to conduct the business of lawmaking.⁵²

In April of 1920, the *Duluth-News Tribune* in Duluth, Minnesota wrote a substantial article on Grinstead with the title proclaiming, “Kansas’ First Fair Solon Puts the Home Above All,” which highlighted her domesticity. The article described her appearance and personality as “motherly” and portrayed her activities in office as “mothering” bills, then headed back to tend to her husband and children every night. Only one paragraph was devoted to exploring where her interest in politics came from. The story ended by focusing on her domestic duties, how she milked her

⁵² “Cook Meal First: Then Only Woman Legislator Goes to the State House.” *Topeka Daily Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, (January 15, 1919) found in a Grinstead’s scrapbook.

own cows, made her own butter, and raised chickens. They proclaimed her excellence in housekeeping skills and praised her cooking. That same article had appeared a month before in the *Des Moines Iowa Homestead* of March of 1920, emphasizing her domesticity.⁵³

Grinstead's first day at the statehouse proved a memorable one for women, as she was the first to grace the halls in the Capitol as well as the chamber floor of the House of Representatives. When Grinstead took the oath of office, a large crowd of people gathered to see the first woman member of the House of Representative taking the oath. She later reflected that some of the men there had looked at her with their thoughts clearly displayed in their facial expressions, and some even gave voice to those thoughts, saying, "What are you doing here anyway?"⁵⁴ Grinstead just smiled and strode right past them, ready to get on with her duties.

Upon entering the capital building, she could hear grumbling among some of the Representatives about having a woman work among them. Some men were skeptical about their future work environment in the House with Grinstead present. Representative McDougal from Edwards County, Kansas had been one of those skeptics. He wrote a letter to one of his own constituents who had asked his opinion on the "lady member of the House." On the first day of the session, he explained, it was customary for House seats to be selected. Being gentlemen, the men offered Grinstead the opportunity to select any seat she wanted in the House. McDougal

⁵³ "Kansas Fair Solon Puts the Home Above All." *Duluth News-Tribune*, Duluth, Minnesota, (April 11, 1920).

⁵⁴ Taken from Grinstead's own typed document called "My Experience in the Kansas Legislature" it is a two page document that is incomplete or missing pages. It can be found in the Minnie Tamar Johnson & V.H. Grinstead Collection 1878-[not before 1923] at the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

stated that right from the beginning he had been impressed with Grinstead, who could have had any seat she wanted--minus those of the Speaker and the Speaker pro-tem-- but chose a seat in the center of the House chamber, where no one could get to her, instead of taking a seat down on the front row where lobbyists could have easily had access to her. From that moment, McDougal "made up his mind that Grinstead could take care of herself" in the House of Representatives. He ended his letter stating that Grinstead was "a lady of good poise, very sensible, never flies off on a tangent, is quite able to present her side of a case on the floor of the House and is a good loser when she finds her measure defeated, which is really one of the most necessary characteristics of a good legislator."⁵⁵

Grinstead brought to members of the House a woman's perspective on politics and proved that she could handle the job set before her. "The Lady of Seward," as the men at the State House called her, introduced her fair share of bills and debated many presented by other Representatives. Even though Grinstead lost some of her bills, she did so with dignity, proving to the men in the House that she could handle the job of being a representative, win or lose, which led to respect and admiration from her colleagues.

A uniquely presented press account about Grinstead was written from the perspective of an older woman called "Ma Jimkins" and titled "Ma Jimkins in Toepky(*sic*): Impressions Of An Old-Timer At The Legislature." The article, based on Ma's observations in the gallery, depicted Grinstead as "a capable looking"

⁵⁵ Taken from an article called, The Caldwell News, (February 27, 1919) located in Minnie Grinstead's scrapbook called "A Mother's Gift To Her Son" found in the Minnie Grinstead & V.H. Grinstead Collection 1878- [not before 1923] at the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka, Kansas.

person, but suggested that those capabilities were more fitting for the home. “Ma” described her own visit to the chamber to observe Grinstead in action, explaining that she slid into her seat, took out her knitting, sat back and watched the happenings on the floor. She looked around for that Minnie Grinstead, who she could tell right away from her clothes because the other members of the House had been wearing suits. “Ma” went on to say:

“ When anyone says the body’s efficient, I just sort of conjure up a thin faced person...but when they say “capable,” I picture a broad faced, sort o’ square chinned person, with regular spectacles. Minnie Grinstead’s that sort. I’ll bet that woman makes the best doughnuts of anybody in her county, and can put the neatest patch on a pair of pants. La, her bein’ so capable, it’s a mystery to me why she would ever want to mix up in politics and get elected to the legislature. And I’ll bet her church society’ll get all run down at the heels whiles she’s up here voting aye and nay. But it ain’t for me to say what I’d do if I was capable.”⁵⁶

Ma was a widely syndicated reporter who wrote in the voice of an old country woman for comic effect. “Ma’s” pose is reminiscent of characters created by other writers for the sake of wry commentary during this period. Marietta Holly created ‘Josiah Allen’s Wife’ as a narrator for a number of comic novels; Peter Finley Dunne created an Irish-American bartender, Mr. Dooley, whose brogue commentary on the political and social issues of his day was syndicated in scores of papers around the country. “Ma” highlights Grinstead’s capability, but also suggests to “her” readers that Grinstead’s best role is domesticity.

Grinstead became accustomed to the climate of making laws with her male colleagues in the House. She stated in her own brief account of her legislative

⁵⁶ Ibid. This article from an unknown newspaper and by unknown author is found in Grinstead’s scrapbook. All the “folksy” misspellings are found in the article as they are written.

experience that when the men finally saw that she indeed came to work and not just for show, they began to treat her with respect.⁵⁷

Years later, Gabby Thompson, a lawyer in Manhattan, Kansas who had been friends with Grinstead's daughter, Darline, recounted memories that Darline had shared about Grinstead. According to Thompson, Darline remembered that during Grinstead's first session in the House, she rented a room at the Jayhawk Tower, a hotel located only two blocks away from the capital, in order to have restroom facilities. Since Grinstead was the first woman at the State House, there were no lavatory accommodations available to her as all the restrooms were for males only, so for a short time Grinstead had to walk down the street to the hotel whenever nature called.⁵⁸

Grinstead's first order of business as a Representative dealt with the national prohibitory amendment. A fundamental change to the country's laws that she had been working towards for years was within her reach. On January 14, 1919, the House was in the midst of their rules and organization when the first order of business from the Senate appeared. The Secretary of the Senate presented to the House of Representatives, the Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2, proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution.⁵⁹ Grinstead's heart must have been a

⁵⁷ From Grinstead's own typed document called "My Experience in the Kansas Legislature." This is a two-page document that is incomplete or has missing pages. Found in Kansas State Historical Society in the Minnie Tamar Johnson & V.H. Grinstead Collection 1878-[not before 1923].

⁵⁸ Gabrielle Thompson is a lawyer in Manhattan, Kansas, a friend and colleague of Darline Conover, Grinstead's daughter who provided this story for me in a phone interview recalling stories of Grinstead.

⁵⁹ Kansas House Journal. 21st Biennial Session, Topeka January 14-March 22, 1919 & Special Session, June 16-19, 1919: 6 & 7.

flutter with a vote so close at hand. She was finally going to vote to get the amendment passed.

The House rules were suspended when the Senate's resolution was called, and an emergency was declared for a second reading of the bill. The motion prevailed and then the resolution read for a second time. A further emergency was suspensefully declared, for a third reading of the bill, with a motion prevailing. The question was asked, "Shall the resolution be adopted?" and the roll was then called with the following results: Yeas 121, Nays 0 and those absent or not voting 3.⁶⁰ Both the House and the Senate in the State of Kansas had passed the bill unanimously in favor of a national constitutional amendment-- the 18th amendment -- prohibiting the sale and consumption of alcohol throughout the country, and thus maintaining Kansas as a leader in the prohibition movement.⁶¹ Grinstead was a part of the voting process, achieving, in the earliest days of her career in the state legislature, one of the chief goals that had led her there in the first place.

After a few weeks in office, Grinstead joined in the law-making session with confidence and skill. Grinstead was assigned to the Education Committee and to the Roads and Highways Committee in the first week of the session, and, on January 23, 1919, she received assignment to the Public Welfare Committee.⁶² After being in office for some time, Grinstead later reported, she saw that the Public Welfare Committee had become "a dumping ground for all bills which otherwise had no

⁶⁰ Ibid., 7.

⁶¹ "Kansas Legislature Voted Dry Amendment," *The Hutchinson News*, Hutchinson, Kansas (January 14, 1919).

⁶² Kansas House Journal. 21st Biennial Session, Topeka January 14-March 22, 1919 & Special Session, June 16-19, 1919: xv & xvi.

place.” She eloquently pointed out that there was always a “motley mess of bills that came to this committee,” of which she had the delightful “unsought honor of being the chairman.”⁶³ She told of the crowds of reporters, welfare workers and all kinds of people that she had dealt with how she would “never again be a chairman of such a mongrel committee.”⁶⁴

At 10:00 a.m. on January 17, 1919, the fourth day into the session, Grinstead introduced her first bill. “House bill No. 55 related to an act vacating certain parts of the plat of the city of Liberal, Kansas.”⁶⁵ A plat is a section of land on a map that deals with the layout of the city. In Grinstead’s case, vacating parts of the city of Liberal, KS, meant she was asking for a law to change the blue prints of the map concerning certain parts of her city.⁶⁶ The bill was read for the second time on January 20 on the chamber floor and then referred to the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee reported back to the House with a recommendation that the bill not be passed, because the committee had prepared a substitute bill.⁶⁷ Grinstead’s first bill, then, never moved from committee to the Senate. However, Grinstead’s real issues – the ones for which she had sought election to the House of Representatives--would come shortly with the national woman suffrage and prohibition amendments.

⁶³ From Grinstead’s own typed document called “My Experience in the Kansas Legislature” it is a two page document that is incomplete or missing pages. Found in Kansas State Historical Society in the Minnie Tamar Johnson & V.H. Grinstead Collection 1878-[not before 1923].

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Kansas House Journal. 21st Biennial Session, Topeka January 14-March 22, 1919 & Special Session, June 16-19, 1919: 17.

⁶⁶ State of Kansas Session Laws, 1919. Passed at the 38th Regular Session – The Same Being the 21st Biennial Session of the legislature of the State of Kansas, June 17, 1919: 147-148.

⁶⁷ Kansas House Journal. 21st Biennial Session, Topeka January 14-March 22, 1919 & Special Session, June 16-19, 1919: 32, 37 & 492.

On January 15, 1919, Governor Allen's address to the Legislature called for the national prohibition and woman's suffrage amendments to be passed as early as possible in the State of Kansas. He emphasized that "Kansas was a leader in these movements and that leadership called for prompt action" and he held high hope that action would be taken by the legislature as requested. The very same day Minnie Grinstead introduced the House concurrent resolution No. 4 relating to recommendations to the Congress of the United States concerning an amendment to the federal constitution granting the rights of suffrage to women."⁶⁸ On January 22, 1919, Governor Allen wrote a note to the House of Representatives approving the House concurrent resolution No. 4. The bill was ready to be voted on when the time came for a national amendment to take place.

A special legislative session was called for June 16-19, 1919, for the ratification of national women's suffrage amendment in accordance with Governor Allen's proclamation dated June 9, 1919, which read: ⁶⁹

PROCLAMATION.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
TOPEKA, KAN., June 9, 1919.

WHEREAS, The Congress has submitted to the states by constitutional amendment the proposition of extending to women the right to vote equally with men; and

WHEREAS, This question must be settled by the legislatures of the states; and believing the privileges of voting for President and Congress to be the highest privilege of the voter; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature will not meet in regular session until after the next national election, and believing that the right of the women of the whole country should be determined before such election, I, therefore, declare that an emergency exists for convening the Legislature in special session as provided by the constitution;

Now, Therefore, I, Henry J. Allen, Governor of the state of Kansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the constitution of the state, do hereby convene the Legislature of the state of Kansas, to meet at the Capitol of the state, in Topeka, at the hour of noon, on the 16th day of June, 1919, to consider what is generally known as the Suffrage Amendment to the constitution of the United States.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused to be affixed the seal of the state of Kansas.

Done at Topeka, Kan., on the day and year first above written.

(Seal.) HENRY J. ALLEN, Governor.

Attest: L. J. PETTIJOHN, Secretary of State.

⁶⁸ Ibid., 18 & 21.

⁶⁹ Ibid., 950.

A quorum present, "121 gentlemen", including Mrs. Grinstead, were ready to vote on the matter. Governor Allen thanked the members of the legislature for expediting the bill as quickly as they did and for coming back from recess to vote on the matter.

He stated:

"The cause of womanhood had no finer tribute than has been paid by the legislators now assembled in compliance with their own wishes for a single purpose of ratifying an amendment to the national constitution granting full suffrage to the women of the United States. The very fact that the amendment adds nothing to the privileges of Kansas women, who already share with Kansas men equal responsibility in the exercise of the right of suffrage, only emphasizes the weight which this state attaches to the movement for political equality and freedom which is felt in the entire world."⁷⁰

Grinstead introduced House Resolution No. 4 again, ratifying the proposed suffrage amendment. Representative Frank Martin of Hutchinson, Kansas moved that an emergency be declared and the bill be read a second time, so the motion prevailed and was read a second time. Martin further moved that the bill be read for a third time and then called for a vote to be taken. Before the vote proceeded, Martin had one last remark. He stated that he "did not believe woman suffrage in this state or any other affected the good that was anticipated. I do not believe that it has reformed politics any. A pan of hot biscuits or a roasted turkey will go a lot further in influencing men than woman suffrage" and with that he smiled and voted aye for the passage of woman suffrage.⁷¹ Women who had been present in the gallery that day on such a momentous occasion applauded and praised every point made when the bill had been read. Of course, there may have been a groan or two when hearing

⁷⁰ Ibid., 952.

⁷¹ A quote of Frank L. Martin taken from the article "News Items From All Over Kansas" in the *Scandia Journal* in Republic County, Kansas, (July 3, 1919).

Representative Martin give his one last opinion on the matter before voting in favor of woman suffrage rights.⁷² The bill passed unanimously with 120 Ayes and 0 nays with only 5 members who were either not present or not voting, giving the bill a constitutional majority and the resolution was adopted.⁷³ The event made local and national headlines. The *Emporia Gazette* gave Grinstead the headline, stating she “had the unique honor as a woman of introducing the bill” and also reported that Martin “gave the only discordant note and attacked woman suffrage in a semi-humorous fashion.”⁷⁴

Grinstead’s term in the 1919 legislative session did not come without some controversy, particularly on one bill she introduced, an anti-smoking bill, and there was also controversy about a segregation bill, originally introduced in the Senate, which she had voted on. On January 24, 1919, Grinstead introduced House bill 208 – an act to prohibit smoking in public dining places. On January 27, the bill managed to get referred to the Public Welfare committee for further debate. On February 1, Minnie Grinstead, the Chairman of the Public Welfare Committee, reported the bill back to the House with the recommendation that it not be passed because the Public Welfare Committee had intended to submit a bill covering the same concerns. The Committee introduced House bill 324 with a change in the bill that prohibited smoking in public places where women and children were served. The bill, again, was sent to the Committee of the Whole and they recommended that the bill be passed in the House as amended. On February 13, 1919 the House voted on the bill

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Kansas House Journal. 21st Biennial Session, Topeka January 14-March 22, 1919 & Special Session, June 16-19, 1919: 953-954.

⁷⁴ “Suffrage Vote Is Unanimous.” *Emporia Gazette*, Emporia, Kansas, (June 16, 1919).

with 64 Ayes, 37 nays and 25 who were either absent that day or not voting. The bill passed in the House and was sent to the Senate where it sat and was never made into state law.⁷⁵ Grinstead's vision of this bill would not come to fruition until 2010 when the Kansas State legislature passed a statewide ban on smoking in all public establishments. The 1919 bill, however, gave Grinstead national notoriety, as many newspapers across the country, from Kansas to Michigan and on to Illinois, followed this story with the news of a bill that had been passed in the Kansas House by the "woman legislator."

A highly controversial bill introduced on the Senate side of the Capital building, and one devised by one of Grinstead's colleagues in the House, dealt with segregation in second class cities. The title "second class" had to do with population numbers of the city, not the social status of its residents. Senate bill No. 567 was the focus of many local and national newspaper headlines. The bill intended to amend the General Statutes of 1915, Section 9136, giving the local boards of education the power to decide to segregate their schools or not. Introduced for the first time in the Senate on February 26, 1919 and passed, then sent on to the House to be deliberated, the bill ended up in the Education Committee, which Grinstead served on. The committee tied up the bill until March.

The same segregation bill, House bill no. 9, was created and introduced by Representative Yount, one of Grinstead's colleagues. On Feb. 17, 1919 the bill came up for passage. Roll call had been demanded and granted and then a vote was taken on the bill. With the outcome of 28 Yeas, 63 nays and 34 either absent or not voting,

⁷⁵ Kansas House Journal. 21st Biennial Session, Topeka January 14-March 22, 1919 & Special Session, June 16-19, 1919: 60, 65, 118, 120, 196, 209.

the bill did not pass. Minnie Grinstead had been one of the representatives voting yes on the issue of changing the General Statutes of 1915 to allow segregation of black and white students in schools.

The issue came up again on March 15, 1919, with Senate bill no. 567 reported from the Standing Committee on Education. Representative Evans reported that the committee wanted to send the bill back to the House with the recommendation that it not be passed. Grinstead, along with her colleague J.A. Myers, made a concurrent remark concerning the bill and reported that the “minority committee on Education to whom the referred Senate bill no. 567 was sent” has considered the same bill and is reporting a recommendation that the bill be passed.⁷⁶ Grinstead voted yes to a bill that would allow segregation in schools located in second class cities. Myers and Grinstead both came from rural counties in western Kansas where the people were typically more conservative than those in the eastern part of the state. The reasoning behind their vote for the bill is unknown, but one can speculate that Grinstead may have believed her vote in favor of segregation was one to protect the children of both races from any harm or she may have played to her constituency and cast a vote that catered to the interests of the residents in her county.

Starting in January of 1919, the *Topeka Plaindealer* and the *Kansas City Star* wrote a series of articles concerning these two bills. Headlines read, “Kansas Has Negro Pupil Row: Bill to Segregate Negroes Will Start Fight In Legislature,” and, later, “Kansas Kills Segregation,” and one article in March that compared Grinstead and J.A. Myers to the Kaiser for voting to have the segregation bills passed. Though

⁷⁶ Ibid., 634.

the segregation bill did not pass in the House and was never signed by the governor into law, character assassination on Grinstead ensued. One editorial critic said she was worthless as a legislator, and the rest read as follows:

“Mrs. Minnie J. Grinstead of Liberal, Seward County and J.A. Myers filed a minority report which placed the bill on the calendar, thereby causing so much trouble for a people who are 100 per cent American in name, deed and act. We hope the good people of Liberal will exercise good judgment and see that this woman stays at home and darns her husband’s socks, gets his meals and keeps the cobwebs out the house. *(sic)* It seems to be the opinion of both men and women in and around the capitol that she would succeed more admirably at that than trying to make laws. The only thing she did for Seward county was to place her son on the payroll as a page in the House, thereby keeping some returned soldier out of a job and violating the law that forbids making a public job a family affair. It is the first time that a woman has ever had a seat in the Kansas legislature, and it is a pity that they were represented by such a miserable failure. However we believe the people who voted for Mrs. Grinstead did it more as a fad than for real results.”⁷⁷

The Topeka *Plaindealer* depicted Grinstead as worthless, but she proved otherwise. During her first session from January to June 1919, she introduced thirteen bills. Of those thirteen bills, the Governor signed only one into law, House bill 495 related to roads, and empowering county commissioners to permit fences across roads. Grinstead’s colleagues grew to respect her as a trusted collaborator and thought her in no way a failure. On March 15, 1919 the House of Representatives honored Grinstead in the afternoon session for the duties she

⁷⁷ “Kansas Legislature—Refuses To Pass Segregation Bill,” *Plaindealer*, Topeka, Kansas, (March 21, 1919). It was verified in the 1919 Kansas House Journal on p. 25 on a report from the standing committee that the Committee on Employees recommended approval for Wade Grinstead to be employed as a page.

performed as a representative in the House. Representative Mr. Endres introduced House Resolution 31 honoring Grinstead. It read as follows:⁷⁸

House resolution No. 31, A resolution by way of testimonial to Hon. Minnie J. Grinstead.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Kansas, That in the closing hours of its session, this House bears testimony to the engaging personality and great ability of the first woman legislator of Kansas, the Hon. Minnie J. Grinstead. She has admirably responded to every demand made upon her time, patience and endurance. She has been the fearless champion of every question which she believed involved the progress of this state in intellectual and moral advancement, as well as material prosperity and development. With unfailing good nature and generosity she has accepted victory and defeat alike, and has commanded and holds the esteem, confidence and respect of every other member of this body. In the chairmanship of the committee of the whole she has demonstrated rare aptitude as a leader, and set an example for the emulation of mere man. We are proud of her because she is a splendid example of Kansas womanhood, motherhood and citizenship, sublimed with a fervid patriotism and love of humanity.

Resolved, That we direct the speaker of the House to present to her, in our name, the chair she has graced throughout this session, and we trust that amongst the recollections that will be hers sitting at her own hearthstone, "west of the sixth principal meridian," will be kindly remembrances of the 1919 House of Representatives.

Resolved further, That we, the brotherhood of this body, standing at attention, salute our sister and coworker, as we direct the chief clerk to specially engross this resolution and present the same to the Hon. Minnie J. Grinstead with our compliments and best wishes.

Grinstead made an impression on the people of Liberal, the State of Kansas and the nation. She repeatedly made local and national news with her activities in the State House. Grinstead opened doors for the women in Kansas, proving that a woman could handle being a legislator and maintain the ability to care for her family. During her first two years in office Grinstead had the unique opportunity to vote on the national amendment granting suffrage to all women and she introduced bills important to her, such as the anti-smoking bill. National amendments for woman suffrage along with prohibition had been her major platforms in running for office. She had achieved her major goals during her first term in office. Minnie

⁷⁸ Kansas House Journal. 21st Biennial Session, Topeka January 14-March 22, 1919 & Special Session, June 16-19, 1919: 645.

Grinstead set the bar for the women of Kansas to work hard and participate in the campaigning process. She made it easier for the women who came after her in the House of Representatives to operate in the State House and serve Kansas politics in the future.

CHAPTER III – Second & Third Term in Office

Grinstead's Second Term (1920-1922)

After a successful first term of two years, Grinstead went back to Liberal and resumed her job as a Baptist minister, conducting Sunday services for absent ministers in churches around the county and officiating at funerals in and around Liberal.⁷⁹ She continued making appearances with the W.C.T.U. and giving speeches at various places around the State of Kansas. Becoming the first woman in the House of Representatives had given Grinstead notoriety and people came out to hear her speak. In early July of 1920, a local Liberal newspaper reported that Grinstead was going to seek a second term in the Kansas House of Representatives. Still running on the Republican ticket, she took out a major political ad on the front page of the September 16, 1920, issue of *Liberal News* (Liberal, Kansas). Her picture was planted right in the middle of the page with an endorsement from Governor Allen “highly commending her good work” and recommending that Seward County should be proud of her.⁸⁰

Another ad, placed a few pages back, had the same picture as on the front page and a letter expressing Grinstead’s gratitude to her friends. She first thanked her friends for their nomination and then described how she “blazed an unknown trail in Kansas, being the first woman elected to the Kansas legislature” and

⁷⁹ A few newspapers in Liberal, Kansas reported the many activities of Minnie Grinstead. On July 14, 1921, *The Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, Kansas, reported Grinstead officiating at a funeral for a local resident.

⁸⁰ *The Liberal News, Second Section*, Liberal, Kansas, (September 16, 1920).

emphasized how their county was the first to send a woman into office.⁸¹ She informed readers that three other women in Kansas were running in the 1920 election and described debating on the floor of the house for the interests of Seward County. She stressed that she was 100 percent American and that she stood by those Kansas heroes who had given their lives in the defense of liberty during the World War. She believed in the home, in children, in God, clean living and morals. She stood firm on the rigid enforcement of the 18th Amendment and asked her constituents to entrust her with the policies of their representative district and pledged to give even better service (than she gave them the last term) if she got elected.⁸²

Grinstead was running against her opponent in the previous election, A. A. Farmer, who campaigned a second time hoping to defeat the woman who had managed to win the House seat two years earlier. Trying hard to make Grinstead look bad, he took out a political ad in the *Liberal News*. In a highlighted box with a large title, the ad read, "To the Voters of Seward County - In Reply to An Article by Mrs. Grinstead." Unlike Farmer's ad in the last election, this ad referred to her by name, not just a reference to "the lady running." The ad criticized Grinstead for voting against a bill that provided for the free distribution of grasshopper poison. He stated that he had "voted against a bill intended to provide for the same thing, but being an entirely different bill which was unworkable," but never explained how or why the issue was unworkable.⁸³ He urged people to come by his office to look

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² *The Liberal News*, Liberal, Kansas, (October 14, 1920).

⁸³ *The Liberal News*, Liberal, Kansas, (October 21, 1920).

at the facts in the *House Journal* so they could see his record for themselves; however, his ad fell on deaf ears. Minnie Grinstead beat A. A. Farmer for a second time, winning by 357 votes.⁸⁴

Nineteen-twenty marked the year women gained national suffrage and more women across the nation were elected to state legislative bodies. Newspapers across the country commented on the growing political arena for women in America. In 1916, Janette Rankin, a Republican from Duluth, Montana, had been the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving a two-year term from 1917-1919. Not campaigning for a second term in November of 1920, Rankin was recognized with an appointment as field secretary of the National Consumers League.⁸⁵

Other newspapers across the country reported that the Middle West and the West were leading the nation in electing women. News from Massachusetts to Oregon and Ohio to Texas reported that women were being elected to state legislatures. Grinstead's name was mentioned in these reports, as were the names of the three women who followed her into the House of Representatives in the 1920 election: Minnie Minnich, Nellie Cline and Ida Walker.⁸⁶

Newspapers all over Kansas and the nation spread the word that Minnie Grinstead would not be a lone woman in the Kansas House of Representatives. *The*

⁸⁴ *The Liberal News*, Liberal, Seward County, Kansas, (November 4, 1920).

⁸⁵ "The Political Arena," *Duluth News-Tribune*, Duluth, Minnesota, (November 24, 1920).

⁸⁶ The following newspapers reported on Minnie Grinstead as well as other women across the country the same article from Associate Press in New York. *Corsica Daily Sun*, Corsica, Texas, (January 5, 1921); *The Boston Globe*, Boston Massachusetts, (December 12, 1920); *The Oregonian*, Portland, Oregon, (December 28, 1920); *The Riverside Independent Enterprise*, Riverside, California, (December 6, 1920); *The Van Wert Daily Bulletin*, Van Wert, Ohio, (January 7, 1921). Many other newspapers were found with this same article as well.

Kansas City Star reported immediately after the election the news that a “feminine quartette” would be seated in the Kansas Legislature.” Grinstead was described as a “happy disappointment for the men of the House because she was not catty, fussy or a nagger.” The papers focused more on how Grinstead frequently suggested that the legislative chamber floors needed sweeping, the desks should be dusted, and the dishes needed better washing, instead of all the bills and arguments she had put forth in her last term as representative. *The Kansas City Star* article explained further how “Grinstead would be bringing three other women with her to give her support in her demands about the housekeeping side of lawmaking.”⁸⁷ This was clearly a snide reference to Grinstead’s being a woman and not a lawmaker, a woman who was concerned about the tidiness of the State House, and how she was bringing more women with her to support her demands for housekeeping. However, the article does go on to praise Grinstead for finding her place among the men of the house and doing a good job of convincing them that she had a full “grasp upon the state of affairs worthy of their consideration.”⁸⁸

In January 1921, before the start of the legislative session, Grinstead was unable to get to Topeka early to prepare for her duties as the representative of Seward County. Her daughter Darline’s scarlet fever had kept Grinstead in her home, under quarantine, along with the rest of her family. A Joplin, MO newspaper later reported that Grinstead was finally permitted to return to the State House on Sunday, January 9 after the proper fumigation of her home. Grinstead did make it to

⁸⁷ “A Feminine Quartette in The Kansas Legislature.” *The Kansas City Star*, Kansas City, Missouri, (November 17, 1920). All the quotes in this paragraph come from the same newspaper article.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

roll call on the 11th of January, the first day of business. It was not in Grinstead's character to miss the first day of work.⁸⁹

Grinstead's second term in the House of Representatives did not come without some controversy. Making the headlines in newspapers across the country seemed to come readily whatever she did, even if it was just something she said. It was no secret that Grinstead believed in equality between the sexes and wanted to show those beliefs in her legislation. For 1921, she was greatly ahead of her time and even more progressive than the progressives in Kansas. On February 11, 1921, Senator Charles H. Ridgeway, a Republican from Kansas City, introduced a bill that would levy a tax on single men: a \$10 tax annually for each bachelor that would go toward the increase of pay for maiden schoolteachers. Grinstead made a statement that if men had to pay for the "blessings of singleness, so ought to women over the age of 21 who were single."⁹⁰ *The Bismarck Tribune* (Bismarck N.D.) and *The Bay City Times* (Bay City, Mich.), among a few other newspapers, featured the news as a huge event. Grinstead and two of her women colleagues' pictures were placed below an article titled, "Women Legislators Would Tax Old Maids" with a political cartoon above the title. (see Appendix II). Nellie Cline, the Democratic Representative in the House who was the only "bachelor girl" in the State House, did

⁸⁹ This paragraph is taken from two articles reporting her whereabouts and why. *The Lawrence Journal World*, Lawrence, Kansas, (January 11, 1921) & *The Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, Kansas, (January 13, 1921). While there is a discrepancy in the dates, the Kansas House Journal of 1921 showed her present at roll call on the 11th of January with all the other legislators.

⁹⁰ "Women Legislators Would Tax Old Maids," *The Bismarck Tribune*, Bismarck, North Dakota, (February 16, 1921). This article was also reported in the *Miami District Daily News*, Miami, Oklahoma, the *Olean Evening Times*, Olean, New York, and in the *Salt Lake Telegram*, Salt Lake City, Utah.

not have a word to say on the matter.⁹¹ Grinstead never introduced a tax bill for “bachelor girls” and the bill introduced for single men never became law. The newspapers across the country reported a bigger story than what had actually taken place.

On January 12, 1921 the Governor of Kansas gave his annual address to the House of Representatives. Concerning workmen’s compensation he included these words:⁹²

Having in mind that social unrest responds quickly to social justice, I strongly urge that the legislature give careful attention to this measure, in order that Kansas may treat this subject with modern efficiency and equity.

The three important factors in the workmen’s compensation act take into consideration the scope of the bill, the compensation benefits, and a system of administration which shall be prompt and impartial.

Grinstead must have taken to heart the word “equity” in the governor’s request.

However, in doing so she introduced a bill so progressive that it gained criticism in the national news and brought her many letters of resentment in a matter of days.

On January 17, 1921, Grinstead introduced “House bill No. 55 - an act giving to married women the right to their services during coverture, empowering them to recover for a loss or impairment of their ability to perform such services.”⁹³

Coverture laws, dating back centuries in English common law, had been imported to the 13 colonies and still governed some aspects of married women’s rights. In 1921, the laws of marriage had not changed much since the inception of

⁹¹ This paragraph comes from three articles. *Oskaloosa Daily Herald*, Oskaloosa, Iowa, (January 27, 1921); *Sandusky Star Journal*, Sandusky, Ohio, (January 27, 1921); and *The Bay City Times*, Bay City, Michigan, (February 14, 1921). Many of the articles from other newspapers around the country reported the same article on this event coming from Topeka, Kansas.

⁹² Kansas House Journal. 22nd Biennial Session, Topeka January 11- March 21, Inclusive, 1921: 16.

⁹³ *Ibid.*, 747.

statehood. In 1859, at the Wyandotte Convention in Kansas, abolitionist men decided to grant women rights over real and personal property, their earnings, divorce under certain circumstances, and child custody, thereby overturning several provisions of coverture law.⁹⁴ Women's "services" is a legal term referring to the job that the woman does within the home such as cleaning, cooking, and caring for the family. It can also apply to domestic chores undertaken in the husband's place of business. While women had been entitled to sue for pain and suffering due to injury caused at a place of paid employment or some other place outside the home, they could not sue for the loss of their own domestic services.

Grinstead later reflected on the misunderstood Coverture Bill and explained that it had been drafted to give women who were stay-at-home mothers the right to their own in-home labor and the right to sue in cases of accident or injury from a negligent third party. According to a 1925 article in the *Harvard Law Review* concerning husband's rights to wife's services, the 1921 Kansas law, explained that should a woman be injured by a wrongful third party, the husband might sue for damages because he had lost his wife's services, such as doing house work, caring for the children, cooking, and tending to the needs of her husband.⁹⁵ Under the 1921 common law in Kansas, the wife could not sue "in all the elements of damage," she could only sue a negligent third party for her pain and suffering. To be able to sue for damages for "loss of services," two law suits needed to be filed and any damage money won could be given to the wife, but ultimately the money belonged

⁹⁴ Flentje, H. Edward and Joseph A. Aistrup. "Kansas Politics and Government." Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2010: 31.

⁹⁵ Warren, Joseph. "Husband's Right to Wife's Services." *Harvard Law Review* 38, no. 4 (February 1925).

to the husband.⁹⁶ Grinstead's intention in proposing the bill was to eliminate the need for a second lawsuit, thus eliminating the husband entirely from the process. This step would limit litigation expenses while placing the married woman on the same legal level as her husband.⁹⁷

Grinstead briefly described how the wife in the existing circumstances was like an employee of the husband and that two suits were necessary to recover damages, the wife's and her husband's. It was Grinstead's intention to make one suit suffice to save expenses and to let women keep their own damages collected along with the pain and suffering damages.⁹⁸ The newspapers in Kansas and throughout the nation took Grinstead's explanation out of context and twisted the meaning of her bill by alleging that a woman was an employee of her husband and could sue him for damages should she receive injuries *at home* while doing her household duties.⁹⁹

In April of 1921, Mary Ogden White wrote an article in the *Life and Labor Monthly Magazine* called "Her Right to be Injured," which explained the bill that Grinstead was trying to get pushed through the House. The article began with the statement, "If you live in the state of Kansas, don't fall downstairs and break your good right arm, for it is really your husband's right arm you will have broken, and he alone can recover damages for it, a woman cannot," which further confused the

⁹⁶ "My Experience in the Kansas Legislature" it is a two page document that is incomplete or missing pages. It can be found in Kansas State Historical Society in the Minnie Tamar Johnson & V.H. Grinstead Collection 1878-[not before 1923].

⁹⁷ "Status of Married Women Bill in the Kansas Legislature," *Dallas Morning News*, Dallas, Texas, (January 29, 1921).

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ "Wives Compensation Law Would Destroy Marriage," *The Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, Kansas, (January 27, 1921).

public on Grinstead's bill.¹⁰⁰ White compared this scenario with that of a farmer and his horse. If an automobile smashed the leg of a horse that farmer could sue for damages because of the loss of his farming aid or delivery of goods. In 1921, the status for women was scarcely different from the matter of horses and the bill Grinstead introduced would remedy the plight of the woman being held as chattel.¹⁰¹

In the House of Representatives, Grinstead introduced the original House bill no. 55 in January and the bill got so distorted and amended that she withdrew it on January 18, 1921, with unanimous consent. On February 19, 1921, she introduced House bill no. 678, which was the same bill as the first one she had introduced only this time it contained a better explanation and goal. Again the coverture bill made national news and again it brought much criticism to Grinstead. The *Iola* (Kansas) *Daily Register* pointed out a few facts: First, the coverture bill was simply a bill for the purpose of removing inequalities between men and women in the courts. Further, the original bill had been drafted by Judge Thornton W. Sargent of Sedgwick county district court and Judge Sargent wanted to place married women on the same legal plane as married men. Sargent's bill, then, was being "mothered" in the legislature by Grinstead.¹⁰² In March of 1922, Grinstead was still facing obstacles in getting the bill passed. She was reported as saying, "The bill had been so misunderstood. I have had letters from women criticizing me about the bill

¹⁰⁰ White, Mary Ogden. "Her Right To Be Injured," *Life & Labor: A Monthly Magazine*. Vol. 11, no. 4, April 1921: 108-109.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² "Fix An Equal Status." *The Iola Daily Register*, Iola, Kansas, (March 25, 1922).

because they did not understand it.”¹⁰³ A woman from Massachusetts wrote to Grinstead saying she would never consider suing her husband if she was injured doing her housework. Grinstead called these “ridiculous interpretations of the law,” because her bill only sought to give a married woman the right to bring suit in “her own name in all the elements of damage” and place her on equal status of the law with her husband.¹⁰⁴ Grinstead’s bill was too advanced for a majority of the public to fully understand because the many misinterpretations of it clouded the vision of what the bill truly provided for the women of Kansas. *The Dearborn Independent* in Dearborn, Michigan noticeably stated that the “bill was too advanced even for advanced Kansas.”¹⁰⁵

While Grinstead had to explain a few of the initiatives she introduced into legislation, she did not let the interruptions distract her course for the betterment of women. Education was very important to Grinstead and the higher education of women in particular was a priority. A bill that Grinstead sponsored was House bill 438, which read:¹⁰⁶

No. 438. An act to provide for the construction, maintenance, and operation of dormitory buildings for the use of women students at the University of Kansas at Lawrence, the Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan, the Kansas State Normal School at Emporia, the State Manual Training Normal School at Pittsburg, and the Fort Hays Kansas Normal School at Hays, and for the issuance of bonds to provide money for such purposes. By Mrs. Grinstead.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid. A discrepancy was found between the newspapers and the Kansas House Journal, 1921. House Bill no. 678 was reported that it never made it to the Senate. This bill made it to the Judiciary Committee in the House and was reported by the committee chairman with a recommendation that the bill not be passed, p.392.

¹⁰⁵ McDowell, Lillian. “Kansas’ Four Legisladies Are Home-Makers.” *The Dearborn Independent*, Dearborn, Mich., March 26, 1921. (p.75)

¹⁰⁶ Kansas House Journal. 22nd Biennial Session, Topeka January 11-March 21, Inclusive 1921: 789.

Women's clubs all over the state of Kansas, collegiate alumnae, and the W.C.T.U. all endorsed Grinstead's bill. The bill's intent was to "erect dormitories which would house at least 20 per cent of the girls attending each of the state schools." The bill made local and national news. "Under the administration of the state," *The Emporia Gazette* explained, "it is obvious that conditions could be made to protect the interests of the girl students and free them from the intolerable burdens of the conditions now existing. There seems to be no sound reason why the proposed solution of this vital problem should not meet the general approval of the people of Kansas."¹⁰⁷ Grinstead also believed that the bill would solve the problem that concerned all parents sending their daughters to college. College women in Kansas had been required to live in off-campus boarding houses, some of which did not have curfews, or served poor food, or were in some other way quite unsavory. The dorms would provide protected living space and a "measure of discipline" for women during their first one or two years of college. She felt that these dormitories would bring about a result that was for the good of the college and the young women who would be attending there.¹⁰⁸ In February, the State of Affairs Committee reviewed the bill, and with the recommendation that the bill be passed, sent it to the Judiciary Committee, who also recommended the bill be passed. However, on March 7, 1921, Grinstead moved that the bill be stricken from the calendar and the motion prevailed.¹⁰⁹ She never stated a reason why she removed it from the calendar nor did the newspapers report a reason for its removal.

¹⁰⁷ "Dormitories for Girls," *Emporia Weekly Gazette*, Emporia, Kansas, (January 27, 1921).

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Kansas House Journal. 22nd Biennial Session, Topeka January 11- March 21, Inclusive, 1921: 175, 296, 492.

Grinstead's dormitory bill did not die completely, because she submitted it again in the 1923 legislative session. It was possible she felt the bill would be killed in the Senate and removed it to be able to present later. Maybe she felt the timing was not right. There were no reports as to why she removed it from the calendar.

Grinstead's second term provided newsmakers many interesting turns and often showed how comfortable she had become as a lawmaker. An Iowa and Nebraska newspaper ran a story about an oratorical marathon that Representative Judge F.L. Martin of Hutchinson was giving on the House floor. Agitatedly, Grinstead interrupted her colleague right in the middle of his speech, saying, "If you just wouldn't talk so much, I can get home in time to set my hens."¹¹⁰ *The Omaha World Herald* added lightly that Mrs. Grinstead had said a mouthful, as there have been others who have "fumed and fidgeted when a flood of legislative words poured past on their way to oblivion." It was an old complaint, the *Herald* remarked, voiced in distinctly feminine fashion and, the writer added, perhaps other legislative bodies in both the state and the nation could have benefited from a few more women members with broody hens at home.¹¹¹

In March of 1921, while Grinstead was serving her second term in the House, Governor Henry Allen put together the State School Code Commission and Grinstead was appointed. It was a post she took very seriously. Having a background in education and serving as the chairman of the Education Committee since her first term, she was a natural choice to be asked to serve. The job for the commission was

¹¹⁰"Allen Forces in the Saddle." *Iola Daily Register*, Iola, Iowa, (February 15, 1921).

¹¹¹"Oratory and Setting Hens," *Omaha World Herald*, Omaha, Nebraska, (February 16, 1921). Some of this was changed to be grammatically correct within the writing that which concerns the two sentences within this quotation.

to “make a study of Kansas school laws and report on a plan of codification at the next legislature.”¹¹² The commission was created to study the needs of Kansas’s schools and make recommendations for a complete revision of school laws for the 1923 legislature.¹¹³

Aside from the honor of being chosen to serve on the School Code Commission, Grinstead did not seem to have much luck getting many of the 13 bills she introduced in the House into laws. In fact, only one bill that she introduced managed to make it into law. House bill no. 492 was an act relating to the establishing, organizing, and maintaining free public county libraries for all counties in Kansas.¹¹⁴ Some of the other bills Grinstead introduced dealt with receiving homes for pregnant women, midwifery, local boards of health and part-time schools. Taken together, these initiatives demonstrated Grinstead’s concern for women’s rights and equal opportunities, and her progressive interest in child and family welfare. All of these bills made it into committees, but never got passed into law.¹¹⁵ As a representative Grinstead was a brave fighter for women’s issues and never failed to get her male colleagues attention, even if her ideas were too progressive for most of them.

Closer to the end of the 1921 legislative session, Kansas was once again in national newspapers, this time praising the work that the women in the House had done. Clyde M. Reed of Topeka, Kansas wrote a letter to the editor of the *New York*

¹¹² “Kansas Lawmakers May Extend Time,” *Joplin Globe*, Joplin, Missouri, (March 17, 1921).

¹¹³ “School Code Law Biggest New One.” *Lawrence Journal World*, Lawrence, Kansas, (April 9, 1921).

¹¹⁴ Kansas House Journal. 22nd Biennial Session, Topeka January 11- March 21, Inclusive, 1921: 215, 511, 795.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

Tribune and in it he praised the women in the Kansas State House. Responding to a *Tribune* article, he criticized the editor for the lack of information regarding the impact of woman suffrage on legislation over the last 20 months, and pointed out that the story lacked a great deal of information about women in the middle west and Kansas in particular. Reed described the women in the Kansas House, pointing out how Grinstead was serving her second term and was reelected by a larger majority of votes her second time around than in her first election. He praised the women legislators by saying their service has been extremely satisfactory to themselves and to the general public. He pointed out that the editor of the *NY Tribune* had written that no woman had ever been re-elected and wanted to correct that statement because Grinstead had been reelected. He went on to scold the editor for not doing proper research and printing erroneous facts. Reed finished his letter by saying "Kansas women have been educated in politics and they are always on the job. So, please Mr. Editor, don't ever accuse Kansas women of not realizing their full rights and responsibilities as citizens of the country and their state."¹¹⁶

Once the legislative session was over, the *Kansas City Star* reported on June 16, 1921, that more women were scheduled to take Kansas law examinations than ever before. Minnie Grinstead was one of those women who signed up to take the examination. If one passed the exam successfully, entrance into the Kansas State Bar would be possible. In 1921, law school courses were not required but study within a law office was a requirement to be registered for the exam. Grinstead did not take law school course but studied in her husband's law office in Liberal,

¹¹⁶ "Kansas Women in Politics," *New York Tribune*, New York, N.Y., (May 7, 1922).

Kansas.¹¹⁷ Grinstead must have passed the bar exam, as later on in her career she became a probate judge in Seward County, Kansas. While no records of her bar exam test or scores were found, she could not have become a judge without a passing score. In 1921, one had to pass the Kansas law examination to be able to act as a probate judge.¹¹⁸

Grinstead's Third Term (1922-1924)

Minnie Grinstead may have wanted to keep her options open for the future by taking the law examinations, but on June 22, 1922 she took out an advertisement in her hometown newspaper to announce her "candidacy as Representative in the State Legislature from Seward County, subject to the wishes of her voters in the Republican primaries in August."¹¹⁹ Her way with words always showed elegance and professionalism when requesting anything from her constituency. The majority of her political ads were very short and to the point. There were no long and drawn out explanations for anything. Grinstead and two of the female State House colleagues who had been in office the previous session were nominated again. Grinstead fought a tough contest, running against Mr. O.T. Wood, a Democrat from Liberal, Kansas. While Wood carried five precincts and Grinstead only four, Grinstead was elected by 65 more votes.¹²⁰ She carried more votes in her own precinct than Wood did in his.

¹¹⁷ "Law Interests Kansas Women." *Kansas City Star*, Kansas City, Missouri, (June 16, 1921).

¹¹⁸ Thompson, Gabrielle. Interview from email and phone call, September 2013 Manhattan, Kansas

¹¹⁹ *The Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, Kansas, (June 22, 1922).

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*, (November 9, 1922).

In January, 1923, at the start of the session, Grinstead introduced a dormitory bill similar to the one she had withdrawn from the calendar in March of 1921. However, this bill was to “provide for the construction, maintenance and operation of a dormitory building for the use of the women students only at the Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan.”¹²¹ The bill got as far as the Ways and Means committee. That committee gave its standing report on February 1, 1923, stating that they had the same bill under consideration and the chairman reported to the House with the recommendation that the bill not be passed.¹²²

Grinstead must have been disappointed that her dormitory bill was not passed through to law.¹²³ Newspapers reported that she did not have much luck getting many of the bills she sponsored passed into law. *The Lawrence Journal World* reported that, of the seven bills Grinstead had personally introduced, six were defeated or so badly crippled they would not have functioned and her dormitory bill was slaughtered outright.¹²⁴ The article suggested that Grinstead had been loaded down with work for the School Code Commission, which proved to be an annoyance to its promoters, requiring nineteen bills put into action in the House.¹²⁵

¹²¹ Kansas House Journal. 23nd Biennial Session, Topeka January 9-March 22, Inclusive 1923: 57, 807.

¹²² Ibid., 129.

¹²³ There is a huge discrepancy found in the research concerning her Dormitory Bill. She stated in her two-paged memoir that she got her Dormitory Bill passed as well as her Coverture Bill, but this could not be proven. All of the research done in the House Journals and newspapers could not prove that statement written in the two paged typed document found in the Grinstead collection at the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka, Kansas. There is no date on the document and Grinstead’s signature appears underneath the title. There is no way of knowing when the memoir was typed or if Grinstead had typed it herself. Checking with the State Librarian at the Capital Building in Topeka, Kansas did not produce any evidence that the Ways & Means Committee had their bill put into law either.

¹²⁴ “What the Kansas Women Legislators Have Accomplished,” *Lawrence Journal World*, Lawrence, Kansas, (March 10, 1923).

¹²⁵ Ibid.

Grinstead had been a champion of addressing women's issues when the men in the State House would not. She probably felt she had to address them. As a mother who had lost two children of her own, one in infancy and one that was stillborn, she made a point of introducing bills that were for the health and welfare of women.¹²⁶ Her dormitory bill and her antismoking bill during her first term were initiatives that directly related to the welfare of women and children, as was her act to provide for the establishment of receiving homes for pregnant women and abandoned, neglected or deserted infants. She also promoted an act regulating the practice of midwifery, an act creating part-time schools, and an act relating to the promotion of the health and physical development of school children.¹²⁷ In the eyes of some of the male legislators, Grinstead may have gone too far with some of the bills she introduced because not very many of her bills were made into law. However, she did put forth a valiant effort to address issues that concerned women and children, her main focal point while she was in office.

By the time Grinstead entered her third term, she had settled in as a legislator and the efforts she put forth created less and less news. Still, some of her actions made headline news. She made the front page of a Hutchinson, Kansas newspaper when she charged that the legislature was just playing around.

Grinstead was quoted in the article as saying, "This legislature has just been playing

¹²⁶ Grinstead's first born child, Virgil Hooker Grinstead II was born in 1903, but died in infancy, found in *The William Grinstead Family in America* by Shumaker and Grinstead (April 1974): 172. This is the family tree given to me by Minnie Grinstead's great grandson, Tom Petit. Evidence of the other child was recorded in her journal. Just one entry, dated December 19, 1913, stated, "baby came and was dead." Found in the Tamar Johnson & V.H. Grinstead Collection 1878-[not before 1923] at the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

¹²⁷ Kansas House Journal. 22nd Biennial Session, Topeka January 11- March 21, Inclusive, 1921: 779.

along ever since it started. For God sake let's get down to business."¹²⁸ With the close of the session in 1923, Grinstead told the *Hutchinson News* that she planned to run for a Senate seat in the next legislative term against Senator E.B. Frizell, and while the rumor swirled in the news, Grinstead carried on her duties as a Representative in the House for one more year.¹²⁹

The year 1924 was the last year Grinstead acted as a Representative in the House and it was a year of notoriety, accomplishment, and heartbreak for her. On February 22, 1924, Grinstead's husband, Judge V.H. Grinstead, took ill while at work in his office, coming down with what appeared to be an acute attack of indigestion. He was sent to the hospital after a few hours when his condition did not improve. At the hospital, V.H. Grinstead had a stroke and passed away. Grinstead received letters of condolences from all over the state of Kansas and one even from Governor Allen himself.

Starting in March, news articles began reporting on the delegates who were chosen to attend the State of Kansas Republican convention. On March 14, 1924, Grinstead was asked to be one of the seven delegates at large. In May she took the offer made to her by the Republican National Committee to second a motion nominating President Coolidge at the convention.¹³⁰ The news of her selection to second the nomination at the national convention spread throughout newspapers in the western states. California, Montana, Nebraska and Kansas reported Grinstead's

¹²⁸ "Legislature Was Urged To Get Busy," *The Hutchinson News*, Hutchinson, Kansas, (January 26, 1923).

¹²⁹ "Minnie Grinstead To Seek Senate Seat," *The Hutchinson News*, Hutchinson, Kansas, (July 7, 1923).

¹³⁰ "Mrs. Grinstead To Make Nominating Speech," *Lawrence Journal World*, Lawrence, Kansas, (May 31, 1924).

nomination speech. She made a big hit at the convention itself and she made headlines again. *The Lawrence Daily Journal* had this to say about her:¹³¹



The Riverside, California, *Daily Press*, ran an article about the contributions that woman made for Coolidge and Grinstead dominated the article. Describing her as the "antithesis of old suffrage days."¹³² Grinstead was "a plump and jovial bright eyed woman with a man's voice, a man's delivery and an amazing amount of magnetism."¹³³ Describing the details, including Grinstead's attire, the article focused on how Grinstead "drew admiration and applause even from the most rabid

¹³¹ "Mrs. Grinstead Makes A Big Hit," *Lawrence Journal World*, Lawrence, Kansas, (June 12, 1924).

¹³² Their meaning of "antithesis of old suffrage days" may have meant a meek and mild woman who turned people off with suffrage talk, as they go into describing Grinstead positively with magnetism.

¹³³ "Women Do Part For Coolidge." *Riverside Daily Press*, Riverside, California, (June 13, 1924).

anti-suffragists.”¹³⁴ Grinstead put forth a resounding speech in less than two minutes, and ended with “I second the nomination of Calvin Coolidge, the strong heart of the nation.”¹³⁵

A *Boston Herald* news article covering the Republican convention reported on the various seconding speeches given, stating that the “best liked of them all was that of Mrs. Minnie J. Grinstead of Liberal, Kansas...who caught the crowd by the first resounding peal of her fire and whistle voice and earned their everlasting gratitude by talking for one minute only.”¹³⁶

A Richmond, VA news article stacked up four separate headlines about Grinstead: “CONVENTION FINDS A LOUD SPEAKER – Woman With a Gift of Voice Breaks “Whispering Conspiracy – GENIUS OF BREVITY – No One Asleep at Cleveland as Feminine Delegate Talks.”¹³⁷ In a detailed report covering the activities of the Republican Convention, the *Richmond Times Dispatch* observed, “it was a woman who broke through the whispering conspiracy and vindicated the potentialities of the human throat and chest.”¹³⁸ A local Kansas paper told how Grinstead’s speech was the 5th giving a second for the Coolidge nomination and described how “a voice was raised...which roared among the rafters and even the delegates that began to doze over seconding speeches woke with a start.”¹³⁹ Grinstead had not cleared her throat to gather attention of the crowd, nor had she given a petite ‘excuse me.’ When Grinstead came to the podium she turned to Frank Mondell, the convention leader,

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ “Coolidge Gets 1065 Of 1109 Votes,” *The Boston Herald*, Boston, Massachusetts, (June 13, 1924).

¹³⁷ Broun, Heywood. “Convention Finds A Loud Speaker,” *Richmond Times Dispatch*, Richmond, Virg., (June 13, 1924).

¹³⁸ “Mrs. Grinstead Given Ovation at Convention,” *The Liberal News*, Liberal Kansas, (June 19, 1924).

¹³⁹ Ibid.

and said booming into the microphone, "Mr. Chairman" and instantly the crowd started cheering. Grinstead did not wait for the crowd to cease their commotion and dove right into her speech with "Ladies and Gentlemen..."¹⁴⁰ Grinstead was not there to give a great meaningful message; she was there only to give a second nomination for Calvin Coolidge. She identified Coolidge as a man of good character and asserted that character was a requirement for a president. She completed her message in under two minutes and once she had spoken, the delegates again raised their enthusiasm. Grinstead was "a speaker who not only had the gift of voice, but the pure genius of brevity."¹⁴¹ Grinstead not only had been the clearest and loudest voice of any speaker that day, but she also said "exactly what she meant in a few appropriate words."¹⁴²

The unfortunate speaker after Grinstead, Dr. M.L. Burton, the president of Michigan University, gave his nominating speech. Talking well over an hour, he finally realized he had talked too long so he cut his three-part speech short. Following Grinstead did him no favors. He lost the crowd's interest after his first section.¹⁴³ However, Grinstead grabbed the attention of all who had been there and had national news outlets singing her praises.

After the convention, Grinstead was appointed by William M. Butler, the chairman of the National Republican Committee, to serve as one of the advisers

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ "Convention Finds A Loud Speaker," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, Richmond, Virginia, (June 13, 1924).

¹⁴² "Tells of Mrs. Grinstead," *The Liberal News*, Liberal Kansas, (June 19, 1924).

¹⁴³ "Convention Finds A Loud Speaker," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, Richmond, Virginia, (June 13, 1924).

assisting in the upcoming presidential campaign.¹⁴⁴ It is unknown how long she served on this advisory committee. In September of 1924, a Wellsboro, Pennsylvania newspaper reported that Grinstead had received an endorsement for the position of federal civil service commissioner from the Kansas delegation of senators and congressmen. Before the next election, however, Grinstead decided not to run again as a representative or to serve on the federal service commission. Instead she chose to run a campaign for a post as a probate judge in her hometown.¹⁴⁵ Winning that election, she finished her political career as a judge working with property and will information.

¹⁴⁴ "Butler Names Reed," *Seattle Daily Times*, Seattle, Washington, (August 26, 1924).

¹⁴⁵ "Letter From Kansas," *The Wellsboro Agitator*, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, (September 9, 1925).

CHAPTER IV – Grinstead among other women legislators

Three women joined Minnie Grinstead in the House in 1920: Nellie Cline, Minnie Minnich and Ida Walker. These women experienced an advantage that Grinstead never had during her first term in the Kansas State House in that they had female companionship. None of these women knew what it was like to be the only woman legislating in the House of Representatives among all the men. Grinstead had broken through a wall and not only adapted herself to the environment, but she reformed the minds of the men in the House through her actions and the way she conducted herself. She showed what women could bring to the political table. While Minnich, Cline and Walker came into the House with some expectations already in place, due to Grinstead, the men knew what to expect, as well. Grinstead never had this amenity.

Nellie Cline, a Democrat from Pawnee County, was unique in her own right. As a college-educated lawyer who worked for her father at his law firm, she became the first woman in Kansas to practice law before the Kansas State Supreme Court. Cline was also the first woman to appear on the Kansas Bar Association program. She was the first and only woman Democratic member of the House of Representatives during the 1920-1922 legislative session, and the first unmarried woman to have a seat in the legislative body in Kansas.¹⁴⁶ On the first day of legislation, January 11, 1921, Cline received a nomination by Mr. Shannon of Ellsworth County to serve as speaker *pro tem*. She received 12 votes and Mr. Beard

¹⁴⁶McDowell, Lillian. "Kansas' Four Legisladies Are Home-Makers." *The Dearborn Independent*, Dearborn, Michigan, (March 26, 1921).

of Sedgwick County received 112 votes and the position.¹⁴⁷ The nomination appears to be a courtesy extended to her, as no newspapers reported it, however, the Kansas City Times, reported that “Charles Mann of Osborne and Beard were the only candidates for speaker *pro tem*, Cline was left out completely.¹⁴⁸ A Boston newspaper reported interest in Miss Cline’s win as a Democrat in a Republican landslide and wondered how she would be treated. The article stated, “the minority members have always been seated on the north side of the Hall of Representatives. Now bets are up on whether Miss Cline takes her place with her colleagues or is given a seat on the sunny side, just because she is a woman.”¹⁴⁹

Cline, introducing only three bills during her first session in the House of Representatives, was the most conservative of the three new female legislators. Her bills focused on relief to a national guardsman of Kansas, one to dissolve the Pawnee Rock board of trustees and turn the state park over to the historical society in her county and one dealing with surgeons and physicians. None of the bills she introduced made it into law.¹⁵⁰

Minnie Minnich, a Republican from Sumner County, was the only woman representative who had not been born in Kansas. She came to Kansas after marrying an engineer from Wellington. Her college degree and background had been in livestock. Her history working on her father’s New Mexico ranch as his business associate was well known, and gave this first-time Republican politician huge support from ranchers in her county. She passed, without opposition, the

¹⁴⁷ Kansas House Journal. 22nd Biennial Session, Topeka January 11-March 21, Inclusive 1921: 4.

¹⁴⁸ “See Busy Kansas Session,” *The Kansas City Times*, Kansas City, Missouri, (January 11, 1921).

¹⁴⁹ “Kansas Elected Four Women,” *The Boston Globe*, Boston Massachusetts, (December 12, 1920).

¹⁵⁰ Kansas House Journal. 22nd Biennial Session, Topeka January 11-March 21, Inclusive 1921.

Wellington Foundation Bill, which provided for low-interest loans from the city to people wanting to build homes in her county.¹⁵¹ Like Cline, Minnich legislated conservatively, only introducing four bills during her first session. Besides the Wellington Foundation Bill, one of her bills dealt with corporations, another concerned the Session Laws of 1919, and the last bill focused on city infrastructure in cities of second class. This infrastructure bill did become law and it provided improvement of city streets, curb structure and pavements.¹⁵²

Ida Walker, a Republican from Norton County, was a newspaperwoman. She had been born and raised in western Kansas and had been “imbued with the breezy, progressive ideals of the West.”¹⁵³ She began her career as a teacher, became an active member of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union and held the title of State Director of woman’s work for Near East Relief that dealt with the displaced refugees of Armenia during World War I. Walker introduced five bills, three of which focused on school and children and one bill that concerned the General Statutes of 1919. None of those bills made it past committees; however the Walker bill that actually was signed into law was designed to help citizens of Kansas who were honorably discharged from military service during World War I, to aid them in paying back the debts incurred during their time in service.¹⁵⁴

Newspapers dubbed Grinstead as the mentor for the three women who followed her into the Kansas House of Representatives. She received the title “Dean

¹⁵¹ McDowell, Lillian G. “Kansas’ Four Legisladies Are Home-Makers” *The Dearborn Independent*, Dearborn, Michigan, (March 26, 1921).

¹⁵² Kansas House Journal. 22nd Biennial Session, Topeka January 11-March 21, Inclusive 1921.

¹⁵³ McDowell, Lillian G. “Kansas’ Four Legisladies Are Home-Makers” *The Dearborn Independent*, Dearborn, Michigan, (March 26, 1921).

¹⁵⁴ Kansas House Journal. 22nd Biennial Session, Topeka January 11-March 21, Inclusive 1921.

of Women Lawmakers” from many newspapers across the state and country including some as distant as Iowa and Ohio. A newspaper woman happily devised the word ‘legisladies’ in distinguishing them from the male members of the House.”¹⁵⁵ Lillian G. McDowell, author of the ‘legisladies’ article in the *Dearborn Independent* felt that name fit because the women elected were indeed ladies as they were “essentially feminine.” McDowell emphasized the women’s status as homemakers who put the home first; she also pointed out that none of them made any attempts at any “freak legislation.”¹⁵⁶ Articles such as this not only downplayed the women’s professionalism as legislators, but implied that they might go off the rails at any moment. It was probably not in the interests of Grinstead and the other women legislators to respond negatively to characterizations like McDowell’s, since they were still being careful to guard the reputations for femininity that protected them from being cast as dangerously radical feminists.

Grinstead was not only a role model for the women of Kansas, but she had one herself to look up to. Janette Rankin, a Republican from Montana, became the first woman in the United States elected to a seat in United States Congress. Rankin was elected to the House of Representatives in 1916, two years before Grinstead won her election as a Kansas state legislator. Rankin made national headlines with her win and women across the country were inspired even more in the suffrage cause; they now had a woman in place who could actually vote for an Equal Suffrage Amendment. Rankin became widely known across the nation; she realized that she

¹⁵⁵ McDowell, Lillian G. “Kansas’ Four Legisladies Are Home-Makers” *The Dearborn Independent*, Dearborn, Michigan, (March 26, 1921).

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

had become “a symbol and a representative, not only of women in Montana or in the United States, but of women in all nations and ages.”¹⁵⁷

Grinstead and Rankin shared pioneer roots. Both of these women’s parents had migrated into the western lands of the United States. Rankin, like Grinstead, had gone to college seeking a profession that helped people. At first Rankin pursued a career in social work, but found that it was not the career she truly wanted.¹⁵⁸ Feeling that the gender division of labor in the social work field was too unbalanced because the women cared for the children while the men created the policies concerning them, she turned her sights toward a new calling where she could be both content and effective.¹⁵⁹ Rankin got into the state suffrage movement in 1910, while she was attending college at the University of Washington. It was there she found her niche, and soon became a successful speaker and organizer in the movement, just as Grinstead had done while working for the Women’s Christian Temperance Union in Kansas.

Like Grinstead, before taking office, Rankin had been an advocate for women’s rights and she viewed her commitment as more than just achieving reform goals; she wanted to achieve full equal rights for women. Rankin had skill at “exploiting ambiguities in western concepts of domesticity; she relied more on the argument,” as had other women in the West at the time, “that voting women would

¹⁵⁷ Lopach, James L. and Jean A. Luckowski. *Jeanette Rankin: A Political Woman*. Boulder, Colorado: University Press of Colorado, 2005: 133.

¹⁵⁸ Smith, Nora. *Jeanette Rankin: America’s Conscience*. Helena, Montana: Montana Society Press, 2002.

¹⁵⁹ Ibid.

improve society, and less on arguing that women deserved enfranchisement as a right.”

Grinstead’s campaign strategy was to use the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union’s stance on prohibition and “societal housekeeping” as a means to campaign for women’s voting rights and Rankin did as well. Instead of contending that women should have full citizenship and natural rights, Rankin argued “women needed the vote to perform their traditional tasks – to protect themselves as mothers and to exert their moral forces on society.”¹⁶⁰ “Social housekeeping” was a term developed during the later part of the 1800s and early 1900s, which literally meant to “clean the physical city, but typically it referred to ridding politics of corruption and often applied to [women’s] agendas including educational, social and philanthropic issues.”¹⁶¹ The rhetoric of social housekeeping was a strategy both Grinstead and Rankin utilized to get elected as legislators.

Rankin made a calculated decision to use the “Victorian concept of women” to gain suffrage, but she was also scheming to run a campaign for Congress. Rankin endured the “discriminatory attitudes of the male party structure,” just as Grinstead did.¹⁶² While Rankin did not have a solid political career or the activist credentials that Grinstead brought to the table, she had a surprising advocate in her corner, her brother Wellington, a wealthy lawyer, who identified himself as a progressive Republican and a firm believer in woman suffrage. In 1916, while society was in

¹⁶⁰ Lopach, James L. and Jean A. Luckowski. *Jeanette Rankin: A Political Woman*. Boulder, Colorado: University Press of Colorado, 2005: 96.

¹⁶¹ Lewis, Tiffany. Municipal Housekeeping in the American West: Bertha Knight Landes’s Entrance into Politics. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 14, no.3 (Fall 2011): 469-470.

¹⁶² Lopach, James L. and Jean A. Luckowski. *Jeanette Rankin: A Political Woman*. Boulder, Colorado: University Press of Colorado, 2005: 101-102.

shock that a woman was going to run for a seat in U.S. House of Representatives, Rankin's brother became her "shield and sword, protecting her from attacks, and providing her strategy and money."¹⁶³ When Rankin ran out of financial resources it was her brother who put up the money backing her campaign. Grinstead, however, did not have that kind of financial backing; she had the career, family, and personal contacts that ultimately won her a seat in the Kansas legislature.

After winning her election, Rankin stayed true to her word, and "championed women's causes during her term, notably the federal suffrage amendment" and the Sheppard-Towner Act, which was a bill designed specifically for the welfare of women and children.¹⁶⁴ Rankin introduced the Sheppard Towner Act into Congress in 1919. It was finally passed in 1921. However, Kansas did not accept any of the provisions under this bill right away. Many Kansas newspapers, such as the *Kansas City Star* and the *Iola Daily Register* (Iola, Kansas), were still writing reports in 1922 and 1923 advocating the importance of the Maternity & Infancy Act (Sheppard-Towner) for the health care and nutrition of women and children.¹⁶⁵ The various articles emphasized the measure's necessity and the benefits that would come from it on a local level as well as a national level. The *Emporia Gazette* reported in March of 1927, of a Kansas House resolution that accepted aid under the Sheppard-Towner Act for women and infants. It was

¹⁶³ Ibid., 17,18,19. All the quotes in this paragraph come from these three pages.

¹⁶⁴ Ibid., 21.

¹⁶⁵ *The Kansas City Star*, Kansas City, Missouri, (September 24, 1922) and *The Iola Daily Register*, Iola, Kansas (August 18, 1923).

recommended by the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee that the resolution be adopted.¹⁶⁶

Jeanette Rankin had considerable success in getting legislation concerning social programs passed—most notably the Maternity & Infant Act (Sheppard-Towner bill)—and she had more luck than Grinstead, whose state Coverture bill was shut out completely and never considered. Even though the Sheppard-Towner Act was not passed until Rankin had left office, she still gets much of the credit.

Both Grinstead and Rankin were legislators who cared deeply about women's issues and both championed legislation that emphasized social issues. Interestingly, both women stated the first thing they wanted to accomplish once in office was to see that equal suffrage was ratified. Coincidentally, after each woman was sworn in, she drafted a resolution calling for a constitutional amendment for woman's suffrage.¹⁶⁷ Rankin had been elected to office two years before Grinstead in 1918, and her resolution on woman's suffrage was not even considered until about same time Grinstead was submitting her woman's suffrage resolution in Kansas. Grinstead and Rankin were the only women in their unique situations to be able to introduce legislation concerning this issue, however, Rankin had been out of office for a year and a half when woman's suffrage finally became law.¹⁶⁸

Controversy surrounded Jeanette Rankin during her term in office, just as it did Minnie Grinstead. Rankin's choices, at times, were not always popular with her male colleagues or with her constituency. The most controversial was her vote

¹⁶⁶ "Sheppard-Towner Act," *The Emporia Gazette*, Vol. 35, no. 187, Emporia, Kansas, (March 7, 1927).

¹⁶⁷ Smith, Nora. *Jeanette Rankin: America's Conscience*. Helena, Montana: Montana Society Press, 2002: 120.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid.

against the United States' entry into the World War in 1917. Rankin's character and politics were attacked in the media and there were allegations of her having communist sympathies.¹⁶⁹ She later explained that she "voted as a feminist and not as a pacifist," making the point that as the "first woman in Congress...she had to take the first stand on war."¹⁷⁰ Her decision to vote against the United States' entry into World War I cost her in the next election. By contrast, Grinstead, who was dealing with issues less momentous than world war, was elected for three consecutive terms to the Kansas State House of Representatives. When Rankin lost a Senate race in 1919, she was given a position with the National Consumers League, where she worked as a lobbyist and fieldworker from 1921-1924.¹⁷¹

Rankin was re-elected in 1940 to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving from 1941-1943. Causing controversy again, as with her first term, her goal had changed from women's suffrage to saving our soldiers from needless death. Rankin's vote was the only Nay vote against sending American troops to war in 1941. Knowing full well that her career again would suffer the consequences of a Nay vote for war, she reminded people that she was not against defending the United States, she was against sending troops to foreign countries to die.¹⁷²

In Kansas, Grinstead was trivialized and criticized for her controversial votes and legislative proposals. Rankin was, of course, even more harshly criticized for opposing a popular war. She received a letter from a man saying, "All that she was

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ Lopach, James L. and Jean A. Luckowski. *Jeanette Rankin: A Political Woman*. Boulder, Colorado: University Press of Colorado, 2005: 149.

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² Smith, Nora. *Jeannette Rankin: America's Conscience*. Helena, Montana: Montana Society Press, 2002.

fit for was an undertaker's assistant, for women only" and another letter pointed out that Rankin "could have been absent" in her voting, meaning that she should have stayed away rather than voting "Nay."¹⁷³

Just as Minnie Grinstead rose above reductive commentary and criticism, Jeannette Rankin rose above the propaganda written about her decision to vote against going to war in both of her terms. While she may have disappointed her colleagues and constituents, she stayed true to her values and was not bullied into voting against them.

The differences between Grinstead and Rankin may best be found in how they lived. Minnie Grinstead, married, with children, shared the Victorian belief that being a wife and mother was the highest accomplishment for a woman, but she also believed that a woman could do both, could be a homemaker and a career woman. Rankin never married, though she received a few proposals, nor did she have any children. Unlike Grinstead, Jeanette Rankin was not a religious person and was not pleasant about Christians. According to one of her biographers, before she died Rankin stated she "did not want any Christian words spoken over her grave."¹⁷⁴ For Minnie Grinstead, the daughter of Baptist minister and a preacher herself, religion and prayer were major features in her life.

Grinstead and Rankin took the historical stage, one on the state level, and the other on the national level, just at the time when women began to have real political lives and futures in the United States. Both legislators helped to make suffrage and

¹⁷³ Ibid., 184.

¹⁷⁴ Lopach, James L. and Jean A. Luckowski. *Jeanette Rankin: A Political Woman*. Boulder, Colorado: University Press of Colorado, 2005: 20.

participation in electoral politics a reality for American women. Regardless of the differences, the similarities in their experiences with the suffrage movement and in their political careers are worth noting.

CONCLUSION

On Monday, December 14, 1925, Probate Court Judge Minnie Grinstead had just gotten home from working at the courthouse all day. She was down in the basement finishing up some laundry when she noticed that there was some water dripping. She had stepped onto a small table to reach the leaking faucet and stop the water. In some manner the table either gave way underneath her or it had shifted on the wet floor. Grinstead fell on the cement floor “cutting a gash to the bone” right below her knee. She could not recall what she had struck to cause such a deep cut, which required a few stitches to close. She was rather stunned, so for a few moments she sat on a nearby sofa in order to catch her breath and put herself together. When she realized the extent of her wounds, Grinstead called a neighbor to help her get to a physician. She withstood getting stitches without any anesthetic. For ten days Grinstead was prescribed rest, but she really had no choice but to rest, for her bruises had been severe. During this time her stitched laceration contracted a slight infection. A local Liberal, Kansas newspaper reported the incident on Thursday, December 17 and the article

included a message to Grinstead from all of her friends who wished her a speedy recovery.¹⁷⁵

On Christmas Eve, Grinstead was in the kitchen with her son Wade, sitting and visiting while plucking (*sic*) a turkey for the Christmas dinner. Grinstead “was feeling well and in good spirits when she suddenly fainted.” Her physician was contacted and he came immediately to the family’s home. Grinstead told him “I feel so bad, Doctor, get me to bed.”¹⁷⁶ Her son, Wade, helped the doctor getting her into her bed. A few minutes after the doctor left, she regained full consciousness and she appeared to be a little better, but still very weak. The doctor had barely reached his office when he was again called from the Grinstead home, but this time Grinstead was not responding. “Get me to bed, “ were the last words Grinstead ever spoke. She passed away on Christmas Eve day at 9:45 a.m.

It was not long before the State of Kansas and the nation learned the news. Newspapers reporting the news of Grinstead’s death stated slight differences in the story, with some saying Grinstead had a stroke of apoplexy, some that she died while preparing Christmas dinner for her family, and some called it a paralytic stroke. Regardless of the minor details, a Kansas treasure had passed away. From Liberal to Topeka, Kansas to Louisiana, Tennessee, Virginia and Massachusetts the news of her passing made national headlines, reminding readers that Kansas’ first woman in the House of Representatives and one who

¹⁷⁵ “Mrs. Grinstead Hurt,” *The Liberal News*, Liberal, Kansas, (December 17, 1925). This paragraph is condensed and paraphrased with a few quotes from this news article.

¹⁷⁶ “Death Comes to First Woman in Legislature,” *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, Kansas, (December 25, 1925). Both quotes in this paragraph come from this article.

had seconded Calvin Coolidge for president was gone. Fittingly, Grinstead, a lover of the written word and a champion of the spoken word, had published a poem in the local news just a month earlier, at Thanksgiving time. The December 31st obituary stated that Grinstead had believed the poem was her finest effort. She had written about what she wanted her life to be:¹⁷⁷

My Prayer of Life

Let my life glow as the fire-light
glows,
In a dark and cheerless room,
Let me be the light to some darkened
soul,
Lonely, and far from home,
Let my life glow as the fire-light
glows.

Let my life warm as the fire doth
Warm,
On a cold and wintry day;
Let me be a friend to some friendless
one,
Struggling along life's way.
Let my life warm as the fire doth
warm.

Let my life burn as the fire doth burn,
Radiant, strong and bright;
With love, with zeal and with pity,
too,
For those who are losing the fight,
Let my life burn as the fire doth burn.

Let my life fade as the fire-light
fades,
And the embers burn low at night;
Let me live again in love and joy,
In Heaven's radiance bright
Let my life fade as the fire-light
fades.

~Minnie J. Grinstead

¹⁷⁷ "Minnie J. Grinstead Died Thursday," *The Liberal News*, Liberal, Kansas, (December 31, 1925).

Minnie Grinstead's funeral was held in Liberal, Kansas, in a Methodist church since it was the biggest church in the town. People came from all over the state and crowds packed it to overflowing. Friends, associates and loved ones paid their respects to Grinstead one last time. Flowers and cards with sincere notes of sympathy came from all over the nation.¹⁷⁸

Grinstead was an educated, accomplished, and successful person by any standard. She left a wonderful legacy for not only her children, but for the people of Kansas. She was the example for women, not only in Kansas, but everywhere, of female success in a state legislature. Before 1920, she voted on measures that women nationally did not yet have the legal right to address. Her contributions in the political realm gave other women confidence to follow her footsteps and carry out legislation that was important to them and to the people who had elected them.

Grinstead's legacy also lived on through her children, and now her grandchildren, who she never lived long enough to see. Darline was 20 years old and Wade was 19 when their mother passed away. Grinstead's grandchildren have learned of her through the stories from their parents, Darline and Wade. They saw the pictures of her time in the Kansas State Legislature and the letters and diaries that she kept.

On March 17, 1927 the Kansas State House of Representatives passed Memorial Resolution No. 27 in remembrance of Grinstead. The resolution had no

¹⁷⁸ Taken from Willynda Holmes' program notes for the Liberal Women's Club in Liberal, Kansas (2011) They were acquired by Dr. K. Smith and the ESU 150th committee. (2013). There were no references in these notes. Some of the information came from the Kansas State Historical Society and some stated from a Seward County History Book.

law-making purpose other than to honor Grinstead and recognize her achievements in the House of Representatives. The resolution read, in part:¹⁷⁹

MINNIE J. GRINSTEAD.

House Resolution No. 27.

A RESOLUTION relating to the death of Minnie J. Grinstead.

WHEREAS, The state of Kansas, and Seward county in particular, through the death of Mrs. Grinstead have lost a distinguished citizen and a leader in every forward movement of the state of Kansas: therefore,

Be it resolved, That by this resolution we acknowledge the good that came to this state from her devoted effort, and that we respect and appreciate the worth of this noble woman:

Representative Jean A. McKone, a fellow Republican from Leavenworth County, introduced the motion to honor Grinstead and then he moved for the adoption. The motion prevailed and the resolution was adopted. Grinstead had been a widely popular figure in Kansas in her day, and her leadership was recognized nationally. However, history books have only given a paragraph or two to her contributions to society. Most don't know her at all.

In the years following Grinstead's death, newspapers throughout Kansas sporadically published about her significance to Kansas history. Articles in 1932, 1952, and 1960 all spoke of her contributions. A 1984 news article covering the story of Representatives Jessie Branson, Betty Jo Charlton and Jane Eldridge, the first women elected to the House of Representatives from Lawrence, Kansas, praised Grinstead as the first woman elected to the Kansas State House of Representatives and told her story succinctly in a few paragraphs. The intention

¹⁷⁹Kansas House Journal. 25th Biennial Session, Topeka January 11-March 23, Inclusive 1927: 671 and in State of Kansas Session Laws, 1927, Passed at the 42nd Regular Session – the Same Being the 25th Biennial Session, June 1, 1927: 556.

was to recognize the door that Grinstead had opened for future women legislators in the state of Kansas. The article continued with the recognition of how many women had been elected to the House and Senate in Kansas since Grinstead's 1918 election win and pointed out that, as of November of 1984, 17.5 percent of the entire legislature was made up of women.¹⁸⁰ In 1999, the *Topeka Capital Journal* also stressed the importance of Grinstead's contributions to the women of Kansas. Their article suggested, "The most outstanding women in Kansas may have been the ones with names nobody knows."¹⁸¹ An article dated March 14, 1999, in the *Hays Daily News* re-introduced Grinstead's story and reported that Kansas, with 32.7 percent of legislative seats occupied by women, was ranked as one of the top ten states for women legislators. The highest ranked was the state of Washington with 40.8 percent.¹⁸² As of 2014, Kansas has 23.6 percent female legislators: 27 in the House of Representatives and 12 in the Senate.¹⁸³ Many Kansas women have been strong individuals who raised their voices in efforts to gain political influence. Minnie Grinstead occupies the first place among those who have been paramount in changing the status quo for the betterment of women within the state political system.

¹⁸⁰ "Since 1918, Women Have Made Their Mark On Kansas Legislature," *Lawrence Journal World*, Lawrence, Kansas, (November 22, 1984).

¹⁸¹ "Throughout Kansas' History, Women Have Given Their All To Create Better Future." *Topeka Capital Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, (March 8, 1999).

¹⁸² "Kansas Takes Their Women Seriously." *Hays Daily News*, Hays, Kansas, (March 14, 1999).

¹⁸³ The National Conference of State Legislatures. *see bibliography for the web address. This is a company that keeps legislation data state by state.

LITERATURE REVIEW & RESEARCH

Secondary Sources

In gathering national perspectives on women's suffrage and the women's movement in America, I started with Gordon Bakken & Brenda Farrington's, *Encyclopedia of Women in the American West* [2003], which provides an overview of the many women who have contributed, changed, and made a difference in the western states of the United States. Bakken and Farrington include a snippet of information on Grinstead's contributions in Kansas.

For general women's suffrage background I consulted Ellen Carol DuBois, *Feminism and Suffrage: The Emergence of an Independent Women's Movement in America, 1848-1869* [1978], Robert Dinkin, *Before Equal Suffrage: Women in Partisan Politics From Colonial Times to 1920* [1995], and two books by Doris Weatherford: *A History of the American Suffragist Movement* [1998] and *Women in American Politics: History and Milestones* [2012]. All of these works provide information on women and the various women's groups fighting for enfranchisement across America throughout American history.

DuBois' focus is on a specific time frame, 1848-1869, wherein she locates the origins of the American women's suffrage movement. She details the rights of women before the Civil War and traces the evolution of women's attitudes after the 14th Amendment received ratification. Dinkin's emphasis is on women's rights from the Colonial Period to 1920. He follows the women's movement in chronological order from the time when women are excluded from political life completely to the point where women enter partisan politics to gain political inclusion. Weatherford's

book, *A History of the Suffragist Movement in America* [1998], takes a similar chronological approach, but starts with the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 and ends with the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote in 1920. *Women in American Politics: History and Milestones* [2012], another book by Weatherford, contains a complete history of the suffrage movement as well as a state-by-state account of women's enfranchisement. Weatherford also includes biographies of notable women in politics.

Another of Ellen Carol DuBois' books, *Woman Suffrage & Women's Rights* [1998], compiles a group of her essays concerning the politics that surrounded women's issues and their suffrage rights. This collection provides a useful time line of the suffrage movement that includes the evolution of attitudes toward gender and sexuality and the influence of reform in American politics. DuBois' journal article, "The Radicalism of the Woman Suffrage Movement: Notes toward the Reconstruction of Nineteenth-Century Feminism" [*Feminist Studies*, Autumn 1975], explores the arguments women suffragists employed to convince men that women's voting was not going to destroy their femininity; rather, the vote would only give women individual power and allow them to develop political viewpoints. This article was particularly useful in helping me to understand Minnie Grinstead's determination to prove that she could maintain her femininity and womanhood while participating in politics.

One Woman, One Vote [1995], edited by Marjorie Spruill Wheeler, offers a chronological study of the suffrage movement as well. Additionally, the essays presented answer many questions about individuals and groups involved in the

women's rights struggle, and provide perspective on the changing attitudes within American politics and society as a whole during the women's movement.

Paula Baker's journal article, "The Domestication of Politics: Women and American Political Society 1780-1920" [*The American Historical Review*, June 1984], is an insightful commentary on progressive politics, the women's club movement, and advocacy groups such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union, demonstrating how the latter became a driving force behind the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Holly J. McCammon and Karen E. Campbell's journal article, "Winning the Vote in the West: The Political Successes of the Women's Suffrage Movements, 1866-1919" [*Gender and Society*, February 2001], is another source that provides background information on gender and society, with particular emphasis on the West. Their interesting argument is based on statistics showing how women in the 19th century West ventured outside the domestic sphere into the fields of medicine and law, some even lobbying in western state legislatures. Responding to professionally emancipated women and their pressure tactics, men in the West were more tolerate of women wanting the right to vote.

For the state-level perspective, H. Edward Flentje and Joseph Aistrup's book *Kansas Politics and Government: The Clash of the Political Cultures* [2010], is particularly useful, providing specific information on the structure of the State of Kansas government and the development of its political process. Flentje and Aistrup also explore women's rights initiatives that took place even before Kansas

gained statehood, and describe the ways that Kansas women had fit into the political structure of the government from the very first days of statehood.

Michael Lewis Goldberg's journal article, "Non-Partisan and All-Partisan: Rethinking Woman Suffrage and Party Politics in Gilded Age Kansas" [*The Western Historical Quarterly*, Spring 1994], and his book, *An Army of Women: Gender and Politics in Gilded Age Kansas* [1997], provide a backdrop for the political climate of Kansas that Grinstead was born into. Goldberg's argument concerning gender and politics details the strategies employed by women's groups in Kansas fighting for suffrage at the state level and shows how and when their efforts transitioned into participation in the national quest.

Karen Arnold-Burger's article, "A Step Back in Time" [*Amicus Newsletter*, Fall 2010], written in celebration of the 90th year women received the right to vote, provides an entire synopsis of the Kansas women's suffrage movement. Arnold-Burger's article also includes useful information on Minnie Grinstead.

Gina Kaufman's book, *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Women of Kansas* [2012], consists of various biographies of Kansas women who are noted for accomplishments or who held careers outside of the norm. Kaufman provides some background content on the suffrage movement and political climate of Kansas from 1896-1906, during the time that Grinstead was a lecturer for the W.C.T.U.

Wilda M. Smith's journal article, "A Half Century of Struggle: Gaining Woman Suffrage in Kansas" [*Kansas History*, Summer 1981], deals specifically with women's political struggles in Kansas, with particular focus on the difficulties and strains

within the movement and the kinds of assistance individual women's groups provided towards gaining full suffrage in 1912.

George Clanton's journal article, "Populism, Progressivism and Equality: The Kansas Paradigm" [*The American Historical Review*, July 1977], focuses on the ties between Populism and progressive Republicanism, arguing that they were not tied at all and that Kansas Populism was a rural middle class reform movement, whereas the progressive Republicans were conservatives and elitists who pushed for reform. This article provided insight into the Kansas Republican Party, of which Grinstead was a member.

Martha Caldwell's journal article, "The Woman Suffrage Campaign of 1912" [*The Kansas Historical Quarterly*, August 1943], describes how women's groups, such as the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association and the Women's Christian Temperance Union, worked together in gaining women's right to vote in 1912. Caldwell also includes useful information on Minnie Grinstead's own suffrage and temperance efforts during that year.

For information on Jeanette Rankin and her experiences as a legislator, I found Lopach & Luckowski's book, *Jeanette Rankin: A Political Woman* [2005] and Norma Smith's book, *Jeanette Rankin: America's Conscience* [2002], very helpful in obtaining background information to create a comparison with Minnie Grinstead. Both biographies present a personal history of Rankin but focus on her political life: her sessions in United States House of Representatives, how she campaigned and won her seat, and the controversies that surrounded her at times, just as they had for Grinstead in Kansas. Lopach and Luckowski are interested in Rankin's complex

personality and beliefs. They explore her relationships and her family and suggest sources of her political actions. Smith, a personal friend of Rankin, chooses to focus on the importance of Rankin's contributions to pacifism and feminism. Smith's book was published posthumously by the Montana State Historical Society.

J. Stanley Lemons book *The Woman Citizen: Social Feminism in the 1920s* [1973], deals with the Sheppard-Towner Act, an early mother-and-child welfare reform, whose enactment had become the goal for the newly enfranchised women. Lemon's focus on the progressive social programs provided information on the similar legislation that Grinstead and Rankin both introduced into legislation relating to the interests of women and children.

Primary Sources

When I was deciding on a topic for my thesis, Dr. Smith suggested that I write a biography and mentioned a Kansas woman, Minnie Grinstead, whose brief story had recently come to the attention of the Emporia State University Foundation during the celebration of the university's 150th year. Grinstead was a graduate of Emporia State University in the late 19th century, when it was known as the Kansas State Normal College, and she was the first woman ever elected to the Kansas House of Representatives. As a native Kansan and a graduate student at Emporia State University, as well as one who loves the topic of women's enfranchisement, I felt an instant connection to Grinstead. Dr. Smith warned me that I might not find a lot of information on her, but it was possible that I might find enough for a thesis. Never

imagining what my “digging” for information on her would uncover, I found a gold mine.

Throughout the course of my research I got to know this amazing woman on a very personal level. I had Grinstead’s picture in front of me, inspiring me and on some level guiding me in telling her story. The very first thing I did was a Google search of her name. I imposed one rule on my internet research: I would only utilize information from websites that ended with .net, .gov, or .org, which were very few. I used secondary sources on suffrage and state government to provide context for Grinstead’s story. The goal was to find a large number of primary sources to authenticate her story. The Google search sent me immediately to the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) in Topeka, Kansas. Since Topeka was my hometown, I moved in with my dad for a couple of months to conduct my research. I made copies of everything KSHS had on Grinstead, much of it from a collection Grinstead’s daughter, Darline, had donated in 1948. The collection included scrapbooks, diaries, correspondence, and newspaper articles. It also included a diary that Darline’s father, V.H. Grinstead— Grinstead’s husband--had kept. Grinstead’s diary was full of notes, ideas, bills, lectures, things she wanted to say, and things other people said.

What I found in my research that was surprisingly easy was all of the newspaper articles from all over the country that I located. In my initial Google search I found just a few newspapers that I noticed came from two main websites, one was NewspaperArchives.com and the other was GenealogyBank.com. Even though these were websites that ended in .com, and even though they charged a fee for access, I figured I had nothing to lose so I paid the monthly fee. I was not sorry

for this decision, as I discovered a plethora of newspaper articles all on Minnie J. Grinstead. I went through at least a dozen ink cartridges while printing them all out and I have a 2-inch binder overflowing with articles concerning Grinstead. I put them all in chronological order by date starting with the year 1906 and proceeding up to 2010. I could almost chronicle Grinstead's career through these newspaper articles. I also went to Ancestry.com and got some background on her family tree and found where she had registered with the census in Kansas.

What I found difficult in my research was following the bills Grinstead introduced in the Kansas House of Representative and discovering any details about her activity amongst her colleagues. Back in the 1920s, the Kansas Legislature only printed the House Journals of legislature activities every two years. So Grinstead's actions in the even years in the House are not in print. The Journals available at the Kansas State Library had only 1919, 1920 Special Session, 1921, 1923 and the 1923 Special Session. I consulted newspaper articles from all over the country to fill in where the House Journals left off. A few times I found discrepancies between the House Journals and the newspapers. The events that unfolded during sessions on the House floor and those that got reported in the newspapers were not always congruent. Since the colorful commentary of the legislators was not often reported in the Journals, I relied a lot on the newspaper reports to give the details of debates and committee activities. I am so thankful that I befriended Sarah Tenfelde-Dubois up at the Capital in the Kansas State Library who took time out of her day and e-mailed me a number of PDF copies of information in those Journals that I had

forgotten to make copies of after further scrutiny of certain bills. She saved me a lot of time and money not having to fly back to Kansas to get them.

Another aspect of the research process I found to be a little more difficult was getting information about Grinstead that she, herself, had written. In her scrapbook there was a two-page document that Grinstead typed detailing her time in office. It was so valuable to my research and it was terribly disappointing to find that it was an incomplete document. An unknown number of Grinstead's own words were lost somewhere. The KSHS had two of Grinstead diaries. While it was interesting to go through and see her thoughts, one of the diaries had no year reference. There were random dates stating the month and the day, but it was a hodgepodge of writing, more like scribbles of reminders than it was a diary to report and reflect on the day's events, such as those kept by many people in Grinstead's time. In reading the undated diary, technically a daybook, I was reminded of a very long "to do" list. It was easy to see that Grinstead never really quit working even after the workday was done. The other diary was dated 1913, so all of it was before her time in the State House. She recorded the date of her stillborn child alongside her laundry days, her prohibition and suffrage lecture days with the W.C.T.U., and the places she stayed overnight on those adventures. Emotion was almost completely absent from the diaries.

The aspect of my research that I found most surprising and most exciting was the search for remaining family and friends. In the Ancestry.com search, I found the obituaries of Grinstead's children, Darline and Wade. Darline died in 1967 and Wade in 1962. Through those obituaries, I found the names of Darline's

grandchildren. I put together a rough family tree and began a name search on the grandchildren. Through this search I found the email of Grinstead's great-grandson, David Taggart, who is Darline's grandson. I exchanged a few emails with Mr. Taggart, and he told me he regretted that he did not have any information on his great-grandmother Grinstead, but he forwarded my email to a relative he thought might know something.

David Taggart also sent me the name of one of his grandmother's (Darline's) friends, Gabrielle Thompson, an attorney in Manhattan, Kansas. I exchanged emails with Ms. Thompson and we talked on the phone. She sent me the story Darline had told her of Grinstead having to rent a hotel room down the street from the State Capital building to have access to a rest room. My phone call with Ms. Thompson led me to another friend of Darline's, Nancy Selbe. Ms. Selbe told me she had made tapes of Darline talking about her mother back in the 1950s, to use on the radio, but since the early 1990's she thought those tapes had either been lost or destroyed. She did not really know where they were anymore, but told me she would call me if she remembered.

The relative that David Taggart got me in touch with was Tom Petit, who was Wade Grinstead's son from his second marriage. Tom had been adopted by his stepfather and taken the "Petit" last name. Mr. Petit and I exchanged quite a few emails and we talked at length on the phone one afternoon. He was shocked and happy to hear of my project and he told me a few times he would like to have a copy of my thesis when I have completed it. Mr. Petit has done extensive research on his great-grandfather, Judge V.H. Grinstead, who was Grinstead's husband. He was

delighted to hear the stories I have uncovered for my thesis and he verified a few of them for me. He was surprised that I had been able to find, after all these years, some things he had no knowledge about. Mr. Petit told me he had finally gotten in touch with his half-brother, Phil Grinstead, who was Wade's son born from his first marriage. I have exchanged emails with Phil Grinstead, but he had no new knowledge to add to my research. He, too, was eager to read my thesis on his great-grandmother.

The research process throughout this entire endeavor has been the most interesting and, sincerely, the most fun for me. Every layer I peeled back on Grinstead exposed some more information. One piece led me to another piece and then another. It was interesting putting all these pieces together to make Grinstead's story come to life. Up till now, Minnie Grinstead's contributions to the state of Kansas have been recognized in few places. I had never heard of this woman before. I am a native Kansan and a student of history, yet this research has made me realize how so many people we have never heard of helped to make Kansas such a great place to live and prosper. Of course, anyone could say this about any village, town, city or state. Minor events and bit players are forgotten in the large sweep of history, but, like the foundations of a building, they have to be there or the building itself will never exist. It's a great joy to rediscover them and tell their stories. Everyone has a story... a uniquely wonderful story. I only hope that the story I uncovered about Grinstead's life does her justice. I hope that picture of Minnie on my wall staring back shows the face of approval. Minnie J. Grinstead, it was an honor writing your story, and it is my hope you will never be forgotten.

APPENDIX I



Portrait of Minnie J. Grinstead sometime between 1919-1923.

APPENDIX II

Women Legislators Would Tax Old Maids



*Caption reads: Kansas Legislators with Divergent views on the Bachelor Tax: Left, Miss Nellie Cline; Center, Mrs. Ida M. Walker; Right, Mrs. Minnie Grinstead.

**The political cartoon above depicts a Bachelor and a Bachelor Girl looking for a way out, which is either marriage license bureau or the tax collector office. Found in the article called, "Women Legislators Would Tax Old Maids," came from Topeka, Kansas and was found in *The Bismarck Tribune*, Bismarck, N.D., February 16, 1921; *The Salt Lake Telegram*, Salt Lake City, U.T., February 19, 1921; *The Miami District News*, Miami, O.K., February 13, 1921; *The Bay City Times*, Bay City, Mich., February 14, 1921; and in *The Olean Evening Times*, Olean, N.Y., February 11, 1921.

APPENDIX III

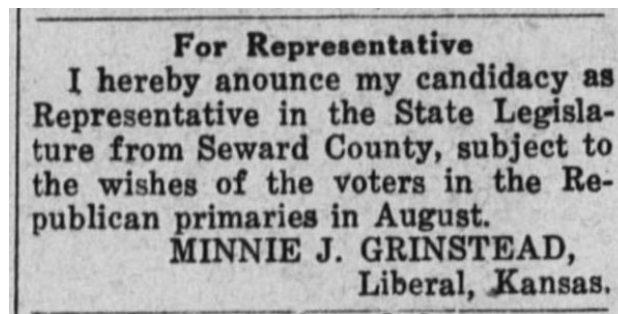


Minnie Grinstead at her desk in the Kansas State House of Representative (1923).

APPENDIX IV



Minnie J. Grinstead's picture published after winning her election.
The Liberal Democrat, Liberal, Kansas, (November 7, 1918).



A typical political advertisement that Grinstead ran in the local newspapers during her three
elections for State Representative - *The Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, Kansas, (June 29, 1922).

APPENDIX V



Minnie J. Grinstead (circa. 1914) – photo from the scrapbook she made for her son.

WORKS CITED

Primary Source Documents

Manuscripts

Grinstead, Minnie file collection. Repository: Coronado Museum/Seward County Historical Society (Liberal, KS).

Johnson, Minnie Tamar & Virgil Hooker Grinstead collection, 1869-1925. 1878-[not before 1923]. Ms. collection no. 365 (MC 365) Repository: The Kansas State Historical Society (Topeka, KS).

Kansas Women's Day Club History. Collection no. 659, Box 3, Folder 1 Club Records, (1933-34) 7th District. Repository: The Kansas State Historical Society (Topeka, KS).

Written and Oral Testimonies

Thompson, Gabrielle, Attorney at Law, Manhattan, KS. Interview with author by email and phone, Manhattan, KS, September 12, 2013.

State Government Documents

House Journal. *Proceedings of the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas*, 21st Biennial Session, Topeka, January 14 – March 22, 1919 also Special Session, June 16-19,1919. Kansas State Library, Topeka, KS.

House Journal. *Proceedings of the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas*, 22nd Biennial Session, Topeka, January 11 – March 21, Inclusive, 1921. Kansas State Library, Topeka, KS.

House Journal. *Proceedings of the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas*, 23rd Biennial Session, Topeka, January 9 – March 22, Inclusive, 1923. Kansas State Library, Topeka, KS.

House Journal. *Proceedings of the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas*, 25th Biennial Session, Topeka, January 11 – March 23, Inclusive, 1927. Kansas State Library, Topeka, KS.

The State of Kansas, *Session Laws, June 17, 1919*. Kansas State Library, Topeka, KS.

The State of Kansas, *Session Laws, June 1, 1927*. Kansas State Library, Topeka, KS.

Photographs

Johnson, Minnie Tamar & Virgil Hooker Grinstead collection, 1869-1925. 1878-[not before 1923]. Ms. collection no. 365 (MC 365) "Portrait of Minnie."
Repository: The Kansas State Historical Society (Topeka, KS).

Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas digital newspapers online. *The Liberal Democrat*, June 29, 1922. "Minnie Grinstead Political Advertisement."
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85029856/1922-06-29/ed-1/seq-10/> (accessed March 30, 2014).

Kansas Historical Society. Kansas Memory. "Photograph of Minnie Grinstead at her desk in Kansas House of Representatives." Item Number: 216267. Call Number: B Grinstead, Minnie J. *4, KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 216267. <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/216267> (accessed January 29, 2013).

Kansas Historical Society. Kansas Memory. "Portrait of Mineola "Minnie" Tamar Johnson Grinstead." Item Number: 761. Call Number: B Grinstead, Minnie J.*1, KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 761. <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/761> (accessed December 27, 2013).

Kansas Historical Society. Photo of Minnie after winning 1918 election. *The Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, KS. (November 7, 1918). Microfilm.

Newspaper Articles

"A Feminine Quartette in the Kansas Legislature." *Kansas City Star*, Kansas City, MO, (Nov. 17, 1920). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 4, 2013).

"A Personal Word by Minnie J. Grinstead." *The Liberal News*, Liberal, KS, (October 31, 1918). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.

"Allen Forces in the Saddle." *Iola Daily Register*, Iola, Iowa, (February 15, 1921). <http://newspaperarchive.com/iola-register/1921-02-15/page-6> (accessed February 18, 2014).

"Butler Names Reed," *Seattle Daily Times*, Seattle, WA, (August 26, 1924). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 3, 2013).

"City Briefs," *Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, KS, (July, 14, 1921) Kansas State Historical Society Digital Newspapers online. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85029856/1921-07-14/ed-1/seq-10/> (accessed March 17, 2014).

- "Congresswoman in Oklahoma: Women Have Entered Nearly Every Public Field of Public Service," *Corsica Daily Sun*, Corsica, TX, (January 5, 1921). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/texas/corsicana/corsicana-daily-sun/1921/01-05/page-8> (accessed March 17, 2014).
- "Convention Finds A Loud Speaker," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, Richmond, VA, (June 13, 1924). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 4, 2013).
- "Conventionalities: Sidelights on the G.O.P. Gathering at Chicago." *Elkhart Truth*, Elkhart, IN, (June 8, 1920). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 4, 2013).
- "Cook Meal First: Then Only Woman Legislator Goes to the State House." *Topeka Daily Journal*, (January 15, 1919). Johnson, Minnie Tamar & Virgil Hooker Grinstead collection, 1869-1925. 1878-[not before 1923]. Ms. collection no. 365 (MC 365) Repository: Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.
- "Coolidge Gets 1065 Of 1109 Votes," *The Boston Herald*, Boston, MA, (June 13, 1924). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 3, 2013).
- "Death Comes to First Woman in Legislature," *The Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, KS, (December 25, 1925). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.
- "Department of Labor." *The Iola Daily Register*, Iola, KS, (August 18, 1923). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/iola/iola-register/1923/08-18/page-4> (accessed March 17, 2014).
- "Dormitories for Girls," *Emporia Weekly Gazette*, Emporia, KS, (January 27, 1921). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/emporia/emporia-weekly-gazette/1921/01-27/> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- "Fix An Equal Status." *The Iola Daily Register*, Iola, KS, (March 25, 1922). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/iola/iola-register/1922/03-25/> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- "For Representative" *Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, KS, (June 22, 1922) Kansas State Historical Society Digital Newspapers online. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85029856/1922-06-22/ed-1/seq-8/> (accessed March 17, 2014).
- "In Reply to An Article by Mrs. Grinstead," *Liberal News*, Liberal, KS, (October 21, 1920) Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.

- "Kansas Elected Four Women," *Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, (December 12, 1920).
<http://newspaperarchive.com/us/massachusetts/boston/boston-globe/1920/12-12/page-109> (accessed March 17, 2014).
- "Kansas Fair Solon Puts the Home Above All." *Duluth News-Tribune*, Duluth, MN, (April, 11, 1920). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004.
<http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 3, 2013).
- "Kansas Lawmakers May Extend Time," *Joplin Globe*, Joplin, MO, (March 17, 1921).
<http://newspaperarchive.com/us/missouri/joplin/joplin-globe/1921/03-17/page-2> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- "Kansas Legislature - Refuses To Pass Segregation Bill," *Plaindealer*, Topeka, KS, (March 21, 1919). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 3, 2013).
- "Kansas May Tax Single Blessedness." *Oskaloosa Daily Herald*, Oskaloosa, IA, (January 27, 1921) <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/iowa/oskaloosa/oskaloosa-daily-herald/1921/01-27/> (accessed March 17, 2014).
- "Kansas Takes Their Women Seriously." Hays Daily News, Hays, KS, (March 8, 1999).
http://cjonline.com/stories/030899/mcc_2kpioneers.shtml (accessed February 26, 2014).
- "Kansas Woman Legislator." *Emporia Weekly Gazette*, Emporia, KS, (Jan. 9, 1919).
<http://newspaperarchive.com/emporia-weekly-gazette/1919-01-09> (accessed March 9, 2013).
- "Kansas Women in Politics," *New York Tribune*, New York, NY, (May 7, 1922).
Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Library of Congress.
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1922-05-07/ed-1/seq-26/> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- "Law Interests Kansas Women." *Kansas City Star*, Kansas City, MO, (June 16, 1921).
 NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 3, 2013).
- "Legislature Is Ready To Begin." *Lawrence Journal World*, Lawrence, KS, (January 11, 1921) <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/lawrence/lawrence-journal-world/1921/01-11/> (accessed March 17, 2014).
- "Legislature Was Urged To Get Busy," *The Hutchinson News*, Hutchinson, KS, (January 26, 1923). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/hutchinson/hutchinson-news/1923/01-26/> (accessed February 26, 2014).

- "Letter From Kansas," *The Wellsboro Agitator*, Wellsboro, PA, (September 9, 1925). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/pennsylvania/wellsboro/wellsboro-agitator/1925/09-09/page-6> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- "Liberal Wants Mrs. Grinstead For Senate." *The Hutchinson News*, Hutchinson, KS, (March 16, 1914). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/hutchinson/hutchinson-news/1914/03-16/page-8> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- "Many State Elect Women To Offices." *Oregonian*, Portland, OR, (December 28, 1920) NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 14, 2013).
- McDowell, Lillian G. "Kansas' Four Legisladies Are Home-Makers" *The Dearborn Independent*. Dearborn, MI, (March 26, 1921)(328 Clipp v.15, p.75), Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.
- "Minnie Grinstead To Seek Senate Seat," *The Hutchinson News*, Hutchinson, KS, (July 17, 1923). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/hutchinson/hutchinson-news/1923/07-17/page-2> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- "Minnie J. Grinstead Died Thursday," *The Liberal News*, Liberal, KS, (December 31, 1925). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.
- "Mrs. Grinstead Given Ovation at Convention," *The Liberal News*, Liberal KS, (June 19, 1924). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.
- "Mrs. Grinstead Hurt," *The Liberal News*, Liberal, KS, (December 17, 1925). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.
- "Mrs. Grinstead Makes A Big Hit," *Lawrence Journal World*, Lawrence, KS, (June 12, 1924). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/lawrence/lawrence-journal-world/1924/06-12/> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- "Mrs. Grinstead To Make Nominating Speech," *Lawrence Journal World*, Lawrence, KS, (May 31, 1924). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/lawrence/lawrence-journal-world/1924/05-31/> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- "Mrs. Minnie J. Grinstead: Republican Nominee for Representative," *Liberal News*, Liberal, KS, (September 16, 1920) Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.
- "My Gratitude To My Friends." *Liberal News*, Liberal, KS, (October 14, 1920) Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.

- "News Items From All Over Kansas." *Scandia Journal*, Scandia, KS, (July 3, 1919). [http://newspaperarchive.com/scandia-journal/1919-0703/page2/?tag=frank+ martin](http://newspaperarchive.com/scandia-journal/1919-0703/page2/?tag=frank+martin) (accessed March 9, 2013).
- Newton Evening News*, (February 21, 1919). Johnson, Minnie Tamar & Virgil Hooker Grinstead collection, 1869-1925. 1878-[not before 1923]. Ms. collection no. 365 (MC 365) Repository: Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.
- "Official Vote of Seward County" *The Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, KS, (November 7, 1918). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.
- "Oratory and Setting Hens," *Omaha World Herald*, Omaha, NE, (February 16, 1921). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 3, 2013).
- "Package Wrapping is an Art." *Duluth News-Tribune*, Duluth, MN, (December 22, 1918). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 3, 2013).
- "Rep. Grinstead Went To Topeka Today," *Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, KS, (January 13, 1921) Kansas State Historical Society Digital Newspapers online. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85029856/1921-01-13/ed-1/seq-2/> (accessed March 17, 2014).
- "School Code Law Biggest New One." *Lawrence Journal World*, Lawrence, KS, (April 9, 1921). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/lawrence/lawrence-journal-world/1921/04-09/page-6> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- "See Busy Kansas Session," *The Kansas City Times*, Kansas City, MO, (January 11, 1921.) <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/kansas-city/kansas-citytimes/1921/01-11/page-2> (accessed March 10, 2014).
- "Sheppard-Towner Act," *The Emporia Gazette*, Emporia, KS (March 7, 1927). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/emporia/emporiagazette/1927/03-07/page-2> (accessed March 4, 2014).
- "Since 1918, Women Have Made Their Mark On Kansas Legislature," *Lawrence Journal World*, Lawrence, KS, (November 22, 1984). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/lawrence/lawrence-journal-world/1984/11-22/page-10> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- Stanton, Elizabeth Cady et. al., "Kansas." *The Revolution* 1, no.1. New York, NY. (January 8, 1868). <http://www.shadowmagi.com/archives/Revolution001.pdf> (accessed March 27, 2013).

- "Status of Married Women Bill in the Kansas Legislature," *Dallas Morning News*, Dallas, TX, (January 29, 1921). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 3, 2013).
- "Suffrage Vote Is Unanimous." *Emporia Gazette*, Emporia, KS, (June 16, 1919). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/emporia/emporiagazette/1919/06-16/> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- "Tax On Single Ladies." *Sandusky Star Journal*, Sandusky, OH, (January 27, 1921) <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/ohio/sandusky/sandusky-star-journal/1921/01-27/page-14> (accessed March 17, 2014).
- "Tells of Mrs. Grinstead," *The Liberal News*, Liberal KS, (June 19, 1924). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.
- "The First Woman Legislator in Kansas." *Des Moines Iowa Homestead*, Des Moines, IA, (March 4, 1920). <http://newspaperarchive.com/des-moines-iowa-homestead/1920-03-04/page-49/?tag=minnie+grinstead> (accessed March 10, 2013).
- "The Political Arena," *Duluth News-Tribune*, Duluth, MN, (November 24, 1920). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 3, 2013).
- "The Representative Race," *Liberal Democrat*, Liberal KS. (October 31, 1918). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.
- "The Representative Race," *The Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, KS. (October 31, 1918). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.
- "The Republican Candidates of Seward County," *Liberal News*, Liberal, KS. (October 31, 1918). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.
- "The Woman Legislator" *Chanute Tribune*, (Nov. 16, 1918). Johnson, Minnie Tamar & Virgil Hooker Grinstead collection, 1869-1925. 1878-[not before 1923]. Ms. collection no. 365, Grinstead Scrapbook. Repository: The Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.
- "Throughout Kansas' History, Women Have Given Their All To Create Better Future." *Topeka Capital Journal*, Topeka, KS, (March 8, 1999) http://cjonline.com/stories/030899/mcc_2kpioneers.shtml (accessed February 27, 2014).
- "To the Voters of Seward County." *The Liberal News*, Liberal, KS, (July 4, 1918). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.

- "Twenty-Nine Women Are State Legislators." *Riverside Independent*, Riverside, CA, (December 6, 1920) NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. [http://www. GenealogyBank.com](http://www.GenealogyBank.com) (accessed March 3, 2013).
- "Unofficial Election Returns of Seward County," *Liberal News*, Liberal, KS, (November 4, 1920) Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.
- "V.H. Grinstead Stricken While At Work," *Liberal News*, Liberal, KS, (February 28, 1924). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS, microfilm.
- "What the Kansas Women Legislators Have Accomplished," *Lawrence Journal World*, Lawrence, KS, (March 10, 1923) <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/Kansas/lawrence/lawrence-journal-world/1923/03-10/page-2> (accessed February 27, 2014).
- "Why The Sheppard-Towner Act Was Needed," *Kansas City Star*, Kansas City, MO, (September 24, 1922) <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/kansas/kansas-city/kansas-city-star/1922/09-24/page-72> (accessed March 17, 2014).
- "Women Do Part For Coolidge." *Riverside Daily Press*, Riverside, CA, (June 13, 1924). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. <http://www.GenealogyBank.com> (accessed March 3, 2013).
- "Women Legislators Would Tax Old Maids," *Bay City Times*, Bay City, MI, (February 14, 1921). NewsBank/American Antiquarian Society. 2004. [http://www. Genealogy Bank.com](http://www.GenealogyBank.com) (accessed March 4, 2013).
- "Women Legislators Would Tax Old Maids," *The Bismarck Tribune*, Bismarck, ND, (February 16, 1921). <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/north-dakota/bismarck/bismarck-tribune/1921/02-16/> (accessed February 27, 2014).
- "29 Women To Set In State Legislatures," *Van Wert Daily Bulletin*, Van Wert, OH, (January 7, 1921) <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/ohio/van-wert/van-wert-daily-bulletin/1921/01-07/page-6> (accessed March 17, 2014).

Secondary Sources

Books

- Bakken, Gordon M. and Brenda Farrington. *Encyclopedia of Women in the American West*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Corp Publishing, 2003.
- Dinkin, Robert J. *Before Equal Suffrage: Women in Partisan Politics from Colonial Times to 1920*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1995.

DuBois, Ellen Carol. *Feminism and Suffrage: The Emergence of an Independent Women's Movement in America, 1848-1869*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1978.

Flentje, H. Edward and Joseph A. Aistrup. *Kansas Politics and Government*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2010.

Goldberg, Michael L. *An Army of Women: Gender and Politics in Gilded Age Kansas*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

Lopach, James L. and Jean A. Luckowski. *Jeanette Rankin: A Political Woman*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2005.

Smith, Nora. *Jeannette Rankin: America's Conscience*. Helena: Montana Society Press, 2002.

Weatherford, Doris. *A History of the American Suffragist Movement*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Group, Inc. 1998.

Weatherford, Doris. *Women in American Politics: History and Milestones*. Los Angeles: CQ Press, an imprint of Sage Publications, 2012.

Journal Articles & Periodicals

Arnold-Burger, Karen. "A Step Back in Time." *Amicus Newsletter*. Kansas Women Attorney's Association. (Fall 2010). <http://documents.clubexpress.com/documents.ashx?key=5YmngAh3svRg5y97vaTUi041%2fE4he2IiyL5bEP%2bAieN%2fziRTv%2fbsTw%3d%3d> (accessed March 23, 2013).

Caldwell, Martha. "The Woman Suffrage Campaign of 1912." *The Kansas Historical Quarterly* 12, no 3. (August 1943). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

"Kansas Biographies: Mrs. Minnie Tamar Grinstead." *Kansas Library Bulletin* 4, no.4. (December 1935). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

Smith, Wilda M. "A Half Century of Struggle: Gaining Women Suffrage in Kansas," *Kansas History* 4, no. 2, (Summer 1981). Topeka Room. Shawnee County Public Library, Topeka, KS.

Warren, Joseph. "Husband's Right to Wife's Services." *Harvard Law Review* 38, no. 4 (February 1925): 421-446. *Legal Collection*, EBSCOhost (accessed March 9, 2014).

White, Mary Ogden. "Her Right To Be Injured," *Life & Labor: A Monthly Magazine* 11, no. 4, April 1921. National Women's Trade Union League, 1921. Digitized: Oct 24, 2013. http://books.google.com/books?id=_s09AQAAMAAJ&source=gbs_navlinks_s (accessed February 18, 2014)

Tertiary Sources

Newspaper Articles

Bean, Joe Patrick, "Trailblazer: Kansas Legislator Set Winning Example," *Chicago Tribune*. (Dec. 27, 1992). http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1992-12-27/features/9204270890_1_suffrage-kansas-gop-19th-amendment. (accessed January 29, 2013).

Lecture Notes

Willynda Holmes program notes for the Liberal Women's Club in Liberal, KS. (2011)
Acquired by the ESU 150th Committee. (2013)

Websites

Barber, E. Susan and Barbara Orbach Natanson. *One Hundred Years Towards Suffrage: An Overview*. August 26, 1997. Library of Congress. <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/vfwhtml/vfwtl.html> (accessed February 27, 2013).

National Conference of State Legislatures. 2014. <http://www.ncsl.org/legislators-staff/legislators/womens-legislative-network/women-in-state-legislatures-for-2013.aspx> (accessed February 14, 2014).

Reece, C. Find A Grave Memorial# 64855595, Rev. Jonas Milton Johnson, Jan. 29, 2011. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=64855595> (accessed February 28, 2014).

WORKS CONSULTED

Primary Source Documents

Manuscripts

Mary Evelyn Dobbs Collection, no.170. Kansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.). Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

State Government Documents

House Journal. Proceedings of the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, Special Session, Topeka, January 5 to January 27, 1920. Kansas State Library, Topeka, KS.

Newspapers

I read more than 150 newspaper articles, dated from September 28, 1906 to March 8, 2010 about Minnie J. Grinstead in the following newspapers: *Advocate*, Kansas City, KS; *Anaconda Standard*, Anaconda, MT; *Atchison Daily Times*, Atchison, KS; *Atlantic News Telegraph*, Atlantic, IA; *Bakersfield Morning Star*, Bakersfield, CA; *Bay City Times*, Bay City, MI; *Belleville Telescope*, Belleville, KS; *Billings Gazette*, Billings, MT; *Bismarck Tribune*, Bismarck, ND; *Boston Globe*, Boston, MA; *Boston Herald*, Boston, MA; *Bradford Era*, Bradford, PA; *Bystander*, Des Moines, IA; *Chicago Tribune*, Chicago, IL; *Cincinnati Post*, Cincinnati, OH; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, Colorado Springs, CO; *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, Columbus, GA; *Constitution*, Atlanta, GA; *Corsicana Daily Sun*, Corsicana, TX; *Cuba Daylight*, Cuba, KS; *Daily Ardmoreite*, Ardmore, OK; *Daily Illinois State Journal*, Springfield, IL; *Daily Register Gazette*, Rockford, IL; *Daily Telegram*, Adrian, MI; *Daily Times*, Harrison, Boone County, AR; *Dallas Morning News*, Dallas, TX; *Duluth News-Tribune*, Duluth, MN; *Deming Headlight*, Deming NM; *Des Moines Daily News*, Des Moines, IA; *Des Moines Iowa Homestead*, Des Moines, IA; *Elkhart Truth*, Elkhart, IN; *Emporia Gazette*, Emporia, KS; *Emporia Weekly Gazette*, Emporia, KS; *Flint Journal*, Flint, MI; *Fort Wayne News and Sentinel*, Fort Wayne, IN; *Gulfport Daily Herald*, Gulfport, MS; *Hays Daily News*, Hays, KS; *Hays Free Press*, Hays, KS; *Hutchinson News*, Hutchinson, KS; *Idaho Statesman*, Boise, ID; *Iola Daily Register*, Iola, KS; *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, Jonesboro, AR; *Joplin Globe*, Joplin, MO; *Kalamazoo Gazette*, Kalamazoo, MI; *Kansas City Star*, Kansas City, MO; *Kokomo Daily Tribune*, Kokomo, IN; *Lawrence Daily Journal World*, Lawrence, KS; *LeMans Semi-Weekly Sentinel*, LeMans, IA; *Lexington Herald*, Lexington, KY; *Liberal Democrat*, Liberal, KS; *Liberal News*, Liberal, KS; *Lima Daily News*, Lima, OH; *Lincoln State Journal*, Lincoln, NE; *Logansport Pharos-Tribune*, Logansport, IN; *Miami District Daily News*, Miami, OK; *Muldrow Sun*, Muldrow, OK;

Nakara News, Belleville, KS; *New Orleans Item*, New Orleans, LA; *New Orleans States*, New Orleans, LA; *New York Times*, New York, NY; *New York Tribune*, New York, NY; *Newcastle News*, Newcastle, PA; *Oakland Tribune*, Oakland, CA; *Omaha World Herald*, Omaha, NE; *Oregonian*, Portland, OR; *Oshkosh Daily Northwestern*, Oshkosh, WI; *Oskaloosa Daily Herald*, Oskaloosa, IA; *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Philadelphia, PA; *Plaindealer*, Topeka, KS; *Richmond Times Dispatch*, Richmond, VA; *Riverside Daily Press*, Riverside, CA; *Riverside Independent Enterprise*, Riverside, CA; *Saginaw News*, Saginaw, MI; *Salina Journal*, Salina, KS; *Salt Lake Telegram*, Salt Lake City, UT; *San Antonio Evening News*, San Antonio, TX; *San Diego Union*, San Diego, CA; *Sandusky Star Journal*, Sandusky, OH; *Scandia Journal*, Scandia, KS; *Seattle Daily Times*, Seattle, WA; *Springfield Republican*, Springfield, MA; *St. Albans Daily Messenger*, St. Albans, VT; *Thomas Daily Times*, Thomasville, GA; *Times Picayune*, New Orleans, LA; *Topeka Capital Journal*, Topeka, KS; *Topeka Daily Capital*, Topeka, KS; *Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, KS; *Trenton Evening Times*, Trenton, NJ; *Twin Falls News*, Twin Falls, ID; *Twin Falls Weekly News*, Twin Falls, ID; *Van Wert Daily Bulletin*, Van Wert, OH; *Washington Herald*, Washington, D.C.; *Waterloo Evening Courier*, Waterloo, IA; *Waterloo Times Tribune*, Waterloo, IA; *Wellsboro Agitator*, Wellsboro, PA; *Wichita Eagle*, Wichita, KS.

Secondary Sources

Books

Chinn, Jennie, *The Kansas Journey*. Layton, UT: Gibbs Smith, 2005.

Connelley, William. *A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans*. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1918.

Coppens, Linda Miles. *What American Women Did, 1789-1920: A Year-by-Year Reference*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Co., 2001.

DuBois, Ellen Carol. *Woman Suffrage & Women's Rights*. New York: New York University Press, 1998.

Flexner, Eleanor. *Century of Struggle: The Women's Right Movement in the United States, 3rd Ed.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1996, first published in 1959.

Kaufman, Gina. *More Than Petticoats: The Remarkable Women of Kansas*. Gulliford, CT: Morris Book Publishing, LLC, 2012.

Lemons, J. Stanley. *The Woman Citizen: Social Feminism in the 1920s*. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1973.

Tilley, Louise and Patricia Gurin, eds. *Women, Politics and Change*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1992.

Wheeler, Marjorie Spruill. *One Woman, One Vote: Rediscovering the Woman's Suffrage Movement*. Troutdale, OR: New Sage Press, 1995.

Scholarly Journal Articles/Magazines

Baker, Paula. "The Domestication of Politics: Women and American Political Society, 1780-1920." *The American Historical Review* 89, no. 3 (June 1984): 620-647. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1856119> (accessed March 3, 2014).

Clanton, Gene. "Populism, Progressivism, and Equality: The Kansas Paradigm." *Agricultural History* 51, no. 3 (July 1977): 559-581. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3741723> (accessed March 3, 2014).

Clark, Janet. "Getting There: Women in Political Office." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 515, American Feminism: New Issues for a Mature Movement (May 1991): 63-76. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1046928> (accessed March 3, 2014).

Connelley, William E. "Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society." *The Washington Historical Quarterly* 7, no. 2 (April 1916): 171-172. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40474614> (accessed March 17, 2014).

Cott, Nancy F. "Feminist Politics in the 1920s: The National Woman's Party." *The Journal of American History* 71, no. 1 (June 1984): 43-68. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1899833> (accessed March 17, 2014).

DuBois, Ellen C. "The Radicalism of the Woman Suffrage Movement: Notes toward the Reconstruction of Nineteenth-Century Feminism." *Feminist Studies* 3, no. 1/2 (Autumn 1975): 63-71. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3518956> (accessed March 17, 2014).

Goldberg, Michael Lewis. "Non-Partisan and All-Partisan: Rethinking Woman Suffrage and Party Politics in Gilded Age Kansas," *The Western Historical Quarterly* 25, no. 1 (Spring, 1994): 21-44. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/971068> (accessed March 3, 2014).

McCammom, Holly J. and Karen E. Campbell. "Winning the Vote in the West: The Political Successes of the Women's Suffrage Movements, 1866-1919." *Gender and Society* 15, no. 1 (February 2001): 55-82. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3081830> (accessed March 17, 2014).

McDonagh, Eileen L. and H. Douglas Price. "Woman Suffrage in the Progressive Era: Patterns of Opposition and Support in Referenda Voting, 1910-1918." *The American Political Science Review* 79, no. 2 (June 1985): 415-435. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1956657> (accessed March 17, 2014).

Ostrogorski, M. "Woman Suffrage in Local Self-Government." *Political Science Quarterly* 6, no. 4 (December 1891): 677-710. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2139204> (accessed March 17, 2014).

I, Lori Lynn Enicks-Kniss, hereby submit this thesis/report to Emporia State University as partial fulfillment of the requirements for an advanced degree. I agree that the Library of the University may make it available to use in accordance with its regulations governing materials of this type. I further agree that quoting, photocopying, digitizing or other reproduction of this document is allowed for private study, scholarship (including teaching) and research purposes of a nonprofit nature. No copying which involves potential financial gain will be allowed without written permission of the author. I also agree to permit the Graduate School at Emporia State University to digitize and place this thesis in the ESU institutional repository.

Signature of Author

April 16, 2014

Date

“THE LADY FROM SEWARD” – MINNIE J. GRINSTEAD, THE FIRST WOMAN
ELECTED TO THE KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Title of Thesis

Signature of Graduate School Staff

Date Received