

## DONATION OF HISTORIC OBJECT

Title: Secretary of State Election Certification for Clara Cressingham

Object: This object is the official document from the Secretary of State's Office certifying the election of Clara Cressingham

Date: December 18, 1884

Size: 21.75" H x 16.5" W

Condition: Poor. Has several stains, holes, and creases. The original ribbon from the seal is still there, but in bad condition. Signs of old spider nests and other debris of unknown origin.

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Donated by: Robert Martin  
Fairbanks, AK  
Cell: 907-378-8100  
Home: 907-457-5761

Mr. Martin explained that he found this item in his mother's possessions. He donated it to the Capitol as he thought this was the best place for it.

Donated on: February 6, 2018

Received by: Damion Pechota, Legislative Council Staff

Possession: Legislative Council Staff, Capitol Building Advisory Committee Staff

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History: Clara Cressingham was elected to the Colorado legislature in the 1894 election. This was the first election where women could vote and run for political office in Colorado. Cressingham was one of three woman elected in 1894, being the first women elected to a state legislature in the United States.

Ms. Cressingham also made history by being the first woman to hold a leadership position for a major political party in a state. She served as the Republican Caucus Chair for the House Republicans.

Text: CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION.  
STATE OF COLORADO.  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

I, Nelson O. McCleese, Secretary of State of the State of Colorado, do hereby Certify that at a meeting held at this office in the City of Denver on the [First] day of December, A.D. 189[4]

Hon. H. Waite, Governor

Nelson O. McClees, Sec'y of State    Albert Nance, Trea's

Eudgene Engley, Att'y Gen'l    F.M. Goodykoonts, Auditor constituting the State Board of Canvassers of the State of Colorado, proceeded to examine and make statements of the whole number of votes given at an election held on the [6<sup>th</sup>] day of November, A.D. 189[4] for offices mentioned in Section fifty-three of an act of the General Assembly of said State, entitled "Elections" and approved March 8<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1877, that were voted for at said election; which statements, certified to be correct and subscribed by the members of said State Board of Canvassers, with a certificate of their determination as to what persons were duly elected to such offices, or any of them, endorsed and subscribed thereon, were filed in my office.

I FURTHER CERTIFY That, by said statements and certificates of determination it appears that

[Clara Cressingham]

[having received the Eighth highest number of votes cast for one person, said number being Thirty-two Thousand six hundred and eleven (32611) votes, for the office of Member of the House of Representatives of the State of Colorado, in the Tenth General Assembly from the County of Arapahoe.]

Wasby said State Board of Canvassers declared duly elected to said office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the City of Denver, this [Eighteenth.] day of December, A.D. 189[4.]

[ --signature of Nelson O. McClees-- ]  
Secretary of State

Pioneer Litho Co. Denver

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Location:        Legislative Council Staff (2/6/2018)

Restoration:

Add. Info.