



Women's Suffrage Commission

Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

To: United States Board of Geographic Names
From: New York State Women's Suffrage Commission
Date: November 20, 2019
Subject: Support for Renaming Mount Discovery as Mount Inez, USBGN Proposal
No. 9758/Mount Inez/New York

The New York State Women's Suffrage Commission strongly supports the proposal submitted to you on September 17, 2019, to make official an early 20th century decision of the Town of Lewis, New York, to rename Mount Discovery as Mount Inez.

We hope that the United States Board of Geographic Names (USBGN) will act affirmatively on this proposal by 2020 so that the official renaming as Mount Inez may be included in the nation's and Lewis' celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. This memorandum repeats some of what is in the proposal in order to provide context for the supplemental materials that are attached.

Inez Milholland Boissevain dedicated her life to the pursuit of human rights and served as an instrumental leader in the Women's Suffrage movement of the 20th Century. Beginning with her time in New York's own Vassar College, Ms. Milholland Boissevain orchestrated secretive pro-suffrage meetings and organized her campus for the cause, much to the dismay of the college's administration. Defying all expectations and restrictions for women in the 1910's Milholland Boissevain graduated from Vassar and attended New York University School of Law.

Milholland Boissevain agitated for women's suffrage by intercepting and pressuring presidents from William Howard Taft to Woodrow Wilson, and converting scores more activists to the cause along the way. Beyond her local acclaim, Milholland Boissevain served as a pacifist war correspondent in Italy during the first World War, supported Emmeline Pankhurst and our British sisters in their fight for women's suffrage across the Atlantic, and joined numerous labor strikes.

As a commission, we urge you to act swiftly to codify this name change and honor one of New York's heroes, as this would coincide with the monumental 100th anniversary of initial women's suffrage. Furthermore, as referenced in our supporting documents and in numerous other letters of support, although the location in question is technically named Mount Discovery, there has already been a renaming process, and Mount Inez serves as the de-facto name for the mountain for many. Your expeditious action would serve to codify this previous change and cement the phenomenal life and lasting activism of Inez Milholland Boissevain and the women's suffrage movement.

Sincerely,

Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul,
Chair, New York State Women's Suffrage Commission



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CC: New York State Women's Suffrage Commission Members

Senator **Betty Little**

Senator **Velmanette Montgomery**

RoAnn Destito, Commissioner, NYS Office of General Services

Laura E. Free, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of History, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Deborah Hughes, President & CEO, The National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House

Jennifer Lemak, Representative of the NYS Education Department

Dare Thompson, President of the League of Women Voters of New York State

Sally Roesch Wagner, Executive Director, The Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation

Eve Walter, Director of Research & Evaluation, SUNY New Paltz's Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives

Damali Wynter, Sr. Business Development and Strategic Contracts Specialist, New York State's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Susan Zimet, President, 2020: Project Women