

# Suffragette Leader Dies

## Mrs. Martha Bringhurst, Banker's Widow, Was Active in Church Work

Mrs. Martha Penny Derickson Bringhurst, 80, widow of Frederick Bringhurst and an early suffragette in the movement for women's rights in Delaware, died this morning at her home, 1801 Market Street.

Mrs. Bringhurst was born in that house. Her husband, an Episcopal Church leader and retired banker who died two years ago, was born in the house next door. Both buildings, of gray fieldstone, are about 200 years

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old, among the oldest in the city.

Mrs. Bringhurst was herself a leader in the church—a past president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Delaware and a Sunday school teacher at the Cathedral Church of St. John from the age of 13 until she was 72. In the later years she led the women's Bible class.

She was among the Delaware women who played a large role in founding the National Women's Party, which she served for years as vice president.

She was a former president of the League of Women Voters and of the New Century Club of Wilmington, member of the City Federation of Women's Clubs and the Wilmington Drama League. She had been a director of Woods Haven School.

### Inherited House

Born Nov. 18, 1876, she was a daughter of David Derickson and Sarah Derickson Harvey Derickson. The Market Street House was willed to her by her mother. Originally, the house was a wedding present to Mrs. Bringhurst's maternal grandmother.

Mrs. Bringhurst was educated briefly in Friends School and then by private tutors. She was married to Mr. Bringhurst Oct. 17, 1906. They had no children.

She is survived by two first cousins, Mrs. Henry M. Lodge of Denbigh Hall and Mrs. Catherine Winslow Shelnut. Since Mrs. Shelnut was a child, she lived with Mrs. Bringhurst part of the time and, in recent years, had cared for her. Also surviving are three children and eight grandchildren of Mrs. Shelnut, a brother-in-law, and nieces and nephews of her husband.

### Private Rites Monday

Private funeral services will be held in the residence Monday at 4 p. m. with interment in Old Swedes Cemetery. Her grave will be among her ancestors, who include most of Delaware's colonial families.

There will be no viewing and it is requested that flowers be omitted.

Her husband, affectionately called "The Bishop of Marshallton," had been treasurer of the Diocese of Delaware more than 50 years until his death, and retired in 1947 after 47 years as an officer of the Wilmington Savings Fund Society. In his will, he left 30 acres of his family's Marshallton estate to St. Barnabas' Church.

When Mr. and Mrs. Bringhurst were honored six years ago this January by the Cathedral Church of St. John, the Rev. Dr. Joseph H. Earp, honorary canon, said, "Their crowning service is their work as a team when they visit the sick or give comfort to those in need."