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Wisconsin Historical Foundation

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Letters

My great-great aunt was Lavinia Goodell, the first woman lawyer in Wisconsin. I found an article on her in WMH 74, No. 4, summer 1991. In it a photo is shown of a girl I'm positive is not Lavinia Goodell. The author of the article passed away in 2010. I have family photos and would be happy to provide scans of them to you for a correction. The photo has appeared online as being representative of Miss Goodell and so the error has been propagated.

Beverly S. Wright, PhD
Via email



This is the photo published with the 1991 article. You can read the article in its entirety online at: <http://wihist.org/wmh1991>. We received the photo below from Dr. Wright.



COURTESY OF BEVERLY S. WRIGHT, PHD

Lavinia Goodell (1839–1880) lived in Janesville (Rock Co.), and was admitted to the bar in 1874. Prohibited from appearing before the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 1875, she appealed their decision and ultimately won, ensuring the right of women to practice law in Wisconsin.