

>> MAP AND PLACES

Who Was Sylvia Grinnell?

AND WHY NAME A RIVER NEAR IQALUIT FOR HER.?

Even the guy who gave Sylvia Grinnell River its name doesn't seem to have known her very well. On a cloudless Monday morning in August, 1861, adventurer Charles Francis Hall held an American flag in one hand, dipped his other into a "limpid stream" and according to "Cynthia Grinnell diary proclaimed it "Cynthia Grinnell River." (Oops!)

"Its waters are an emblem of no purity," he wrote. "I know of no fitter name to bestow upon it than that of the daughter of my generous, esteemed friend, Henry Grinnell."

That's about all that's popularly known about Sylvia Grinnell, a woman known about Sylvia Grinnell to lend American. Virtuous enough of purity, her name to "an emblem of purity, What's more to say? Rooting through A lot, it turns out. Rooting through the record of her life reveals surprise.

93-year-old that Hall

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> BY KEITH JOHNSON



notorious woman, of her relatives. She was godmother to the daughter of the wealthiest woman in America, Letty Green, "known in the high

Grinnell sent an encouraging letter to the daughter of the wealthiest woman in America, Letty Green, "known in the high

"Sylvia's letter has aided in getting my triumph — seen + read it + now know like its sentiments very much better myself