Finding Aid to the
Vera Kelsey Papers

Kelsey, Vera
Vera Kelsey Papers, 1944-1958
2 linear ft.
Collection number: Mss 11

OVERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY

Vera Kelsey was born June 1891 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the daughter of William H. and Isabel Oliver (Woods) Kelsey. The family moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota before 1900 where Miss Kelsey grew up and graduated in 1914 from the University of North Dakota. She also attended the University of Washington, and Brown University where she received her Master’s Degree in sociology. Miss Kelsey then went to the Orient where she was a feature writer from 1920 to 1922 for the North China Daily News in Shanghai. Returning to this country she worked for a year in the editorial department of the Fargo Forum in Fargo, N. D. She then spent some time in New York and traveled extensively in Europe, Japan, and in South and Central America. While there she wrote several books on the area. After World War II
Miss Kelsey returned to the Midwest, living several years in Grand Forks, where she wrote several mystery novels and also began her work on regional history.

Miss Kelsey served as Assistant Editor of the *Theater Arts* magazine, and was director of public relations for the American Woman's Association and the American Woman's Club. She was a member of the American Woman's Association, the Author's League of America, and the Fargo branch of the National League of American Pen Women. In her later years Miss Kelsey resided in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She died on May 20, 1961 in St. Paul.


**SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Vera Kelsey papers consist almost entirely of the manuscripts and research notes for her last four books. The correspondence is very scattered, dealing mainly with research information requests, and are mostly copies taken from the various manuscripts where the reverse side was used for research notes. The newspaper clippings are area articles connected with the publication of her various books. The sheet music is Red River Valley related songs to include, *Assiniboine Lullaby* and *My Prairie Rose* by Andrew Mulligan, *The Red River Jig*, and *Zapatoe* from *The Red River Jig*.

The **Manuscripts Series**, all of which are typed, are for her books, *British Columbia Rides a Star*, *Red River Runs North!*, *Tomorrow is for You*, and *Young Men So Daring*. For *British Columbia Rides a Star* it includes her travel notes from four trips around British Columbia, research notes of which some are paginated, and her manuscripts as well as the photograph proof sheets.

The **Research Series** is Miss Kelsey's research notes on the Red River Valley which are paginated and quite extensive. The notes also include material on Minnesota, western Canada, Manitoba, and even the western United States, but usually as to how they have influenced the Red River Valley area. *For Red River Runs North!* is included a near final manuscript, reader's proof sheets and galley proofs as well as promotional material and the original maps used in the book.

For *Tomorrow is For You* is included Miss Kelsey's research notes with many of the reverse sheets containing typed drafts of her manuscript for *Young Men So Daring*. There are also two different sets of reader's proof sheets. Finally, the manuscripts for *Young Men So Daring* include research notes, most of which are in the general file covering the general theme of the development of the West, a typed final manuscript, and several manuscript criticisms. On the reverse side of the research notes is a typed draft of *Tomorrow is for You*. 
SEPARATION RECORD

The following non-manuscript items were removed from the Vera Kelsey papers and have been sent to the section indicated:

Maps (Institute map collection)
- Voorhies, Shephen J. *Gateways to the Red River Valley*

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4/18 Book jacket material
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Tomorrow is for You

5/3 Research notes (p. 1 – 50) (Reverse: manuscript for Young Men So Daring)
5/4 Research notes (p. 51 – 100) (Reverse: manuscript for Young Men So Daring)
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