

Guide to the Verna Mortensen Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Mortensen, Verna Calista Cox, 1904-1979
Title:	Verna Mortensen Papers
ID:	MS-00163
Date [inclusive]:	1966-1979
Physical Description:	0.2 Linear Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Verna Mortensen Papers (1966-1979) document the work of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Clark County chapter to preserve and restore the Las Vegas, Nevada Mormon Fort. The collection contains newspaper clippings, notes, and a grant application for the Mormon Fort. It also includes an undated article about the history of the Las Vegas area and two eulogies given for Verna Mortensen.

Preferred Citation

Verna Mortensen Papers, 1966-1979. MS-00163. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Teacher Verna Mortensen (1904-1979) was born to Frank and Elthera Cox in Bunkerville, Nevada. The family relocated to St. George, Utah in 1910. Verna Mortensen went on to graduate from Dixie State Junior College in St. George. She served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the Eastern United States.

In 1929 she married James Mortensen and the couple moved to a ranch in the San Luis Valley of Colorado. They couple had four children. Verna Mortensen moved back to St. George, Utah in 1949 and worked as a teacher at the local elementary school. She moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1960 and taught at Mountain View Elementary School and Crestwood Elementary School before retiring in 1969.

Following her retirement, Verna Mortensen became active in the Clark County chapter of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers (DUP). In 1971, members elected her president of the Clark County DUP, and went on to reelect her four times. With the DUP, she led efforts to preserve and restore the Las Vegas Mormon Fort.

She served on the board of the Preservation Association of Clark County and received commendations for her work with the Las Vegas Mormon Fort. Mortensen passed away on April 26, 1979.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Verna Mortensen Papers (1966-1979) document the work of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Clark County chapter to preserve and restore the Las Vegas, Nevada Mormon Fort. The collection contains newspaper clippings, notes, and a grant application for the Mormon Fort. It also includes an undated article about the history of the Las Vegas area and two eulogies given for Verna Mortensen.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1979 to Special Collections; accession number 79-203.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2016, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Angela Moor revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The photographs in this acquisition were removed from the collection and placed in Verna Mortensen Photograph Collection. PH-00089. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Las Vegas Mormon Fort (Nev.)
- Historic preservation
- Daughters of Utah Pioneers

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Article on Las Vegas history, author unknown, undated	box 01	folder 01
Eulogies, Verna Mortensen, 1979 April 30	box 01	folder 02
Las Vegas Mormon Fort, grant application and newspaper clippings, 1966-1976	box 01	folder 03