

Guide to the Lorena Kelly Papers

1935-1977



Lorena Kelly Papers

1935-1977

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The purpose of this finding aid is to help you understand the nature of this collection and to assist you in the retrieval of material from this collection. The following pages contain a brief biographical history of the person, or persons, who created or collected these papers, followed by a general description of the collection in the scope and content note. If more detailed information is warranted then series descriptions also appear. The container listing appears last and is the listing of material in each box, or container, of this collection.

To request material you need to turn to the container listing section. It is essentially a listing of file folders, or artifact items, in the collection. Each folder, or item, has a call number associated with it. Each folder also lists the inclusive dates of the material in the folder. On the material request form list both the call number and the folder, or item, title. Use a different line for each folder, or item, requested. When your request sheet is complete, or full, bring it to the archivist and the material will be retrieved.

Biographical Note

Katherine Lorena Kelly (1903-?), American missionary, was born at Mt. Mourne, North Carolina on May 17, 1903. She received a B. A. from the University of North Carolina and an M.A. from Scarritt College (Tennessee). Kelly was a Methodist Episcopal, Methodist and United Methodist Church missionary in the Central Zaire Conference for thirty-three years. In 1936, she arrived in what was then The Belgian Congo, after spending a short time in Belgium for French language instruction. Kelly served as an education worker directing primary schools, organized a junior high school for women, and taught in various institutions. During her tenure, Kelly served in Tunda, Wembo Nyama, Lubondai and Lodja. She witnessed the transfers of powers from the Colonial Committee of Fourteen in Belgium to the eventual rule of Joseph Mobutu, later known as Mobutu Sese Seko. In 1960, the Congo civil war ended with independence for the former colony which was now known as the Republic of the Congo. Kelly, along with other missionaries in the area, fled to what is now Kitwe, Zambia, during the war and did not return full-time until early 1965. Upon her return she served as dean of the Congo Polytechnique Institute. In 1969, Kelly retired from active missionary work and returned to the United States of America.

Scope Note

This collection contains correspondence and news letters from Kelly written between 1936 and 1969. A 1969 farewell address is included. In addition, an autobiographical manuscript entitled "I Saw It Happen" is part of this collection. This typed manuscript is 172 pages and includes several corrections and notations. It was published in 1977 by Bitmore Press.

Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. Due to the limited extent of the collection, there are no series or subseries.

Related Material

Additional information on Kelly is located in the Records of the Methodist Church, Board of Missions Missionary Files Series; and the Records of the United Methodist Church, General Board of Global Ministries (Accession 1982-059).

Additional information can also be found at: Joyner Library, East Carolina University, East Fifth Street, Greenville, NC.



Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Restrictions on Use

Detailed use restrictions relating to our collections can be requested from the office of the archivist at the General Commission on Archives and History. Photocopying is handled by the staff and may be limited in certain instances. Before using any material for publication from this collection a formal request for permission to publish is expected and required.

Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Lorena Kelly Papers, United Methodist Church Archives - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

Subject Terms

Subject Topics

Missions.

Women

Subject Geographic

Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Zaire

Genre

Autobiographies

Correspondence

Manuscripts.

Newsletters

Occupations

Missionary.

Container List

| Call Number | Folder Title | Date(s) |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1305-3-4:1 | Correspondence | 1935 |
| 1305-3-4:2 | Correspondence | 1936 |
| 1305-3-4:3 | Correspondence | 1937 |
| 1305-3-4:4 | Correspondence | 1938 |
| 1305-3-4:5 | Correspondence | 1939 |
| 1305-3-4:6 | Correspondence | 1940 |
| 1305-3-4:7 | Correspondence | 1941 |
| 1305-3-4:8 | Correspondence | 1942 |
| 1305-3-4:9 | Correspondence | 1943 |
| 1305-3-4:10 | Correspondence | 1944-1948 |
| 1305-3-4:11 | Correspondence | 1949-1955 |
| 1305-3-4:12 | Correspondence | 1956-1957 |
| 1305-3-4:13 | Correspondence | 1960 |
| 1305-3-4:14 | Correspondence | 1961 |
| 1305-3-4:15 | Correspondence | 1962-1963 |
| 1305-3-4:16 | Correspondence | 1964 |
| 1305-3-4:17 | Correspondence | 1965 |
| 1305-3-4:18 | Correspondence | 1967 |
| 1305-3-4:19 | Correspondence | 1968 |
| 1305-3-4:20 | Correspondence | 1969-1970 |
| 1305-3-4:21 | Newsletters | 1936-1969 |
| 1305-3-4:22 | Farewell messages | 1969 |
| 1305-3-4:23 | Manuscript | 1977 |