



## Guide to the Verna Mortensen Papers

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Biographical Note .....	3
Scope and Contents Note .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Related Materials .....	5
Names and Subjects .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	5

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Mortensen, Verna Calista Cox, 1904-1979
<b>Title:</b>	Verna Mortensen Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00163
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1966-1979
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.2 Linear Feet (1 box)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical Note

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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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents Note

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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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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Materials remain in original order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### 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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Related Materials

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### 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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Names and Subjects

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

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## Collection Inventory

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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