

Finding Aid for the **NAOMI AND RAYNER KELSEY PAPERS, 1803-1952**
Collection No. 950

1 document box (.5 linear ft.)
Special Collections
Haverford College Library
May 2006
©May 2006

Gift of Sherma Kelsey, 1990, 1991, 1992
Accession #5417, 5568, 5531, 5468, 6913, 6981

Abstract

Papers of Rayner W. Kelsey and Naomi Kelsey which reveal their Quaker interests and connections, primarily through correspondence, a diary and sermons.

Information for Users:

Abbreviations of RWK= Rayner W. Kelsey and NBK= Naomi B. Kelsey may be used.

All dates are standardized rather than transcribed, viz: yr mo/day.

Restrictions:

No restrictions.

Biographical Note:

Rayner Wickersham Kelsey (1879-1935), a graduate of Earlham College received a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of California in 1909. From 1901 to 1904, he was professor of German and public speaking at Pacific College (now George Fox) in Oregon and then at Whittier College in California until 1909. In 1909, he was appointed professor of American history at Haverford College and Curator of its Quaker Collection. Kelsey was an authority on Quakers and Indians; he authored the book *Friends and the Indians* in 1917. He was also author of the *Centennial History of Moses Brown School* and a short biography of William Penn. He m. Naomi Binford in 1901. He was a member of Haverford Monthly Meeting and a Quaker minister.

Naomi Kelsey (1875/6-1967) was a member of Haverford Monthly Meeting and president of the Haverford College Women's Faculty Club.

Information from: newspaper clippings, Dictionary of Quaker Biography and necrology.

Subject headings:

Kelsey, Naomi
Kelsey, Rayner
Kelsey, Sherma
Kelsey, Wilfred
Jones, Elizabeth B.
Jones, Rufus M.
Ly, J. Usang
Scott, Roderick
Sharpless, Isaac
Wilson, Albert H.

Church work with Indians – Society of Friends
Haverford College – history.
Indians of North America

Genre heading:

Diaries

Series:

Correspondence
Diaries
Sermons and talks
Photographs
Miscellaneous

Collection Description:

The papers include the correspondence of Rayner and Naomi Kelsey and letters to Wilfred and Sherma Kelsey. Correspondents include: John B. Garrett, Rayner W. Kelsey, Elizabeth B. Jones, Rufus M. Jones, J. Usang Ly, Roderick Scott, Isaac Sharpless, and Albert H. Wilson. There is a diary kept by Naomi Kelsey, probably in 1936, during a leg of a world cruise, recording events in China, Japan, Hong Kong and Hawaii and discussing people with whom she visits. There are sermons and talks of Rayner Kelsey that span several topics and decades. Finally, there are a number of miscellaneous objects including a badge created during Henry Clay's run for the presidency.

Series I: Correspondence

Correspondence of Rayner and Naomi Kelsey, 1909-1952; Letters to Wilfred and Sherma Kelsey, 1947-49. 1 folder.

I. Correspondence of Rayner and Naomi Kelsey:

Letter writers include:

John B. Garrett, Rayner W. Kelsey, Elizabeth B. Jones, Mary Hoxie Jones, Rufus M. Jones, Anna Rhoads Ladd, J. Usang Ly, Roderick Scott, Isaac Sharpless, Lydia Sharpless, Albert H. Wilson.

Highlights include:

Garrett, John B. to RWK. Rosemont, Pa. 1909 4/13. [RWK has been confirmed as an instructor in history at Haverford College]

Kelsey, Rayner W. to Arthur H. Thomas. 1920. 5 items. [describes his trip to England and Germany, including prices of goods, attending and speaking at Friends' Meeting, attending All-Friends' Conference, where speeches quite "radical"; seeing Friends' work of reconciliation in Germany]

Jones, Elizabeth B. to Naomi Kelsey. 1934-52. 3 items. [condolence on the death of RWK and general friendly concerns]

Jones, Rufus M. to Rayner, Naomi and Wilfred Kelsey. 1909-46. 4 items. [pleased RWK has accepted job at Haverford; solidity and future promise for American Quakers; condolence on death of RWK]

Ladd, Anna Rhoads to Naomi Kelsey. Bryn Mawr, Pa., 1943 7/13. [unit that was to train at Haverford for work in China assembled, teachers and all, but Congress would not allow it]

Ly, J. Usang to NBK. China, 1936-1940. 2 items. [some predictions that Japan may declare against China, illustrated by the Chengtu incident; may not be able to attend reunion at Haverford] photograph of a group including Ly accompanies 1936 letter

Scott, Roderick. Foochow, [China], 1937 10/15. Circular letter. [life in China in war time]

Sharpless, Isaac to RWK. 1909. 3 items. [relating to recruitment and appointment of RWK to teach history at Haverford]

Sharpless, Lydia to RWK & NBK. Haverford, Pa. 1919 12/12. [thanks for gift of fruit and update on health of Isaac Sharpless]

Wilson, Albert H. to NBK. Haverford, Pa., 1936 2/8. [news about people at Haverford] photograph of NBK dressed up as Margaret Fell Fox accompanies the letter

II. Letters to Wilfred and Sherma Kelsey

Wilson, Albert . 1947-1949. 3 items. [ideas for research needs; "criticism" sometimes heard that under Gilbert White, Haverford is becoming a Quaker institution; discussion in Meetings on the efficacy of First Day schools

Series II: Diaries

Diary of world cruise taken by Naomi Kelsey, 1936? Vol. II. 1 folder.

Diary describes places visited by Naomi Kelsey while on a world cruise aboard the S.S. Reliance, including Hong Kong, China, Japan and Hawaii. Kelsey mentions meeting such people and Gilbert and Minnie Pickett Bowles, Esther Rhoads, Gurney Binford, Edith Sharpless, J. Usang Li and others. Included as well are snapshots, postcards, clippings, but also a letter from Albert Wilson, dated February 8, 1936 (moved to correspondence) stating that he has learned of her being in Bombay, thus the attribution of 1936 to this diary.

Series III: Sermons

Sermons and talks of Rayner Kelsey, 1909-1925 & n.d. 4 folders.

Note: These are RWK's notes toward talks in various places. Most talks have a title, date and place given on the envelopes which contained the notes. Some envelopes are empty. There are a few photographs of Native Americans in folder 4 (n.d.)

Topics include: Friends and Indians, Native Americans, Society of Friends

Highlights include:

"Indian Meeting," n.d. includes letter from Mary Peters, New Stockbridge, 1803 9/19. [report on farming and housing of Native Americans]

"Indian Notes, n.d., includes document of shipment of an anvil and bellows, and marked "Senecas at Catarogus"

Photographs of Myra Fry, McCloud, OK and Mrs. Sueze Black Dog, Hominy, n.d.

Series IV: Photographs

Photographs at Pacific (now George Fox College), 1901-1904. 1 folder (ca. 10 items)

Note: The photographs are of groups, perhaps faculty, one identifying Rayner and Naomi Kelsey, and a few of the interior of their home.

Series V: Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous. 1 folder.

- Henry Clay badge as candidate for president in 1842 and miniature oval portrait
- All-Quaker program, 1900 (Friends Bible Institute)
- Clippings re Rayner Kelsey
- Cartoon drawn by Wendell Blancke, HC class of 1929, depicting class taught by Rayner Kelsey.
- Post card: "Mission des Amis," n.d. but post W.W.I

Quakeriana Notes, 1933-1935. 1 booklet

Note: Quakeriana Notes were issued by the Quaker Collection of Haverford College and published by Haverford College. They were edited by Rayner Kelsey until his death in 1935.

Attached to the inside front cover is a poem written by J. Russell Hayes upon the death of RWK. Laid in are 7 letters of RWK to Hayes, librarian at Swarthmore College.

Highlights of these letters include:

Haverford, Pa., 1930 10/17. [refers to account of visit of Friends to Indians of NY in 1806 and 1837]

Haverford, Pa. 1932 12/2. [Exeter Monthly Meeting has deposited their records at Swarthmore]

Haverford, Pa. 1933 10/11. ["Quakeriana Notes" were conceived by RWK]