

South Dakota State University

Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange

Archives Finding Aids

University Archives and Special Collections

2025

Stewart, Beryl Papers

SDSU Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library

Follow this and additional works at: https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/archives_finding_aids

Recommended Citation

SDSU Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, "Stewart, Beryl Papers" (2025). *Archives Finding Aids*. 14.

https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/archives_finding_aids/14

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives and Special Collections at Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Archives Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. For more information, please contact michael.biondo@sdstate.edu.

Beryl Stewart Papers

Collection Summary

Identifier: MA 14

Title: Beryl Stewart Papers

Dates: 1923-1981

Extent: 27.44 linear feet (19 oversize boxes, 1 document case, 1 card file box)

Creator: Stewart, Beryl, 1899-1961

Language: English

Repository: South Dakota State University Archives & Special Collections, University Station, Box 2115, 1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, South Dakota, 57007

Access Note: Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

Preferred Citation: Title or description of item, date, MA 14, box number, folder number, Beryl Stewart Papers, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

Rhea Beryl DeHaven Stewart (1899–1961) was a South Dakota educator, writer, and advocate for literature and education. After beginning her teaching career at 16, she earned degrees from Northern State Teachers College and the State University of Iowa. She taught English and drama at Aberdeen Central High School. In 1943, she left teaching but remained active in writing and educational advocacy, serving on the South Dakota Board of Education (1947–1959) and as a delegate to President Eisenhower’s Conference on Education in 1955.

This collection preserves Stewart’s literary and professional legacy, including her manuscripts, published works, correspondence, and scrapbooks. Her essays, poems, and short stories appeared in numerous literary and rural publications, earning national

recognition and awards. The collection also features her involvement in literary organizations such as the National League of American Pen Women and the South Dakota Press Women. The scrapbooks document her career through correspondence, critiques, and clippings, providing insight into her influence on literature and education in South Dakota. This archive serves as a valuable resource for understanding Stewart's contributions as a writer, educator, and advocate for the arts.

Biography

Rhea Beryl DeHaven Stewart was born on September 2, 1899, in Linden, Iowa, to Albert and Eva DeHaven. She spent her early years in Iowa before moving with her parents to Capa, South Dakota, in 1907. In 1915, the family settled in Wessington, South Dakota, which remained her home for most of her life.

At just 16 years old, Beryl was drafted from high school to teach a rural class of 26 students. She later completed her high school education at Northern State Teachers College in Aberdeen, South Dakota, where she also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. During her college years, she was an active student assistant in various departments and a member of Kappa Delta Phi and Pi Kappa Delta honor societies, the Beaux Arts Club, and the *Pasque* Board. She also participated in forensics, dramatics, and stagecraft.

Beryl began her teaching career in 1927 at Roosevelt Junior High in Aberdeen. Later that year, she transitioned to teaching English and art at the newly established Simmons Junior High. By 1930, she was appointed Director of the English Department at Central High School in Aberdeen, where she taught English and drama and advised the Drama Club and *Word Craft*, a student publication she founded.

In 1932, Beryl earned a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from the State University of Iowa.

On January 24, 1943, she married Chase David Stewart and left her teaching career to become a farm homemaker near Wessington. However, she remained deeply engaged in literature and education. A prolific writer, she contributed poetry and prose to numerous publications and was an active member of the South Dakota Press Women and the National League of American Pen Women, serving as the latter's state president. Her works received national recognition, earning awards in poetry magazines, literary competitions, and South Dakota State Fair contests. Her achievements were noted in *Who's Who of American Women*, *Who's Who in South Dakota*, and *International Who's Who in Poetry*.

Despite stepping away from the classroom, Beryl continued advocating for education, serving on the South Dakota Board of Education from 1947 to 1959. In 1955, she was a delegate to President Eisenhower's Conference on Education. Following her husband's passing in February 1960, she returned to teaching English at Sioux Falls College.

Beryl DeHaven Stewart passed away on September 20, 1961.

Scope and Content

This collection is comprised of manuscripts, published works, and personal archives of Beryl Stewart, reflecting her contributions to literature and education. It includes newspaper clippings referencing Stewart, a book mentioning her, and multiple issues of *Word Craft*, a publication from Aberdeen Central High School where she served as an adviser. Her correspondence (1923–1942) contains reference letters and exchanges with publishers, offering insight into her professional relationships.

Stewart's manuscripts consist of essays, poems, and short stories, including entries for the South Dakota State Fair literature contests, some with critiques and awarded ribbons. Her published works appeared in various literary and rural publications, demonstrating her influence in both creative writing and regional literature. The scrapbooks, spanning multiple decades, preserve correspondence, publication clippings, and personal reflections, highlighting the breadth of her literary career and the reception of her work. This collection serves as a valuable resource for understanding Stewart's impact on South Dakota's literary and educational landscape.

Access Points

Subjects

- Poetry
- Poets, American
- Women educators

Names

- Stewart, Beryl, 1899-1961

Places

- South Dakota—Aberdeen

Genre

- Scrapbooks
-

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to all researchers, with materials accessible on-site only and not available for circulation.

For extensive research, scheduling an appointment in advance via phone or email is encouraged, including details about the research topic and intended use.

To access materials, researchers must complete and sign the Registration Form and provide proof of identity (e.g., University ID or driver's license). By signing, researchers agree to adhere to the Reading Room Rules. The registration document also includes guidelines on making copies of materials, correct referencing, and copyright obligations.

Conditions Governing Reproduction

South Dakota State University supports access to its collections, both published and unpublished. However, access to certain items may be restricted due to their fragile condition, donor agreements, or copyright.

Reproduction of materials is allowed for research purposes only, and written permission is required for publication or distribution.

Due to the delicate nature of some items, reproduction may be limited.

Copyright and Use Statement

In Copyright: This Item is protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use this Item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses, you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).

Materials in this collection may be subject to Title 17, Section 108 of the United States Copyright Act. Users are responsible for ensuring compliance with copyright, privacy, publicity, trademark, and other applicable rights for their intended use. Obtaining all necessary permissions is the user's responsibility. Written authorization from the copyright and/or other rights holders is required for publication, distribution, or any use of protected materials beyond what is permitted under fair use.

Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	International Who's Who in Poetry, vol. 2	1958
1	2	Language Arts Course of Study for SD High Schools - Bulletin 8B/8D : 10th & 12th year	1947
1	3	The Mirror	1933-1934
1	4	Newspaper clippings	1960, 1981, undated
1	5	Word Craft	1937
1	6	Word Craft	1941
1	7	Word Craft	1942
1	8	Word Craft	1944
1	9	Word Craft	1949
1	10	Correspondence	1923-1942
1	11	Booklet - Wild Plum [mss]	undated
1	12	English Course of Study [mss]	1939
1	13	Essays [mss]	undated
1	14	Poems [mss]	1960, undated
2	1	Short stories [mss]	1960, undated
2	2	State Fair Ribbons [mss]	1960
2	3	Thesis [mss]	1932
2	4	The American Bard	1960
2	5	The Archer	1951-1953
2	6	Blue Moon	1952, 1954-1956
2	7	Candor	1956
2	8	The Christian Science Monitor	1953-1955, 1957-1960
2	9	The Country Poet	1951-1952
2	10	The English Journal	1936
2	11	Epos	1950
2	12	The Farmer	1950, 1952-1954, 1956, 1962
2	13	Florida Magazine of Verse	1951-1952
2	14	From Sea to Sea in Song	1954

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
2	15	Ideals	1951-1952, 1954, 1956, 1961
2	16	The Improvement ERA	1954, 1956, 1961
2	17	Kaleidograph	1950-1951
2	18	Midwest Chaporrol	undated
2	19	The Muse	1958-1959
2	20	New Athenaeum	1950
2	21	New Verse Magazine	1950-1951
2	22	Palmetto Voices	1951
2	23	Paramount Collector-Hobbyist	1946-1947
2	24	Pasque Petals	1949-1950, 1958-1959
2	25	The Pen Woman	1955
2	26	Prairie Winds	1952
2	27	Reflections	1954
2	28	SDEA Journal	1955-1956
2	29	Seydell Quarterly	1956, 1960
2	30	The Sioux City Journal	1955, 1960
2	31	Stanza	1949
2	32	Unknown	undated
3		Scrapbook	1946-1959
4		Scrapbook	1947-1957
5		Scrapbook	1947-1959
6		Scrapbook	1947-1960
7		Scrapbook	1950-1953
8		Scrapbook	1951-1957
9		Scrapbook	1951-1959
10		Scrapbook	1951-1959
11		Scrapbook	1952-1955
12		Scrapbook	1952-1959
13		Scrapbook	1953-1956
14		Scrapbook	1953-1959
15		Scrapbook	1953-1960
16		Scrapbook	1954-1959
17		Scrapbook	1954-1960
18		Scrapbook	1955-1959
19		Scrapbook	1957-1960
20		Scrapbook	1959
21		Scrapbook	undated