

# V.E. Kelly papers

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Repository:</b>	Georgia Historical Society
<b>Creator:</b>	Kelly, V. E., (Vernon E.), b. 1915.
<b>Title:</b>	V.E. Kelly papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1740-1972
<b>Extent:</b>	1.0 cubic feet (2 boxes, 1 folder, 1 roll box)
<b>Identification:</b>	MS 1677

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## Biographical/Historical Note

Vernon E. "Tex" Kelly (b. 1915) was born on July 3 in Longview, Texas. He moved to Savannah, Georgia in 1942 and took up residence on Skidaway Island in 1974. Kelly was employed by the Union Camp Corporation and retired in 1975.

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## Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of drafts, research materials, and correspondence related to Kelly's book, *A Short History of Skidaway Island*. This book traces the development of Skidaway Island, a non-barrier island in Chatham County, Georgia immediately southwest of the city of Savannah. The book begins with Skidaway's archaeological history including brief descriptions of fossil evidence and past Native American populations, then extends into recorded history of the area from 1733 through most of the twentieth century. Kelly explores significant events, prominent residents, plantations, settlements, agriculture, and industry. The first edition of around 3000 books was published in 1980 and a second edition of 2500 copies followed in 1994. The second edition includes an additional chapter covering events and developments on the island since 1980.

The collection is arranged in 4 series: drafts and publication materials; research materials; book illustrations; and maps. The map series is subdivided into three subseries: Skidaway and Ogeechee Forest maps; dated maps; and undated maps. The majority of the materials are photocopies. The two exceptions are a penciled map on trace paper and a roughly sketched pen and marker map.

The folders containing the book illustrations and maps are noted as "VM" (visual materials) in the collection inventory.

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## Index Terms

Chatham County (Ga.)  
Illustrations (layout features)  
Kelly, V. E., (Vernon E.), b. 1915.  
Land subdivision--Georgia.  
Letters (correspondence)  
Maps (documents)  
Oyster industry--Georgia--Chatham County.  
Real property--Georgia.  
Research notes.  
Roebing, Dorothy Ripley, approximately 1904-1977.  
Skidaway Island (Ga.)  
Tree farms--Georgia.  
Union Camp Corporation.

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## Administrative Information

## Custodial History

Material was acquired from creator.

## Preferred Citation

[item identification], V.E. Kelly papers, MS 1677, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

## Acquisition Information

Gift of V.E. Kelly, 1998.

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## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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## Publication Note

Research published as *A Short History of Skidaway Island* by V.E. Kelly.

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## Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

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## Container List

### **SERIES 1:: Drafts and publication materials, 1979-1993**

This series contains prepublication drafts of both editions of the book as well as materials pertaining to the publication process.

First edition, 1980

#### **Box Fldr**

- |   |     |                                       |
|---|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1   | Handwritten draft with notes, undated |
|   | 2   | Typed draft with corrections, 1979    |
|   | 3-4 | Typed draft with notes, undated       |
|   | 5   | Publication notes, 1980, undated      |

6 Correspondence (readers' letters of appreciation), 1980-1981

Second edition, 1994

**Box Fldr**

1 7 Handwritten draft of "Chapter IX: Into the Nineties", undated

8 Typed draft of "Chapter IX: Into the Nineties" with notes, 1993

**SERIES 2:: Research materials, 1870-1994**

This series contains materials used by Kelly in gathering information for his book including research-related correspondence. General information on the island and the Savannah area is followed by information relevant to specific time periods organized by chapter.

General notes on Skidaway

**Box Fldr**

2 9 "The History of Northern Skidaway Island" by Mrs. Robert Roebing, 1971

10 General Research Notes on Skidaway Island, 1941-1980 (with gaps), undated

Notes on Skidaway by book chapter

**Box Fldr**

2 11 Chapter I: Archaeological History, 1978-1979

12 Chapter II: Colonial Period, 1980, 1992, undated

13 Chapter III: Revolutionary Period, 1979, 1994, undated

14 Chapter IV: Early Nineteenth Century, 1980, undated

15 Chapter V: War Between the States, undated

16 Chapter VI: Benedictines on Skidaway, 1969, 1978, undated

17 Chapter VII: Late Nineteenth-Early Twentieth Century, (with gaps, copies only), 1870-1923, undated.

(Note: This folder includes significant information concerning the oyster industry in Georgia.)

18 Chapter VIII: The Modern Period, 1949-1978

(with gaps)

Chapter IX: Into the Nineties

19 Landings Property Owners Materials, 1987-1993

**SERIES 3:: Book illustrations**

This series contains illustrations from V.E. Kelly's book, *A Short History of Skidaway Island*. Items 1-8 were originally in a folder entitled "Skidaway Chapter 1, talk Exchange Club 01/18/82.

**vm\_box Item**

- 1 1 United Skidaway Island, shows island in relation to Savannah area, out to I-16 and I-95, the airport, downtown, Tybee, etc., undated.

**vm\_box Item**

- 1 2 Giant sloth illustration (Megatherium)

**vm\_box Item**

- 1 3-8 Plates 1-6, depicts archaeological fragments (plates from Chester DePratter of UGA; he did an archaeological survey of Skidaway Island in 1975 for P.H. Lewis, the original owner of Skidaway Island Plantation)

**vm\_box Item**

- 1 9 "Map of Savannah Out-Settlements", 1740.  
Untitled Skidaway Island, titled in book

**vm\_box Item**

- 1 10 "Skidaway Island ownership, mid-eighteenth century", undated.

**vm\_box Item**

- 1 11 "Skidaway Island, modern period", undated.

**SERIES 4:: Maps**

This series consists of three subseries: 4.1, Skidaway and Ogeechee Forest maps; 4.2, dated maps; and 4.3, undated maps

**SUBSERIES 4.1:: Skidaway and Ogeechee Forest maps**

**vm\_box Item**

1 12 "Ogeechee Forest, Skidaway Island Tract", 1943.

**vm\_box Item**

1 13 "Section 'A' Skidaway Island, Ogeechee Forest", September 1952.

**vm\_box Item**

1 14 "Section 'B' Skidaway Island, Ogeechee Forest", September 1952.

**vm\_box Item**

1 15 "Map Symbols" and "Stand Codes," key for sections A & B (Items 13-14)

**vm\_box Item**

1 16 "Ogeechee Forest, Skidaway Island Tract . . . owned and operated by Union Bag and Paper Corporation" (1943, revised 1967)

**vm\_box Item**

1 17 Untitled Skidaway Island, shows from Skidaway Narrows to Wilmington River, includes reduced section of Item 13, undated.

**SUBSERIES 4.2:: Dated maps**

**vm\_box Item**

1 18 Liberty Island (now Dutch Island), photocopy of a survey map by John McKinnon, 1823.

**vm\_box Item**

1 19 Untitled portion of Skidaway Island, 1909.

**vm\_box Item**

1 20 "Isle of Hope Quadrangle," shows Skidaway Island, 1957 (revised 1971).

**vm\_box Item**

1 21 Untitled Skidaway Island, circa 1972.

### **SUBSERIES 4.3:: Undated maps**

#### **vm\_box Item**

1        22        Untitled pencil on trace, shows tracts (this may be a traced map or it may be an overlay), undated.

#### **vm\_box Item**

1        23        Untitled Skidaway Island, map roughly sketched with marker and pen, historical locations marked, brief list of events and citations and dates, undated.

#### **vm\_box Item**

1        24-39        Maps and transfers of land tracts on Skidaway Island and vicinity