



Josephine Louise Barry (1910 - 1974)

Josephine Louise Barry was born September 12, 1910 in Keats, Kansas. After receiving her degree in library science from Kansas State University and the University of Illinois, she joined the staff of the Kansas State Historical Society in 1936. Louise was a librarian and indexer at the Kansas State Historical Society from 1936 - 1974. She was a veteran of World War

II, serving in the WAVS. She was interested in Kansas history and was known to study and collect records relating to numerous Kansas and frontier topics. Barry is best known for her publication, *The Beginning of the West: Annals of the Kansas Gateway to the American West, 1540-1854*, published in 1972. Her work on this important book received several honors. *The Beginning of the West* is an important reference for western research.

She also wrote numerous articles pertaining to the Santa Fe Trail which we continue to refer to today. Louise was also involved in researching and providing evidence to substantiate the true authors of Home on the Range, the Kansas State song.

Louise never married. At some point she contracted tuberculosis. To avoid infecting other staff at the Kansas State Historical Society, she worked at night. Louise died unexpectedly February 27, 1974 and is buried in Sunset Cemetery, Manhattan, Kansas.