

## High-Style Hat

**T**HIS ELEGANT HAT belonged to businesswoman Mabel Blanche Kellogg of St. Paul. Its high crown, sweeping red pheasant feathers, peacock-feather cockade, and swaths of ribbon, velvet, and crinkled crepe make it an accessory of style, color, and texture. It is both elegant and severe, with colors and materials suitable for winter wear.

Its high-crowned style dates from 1904 to 1907, when fashionable hats took on a turban look and a narrow brim. In 1905 *Millinery Trade Review* reported that “Miss Graham, Pearce’s Specialty Store . . . predicts that high crowns and Marie Antoinette effects will reign supreme this winter.” Graham’s prediction carried weight, as Pearce’s of Minneapolis sold the latest women’s fashions from Paris. Ongoing revivals of Marie Antoinette’s style preferences continue to influence fashion designers.

In 1906 Mabel Kellogg was 41 years old. She had been a music teacher in her hometown of Ripon, Wisconsin, but by then had married, divorced, and moved to Minnesota where she apparently stayed very busy. Her father, H. W. Kellogg, had died suddenly leaving the business he had started in Ripon, now headquartered in St. Paul. Kellogg Stock Food Company (known by variations on that name over the years) also sold Kellogg’s Condition Powder, a compound he developed to improve breeding rates in farm animals. The business advertised extensively in stock-breeding journals and *The Farmer*, a Minnesota



*High-style hat of businesswoman Mabel Blanche Kellogg, St. Paul, early 1900s*

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publication, in the early 1900s. After her father’s death and her divorce, it seems that Mabel ran the business out of her home in St. Paul; the *St. Paul City Directory* lists her occupation as its manager or proprietor until the late 1920s. During these years she also taught shorthand at area business colleges and set up a piano studio in the city’s Merriam Park neighborhood.

Although other documentation of her life is scant, she supported herself through various business ventures and left us a tangible example of her high-fashion style.

—Linda McShannock,  
associate curator



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