Collection Summary
Title: Francis Bowler Keene Papers
Span Dates: 1856-1975
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1877-1924)
ID No.: MSS56804
Creator: Keene, Francis Bowler, 1856-1945
Extent: 6,000 items
Extent: 11 containers plus 1 oversize
Extent: 4.4 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English and Italian
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81056804
Summary: Diplomat, poet, and author. Diaries, correspondence, subject and writings files, and scrapbooks relating to Keene's career in the consular service and to his writings.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Bacon, Robert, 1860-1919--Correspondence.
Bigelow, Poulney, 1855-1954--Correspondence.
Breckinridge, Henry, 1886-1960--Correspondence.
Carr, Wilbur J. (Wilbur John), 1870-1942--Correspondence.
Elliott, Eugene S.--Correspondence.
Guild, Curtis, 1860-1915--Correspondence.
Hackett, Elizabeth--Correspondence.
Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.
Keane family.
Keene family.
Keene, David, 1820-1893--Correspondence.
Keene, Francis Bowler, 1856-1945.
Knox, Philander C. (Philander Chase), 1853-1921--Correspondence.
La Follette, Robert M. (Robert Marion), 1855-1925--Correspondence.
Loomis, Francis B. (Francis Butler), 1861-1948--Correspondence.
Rockhill, William Woodville, 1854-1914--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Root, Elihu, 1845-1937--Correspondence.
Spooner, John C. (John Coit), 1843-1919--Correspondence.
Stovall, Pleasant A., 1857-1935--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.
Turner, Frederick Jackson, 1861-1932--Correspondence.
Watterson, Henry, 1840-1921--Correspondence.
Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.
Woodbury, John--Correspondence.

Subjects
Consuls--Italy--Florence.
Consuls--Italy--Rome.
Consuls--Switzerland--Geneva.
Consuls--Switzerland--Zurich.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Italy.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Switzerland.
Golf.

**Occupations**
Authors.
Diplomats.
Poets.

**Provenance**
The papers of Francis Bowler Keene, diplomat, poet, and author, were given to the Library of Congress by Mrs. Emerin S. Chute and Carolyn W. Keene in 1976.

**Processing History**
The papers of Francis Bowler Keene were arranged and described in 1982. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

**Transfers**
Photographs and drawings have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Francis Bowler Keene Papers.

**Copyright Status**
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Francis Bowler Keene is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

**Access and Restrictions**
The papers of Francis Bowler Keene are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

**Preferred Citation**
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Francis Bowler Keene Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Biographical Note**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1856, Dec. 11</td>
<td>Born, Milwaukee, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871-1875</td>
<td>Attended Racine College, Racine, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Graduated, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Engineer, Chicago, Milwaukee &amp; St. Paul Railway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Married Emerin Price Semple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899-1902</td>
<td>Member, Wisconsin legislature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903-1905</td>
<td>United States consular officer, Florence, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-1915</td>
<td>United States consular officer, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915-1917</td>
<td>United States consular officer, Zurich, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917-1924</td>
<td>United States counsel general, Rome, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Published <em>Lyrics of the Links</em>. London: C. Palmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Retired in Rome, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Returned to the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Died, Washington, D.C.</td>
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</table>

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Francis Bowler Keene (1856-1945) span the years 1856-1975, with the bulk of the collection concentrated in the period 1877-1924. The collection is organized into eight series: *Diary and Account Book*, *Personal Correspondence*, *Family Correspondence*, *General Correspondence*, *Subject File*, *Writings*, *Miscellany*, and *Oversize*. Included are literary manuscripts, genealogical material, an autograph collection, and miscellaneous items such as printed matter, scrapbooks, presidential appointments, certificates, a chart, and memorial.

The collection focuses on Keene’s long career as a consular officer at Florence, Italy, Geneva and Zurich, Switzerland, and as consul general at Rome. The papers reflect Keene’s deep concern and conscientiousness in performing the duties of a consular officer. His mastery of French, German, and Italian was especially helpful during World War I, when many Americans were stranded in Europe and required the services of an experienced consular officer, particularly in Switzerland.

Keene’s papers relating to personal and family affairs also form a portion of the collection. His letters to his father, David Keene, while he attended Racine College in Wisconsin and Harvard University, reveal a close relationship between father and son. The letters later written to his wife and two daughters allow a brief insight into his immediate family relationships.

A few of the papers reflect on his contribution to the field of golf, for which he was known as “Laureate of the Links” in Europe as well as in America.


**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- *Diary and Account Book*, 1876-1899
- *Personal Correspondence*, 1886-1901
- *Family Correspondence*, 1867-1975
- *General Correspondence*, 1870-1945
- *Subject File*, 1856-1939
- *Writings*
- *Miscellany*, 1892-1905
- *Oversize*
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><strong>Diary and Account Book, 1876-1899</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diary notes and account book kept by Keene while he was guardian of his uncle, Edgar Keene.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><strong>Personal Correspondence, 1886-1901</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letterpress book containing impressions of holographic and typescript letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-4</td>
<td><strong>Family Correspondence, 1867-1975</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters and related and attached material to and from family members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 4-6</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence, 1870-1945</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters and attached and related material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td><strong>Subject File, 1856-1939</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Genealogical material and autographs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 7-10</td>
<td><strong>Writings</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biographical sketches, poems, essays, short stories, and other writings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged by title, topic, or type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 10-11</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1892-1905</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Passports, printed matter, and scrapbooks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td><strong>Oversize</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diplomas, appointments, certificates, charts, and memorials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1     | **Diary and Account Book, 1876-1899**  
Diary notes and account book kept by Keene while he was guardian of his uncle, Edgar Keene.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1     | Diary, 1876  
BOX 1     | Account book for the estate of Edgar Keene, 1886-1901  
BOX 1     | **Personal Correspondence, 1886-1901**  
Letterpress book containing impressions of holographic and typescript letters.  
Letters arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1     | 1886-1901 |
| BOX 1-4   | **Family Correspondence, 1867-1975**  
Letters and related and attached material to and from family members.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1     | Aug. 1867-Nov. 1886  
(4 folders)  
BOX 2     | Jan. 1887-June 1893  
(6 folders)  
BOX 3     | July 1893-Dec. 1916  
(6 folders)  
BOX 4     | Jan. 1917-June, 1919, Jan. 1975, undated  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 4-6   | **General Correspondence, 1870-1945**  
Letters and attached and related material.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 4     | Sept. 1870-Mar. 1910  
(4 folders)  
BOX 5     | Apr. 1910-Oct. 1915  
BOX 6     | Nov. 1915-May 1945, undated  
(9 folders) |
| BOX 7     | **Subject File, 1856-1939**  
Genealogical material and autographs.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material. |
| BOX 7     | Autographs, 1918-1939, undated  
(2 folders) |
Genealogy, 1856-1894

**Writings**

Biographical sketches, poems, essays, short stories, and other writings. Arranged by title, topic, or type of material.

*BOX 7*  
*BOX 7-10*  
Lyrics of the Links  
Our Marriage Vow, compiled by William N. Irish  
Golf  
Union Club, Rome, Italy  
Wanderings of King Whim, newspaper column in *Milwaukee Sentinel* by Keene  
(3 folders)  
Biographical sketches  
"Original Sayings of Emerin P. Semple Keene"  
"Remarks on Washington's Birthday"  
"Municipal and Political Verses"  
"On Foothills of Parnassus"  
"Metrical Letter to a Bridge Devotee and the Bookworms Lament"  
"Angelina," by Paul Laurence Dunbar  
Miscellaneous verses  
(3 folders)  
Miscellaneous short stories  
(4 folders)  
"Anthology of Negro Humor"

**Miscellany, 1892-1905**

Passports, printed matter, and scrapbooks. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

*BOX 10*  
Passports  
Printed matter  
(3 folders)  
Scrapbooks  
1892-1905  
1895-1901  
undated

**Oversize**

Diplomas, appointments, certificates, charts, and memorials. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

*BOX OV 1*  
Appointments  
Certificates  
Chart  
Diplomas, Keene and Emerin Price Semple  
Memorial