

Francis Bowler Keene Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81056804>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010203>

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Revised by Joseph K. Brooks

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

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, Poultney, 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.
Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Correspondence.
Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.
Keane family.
Keane 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

Date	Event
1856, Dec. 11	Born, Milwaukee, Wis.
1871-1875	Attended Racine College, Racine, Wis.
1880	Graduated, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1881	Engineer, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway
1893	Married Emerin Price Semple
1899-1902	Member, Wisconsin legislature
1903-1905	United States consular officer, Florence, Italy
1905-1915	United States consular officer, Geneva, Switzerland

1915-1917	United States consular officer, Zurich, Switzerland
1917-1924	United States counsel general, Rome, Italy
1923	Published <i>Lyrics of the Links</i> . London: C. Palmer
1924	Retired in Rome, Italy
1942	Returned to the United States
1945	Died, Washington, D.C.

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.

Keene's principal correspondents include Robert Bacon, Poultney Bigelow, Henry Breckinridge, Wilbur J. Carr, Eugene S. Elliott, Curtis Guild, Elizabeth Hackett, Warren G. Harding, John Hay, Philander C. Knox, Robert M. La Follette, Francis B. Loomis, William Woodville Rockhill, Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Root, John C. Spooner, Pleasant A. Stovall, William H. Taft, Frederick Jackson Turner, Henry Watterson, Leonard Wood, and John Woodbury.

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

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

Container List

Container	Contents
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)

Subject File, 1856-1939

Container	Contents
BOX 7	Genealogy, 1856-1894
BOX 7-10	Writings Biographical sketches, poems, essays, short stories, and other writings. Arranged by title, topic, or type of material.
BOX 7	<i>Lyrics of the Links</i>
BOX 7	<i>Our Marriage Vow</i> , compiled by William N. Irish
BOX 7	Golf
BOX 7	Union Club, Rome, Italy
BOX 8	Wanderings of King Whim, newspaper column in <i>Milwaukee Sentinel</i> by Keene (3 folders)
BOX 8	Biographical sketches
BOX 8	"Original Sayings of Emerin P. Semple Keene"
BOX 8	"Remarks on Washington's Birthday"
BOX 8	"Municipal and Political Verses"
BOX 8	"On Foothills of Parnassus"
BOX 8	"Metrical Letter to a Bridge Devotee and the Bookworms Lament"
BOX 8	"Angelina," by Paul Laurence Dunbar
BOX 8	Miscellaneous verses (3 folders)
BOX 9	(4 folders)
BOX 9	Miscellaneous short stories (4 folders)
BOX 10	6 folders)
BOX 10	"Anthology of Negro Humor"
BOX 10-11	Miscellany, 1892-1905 Passports, printed matter, and scrapbooks. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 10	Passports
BOX 10	Printed matter (3 folders)
BOX 11	Scrapbooks
BOX 11	1892-1905
BOX 11	1895-1901
BOX 11	undated
BOX OV 1	Oversize Diplomas, appointments, certificates, charts, and memorials. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX OV1	Appointments
BOX OV1	Certificates
BOX OV1	Chart
BOX OV1	Diplomas, Keene and Emerin Price Semple
BOX OV1	Memorial