Collection Summary

Title: John Keep Papers  
Span Dates: 1781-1929  
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1839-1847)  
ID No.: MSS28308  
Creator: Keep, John, 1781-1870  
Extent: 15 items  
Extent: 2 containers  
Extent: 0.6 linear feet  
Language: Collection material in English  
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82028308  
Summary: Clergyman and abolitionist. Autobiography, correspondence, record book, newspaper clippings, notes, speeches, and a Bible relating to Keep and his family.

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**
Burnell, Levi, 1803-1881--Correspondence.  
Dawes, William, 1799-1881.  
Garrison, William Lloyd, 1805-1879--Correspondence.  
Keep family.  
Keep, John, 1781-1870.  
Lovejoy, Owen, 1811-1864.  
Osborn, John Hiram--Correspondence.

**Organizations**
Liberty Party (U.S. : 1840-1848)

**Subjects**
American newspapers--Ohio.  
Slavery.

**Titles**
*Cleveland American.*

**Occupations**
Abolitionists.  
Clergy.

Provenance

The papers of John Keep, clergyman and abolitionist, were given to the Library of Congress by his great granddaughter Helen E. Keep from 1929 to 1954.

Processing History

The papers of John Keep were arranged and described in 1983. The finding aid was revised in 2010.
Additional Guides

The papers of John Keep are also described in the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* 14, no. 1 (3 January 1955): 2.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Keep is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Keep 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, John Keep Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1781, Apr. 20</td>
<td>Born, Long Meadow, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1802</td>
<td>Graduated, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1805-1821</td>
<td>Pastor, Congregational church, Blanford, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821-1833</td>
<td>Pastor, Congregational church, Homer, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Organized Congregational church, Cleveland, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834-1870</td>
<td>Trustee, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio; cast vote in 1835 that allowed black students to enter Oberlin College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839-1840</td>
<td>Toured England with William Dawes collecting funds for Oberlin College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>Attended with William Dawes, Anti-slavery convention, London, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870, Feb. 11</td>
<td>Died, Oberlin, Ohio</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Keep (1781-1870) span the years 1781-1929, with the bulk of the material dating from 1839-1847. The papers include a typescript copy by great granddaughter Helen E. Keep of Keep's autobiography, a brass plate portrait of Keep, newspaper clippings, typescript notes relating to Keep and William Dawes, a record book of subscriptions for the purchase of the *Cleveland American* and for the publication of a Liberty Party paper in Cleveland, Ohio, speeches about slavery by Keep and Owen Lovejoy, a family Bible containing genealogical information, and photostatic, typescript, and original correspondence. Correspondents include Levi Burnell, William Lloyd Garrison, and John Hiram Osborn.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material with the family Bible in the last container.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Autobiography, 1781-1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Brass plate portrait, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Letters, 1839-1843, 1860, 1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings, 1846-1847, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Notes, 1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Record book, 1847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Speeches, 1847, 1860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Bible, 1847</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>