

John Keep Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



**LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS**

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

Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010204>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm82028308>

Prepared by David E. Mathisen
Revised by Melinda K. Friend

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 ; 2 containers ; 0.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

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 Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

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.

Administrative Information

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Keep is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

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

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

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