

Thomas Jefferson University Archives and Special Collections

MS 022

W. W. Keen Collection, 1872-1933 2.0 linear ft. (4 Boxes)

Biographical Note

Upon his graduation from Jefferson Medical College in 1862, William Williams Keen (1837-1932) received a commission as Acting Assistant Surgeon in the U.S. Army. At the conclusion of his military service, Keen spent two years attending clinics in Paris and Berlin. When Keen returned to the U.S. in 1866 he delivered a summer course of lectures at his alma mater and became the head of the Philadelphia School of Anatomy. When the latter ceased operations in 1875, Keen became Professor of Artistic Anatomy at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Keen obtained the chair of surgery at the Women's Medical College in 1884 and retained this position until 1889 when Jefferson Medical College appointed him successor to the late Samuel W. Gross as professor of surgery. Dr. Keen held the chair of surgery at Jefferson until his retirement in 1907. He died on June 7, 1932.

Dr. Keen was a prolific writer on anatomical and surgical subjects. His eight volume *System of Surgery* was the preeminent text for U.S. surgeons in the first decades of the 20th century. Keen is also remembered for being the first surgeon in Philadelphia to adopt Lister's principles of antiseptis (at St. Mary's Hospital in 1876). He also participated in a secret operation performed upon President Grover Cleveland in 1893 for a verrucous carcinoma of the mouth.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of materials relating to William W. Keen including addresses, correspondence, published medical journal articles by Keen, and research notes pertaining to his operations and research on the cervical rib. The addresses cover medical topics or the history of medicine and were presented at meetings of various medical organizations including the American Medical Association, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and two Jefferson commencements, 1910 and 1916. The bulk of the correspondence pertains to Keen's cervical rib research as well as letters from 1931-1933 dealing with Keen's autopsy. This group includes one letter written by Keen in 1931 outlining the directions for his post mortem.

Organization and Arrangement

I. Addresses (1874-1927)

Arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the sponsoring organization and thereafter in chronological order.

II. Correspondence (1900-1933)

Arranged chronological order

III. Events & Ephemera (1901-1984)

Arranged in alphabetical order by subject heading

IV. Publications (1872-1921)

Arranged chronological order

V. Cervical Rib Data (1904-1906)

Tables of cervical rib operations conducted between 1861 and 1906 compiled by Dr. Keen for publication in: "Symptomatology, Diagnosis and surgical Treatment of Cervical Ribs," *American Journal of Medical Science* 133:173-218 (1907), with accompanying correspondence.

Container List

I. Addresses

- 1.1 American Baptist Missionary Union - 1906-5-21 The service of missions to science & society.
- 1.2 American Medical Assn. - 1906 - Tumors of the carotid artery.
- 1.3 American Medical Assn. - 1900 - The president's address.
- 1.4 American Medical Assn. - 1897 - Address in surgery.
- 1.5 American Surgical Assn. - 1919 - Permanent rectal cloaca.
- 1.6 American Surgical Assn. - 1899 - Response to the address of welcome.
- 1.7 American Surgical Assn. - 1888 - Three successful cases of cerebral surgery.
- 1.8 Birthday celebration (90th) for W. W. Keen - 1927
- 1.9 Birthday celebration (85th) for W. W. Keen - 1922
- 1.10 Birthday celebration (84th) for W. W. Keen - 1921
- 1.11 Birthday celebration (84th) for W. W. Keen - 1921
- 1.12 Boston Surgical Society - 1922 - Sixty years of surgery.
- 1.13 College of Physicians of Philadelphia - 1918 - Removal of brain tumor
- 1.14 College of Physicians of Philadelphia - 1906 - Sacrococcygeal tumor (teratoma)
- 1.15 College of Physicians of Philadelphia - 1885 - Three cases of removal of the ovaries and fallopian tubes (Tait's Operation).
- 1.16 Congress of American Physicians & Surgeons - 1903 - The president's address
- 1.17 College of Physicians & Surgeons (Columbia Univ.) - 1898 - Cartwright Lecture - Surgery of the Stomach.
- 1.18 Crozer Theological Seminary - 1918 - Address of welcome.
- 1.19 Jefferson Medical College - 1897 - Alumni Assn. (at Wash., D.C.) - Unveiling the Gross statue.
- 1.20 Jefferson Medical College - 1916 - Commencement.
- 1.21 Jefferson Medical College - 1910 - Commencement - Samuel D. Gross...a eulogy.
- 1.22 Jefferson Medical College - 1890 - (Introductory) - New era in medicine
- 1.23 Jefferson Medical College - 1905 - W. W. Keen Surgical Society - The graduation ceremony
- 1.24 Jefferson Medical College - ca. 1896 - W. W. Keen Surgical Society - Literary methods in medicine.
- 1.25 Massachusetts General Hospital - 1915 - Dangers of ether as an anesthetic.
- 1.26 Medical & Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland - 1899 - Debt of the public to the medical profession.
- 1.27 Pathological Society of Philadelphia - 1874 - Uses of chloral.
- 1.28 Philadelphia Academy of Surgery - 1884 - So-called abscesses of the frontal & maxillary sinuses.
- 1-29 Philadelphia School of Anatomy - 1875 - History of the Philadelphia School of Anatomy...at its dissolution.
- 1.30 Philadelphia School of Anatomy - 1874 - (Introductory) - Early history of practical anatomy.
- 1.31 Smithsonian Institute (Toner Lecture) - 1877 - Surgical complications & sequels of the contd. fevers.

- 1.32 Yale Univ. - 1906 - Commencement - Community of interest of the med. profession & the public.

II. Correspondence

- 2.1 1933-5-12 - From : Schaeffer, J. P. to Keen, Florence
Re. : Lost family photo.
- 2.2 1933-5-09 - From : Keen, Florence to Schaeffer, J. P. -
Re. : Lost family photo.
- 2.3 1933-5-08 - From : Schaeffer, J. P. to Keen, Florence
Re. : Lost family photo
- 2.4 1933-5-2 - From : Schaeffer, J. P. to Weymouth, R. E.
Re. : Lost family photo
- 2.5 1933-1-14 - From : Greenman, M. J. to Schaeffer, J. P.
Re. : Autopsy of W. W. Keen.
- 2.6 1933-1-13 - From : Schaeffer, J. P. to Greenman, M. J.
Re. : Autopsy of W. W. Keen
- 2.7 1933-1-06 - From : Greenman, M. J. to Schaeffer, J. P.
Re. : Autopsy of W. W. Keen.
- 2.8 1932-7-25 - From Taylor, Wm. J. to Schaeffer, J. P.
Re. : Autopsy of W. W. Keen
- 2.9 1932-7-22 - From : Schaeffer, J. P. to Taylor, Wm. J.
Re. : Autopsy of W. W. Keen
- 2.10 1932-7-22 - From : Schaeffer, J. P. to Taylor, Wm. J.
Re. : Autopsy of W. W. Keen
- 2.11 1931-6-05 - To : Donaldson (?) from Keen, W.W.
Re. : Autopsy - "Directions for my post mortem"
- 2.12 1928-5-15 - From : Stiles, Harold J. to Keen, W. W.
Re. : Caledonian Med. J.
- 2.13 1928-5-14 - From : Wilke, D. P. D. to Stiles, Harold J.
Re. : Caledonian Med. J.
- 2.14 1928-5-12 - From : Comrie, John D. to Wilke, D. P. D.
Re. : Caledonian Med. J.
- 2.15 1927-10-11 - To : Patterson, Ross V. (from W. W. Keen)
Re. : Geo. McKelway donation (matriculation. tickets)
- 2.16 1923-9-20 - To : Lewis, Morris J.
Re. : Keen's medical condition
- 2.17 1923-8-19 - To : Lewis, Morris J.
Re. : Keen's medical condition
- 2.18 1923-8-02 - From : Rendell, M. (?), to Lewis, Morris J.
Re. : Keen's medical condition
- 2.19 1923-7-20 - To : Lewis, Morris J.
Re. : Keen's medical condition
- 2.20 1923-7-14 - - From : Locke, W. Lindsay
Re. : Keen's medical condition
- 2.21 1922-4-22 - To : Schaeffer, J. P.
Re. Muscular tissues (structure under microscope)
- 2.22 1922-4-3 - To : Schaeffer, J. P.

- Re. Cervical rib
- 2.23 1918-6-04 - To : Schaeffer, J. P.
Re. : Beard growth after death.
- 2.24 1917-4-24 - To : McDaniel, J. S., Pres. Jr. Class JMC
Re : Belgian relief fund.
- 2.25 1917-4-21 - To : McDaniel, J. S., Pres. Jr. Class JMC
Re : Belgian relief fund.
- 2.26 1917-4-3 - To : McDaniel, J. S., Pres. Jr. Class JMC
Re : Belgian relief fund.
- 2.27 1970-2-14 - From : ?
Re. : B. Rush Rhees
- 2.28 1906-1-30 - From : Rosenberger, Randle
Re. : Cervical rib.
- 2.29 1906-1-30 - From : McCarthy, D. J.
Re. : Cervical rib.
- 2.30 1906-1-26 - From : McCarthy, D. J.
Re. : Cervical rib
- 2.31 1906 1-26 - To : Rosenberger, Randle
Re. : Cervical rib.
- 2.32 1906-1-25 - From : McCarthy, D. J.
Re. : Cervical rib.
- 2.33 1906-1-23 - From : Goodhart, Simon P.
Re. : Cervical rib.
- 2.34 1906-11-19 - From : Beck, Carl
Re. : Cervical rib.
- 2.35 1901-7-8 - To : Editor, Philadelphia Med. J.
Re. : Misstatement of the antivivisectionists
- 2.36 1901- Feb. - To : Editor, Philadelphia Med. J.
Re. : Intracranial hemorrhage in the newborn.
- 2.37 1900- Mar.- To : Editor, Philadelphia Med. J.
Re. : Heroism of nurses & physicians in JMC Hospital fire.
- 2.38 1900- Jan. - To Editor, Philadelphia Med. J.
Re. : Higher medical education.
- 2.39 1900- Jan. - To : Editor, Philadelphia Med. J.
Re. : Requirements of the medical council as to professional study.

III. Events & Ephemera

- 2.40 Brain tumor - Loss of 1976
- 2.41 Certificate - Membership - Tau Epsilon Fraternity - 1929
- 2.42 Dinner Menu - Keen Surgical Soc. - 1903
- 2.43 Index catalog cards
- 2.44 Medal identification (see Art/Photo A - AK-011)
- 2.45 Newspaper clippings 1918-21
- 2.46 Newspaper - J. of Commerce
- 2.47 Portrait - presentation 1901
- 2.48 Surgical instruments - inventory (1984)

IV. Publications

- 3.1 1921 - Death & cremation.
- 3.2 1918 - A world of billions
- 3.3 1918 - Removal of brain tumor
- 3.4 1917 - Surgical operations on Pres. Cleveland in 1893
- 3.5 1915 - Before & after Lister
- 3.6 1915 - Contrast...Civil War & WW I surgery.
- 3.7 1904 - Perforating gastric ulcer...
- 3.8 1903 - Gunshot wound of the brain
- 3.9 1901 - Secondary suture of nerves
- 3.10 1901 - Resection of chest wall for a sarcoma
- 3.11 1900- (Jan 6) - Two cases showing value of X-Rays
- 3.12 1900 - (Nov. 8) - Large scrotal hernia
- 3.13 1900 - (May 5) - Nephrectomy for a large aneurysm of the right renal artery
- 3.14 1900 - (Mar. 10) - Surgical use of celluloid thread
- 3.15 1899 - (Dec.) - Successful operation for brain tumor
- 3.16 1899 - (Nov. 4) - Surgical treatment of perforation of the bowel in typhoid fever.
- 3.17 1899 - (Nov. 4) - Demonstration of color photography
- 3.18 1899 - (June 10) - Two unusual cases of surgery of the trachea
- 3.19 1898 - Case of appendicitis in which the appendix became permanently soldered to the bladder
- 3.20 1898 - (April 16) - Surgical complications & sequels of typhoid fever
- 3.21 1898 - (March 5) - Trephining for linear fracture of the skull
- 3.22 1898 - (January 1) - Use of Gigli wire saw to obtain access to the brain
- 3.23 c.1897 - Table of 78 operations for perforated gastric ulcer
- 3.24 1896 - (April) - Advantages of an academic training for a medical career
- 3.25 1896 - (March) - Röntgen rays
- 3.26 1896 - Treatment of traumatic lesions of the kidney
- 3.27 1894 - Amputation of the entire upper extremity
- 3.28 1888 - (December 1) - Exploratory trephining & puncture of the brain
- 3.29 1888 - Three cases of cerebral surgery
- 3.30 1887 - (December 24) - Removal of a large brain tumor
- 3.31 1887 - Pistol shot wound of the abdomen
- 3.32 1886 - Stretching of the facial nerve
- 3.33 1872 - (August 15) - Diagnostic sign of fracture of fibula in lower third
- 3.34 1906 - Resection of sigmoid flexure - [by Wiliam. J. Hearn]
- 3.35 1899 - Removal of esophageal diverticulum - [by William. J. Hearn]
- 3.36 1901 - Pneumotomy for abscess of the lung - [by William. H. Hearn]
- 3.37 1928 - Interesting possessions of the Edinburgh University Library

V. Cervical Rib Data