

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. B 23

Date processed: April, 1979

I. Title Keller, Charles Henry, collection, 1920 - 1976.

II. The papers of Charles Henry Keller deposited in the Library on _____, by _____ In _____ converted the deposit to a gift.

III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 18 inches.
Approximate number of items: 345

IV. Restrictions: None

V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of _____ in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

VI. Press release was issued on _____

VII. Biographical note:

See page 2.

VIII. Analysis:

The collection consists of three (3) boxes.

Books and a small quantity of printed material, some of which are in German, are filed together. Keller's personal diaries for 1920 and 1940 are filed together. The grammar school test papers, high school essays and poetry that Keller wrote are filed together, as is his mature writing.

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Keller, Charles Henry, collection, 1920 - 1976.

Charles Henry Keller was born in New Haven on March 25, 1906, and lived most of his life at 137 Foster Street. He attended the Hooker School on Canner Street for the primary and grammar school grades. In the fall of 1922, he entered New Haven High School but was forced to drop out because of ill health. In the fall of 1924, he entered the Booth School, a private boys preparatory school located at 46 York Square (later at 441 Orange Street.) and completed his studies there in June, 1927. The three report cards from the collection indicate that his grades at the Booth School were excellent.

In 1936, Keller attended junior college and received an honors grade in international relations. His youthful interest in hiking stayed with him most of his life, as did his devotion to the Trinity Lutheran Church at Orange and Wall Streets. The books and letter in the collection that are in German indicate his interest in the language, and that he was a second generation citizen.

Keller taught for several years at the Booth School until its demise in 1932, and then worked for the New Haven Post Office until he retired in 1971. He was an interested member of the NHCHS for many years and all his life had the urge to be a writer. In the collection of his writings, there are essays written over a half century of his life.

Probably at his own expense, a book of his poems was published by Vantage Press of New York City, entitled, "Verses for Freedom." in 1962. Keller remained a bachelor all his life, residing with his mother until her death circa 1967. Keller passed away on October 22, 1977.

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Keller, Charles Henry, collection (1920 - 1976)

Box I

- Folder A - Charles Keller personal diaries, 1920 and 1940
Miscellaneous patriotic and political speeches
and pamphlet. (6)
- B - "Verses for Freedom," a book of poems by Charles H. Keller,
Vantage Press, Inc., New York City, 1962. (2)
- C - Books and papers in German: (5)
Cookbook published in Darmstadt, 1897.
Autograph book given to Miss Julie Rentner by her
friend Emma C. Tomlin, 1881.
Julia Rentner's hymnal, 1881.
Genealogy of the Jäger family of Bretten
Paper on the German population spread at the time
of the American Revolution, by Annette Clark of
Hamden, Ct., February 1976.
- D - Religious books: (7)
The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther, United
Lutheran Press, 1907.
Sermons on the Passion of Christ by Dr. Martin Luther,
Lutheran Augustana Book Concern, 1871.
Luther's Prayers, Pilger Publishing House, 1917.
Spiritual Book for Travel (in German), Saarbrucken, 1886.
Upon this Rock, Lutheran Publication Society, 1917
Includes Charles Henry Keller confirmation certificate.
Luther's Small Catechism, General Council Publication
Board, 1874.
Sex and Life, YMCA, 1919.
- E - Charles H. Keller school reports and transcript of high school
record. Certificate of attendance for two terms at
junior college.
School notebooks with compositions and homework. (9).

Box II

- Folder A - Grammar and high school papers, incl. history, mathematics,
and english. (50)
- B - Grammar and high school english grammar lessons and
english history. (35)
- C - High school themes and essays. (15)
Text of published book, "Verses for Freedom."
- D - High School homework and essay papers. (30)

Box II (cont'd.)

- Folder E - High school essays (40)
F - Preparatory notes for grammar and high school essays. (25)

Box III

- Folder A - Essays (35)
B - Poetry manuscripts. (50)
C - Essays and poems (35)
D - Manuscript of novel "William McCoy" by "Charles Henry." (1)