
James E. Keeler Papers

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James E. Keeler Papers

Collection number: MS 271

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Special Collections and Archives
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: James E. Keeler papers

Dates: 1868-1944

Collection number: MS 271

Creator: Keeler, James E.

Collection Size: 2 document boxes

Repository: University of California, Santa Cruz. University Library. Special Collections and Archives
Santa Cruz, California 95064

Abstract: Contains correspondence, family photographs, school papers, drawings, diary and notebooks, academic papers, articles & lectures. Also contains William F. Keeler's Mayport diaries, from 1878-1886.

Physical location: Stored in Special Collections & Archives: Advance notice is required for access to the papers.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

James E. Keeler papers. MS 271. Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Cora Keeler and Mrs. Elizabeth Breneiser in 1978.

Biography

James Edward Keeler (September 10, 1857 - August 12, 1900) was born in La Salle, IL to William F. and Anna Dutton Keeler. He married Miss Cora S. Matthews at Oakley Plantation, Louisiana, on June 16, 1881.

Keeler worked at Lick Observatory beginning in 1888 but left after being appointed director of the University of Pittsburgh's Allegheny Observatory in 1891. He returned to Lick Observatory as its director in 1898.

James Keeler died unexpectedly on August 12, 1900 leaving his widow and two children.

Accomplishments and Honors

- Director of Allegheny Observatory, Allegheny City, Pennsylvania(1891)
- Director of Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California(1898)
- Co-Founder(in 1895) and Co-Editor, with George Ellery Hale, of the Astrophysical Journal.
- Served as President of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific
- One of the Founders of the American Astronomical Society(1899)

- Astronomical and Physical Society of Toronto: Corresponding(Foreign) Member(1894).
- With discovery of particle nature of Saturn's rings, elevated to Honorary Member(1895) National Academy of Sciences(member)
- Royal Astronomical Society(Fellow)
- Rumford Medal of the American Academy

Scope and Content of Collection

Contains correspondence, family photographs, school papers, drawings, diaries, academic papers, articles & lectures. Also contains Mayport diaries, 1878-1886 from Wm. F Keeler, father of James Keeler.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Keeler, James E. (Edward)--Archives

Astronomy--United States--History

Keeler, William F. (Frederick)

Astrophysics--United States--History

Other Finding Aids

UA 36 Lick Observatory Archive

Related Material

James E. Keeler, pioneer American astrophysicist, and the early development of American astrophysics by Donald E. Osterbrock. QB36.K37 O88 1985

box-folder 1:1	Correspondence, ca. 1885-1944
box-folder 1:2	Family photographs, 1890-1919
box-folder 1:3-4	William F. Keeler 1878-1886
	Scope and Content Note
	Wm. F. Keeler was customs collector, elections inspector, and railroad paymaster in Mayport, FL after the Civil War.
box-folder 1:3	Mayport Diaries, v.1-2, 1/1/1878-12/31/1884 1/1/1885-10/26/1886
box-folder 1:4	Mounted news clippings from "The Monitor" & "Merrimac" ca. 1862
box-folder 1:5	News clippings ca. 1894-1898
box-folder 1:6	JEK Mayport diary - written at age 18 [photocopy], 1875
box-folder 1:6	Denver Eclipse [photocopy], 1878
box-folder 1:6	School drawings, 1868
box-folder 2:1-6	Writings
box-folder 2:1	University Extension lectures [manuscripts & notes], ca. 1880-1890
box-folder 2:2	Prospectus for University Extension Lectures "General Astronomy" & Text, captions for lantern slides ca. 1880-1890
box-folder 2:3	Calibrieren eines Thermometer & other papers from University of Berlin & Heidelberg, ca. 1880-1900
box-folder 2:4	A Spectroscopic Proof of the Meteoric Construction of Saturnis Rings ca. 1880-1900
box-folder 2:4	Computational Relating to a Lens for Adapting a visually Corrected Refracting Telescope . . . ca. 1880-1900
box-folder 2:4	Abstract of a Lecture at Stanford University . . . ca. 1880-1900
box-folder 2:4	Modern Views of the Nebulae Nypothesis ca. 1880-1900
box-folder 2:4	Evolution of the Earth ca. 1880-1900
box-folder 2:4	Great Telescopes ca. 1880-1900
box-folder 2:5	Computations relating to the Occulation of Mars 3/17/1880
box-folder 2:5	The Lick Observatory, ca. 1880
box-folder 2:5	Anmeldungs-Buch University of Berlin, ca. 1885
box-folder 2:5	Anmeldungs-Buch University of Heildeberg, ca. 1883-1885
box-folder 2:6	First Observations of Saturn with 36" Equatorial of the Lick Observatory, 1888
box-folder 2:6	The SPrial Nebula H I, 55 PEGASI, ca. 1900

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Articles by Others

***J. E. Keeler's Discovery of a Gap in the Outer Part of the A Ring* by D. E. Osterbrock & Dale P. Cruikshank, 1982**

***James E. Keeler; Pioneer astrophysicist* by D.E. Osterbrock, 1979**

***Early Days at Lick Observatory* by D.E.Osterbrock, Mercury, March/April 1986**