

Archives & Manuscript Collections
National Sporting Library
Middleburg, VA

**Daingerfield and Keene Families
Genealogical Materials
1900-1987**

Name: **Daingerfield and Keene Families** **MC0027**

Materials: Genealogical Materials

Dates: 1900-1987 (bulk dates 1985-1987)

Volume: 0.25 cubic feet (1 document box)

Donation: Gift of Eleanor Lee Templeman, 1987

Usage: Unless otherwise stated by NSL staff, these records are open for research without restrictions.

Biographical Note

Eleanor Lee Reading Templeman (1906-1990) was a local historian, author, preservationist and photographer. She wrote four books and numerous articles, primarily on the Lee family and local history. From 1947 until her death, she served the Society of the Lees of Virginia as Secretary, Genealogist and Historian. Templeman was a driving force behind legislation to preserve Sully Plantation (1958) and the creation of Leesylvania State Park (1978). Throughout her life she collected clippings and notes on subjects related to the Lee family as well as items of local interest. Connections between the Lees, the Daingerfields, and her own family led Templeman to research the families represented in this collection.

James Robert Keene was a successful entrepreneur and Wall Street stock baron whose fortune had been made, lost, and remade several times over. Born in London on February 8, 1838, Keene immigrated to Virginia with his father around 1852; the pair pushed further west to California soon after. Keene tried his hand at several occupations before earning a small fortune through silver speculation; he then turned his attentions to the California Stock Market. He quickly lost and then regained his money, and was successful enough to travel east to work in Wall Street. Keene again lost his fortune of several million dollars when he was double-crossed by Jay Gould, only to regain it through astute manipulations of the sugar and tobacco markets, as well as the railroads. His business success helped to fund his grand passion for Thoroughbreds; his stables were filled with

some of the most successful racers of the time, including Domino, Foxhall, and the famous Sysonby. Keene was once again a multi-millionaire at the time of his death on January 3, 1913.

While in Shasta, California in 1863, Keene had married Sarah Jay ("Sally") Daingerfield, sister of the district court judge William Parker Daingerfield. Sarah was born at Rich Hill near Winchester, Virginia in 1840, the daughter of Leroy and Juliet Parker Daingerfield. She moved to San Francisco to live with her brother William at the age of 20; shortly thereafter she married Keene. The couple had a son, Foxhall Keene, and a daughter who later married Talbot J. Taylor. Sarah remained with Keene until his death in 1913; she removed to Rhode Island and then Long Island for the final three years of her life, dying on October 9, 1916. Through their connection to Keene and his passion for flat racing, the Daingerfields also became involved with Thoroughbreds.

John Oliver ("Jack") Keene was a famed trainer and breeder of Thoroughbreds, but the love of horses was the only connection between him and James R. Keene; the two were not related. Jack Keene was born on November 11, 1870 to John and Mary Bowman Keene of Lexington, Kentucky. As a boy he became fascinated with racing, and by the time of his death at 72 he had held nearly every position associated with the turf. He bred and raced Thoroughbreds with his brother George, enjoyed success as a trainer in Russia, and was influential in the early history of the Thoroughbred Horse Association. John Keene died of a heart attack on May 27, 1943 and was buried at the family estate of Castleton, which had been granted to Francis Keen(e) in the 1780s by his kinsman and governor Patrick Henry. His lasting contribution to equestrian sports was the establishment of a race course and training center at Castleton. The center was begun in 1916 and construction took nearly twenty years. Overseen by the Keeneland Association, today it is a registered National Historic Landmark and is considered one of the premier equestrian centers in the country. The estate no longer is held by the family, as it passed to Keene's grand-nephews upon his death, since he had never married and left no children of his own.

Collection Description

The Daingerfield and Keene Families Genealogical Materials collection was compiled by Eleanor Lee Templeman as part of her research for an article on James R. Keene and his wife Sarah ("Sally") Daingerfield. The collection is arranged into four series, based upon the families: Daingerfield Family Genealogical Materials, Keene Family Genealogical Materials, John O. Keene Genealogical Materials, and Miscellaneous. The materials in each series consist of articles and clippings (mostly photocopies) about members of each family, as well as Templeman's notes and her correspondence with various editors, friends, and librarians who assisted her with her research.

Series and Subseries

- I. Daingerfield Family Genealogical Materials, 1900-1987 7 folders**
Contains correspondence, clippings, and photocopies regarding the Daingerfield families of Virginia and California. Includes genealogical charts and other information on the family in general, as well as information on individual members. General family information is housed first, followed by individuals in alphabetical order.
- II. Keene Family Genealogical Materials, 1913-1986 3 folders**
Consists of articles, clippings, and some correspondence regarding Wall Street financier James R. Keene, his family, and his horses. Materials include biographies and obituaries of Keene, articles on his son Foxhall O. Keene, and reproductions of racing records chronicling the successes of Keene's famed horses. Materials are arranged alphabetically by individual.
- III. John O. Keene Genealogical Materials, 1902-1987 3 folders**
Includes biographical information on Thoroughbred trainer "Jack" Keene and the racing establishment at Keeneland in Lexington, Kentucky. Also contains correspondence between Templeman and the Keeneland Association regarding Keene and the property.
- IV. Miscellaneous, 1985-1986 2 folders**
Consists of two folders, one containing correspondence regarding the writing and publication of Templeman's article on Keene and Daingerfield; the other consists of biographical information on William C. Ralston.

**Container List
MC0027**

I. Daingerfield Family Genealogical Materials

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J30	19	Daingerfield Family	1940-c1986
J30	20	Daingerfield Family of Virginia	1900-1986
J30	21	Elizabeth Daingerfield	1926-1951
J30	22	Foxhall Alexander Daingerfield	1913-1939
J30	23	Keene Daingerfield	1972-1987
J30	24	Sarah ("Sally") Daingerfield	1916-1985
J30	25	William Parker Daingerfield	1901-c1986

II. Keene Family Genealogical Materials

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J30	26	Foxhall Parker Keene	1928-1959
J30	27	James Robert Keene	1913-1986
J30	28	Horses of James R. Keene	1940-1980

III. John O. Keene Genealogical Materials

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J30	29	John Oliver ("Jack") Keene	1902-1952
J30	30	Keeneland (Lexington, KY)	1979-1986
J30	31	Correspondence, Keeneland Association	1986-1987

IV. Miscellaneous

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J30	32	Correspondence regarding article	1985-1987
J30	33	William Chapman Ralston	undated

This collection was processed by Michele M. Tourney, June 2004.