

Rachel Boone Keith Papers

4.5 linear feet (7 MB, 1 SB)

1937-2007, bulk 1970-2006

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Byron S. Collier on August 2, 2010.

Accession Number: UP002117

Creators: Rachel Boone Keith

Acquisition: The papers of Rachel Boone Keith were placed in the Walter P. Reuther Library in July 2007 by Damon J. Keith as part of the Damon J. Keith Papers. They were processed as a separate collection and opened for research in August 2010.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*.

Notes: Citation style: "Rachel Boone Keith Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

Related Material: Reuther Library Collections: JCA Sinai Hospital Records, Damon J. Keith Papers, The Oral History Collection at the Walter P. Reuther Library: Kellogg African American Health Care Project, Harper Hospital Records, and Hutzel Hospital Records.

Series II: Audiovisual Materials (Box 7) have been transferred to the Audiovisual Department.

History

Dr. Rachel Boone Keith was born in Liberia to U.S. missionaries on May 30, 1924 and came to the United States at the age of three. She graduated as valedictorian of Armstrong High School in Richmond, Virginia in 1938 and, after the death of her mother that year, went to live with her aunt, Dr. Bessie B. Tharps, in Rhode Island. Rachel Boone Keith graduated magna cum laude from Houghton University in upstate New York in 1943, completed post-graduate studies in biology at Brown University, and attained her medical degree from the Boston University School of Medicine in 1949.

Dr. Keith completed her internship at Harlem Hospital and served at Brooklyn's Coney Island Hospital before moving to Detroit in 1951. Dr. Keith completed a two-year residency in internal medicine at Detroit Receiving Hospital in 1953, and in 1954 joined the staff at Detroit Memorial Hospital and entered private practice. During her 50 years of practice, Dr. Keith was also affiliated with Burton Mercy, Detroit Riverview, Detroit Receiving, Harper, Hutzel, and Sinai hospitals.

Dr. Keith served on a number of professional commissions and committees, including the Governor's Commission on the Future of Higher Education and the City of Detroit's Health Advisory Council. Dr. Keith was active in many civic, cultural, and educational organizations. She served as a board member for the Michigan Cancer Foundation and for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and was also a member of Tabernacle Missionary Church and a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Dr. Keith married Damon J. Keith in 1953 and had three daughters: Cecile Keith-Brown, Debbie, and Gilda. Dr. Keith died on January 4, 2007.

Scope and Content:

Dr. Keith's papers consist of published materials documenting her education and professional career, including materials relating to her medical practice, honorary degrees and other awards she received, and the civic, cultural, and educational institutions and activities with which she was associated. There are also materials and physical objects relating to Dr. Keith's maternal aunt, Bessie B. Tharps, who was a pioneering African-American woman doctor, and relating to Dr. Keith's father's family, the Boones. The Boones included several generations of ministers, including Dr. Keith's father who served as a medical missionary in Liberia.

Important Subjects:

African American physicians
Detroit (Mich.). Dept. of Health
Houghton College
Missionaries – Africa
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Detroit Branch

Important Names:

Clinton C. (C. C.) Boone
Dr. Ethelene Crockett
Philip A. Hart

Bessie Beatrice Tharps
Jackie Vaughn III

Series I: Rachel Boone Keith Files, 1937-2007

Correspondence and media references to Dr. Keith and her family and material related to her medical practice, honorary degrees and other awards she received, and to civic, cultural, and educational institutions and activities with which she was associated.

Series II: Audiovisual Materials, 1989-2002

Seven videocassettes, all but one of which concern the Boone or Tharps families and all of which are VHS unless noted otherwise.

Series III: Memorabilia, n.d.

A doctor's bag and personal items from Dr. Tharps. One certificate from the State of Michigan.

Arrangement

The Rachel Boone Keith Papers are arranged into three series: Series I (Boxes 1-6), Series II (Box 7), and Series III (Box 8). Series I is arranged alphabetically by subject. Series II is arranged alphabetically by title.

Series I

Box 1

1. African-American Development Association of Liberia, Detroit Chapter; Clipping, Correspondence, Invitation, and Program, 1991
2. American Medical Association; Life Member Certificate, 2001
3. Armstrong High School, Richmond, VA; Yearbook, 1937
4. Anniversaries, Graduations, Weddings; Invitations and Programs, 1985-1995
5. Articles; Miscellaneous, n.d., 1989
6. Biographical Questionnaire; Correspondence and Form (partial), 2005
7. Book; Boone, C. C. Liberia As I Know It. Detroit: Written Images, 1929.
8. Book (photocopy); Boone, Clinton C. Congo As I Saw It.
9. Book (photocopy); Boone, Clinton C. Liberia As I Know It. Richmond, Virginia, 1929.
10. Book; Reeves, E. Toimu. Thoughts to Keep You Thinking. Monrovia, Liberia, 1972.
11. Boone, Clinton C.; Clipping, Programs, and Tribute, 1960-2004
12. Boone Family; Clippings, Pamphlets, and Miscellaneous Documents, n.d., 1980-2001
13. Boone Family Reunions; Correspondence and Programs, n.d., 1973-2000
14. Boone Family Reunions; Program with Genealogy, 2006
15. Boston University; Certificate and Publications, 1949, 1998
16. Camp Good Cheer; Report and Star Card, 1938
17. Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan; Prevention Forum Materials, 1987
18. Conference for the Federal Judiciary on the Bicentennial of the Bill of Rights; Program with Notes, 1991

Box 2

1. Correspondence; n.d., 1953-2006
2. Correspondence, Anniversary, Birthday, and Mothers' Day Cards, n.d., 1953, 1995, 1998
- 3-4. Detroit Department of Health, Health Advisory Commission; Correspondence, Meeting Materials, Newsletters, Notes, and Report, 1982-1986
5. Events, Charitable; Brochures, Correspondence, Programs, n.d., 1982-1994
6. Events, Religious; Program, 1992
7. Events, Social; Program, 1986
8. First African Baptist Church, Richmond, VA; Correspondence and Program, 1956, 2003
9. Honorary Degrees; Boston University, 1998
10. Honors and Awards; Certificates, Correspondence, and Programs, n.d., 1942-1955, 1985, 1992
11. Houghton College; Yearbook, 1941

Box 3

1. Houghton College; Yearbook, 1942
2. Houghton College; Yearbook, 1943
3. Inauguration, Johnson, Lyndon B.; Invitation, 1965
4. The Links, Inc., Great Lakes Chapter; Newsletter and Programs, 1998-2005
5. Media References; Clippings, n.d., 1938-1961
6. Media References; Clippings, 1972-1999
7. Medical Education; Book and Pamphlet, c. 1945
8. Medical Ethics; Clipping, 1989
9. Medical Licenses; Cards, Correspondence, and Certificates, 1951-1952, 1970-2006
10. Medical Practice; Continuing Education and Professional Organizations, 1962-1998

Box 4

1. Medical Practice; Correspondence, Invitation, and Minutes, 1953-1991
- 2-3. Medical Reference Notes; n.d.
4. Memorial, Rachel Boone Keith; Clippings, 2007
- 5-6. Memorial, Rachel Boone Keith; Correspondence, Resolutions, and Tribute, 2007
7. Memorial Services; Miscellaneous, n.d., 1976-1995
8. Michigan Board of Medicine; Agenda, Correspondence, Minutes and Notated Materials, 1986-1987
9. Michigan Commission on the Future of Higher Education; Correspondence and Staff List, 1985

Box 5

1. Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation; Annual Meeting Documents, 1996
2. NAACP, Detroit Branch; Clippings, n.d., 1989
3. NAACP, Detroit Branch; Program, 1977
4. NAACP, Detroit Branch, Freedom Fund Dinners; Women's Committee, 1987-1994
5. Notes; n.d.
6. Professional and Charitable Associations; Membership Cards, n.d., 1968-1986
7. Providence Baptist Church, Monrovia, Liberia; Programs, 1971-1972
8. Resumes and Business Cards; n.d.
9. Speaking Engagements; Correspondence and Programs, 1975-1988
10. Speech; Crockett, Dr. Ethelene, Award Presentations, 1972, 1988
11. Speech; Health Problems of Women. n.d.
12. Speech; On the Shoulders of Giants: Tribute to Rebecca Lee, M.D. Boston University School of Medicine. 1 May 1998.
13. Still, William Grant; Sheet Music (Autographed), 1939
14. Tharps, Bessie Beatrice; Address Book, n.d.
15. Tharps, Bessie Beatrice; Correspondence, 1921, 1937, c. 1976
16. Tharps, Bessie Beatrice; Estate, 1979-1980

Box 6

1. Tharps, Bessie Beatrice; Journal, 1975-1977
2. Tharps, Bessie Beatrice; Memorial/Tributes, 1979
3. Tharps, Bessie Beatrice; Real Estate Sale, 1976

4. Tharps, Bessie Beatrice; Virginia Union University, 1979
5. Travel Notes; n.d.
6. Wedding Planner; 1953

Series II

Box 7

1. Boone Family Reunion, 1990
3. Boone Family Reunion, 2002
4. The Farm, 1997
5. History of the Black Physician in Michigan: Norman McRae PhD, n.d., Beta videocassette.
6. Lemuel Washington Boone: Historical Marker Unveiling, n.d.
7. Ordination of Clinton Boone III, 1999.
8. Tharps' Farm, n.d., Beta videocassette.

Series III

Box 8

1. Doctor's Bag, Black Leather with Cloth Lining, Engraved "B.B.T.", n.d.
2. Certificate; State of Michigan, Appointment to Board of Medicine, Rachel Boone Keith, 1989