

# A Guide to the George F. Keesee Collection

The George F. Keesee Collection 1869-1924

1869-1924

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A Collection in Special Collections and Archives, Tompkins-McCaw Library 86/Sep/17

Virginia Commonwealth University, Tompkins-McCaw Library

2005

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## History

**Processed by:** Jody Romero

## Title Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Revision Description

**2013-11-21** Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

### Accession number

86/Sep/17

### Language

English

### Physical Characteristics

1.7 linear feet. 29 items

### Repository

Special Collections and Archives, Tompkins-McCaw Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

## Administrative Information

## **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open to research.

## **Use Restrictions**

There are no restrictions.

## **Acquisition Information**

Collection donated by Mrs. Edgar J. Fisher Jr.

## **Preferred Citation**

George F. Keesee Collection, Accession #86/Sep/17, Special Collections and Archives, Tompkins-McCaw Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

# **Biographical/Historical Information**

Dr. George Fisk Keesee was born on 05 September, 1842 in Richmond, Virginia. Orphaned at an early age, Keesee was raised by his father's friend, and prominent businessman, Cornelius Crowe.

At age 19, he joined the Confederate army. As a member of the Virginia Life Guards, he participated in what would become the first engagement of the war, the Battle of Bethel. (10 Jun, 1861) Keesee's war career was short lived, as he became ill and was reassigned to the defense of Richmond, a task he continued until war's end.

He decided on a career in dentistry, and graduated Valedictorian of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1869. Keesee set up his practice in Richmond where he remained active until his retirement in 1924. Keesee was a founding member of the Virginia Dental Association and was named Secretary, a post he would hold for over 50 years. He also helped organize the Richmond Dental Society serving the organization in a variety of capacities. At the time of his death, he was an honorary lifetime member and president emeritus.

Keesee received many accolades during his long career including being named Secretary-General of the 1907 Jamestown Exposition National Dental Conference. Keesee was reelected as secretary of the Richmond Randolph Masonic Lodge a record 59 consecutive times. He also served as its Worshipful Master from 1875-1877. His portrait still hangs in his Masonic Lodge grand hall.

Keesee married the former Sallie Bennett on 30 November, 1871 and they had five children. Keesee died 09 October, 1924 in Richmond. He is buried in Hollywood Cemetery.

# **Scope and Content**

The core of this collection is Keesee's dental office ledgers which are complete for the years of his practice. (1869-1924). There is also a collection of speeches written by Keesee, as well as some memorabilia. The collection does not include any materials documenting Keesee's work with the Masons, or the dental associations in which he belonged.

# **Arrangement**

This collection is compiled by merging accessioning numbers: 86/Sep/17, 88/Sep/18, 89/Mar/06, 90/Jul/19.

# **Contents List**

## **Dental Office Ledgers**

**Box-folder** 1

### **Scope and Content**

a typical entry would include the work done, a price, any payment made. There will be an occasional change in address.

### **Dental Office Ledgers 1869-1872**

**Box-folder** 1.1

### **Dental Office Ledgers 1873-1876**

**Box-folder** 1.2

**Dental Office Ledgers 1877-1879**

Box-folder 1.3

**Dental Office Ledgers 1880-1884**

Box-folder 1.4

**Dental Office Ledgers 1885-1888**

Box-folder 1.5

**Dental Office Ledgers 1889-1892**

Box-folder 1.6

**Dental Office Ledgers 1892-1894**

Box-folder 1.7

**Dental Office Ledgers 1895-1897**

Box-folder 1.8

**Dental Office Ledgers 1898-1900**

Box-folder 1.9

**Dental Office Ledgers 1901-1903**

Box-folder 1.10

**Dental Office Ledgers 1904-1906**

Box-folder 1.11

**Dental Office Ledgers 1907-1910**

Box-folder 1.12

**Dental Office Ledgers 1911-1914**

Box-folder 1.13

**Dental Office Ledgers 1915-1918**

Box-folder 1.14

**Dental Office Ledgers 1919-1924**

Box-folder 1.15

**Papers and personal effects.**

Box-folder 2

**Papers written by Keesee.**

Box-folder 2.1

**Valedictorian address, Baltimore College of Dental Surgery. 1869**

Box-folder 2.1

**Handwritten address, "History of Dentistry" in Virginia.**

Box-folder 2.1

**Extent**

Handwritten in pencil, with envelope.

**Handwritten reply to telegram sent by Dr. Harry Bear, then Secretary of the Virginia Dental Association.**

**Box-folder** 2.1

**Extent**

Handwritten in pencil

**Biographies of Keesee.**

**Box-folder** 2.2

**Scope and Content**

This folder contains several biographies of Keesee.

**Biography written by Dr. Burton Lee Thorpe for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition National Dental Conference. 1907**

**Box-folder** 2.2

**Biography written by Dr. Harry Bear, Dean, School of Dentistry, MCV. 1925**

**Box-folder** 2.2

**Biography written by Keesee's son, George H. Keesee**

**Box-folder** 2.2

**Photograph Collection**

**Box-folder** 2.3

**Extent**

Photograph

**Memorabilia**

**Box-folder** 2.4

**Scope and Content**

This folder contains medals, a name plate, and several appointment books.

**Medal 1907**

**Box-folder** 2.4

**Scope and Content**

Member, 1907 Jamestown Exposition National Dental Award

**Medal 1915**

**Box-folder** 2.4

**Scope and Content**

25th reunion of the United Civil War Veterans.

**Brass Doorplate**

**Box-folder** 2.4

**Scope and Content**

Dr. Keesee

**Appointment books 1910, 1915-1917**

**Box-folder** 2.4

**Bylaws booklet 1917**

**Box-folder** 2.4

**Scope and Content**

Virginia Dental Association

virginia Dental Association.

**Bylaws 1916**

**Box-folder** 2.4

**Scope and Content**

Richmond Dental Association.

**Program 1919**

**Box-folder** 2.4

**Scope and Content**

Richmond Dental Society meeting

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