

Inventory of the

**David McMahon and Barbara  
Keeling Collection**  
Rockford, Illinois

Collection

in the

Regional History Center

**RC 329**

## INTRODUCTION

David McMahon of Rockford, Illinois received material from Barbara Keeling, also of Rockford, Illinois, in 1995 which was combined with his material and donated to the Regional History Center as the David McMahon and Barbara Keeling Collection on January 30, 2013. Additional records were donated at a later date.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 7 l.f.  
Number of containers: 8  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 329

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The David McMahon and Barbara Keeling Collection consists of material on Rockford, Illinois collected by David McMahon and Barbara Keeling from the 1910s to 2011. The materials document the various religious, social, political, medical, and entertainment organizations, businesses, and events of Rockford, Illinois primarily in the later half of the twentieth century. The collection also reflects McMahon and Keeling's interest in Rockford history as they saved images and material related to Rockford's early history while also saving material on important events and organizations in Rockford during the late twentieth century. The collection consists of museum invitations and programs, political material, material on local educational institutions, newspaper clippings, newspapers, audiovisual material, and material from various organizations and events. Of particular note are the photos of President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura Bush, that were mailed to voters in 2004 located in box 4, folder 39. Also of note is a high school scrapbook of Elizabeth "Ellis" Raffl given to David McMahon by Ellis' granddaughter, Lynn Boreen of Rockford, Illinois, located in Series IV. Though the collection documents the history of Rockford, it also reflects the professional and social organizations of interest to Keeling and McMahon. The collection has little personal correspondence and material related to McMahon and Keeling's daily lives.

The collection is divided into four series: (I) Rockford History, Companies, and Organizations; (II) Newspaper Clippings; (III) Audio Visual Material; and (IV) Oversize Material. The Audio Visual and Oversize series are further divided with Audio Visual divided into (A) Slides; (B) Tapes; (C) Buttons, Passes, and Artifacts; and (D) Photographs. Oversize (IV) is divided into (A) Newspapers and (B) Various Oversize material. The donor originally organized material in Series I roughly by decade. It has been further divided by topic and chronologically within. This means that information for an organization like Tinker Swiss Cottage, will appear numerous times throughout Series I. Series II is arranged chronologically

and consists primarily of 1950s Rockford newspaper reprints of turn of the century Rockford photos. Series III, Audio Visual, is organized by subject and type, and then chronologically. Subseries D, Photographs, consist of photographs taken by David McMahon. Series IV is organized chronologically. For additional information on the Rockford Institute/ Howard Center, see the Howard Center for the Family, Religion, and Society/Rockford Institute (RC 238) For information on the Rockford Historical Society see RC 268. For additional information on Rockford, Illinois please consult the Regional History Center guides for further collections.

### HISTORICAL SKETCH

#### David W. McMahon

David W. McMahon was born in Rockford, Illinois and lives in Rockford with his wife Marcie. He graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1973 with a Graphics/ Communications BFA degree. After graduation, McMahon worked in marketing and management until his retirement in 2007. He has been a board member for several Rockford area organizations including: The Rockford Art Museum, Winnebago County Health Department Advisory, and Rockford College Social Work Advisory Committee.

In 1975 he met Barbara W. Keeling who shared an interest in Rockford and Winnebago County history. In 1995, Barbara Keeling gave McMahon an “early inheritance.” The inheritance was Keeling’s historical files which were then added to McMahon’s files.

#### Barbara W. Keeling

Barbara W. Keeling was born March 15, 1918 in Bemidji, Minnesota, the daughter of Arthur Guiteau Wedge and Margaret Wilford (Ford). She married Dr. Virgil Craig Keeling on November 24, 1945. They shared 53 years together before his death on April 30, 1999. They had 5 children together: Michael, James, Katherine, Timothy, and Thomas. Barbara Keeling was a devoted volunteer during the sixty years she lived in Rockford and her legacy includes the Keeling-Puri Peace Plaza. She died February 12, 2008.

### SUBJECT TRACINGS

AmCore Bank  
 Beattie Park  
 Box, Charles  
 Burpee Museum of Natural History  
 Churchill Grove, Rockford  
 Coronado Theater  
 Discovery Center Museum  
 First Night

RC 329- David McMahon and Barbara Keeling Collection

First Presbyterian Church (Rockford, Ill.)  
 Greenwich Village Art Fair  
 Howard Center for Family, Religion, and Society  
 Howard, John A.  
 Junior League of Rockford  
 Keeling, Barbara W.  
 Keeling, Virgil C.  
 Keeling-Puri Peace Plaza  
 Keith Country Day School (Rockford, Ill.)  
 Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden  
 McMahon, David W.  
 Midway Village and Museum Center  
 Natural Land Institute  
 New American Theater  
 Newspapers  
 Northern Illinois Botanical Society  
 "Nuggets of History"  
 On the Waterfront  
 Puri, Sunil  
 Rock Valley College  
 Rockford (Ill.)  
 Rockford Area Convention and Visitor Bureau  
 Rockford Art Museum  
 Rockford College  
 Rockford Community Foundation  
 Rockford Historical Society  
 Rockford Institute  
 Rockford Memorial Hospital  
*Rockford Morning Star*  
 Rockford Park District  
 Rockford Pro/Am  
*Rockford Register*  
*Rockford Register Star*  
 Rockford Symphony Orchestra  
 Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum  
 United States- - Politics and government

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
SERIES I. Rockford history, companies, and organizations		
1	1	Keeling pharmacy, circa 1863, circa 1911
	2	Peterson's Ladies National Magazine, 1874
	3	Tinker Swiss Cottage image, circa 1887
	4	"Air Adventures of Jimmie Allen," 1934
	5	Rockford History pre-1950 notes and printed material, 1857-1898, 1914-1955, 1968, no date
	6	"The Lawn Place Spectaculars" newspaper by Keeling children, April- July 1956
	7	First Presbyterian Church membership information and booklets, circa 1957
	8	Rockford Hospital, 1958, 1958-1977
	9	Rockford history- 1950s, circa 1950s
	10	Rockford homes and buildings, 1950, 1959, 1969-1973, 1977-1984
	11	Rockford history 1960s-First Presbyterian Church, May 1960, December 1969
	12	Rockford history 1960s, 1960-1969, 1977, no date
	13	Newspaper clippings- calendar scrapbook, 1962-1963
	14	Rockford history- civil war research, 1962-1965
	15	Rockford art history, 1965, 1969
	16	"Nuggets of History," 1968, 1973, 1975, 1979
	17	Rock River Farms, 1969, 1978, 1985
	18	Rockford music, 1969, 1983-1992, no date
	19	Theater, 1969, 1986-1987, 1990-1992
	20	Rockford College, circa 1960s, 1971-1977, 1984, 1989, no date
	21	Rockford and national history 1970s, 1969-1978
	22	Presbyterian Church information-Stronghold and First Presbyterian, 1970s, 1979
	23	Rockford and national history, 1970s, 1979
	24	The Little Travelers, circa 1970s
	25-26	Rockford music history, 1971-1989
	27	<i>The Black News Star</i> , May 19 and 26, 1972
	28	"National Avenue" history and Heritage Home Walking Tour, September 23, 1973, no date

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5	
1	29	Beattie Park Riverbank Festival, 1973, 1977, 1980, 1984-1987, 1989, no date		
	30	Wretched Mess Calendar, 1974		
	31	Tinker Swiss Cottage, 1976-1986, 1989-1992, no date		
	32	Holiday cards-Winnebago County Medical Auxiliary Holiday Share Card, 1977-1979, 1982, no date		
	33	Landmark Preservation, Energy Conservation, 1978, no date		
	34	Time Clock and Burpee Museum, 1978, circa 1970, 1999		
	35	Churchill Grove, May 1978-March 1980, March 1983-1987, 1989, no date		
	2	1	Midway Village, 1974, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986-1988, no date	
		2	Rockford Historical Society "Nuggets of History," 1980-1981, 1986-1987, 1989	
		3	Rockford Institute, 1980, 1982-1983, 1985-1989	
4		Church, 1980, 1985, 1988-1989, no date		
5		Rockford social assistance programs, 1980-1989		
6		Rockford area museums and historical programs, 1980-1989, no date		
7		Rockford history, 1980-1989		
8		Seth Burton Atwood, February 15-17, 1980, May 1989		
9		Rockford Memorial , 1980-1992, no date (1 photo)		
10		Rockford Pro/Am, 1981, 1983, 1993		
11		Rockford Goodwill, 1981, 1986		
12		Rockford marathons, 1982-1983, 1986, 1989		
13		Rockford city development and home rule debate, 1982-1984, 1986-1989		
14		Rockford Memorial Hospital Centennial booklet, 1983		
15		Taste of Rockford, April-May 1983, no date		
16		Rockford Symbol and Rockmen Guardians, 1983-1984, 1988		
17		Rockford events and programs, 1983-1986, 1988-1989		
18		Rockford Art history, 1983, 1986-1989		
19		Rockford politics, 1983, April-June 1989, no date		
20		Swedish American Spring Festival, April-May 1985		
21		Rockford homes and buildings, history and city development, 1985-1988		
22		Lincoln Academy of Illinois, 1985, 1996-1997, 2001-2002		
23		<i>Personal Foul</i> Rockford movie, April 1986-June 1987, 1991		
24		AmCore Bank, 1986-1987, 1996-1997, 2000-2003, no date		
25		New American Theater, 1986, 1990-1993, 1995-1996		
26		Barbara Taggart music, "Summer Wonderland" and "Rockford You're My Home Town," 1987-1988, no date		

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	6
2	27	Rosecrance, 1987, 1996-1997, 1999-2000	
	28	Rockford history, 1988-1989	
	29	Snow Sculpting Competition, 1988-1989, 1994, 1999, 2003	
		Waterfront:	
	30	Waterfront, 1988-1989, 1991-2002	
	31	Waterfront, 2003-2007	
	32	Waterfront, 2008-2011	
6	1	Waterfront, 2009-2010	
2	33	Rockford homes and buildings-historic and city development, 1989-1990, no date	
	34	Rockford Park District, 1989-1990, 1995, 1998	
	35	"Nuggets of History," 1989, 1992-1993, 1996-1997	
	36	Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau guides, 1989, 1995-1996	
3	1	Churchill Grove, 1990-1991, 1993, 1996	
	2	Discovery Center, 1990-1992, 1996-1997, 1999, no date	
	3	Various Rockford museums and historical organizations and books, 1990-1993, 1996, no date	
	4	Tinker Swiss Cottage, 1990, 1993, 1996-2000, no date	
	5	Rockford community services and programs, 1990, 1995-1999, no date	
	6	Rockford politics, 1990, 1996-1997, no date	
	7	Rockford and national history, 1990-1999, no date	
	8	Rockford Memorial-Rockford Health System, 1991-1992, 1995-1996, 1998-1999, no date	
	9	Personal, 1991-1992, 1995, 1997-1999, 2001-2002	
	10	Perryville Path Project, 1991-1993	
	11	Rockford businesses, 1991-1993, 1995-1996, 1998-1999	
	12	Northern Illinois Botanical Society-Klehm Arboretum, 1991-1993, 1995-1998, 2000, no date	
	13	Rockford Arts, 1991-1993, 1995-1999	
	14	Rockford College, 1991-1993, 1996-1997, 1999, no date	
	15	Golf, 1991-1993, 1996, 1998-1999, no date	
	16	Rockford events, 1991-1994, 1997-1998	
	17	First Night, 1991-1995, 1997-2000, 2003-2004	
	18	Rockford history-city development, 1991-1995, 1998, no date	
	19	First Presbyterian Church, 1991, 1994, 1996-1999, no date	
	20	Rockford Art Museum, 1991-1996	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	7
3	21	Rockford Symphony Orchestra, 1991, 1999-2000	
	22	Guides to Rockford, 1991, 2000, 2002	
	23	Midway Village and Museum Center, 1992-1993, 1996-1998, no date	
	24	Rockford Institute and Howard Center, 1992, 1994, 1996-1998	
	25	Rock Valley College, 1992, 1995, 1998-1999	
	26	Barbara Olsen Center of Hope, 1992, 1996-1997, 2001	
	27	Rockford Community history, 1993-1995, 1998-1999	
	28	Keith School, 1994-1997, 1999-2000	
	29	Winnebago County Medical Society Alliance, 1995-1999	
	30	Burpee Museum of Natural History, 1995-1999	
	31	Carrie Lynn Children's Center, 1996-1997	
	32	Rockford Community Foundation & Northern Illinois Community Foundation, 1996-1997, 1999-2003	
	33	Children's Development Center, 1996-1998, no date	
	34	BVRH Therapeutic Riding Program, Inc., 1996, 1998, 2000-2003	
	35	New American Theater, 1997-1999	
	36	Rockford Winnebago County forest and recreational facilities, 1997, 1999-2002, no date	
4	1	Rockford Art Museum, 1997-2000	
	2	Stronghold, 1998-1999, no date	
	3	Rockford Symbol, November 1999	
	4	<i>Big Town, Little City</i> newspaper articles, October-December 1999	
	5	Friends of the Coronado, 1999-2000, no date	
	6	Howard Center, November 1999-February 2001, no date	
	7	Discovery Center Museum, 1999, 2001, 2004	
	8	National articles and news clippings, 1999-2002, no date	
	9	Rockford community services and programs, 1999-2003, 2006	
	10	Rockford community history, October 1999-2005, no date	
	11	Jazz in the Night, June 24, 2000	
	12	YMCA, September 2000-Fall 2001	
	13	Northern Illinois Botanical Society and Klehm Arboretum, 2000-2002, no date	
	14	Golf, 2000-2002, no date	
	15	Midway Village and Museum Center, June 2000-June 2002, 2004	
	16	Coronado, November 2000-June 2002	
	17	Tinker Swiss Cottage, 2000-August 2002, no date	
	18	Rockford College, 2000, 2002-2004, no date	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
4	19	Rock Valley College, 2000, 2002-2004, no date	
	20	Burpee Museum, 2000-2003	
	21	Broadway at the Coronado, circa 2000-2003	
	22	Rockford calendars, 2000-2003	
	23	YWCA, 2000-2003	
	24	New American Theater, 2000-February 2003	
	25	Rockford area Development, June 2000-October 2003, 2006, no date	
	26	Various Rockford and national museums, 2000-2004, 2006, no date	
	27	Northern Illinois art programs, August 2000-April 2004	
	28	Rockford Memorial, 2001-2002	
	29	Barb Keeling personal correspondence, March, December 2001, January 2002, 2003, no date	
	30	Winnebago County Medical Society Alliance, April 2001, April-May 2002, April 2003	
	31	Rockford and Winnebago County medical history and programs, April 2001, April 2002, no date	
	32	Mendelssohn Club, 2001-September 2003, no date	
	33	Back Chamber Choir, 2001-2003	
	34	Zion Development Corporation, 2001-2003	
	35	Rockford Symphony Orchestra, 2001-2003	
	36	Natural Land Institute, 2001-2003	
	37	Keith School, 2001-2003	
	38	Rockford Art Museum, March-Winter 2001, February, October 2003, no date	
	39	Rockford and national politics, 2001-2003	
	40	Rockford events, February 2001-June 2004, no date	
	41	Junior League of Rockford, May 2003, May 2004	
	42	The Rockford Plan and correspondence, 1918, 2006	
	5	1	Personal correspondence to McMahon, no date
		2	Rockford buildings-Rockford Resort and Girl Scouts buildings, no date

#### SERIES II. Newspaper clippings

3	Rockford Commerce-West Side-newspaper clippings, 1952, January 12, 1979
4	Rockford Commerce-East-newspaper clipping and note, circa 1952, June 1952

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
5	5	Buildings-newspaper clippings, February, April 1936, 1952, July 1967
	6	Rockford Historical buildings, 1887, 1912, 1918, no date
	7	Residential Rockford-West-newspaper clippings and notes, circa 1952
	8	Residential Rockford-East-newspaper clippings and notes, circa 1952
	9	Transportation-steamship, streetcar-newspaper clippings, Circa 1952
	10	Transportation-newspaper clippings, February 23, 1936; circa 1952, June 7, 1961
	11	Rockford individuals-newspaper clippings and note, circa 1952
	12	Rockford people and groups-newspaper clippings, November 1936, 1952
	13	People of Rockford-newspaper clipping and letter, circa 1952, 1957, 1965, 1967
	14	Rockford general interest-East and West, Churches, customs, history, government-newspaper clippings, circa 1952
	15	Rock River-newspaper clippings, April 28, May 30, 1976
	16	Newspaper articles on Rockford history, June 1952, December 1959, February 1979

### SERIES III. Audio Visual

#### SUBSERIES A. Slides

17	Dr. William K. Ford's slides, 1948-1950 (24 slides)
18	Dr. Keeling-picnic at Dr. Rogers, 1950, 1954, no date (41 slides)
19	Doctor outing-Bill Ford slides, 1964 (9 slides)

#### SUBSERIES B. Tapes

	VHS:
20	<i>Rockford Register Star</i> Premier video insert-Gruno's Holiday sale and coupon, 1999
	Cassette tape:
21	Rockford music, plays, and radio, 1973-1974

<u>BOX</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
SUBSERIES C. Artifacts		
5	1-28	Waterfront: Waterfront buttons and backstage passes, 1988-2011
	29-39	First Night: First Night buttons, 1991-2001, 2003-2004
	40-43	Jazz in the Night: Jazz in the Night buttons, 1997, 1999-2001
	44	Various buttons: "Second City, Rockford, Illinois," no date
	45	"Jackson School, 1904-2004," 2004
	46	Artifacts: Delbert E. Peterson-Rockford Police Department medal, 1985
	47	Doubles Cards for Rockford Monopoly game, no date
	48	Admirals Club-map research technologies chop sticks, 2002
	49-52	Rock River clamshells-from extended beach when Commonwealth Edison worked on Fordham Dam, June 1, 1976

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
SUBSERIES D. Photographs		
	22	Photos taken by David McMahon, Shumway Farmer's Market, Rockford, Illinois, circa 1970-1972 (4 photos)
	23	Photos taken by David McMahon, Marshall Fields & Co., including Walnut Room, Chicago, Illinois, circa 1970-1972 (6 photos)
	24	Photos taken by David McMahon, DeKalb, Illinois, circa 1970-1972 (14 photos)
	25	Photos taken by David McMahon, Downtown Chicago, Illinois, circa 1972 (28 photos, 6 proof sheets)

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	11
SERIES IV. Oversize			
SUBSERIES A. Newspapers			
6	2	Rockford city and company developments-newspaper specials, 1954, 1963, 1965-1966, 1968	
	3	"Remarkable Rockford: Century Plus 10" special, March 1962	
	4	National Headlines (11) <i>Rockford Register-Republic, Rockford Morning</i> (Shepard in space), May 5-6, 1961 <i>National Observer</i> (1 <sup>st</sup> edition), February 4, 1962 <i>Chicago Tribune</i> (Kennedy Assassination), November 23, 1963 <i>Rockford Register Star</i> (Watergate-Nixon staff), October 21, 1973	
	4	<i>Chicago Tribune</i> (Watergate Transcriptions), May 1, 1974	
	5	<i>Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, Rockford Morning Star</i> (Nixon Resignation), August 9, 1974 <i>Rockford Register Star, Chicago Tribune</i> (Chicago Bulls 6 <sup>th</sup> title), June 15-16, 1998	
	6	Rockford headlines, 1965, 1972, 1979-1981, 1989, 1994, 2001	
	7	Illinois Sesquicentennial special, February 15-16, 1968	
	8	"The Energy Crisis;" "Salute to Veterans" Specials, July 1973; December 2001	
	9	"Preview '76" newspaper special, August 8, 1975	
	10	Rock River Valley Preview 1980 special, February 19, 1980	
7	1	"The Way We Are" special, February 24, 1981	
	2	"Pride of Rockford" and "Pride of Rock River Valley" specials, June 15, 1998 and June 2000	
	3	<i>Rockford Register Star</i> Millennium Specials, October 24, December 30-31, 1999	
	4	Rockford Sesquicentennial special, June 9-16, 2002	
	5	Important Newspaper Issues: Notable Issues of <i>Rockford Register, Rockford Morning Star, and Rockford Register Star</i> , 1955, 1971, 1978-1979	
	6	National historic headlines reprinted in <i>Rockford Register Star</i> and <i>New York Times</i> , 1966, 1999, no date	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	12
7	7	Newspaper inserts: Fourth Fest and Rockford Pro/Am, July 1, 1977, July 11-12, 1982	
	8	<i>Rockford Register Star</i> Welcome Guide, 1981, 1992, 1994	
SUBSERIES B. Various Oversize material			
	9	“A Sociologist Looks at an American Community” <i>LIFE</i> , October 1949 Annual Report City of Rockford, 1955	
	10	<i>LIFE</i> Special Report: 1973, The Year in Pictures, 1974	
	11	Spirit of ‘76-Rockford photo reprints and painting, 1976	
	12	<i>Time</i> Special Issue: Beyond the Year 2000: What to Expect in The New Millennium, Fall 1992	
	13	YWCA newsletter, Burpee Museum flyer, 1999, 2001	
8		David McMahon’s East High School Art Project Book: Victorian house, 1204 N. Church Street, Rockford, Illinois, Drawings, 1968; newspaper clippings, 1995; notes, 2013 (includes 2 photos)	
Oversize	vol. 1	Elizabeth “Ellis” Raffl’s Sparta Township High School Scrapbook, Red Bud, Illinois, 1920	
Oversize Drawer 28	22	AmCore Bank calendar, 1985 Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum poster, 1986 Rockford Landmarks: A Guide to Historic Rockford poster, 1989 Perspective Map of the City Rockford, 1891, reprint by Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum, circa 2000	