



BHC-MSS 0067
Guide to the Papers of Vincent Leo Keating
By Meg Rinn, January 2020

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Vincent Leo Keating

Title: Papers of Vincent Leo Keating

Dates: 1974-1951 [Bulk 1916-1920]

Quantity: 5 boxes

Abstract: Born 1891, Vincent Leo Keating was a lawyer within the City of Bridgeport for most of his life. However, his legal career was interrupted by his service in World War I as a part of Company L, 26th Infantry, First Division at Cantigny France. The scrapbooks that Keating assembled primarily contain photographs, but also include correspondence. This central part of the collection allows for excellent visual insight into local participation in the first World War.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History

Vincent Leo Keating was born September 1, 1891. His father, Bernard Keating, served as a City of Bridgeport alderman. Vincent attended Yale University, graduating in 1913 and then attending Yale Law, from which he graduated in 1915. He was a member of both Beta Theta Pie and Phi Delta Phi.

Keating joined the United States Army on August 23, 1917. Serving as a part Company L, 26th Infantry, First Division at Cantigny France, Keating saw action and won the Croix de Guerre among other awards. He also photographed what he saw extensively, and compiled two large scrapbooks that commemorated his experience and service. He also kept two detailed diaries of his time overseas, offering excellent insight into both military operations and day-to-day life in the trenches.

Following the war, Keating embarked upon his law career. He joined the firm Marsh, Stoddard and Day, and served as the prosecuting attorney for City Court from 1921 to 1923. He was appointed city's board of finance and control in 1935

Keating married Clarissa Hadel in 1924. Together they had three children, Mary, Nancy, and Vincent R.

Vincent Leo Keating died on November 22, 1936 from an accidental fall.

Scope and Content note:

The bulk of the collection focuses on Keating's service during World War I. The scrapbooks, along with the long strip of ribbon with awards and his diaries offer excellent insight into his experience. His scrapbooks are heavily weighted towards photographs.

His personal papers in the collection are minimal, although he does seem to have collected the various volumes of the Yale *Eavesdropper*, an alumni publication created for and by the class of

1913.

Also included in the collection are various municipal registers which belonged to his father, Bernard.

Arrangement Note:

Series I contains all World War I material in roughly chronological order. Series II, other material collects the finite amount of other material related to Keating and is in chronological order. The final series contains municipal registers which belonged to Bernard Keating.

Administrative information:

Provenance Donation of son, Vincent Keating. Accession #2014.12

Preferred Citation:

Papers of Vincent Leo Keating (BHC-MSS 0067) Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Keating, Vincent Leo.

Keating, Bernard

Subject tracings

World War I

Military camps

Military facilities

Military life

Military occupations

Military parades & ceremonies

Military service

Medals

Veterans

Veterans' organizations

Armies

Army

Detailed box and folder listing

Series I, World War I material

Box 1

1. World War I diary, 1918
2. World War I diary, 1918
3. Scrapbook, 1916-1925

Box 2

1. Scrapbook, 1918-1919
2. Award for being wounded in action, 1920

Box 4 – Long strip of ribbon with Keating's medals from World War I

Series II, Additional material

Box 2

3. The Eavesdropper, 1916-1925
4. The Eavesdropper, 1916-1925

Box 3

1. The Eavesdropper, 1916-1925
2. Scrapbook, 1932-1936
3. Obituary sketch of Vincent Leo Keating, 1951

Series III, Municipal registers

Box 5

1. Municipal register belonging to Bernard Keating, 1874
2. Municipal register belonging to Bernard Keating, 1876
3. Municipal register belonging to Bernard Keating, undated
4. Municipal register, likely belonging to Vincent Keating?, 1925