

**A0481**

**Fenian Brotherhood Papers, 1869-1922**

1 box

Processed by Dennis Northcott, July 2002

**REPOSITORY**

Missouri Historical Society Archives

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**DONOR INFORMATION**

Collection was purchased in 1941 from William Fleischman, grandson of John O'Keefe.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

The Fenian Brotherhood was formed in the United States circa 1858 with its goal being the liberation of Ireland from English rule. The Fenians launched several unsuccessful raids into Canada (or British North America) from 1866 to 1871. John O'Keefe (or John O'Keefe) was born in 1847 in Kilkenny, Ireland, and came to the United States as a boy. He served on the Union side during the Civil War, and became a captain in the regular army. He later fought as an officer in the 2nd Cavalry. He died January 25, 1923, in St. Louis.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Fenian Brotherhood Papers contain several speeches of John O'Keefe; a couple publications of the brotherhood; and a scrapbook that consists primarily of circulars, orders and correspondence of the Fenian Brotherhood. The papers are arranged in three series: the **John O'Keefe Speeches Series**, the **Fenian Brotherhood Scrapbook Series**, and the **Other Items Series**.

### **John O’Keefe Speeches Series**

- Folder 1** Manuscript speech of John O’Keefe on the history of Ireland’s struggle with England, delivered in Patee’s Opera House, Omaha, Nebraska, March 17, 1873 (22 pages)
- Folder 2** Manuscript speech of John O’Keefe on the Irish famine, 1880. (16 pages)
- Folder 3** Manuscript speech of John O’Keefe on American political parties, delivered at Council Bluffs, Iowa, October 31, 1884. (32 pages)
- Folder 4** Manuscript speech of John O’Keefe on American political parties, delivered during the campaign of Iowa Governor Francis Marion Drake, 1895. (34 pages)
- Folder 5** Manuscript speech of John O’Keefe on the history of America, delivered at Russell, Iowa, July 4, 1897. (22 pages)
- Folder 6** Manuscript speech of John O’Keefe on the history of America, delivered at Ottumwa, Iowa, July 4, 1898. (23 pages)
- Folder 7** Bound manuscript volume titled “Account Book of the Edward Fitzgerald Circle, Fenian Brotherhood, Fort D.A. Russell, Wy. Ter. [Wyoming Territory?].” Contains (1) undated manuscript speech of John O’Keefe titled “Ireland’s Struggle for Liberty under Daniel O’Connell (10 pages); (2) transcriptions of letters to the editor of the *Easton (Pa.) Express* and replies of John O’Keefe, dated May 1870 (5 pages); (3) recollections of John O’Keefe on the Fenian raid of Canada and the Battle of Ridgeway (12 pages); (4) manuscript speech of John O’Keefe titled “The Memory of the Dead,” delivered at St. Mark’s Hall, March 4, 1922 (5 pages); (5) manuscript speech of John O’Keefe on events in nineteenth-century Irish history, delivered at Rock Church Hall, November 24, 1922 (11 pages); and (6) three pages of notes at the back of the volume.
- Folder 8** Undated manuscript speech of John O’Keefe on Cuban liberty. (9 pages)
- Folder 9** Undated manuscript speech of John O’Keefe on the valor of the American soldier, circa 1899 (18 pages; pages 1-2 are missing)
- Folder 10** Undated manuscript speech of John O’Keefe on the valor of the American soldier (text of speech is largely the same as the speech in the preceding folder) (19 pages)
- Folder 11** Undated manuscript speech of John O’Keefe on American patriotism, delivered July 4, [circa 1903]. (25 pages)

### **Fenian Brotherhood Scrapbook Series**

- Folder 12**  
1868 Sep 15 Printed circular letter “To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood,”

dated Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill. (4 pages)

**Folder 13**

1868 Oct 17 Printed circular letter "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," dated Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill. (8 pages)

**Folder 14**

1869 Apr 8 Printed circular letter "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," dated Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed James Gibbons. (2 pages) (2 copies)

1869 Apr 17 Receipt for payment from Fort D.A. Russell, Wyoming, Fitzgerald Circle

1869 Apr 19 Letter of F. Renehan, Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York, to John O'Keefe, Fort D.A. Russell, Wyoming (2 pages) (Enclosure includes appointment and commission of John O'Keefe as Centre of the "Edward Fitzgerald" Circle, Fort D.A. Russell, Wyoming, April 1, 1869)

1869 May 1 Circular order, dated Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, New York. Signed T. O'Leary. (2 pages)

1869 May 1 General Orders No. 1, dated Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, New York. Signed T. O'Leary (1 page)

1869 May 1 General Orders No. 2, dated Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, New York. Signed T. O'Leary (2 pages)

1869 May 1 General Orders No. 3, dated Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, New York. Signed T. O'Leary (1 page)

1869 May 1 General Orders No. 4, dated Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, New York. Signed T. O'Leary (3 pages)

1869 Jun 11 Letter of F. Renehan, Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York, to John O'Keefe, Fort Sanders, Wyoming (1 page)

1869 Jun 14 Letter of F. Renehan, Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York, to John O'Keefe, Fort Sanders, Wyoming (1 page)

1869 Jun 24 Printed circular letter "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," dated Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed James Gibbons. (2 pages)

**Folder 15**

- 1869 Aug 24 Printed circular letter "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," dated Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill. (2 pages)
- 1869 Sep 10 Printed circular letter "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood and the Friends of Irish Liberty generally," dated Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill. (2 pages)
- 1869 Sep 13 Letter of F. Renehan, Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York, to John O'Keefe, Fort Sanders, Wyoming (1 page)
- 1869 Oct 27 Printed circular letter "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood, and the Friends of Irish Liberty generally," dated Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill. (1 page)
- 1869 Nov 8 Letter of F. Renehan, Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York, to John O'Keefe, Omaha, Nebraska (1 page)
- 1870 Jan 17 Letter of James Keenan, Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York, to John O'Keefe, Fort Sanders, Wyoming Territory (1 page)
- 1870 Jan 21 Printed circular letter "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill. (3 pages) (2 copies)
- 1870 Jan 24 Letter of James Keenan, Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York, to John O'Keefe, Omaha Barracks, Nebraska (1 page)

**Folder 16**

- 1870 Feb 3-4 General Orders Nos. 1 & 2, Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill and M. Kerwin (1 page)
- 1870 Feb 8 Printed circular letter "To the Officers and Members of Circles now in bad standing on the books of these Headquarters," Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill (1 page) (2 copies)
- 1870 Feb 19 Printed circular "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill. (2 pages) (3 copies)
- 1870 Feb 28 Printed circular letter "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," New York. Signed James Gibbons. (1 page)
- 1870 Mar 1 Printed circular "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill. (1 page)

- 1870 Mar 5 Letter of F. Renehan, New York, to John O'Keefe, Omaha Barracks, Nebraska (1 page) (Enclosure includes appointment and commission of John O'Keefe as Centre of the "Emeraldo" Circle of Omaha Barracks, Nebraska, March 1, 1870.)
- 1870 Mar 17 Printed circular "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill. (1 page)
- 1870 Mar 30 Printed circular "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," New York. Signed Richard McCloud. (1 page) (2 copies)
- 1870 Mar 31 Printed circular "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill. (2 pages) (2 copies)

#### **Folder 17**

- 1870 Apr 19 Printed report of the Treasurer of the Fenian Brotherhood from March 11 to April 19, 1870 (2 pages)
- no date Printed resolutions (1 page)
- 1870 Apr 24 Printed circular letter "To the Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," Eighth National Congress, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed Wm. Egan, F. Renehan, P.H. Maguire. (2 pages) (2 copies)
- 1870 Apr 28 General Orders, Headquarters, War Department, Fenian Brotherhood, Deckertown, Sussex County, New Jersey. Signed M. Kerwin. (1 page) (2 copies)
- 1870 May 5 Special Orders No. 5, Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York. Signed John O'Neill (1 page)
- 1870 May 5 Letter of John O'Neill, Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York, to Capt. John O'Keefe, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (1 page)
- 1870 May 19 Letter of F. Renehan, Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York, to John O'Keefe, Easton, Pennsylvania (1 page)
- 1870 May 25 Letter of F. Renehan, Headquarters, Fenian Brotherhood, New York, to John O'Keefe, Easton, Pennsylvania (1 page)
- 1870 Jul 1 Printed circular letter "To the Officers and Members of the Fenian Brotherhood," Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Signed James Gibbons. (1 page)

#### **Folder 18**

Scrapbook covers

**Other Items Series**

**Folder 19**     *Proceedings of the Fifth National Congress of the Fenian Brotherhood at Troy, New York, September 1866; with Message of Wm. R. Roberts, President of the F.B. (Philadelphia, 1866) (35 pages)*

**Folder 20**     *Constitution of the Fenian Brotherhood (Philadelphia, 1869) (22 pages)*

**Folder 21**

1870             Blank certificate that the bearer has been duly elected as a representative at the Eighth National Congress of the Fenian Brotherhood, to be held at New York, April 19, 1870

1921 Apr 15     Certificate granted to Col. John O'Keefe as a duly elected delegate to the National Convention of the American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic to be held in Chicago

no date             Notes of John O'Keefe (2 pages)