

The Keeney Researcher

an online genealogy newsletter



Volume 1 Number 1 k-f-g-online.info Co-Edited by: **D. Keeney & M. Winner**

Welcome to the first issue of The Keeney Researcher an online genealogy newsletter.



Please consider sharing information you may have. It may help someone hurdle a brick wall and they will appreciate it. And you never know they may even have something that they can share with you. Even sharing a photograph of an ancestor is a step in the right direction.



Send items to either [Dan Keeney](#) or [Mary Winner](#) using 'The Keeney Family Researcher' for the subject line.

Submitted by Sharon Galitz a newspaper story:
Joliet Signal, 27 July 1858,

"Haskins, John, shot by Nelson Kinney, Monee, 7/17."

"MURDER - Two men, partners in the plastering business at Monee, in this county (Will, Illinois), named John Haskins and Nelson Kinney, got into an affray, on the 17th inst., which resulted in Kinney's shooting Haskins, who died from the effect of the wound received, on the day following. It appears that Kinney was jealous of Haskins, suspecting him of undue intimacy with his wife, which was the cause of the quarrel. Haskins died confessing the crime of which Kinney suspected him. The latter is in custody."

Note from: Sharon Galitz

The correct names were John L. Haskin and George Nelson Keeney. They were brothers-in-law; John Haskin was married to Clarissa Elizabeth Keeney. No marriage has ever been found for George Nelson Keeney, and Clarissa Keeney Haskin went on to marry twice more.



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Jim Person sent this in after I requested if he knew anything about it. I had remembered reading it some time ago but forgot where I had seen it online.

Eli Keeney (1845-1879)

son of Captain Jonathan Keeney died in a shoot out at the Headquarters saloon in Bozeman, MT. His brother Elias was also at the bar. Not to be confused with their uncle's Eli and Elias Keeney sons of John Jr. Keeney. My grandpa Bud always insisted that Eli Keeney (1828-1878), whose grave he maintained in the Keeney Cemetery, was the Eli that died in the shootout. I tried to explain it to him once but he got very angry so I never tried to correct him again.

Bud was [Vaderon E. Keeney \(1921 - 2012\)](#)

Editors note the date of the Friday mentioned would have been 31 October 1879

The following is a transcription from the newspaper article from Bozeman:

A Double Tragedy. A double tragedy, in which two men met their death at the hands of each other, occurred about six o'clock on Friday evening last, in the Headquarters Saloon. The circumstances, as near as we have been able to gather them were as follows:

On Friday evening, in the Headquarters Saloon, Wm. Roberts and Eli Keeney, strangers to each other, had a dispute and quarrel, during which Keeney called Roberts a liar, etc. Roberts said, "I am a boy yet, but little more than twenty-one, but I am man enough not to take the lie from anyone." He then asked Keeney if he was "heeled." Keeney said "no." Whereupon Roberts took off his revolver and cartridge belt and handed them to E. J. Keeney, brother of Eli, with who he was acquainted, to hold, while they fought it out. They then engaged in a rough and tumble fight in which Keeney came out second best. Keeney then left the saloon, and Wm. Roberts, his brother Sim, and E. J. Keeney stepped out on the sidewalk in front of the saloon together. Here E. J. Keeney said to Wm. Roberts: "Do you know who that man is you just whipped?" Roberts said, "no." Keeney then said, "He is my brother." "My God," said Roberts, "If I'd known that I'd have taken anything from him." E. J. Keeney then said, "That's all right, he insulted you and deserved thrashing."

In a few moments the party re-entered the saloon, where they were soon joined by Eli Keeney, who, it seems, had during his brief absence gone up the street about one and a half blocks to his buggy, in which his wife was seated, waiting for him to go home. He took his revolver from under the seat and returned to the saloon, as above stated. On entering the saloon he was met by his brother, E. J. who talked to him about the matter, telling him he was making a fool of himself, etc., and endeavored to persuade him to start for home. While they were talking together, Keeney advanced toward Roberts, who was standing at the corner of the piano stand, and when almost close enough to touch him, suddenly and unexpectedly drew his revolver and fired, the ball taking effect in Robert's body. Blood spouted freely from the wound, and the man staggered, but rallying, pulled his revolver and fired at Keeney.

Both, fell, when Roberts fired at Keeney the second time. In the meantime, and almost simultaneously with the first shot fired by Wm. Roberts, Sim Roberts also fired at Keeney. Seeing his brother and his assassin both lying on the floor, Sim commenced backing out of the room. J. L. Sanborn, a deputy sheriff, then attempted to arrest him, but Sim kept him and others at bay by firing his revolver over them, and under them through the floor. He then went to Fridley Bros. Stables, selected his horse, carefully reloaded his revolver and started, heedless of attempts on the part of the sheriff to halt him as he left the stable.

When the shooting commenced the saloon was full, but it was soon emptied, and when the

shooting was over the building was promptly closed by authorities and the Coroner sent for. On his arrival the bodies were found just as they fell, Roberts with one wound, the ball having entered his body on the left of the median line, just below the lower rib, ranging upward, cutting off the main artery to the heart in its course and lodging in the back. He lived about ten minutes, but never spoke.

An examination of Keeney's body showed him to be wounded in three places, any one of which would of killed him almost instantly. One shot had just chipped his chin and then passed through his neck, severing the spinal cord in its passage. Another shot had entered the opening of the left ear, passed through the lower portion of the cerebrum and came out on the other side of the head, about two inches from the opening of the right ear. The other shot entered his body on the front edge of the left shoulder; it also passed entirely through the body, breaking the backbone in its course and coming out of the back near the inside of the shoulder blade. The shot through the head was undoubtedly fired by Sim Roberts. The shot through the neck, by Wm. Roberts before he or Keeney had fallen, the position of the men, the course of the ball and the hole in the floor, through which one ball had passed, leading unmistakably to this conclusion.

The Coroner's Jury, after a thorough examination into all the circumstances of the case, gave a verdict in accordance with the facts above recited, viz: That Wm. Roberts came to his death from a pistol shot fired with felonious intent by Eli Keeney, and Eli Keeney came to his death at the hands of Wm. Roberts, in self defense.

Eli Keeney came to Montana about two months since, from Oregon. He was known to be a very quarrelsome disposition, especially when under the influence of liquor, as was frequently the case. He leaves a wife and two children.

Wm. Roberts came to Montana from Wyoming, in July of last. He was born in Texas in July, 1857, but has been engaged in herding cattle in Wyoming and Nebraska since 1876. Since he has been in Montana he has been working for the Montana Cattle Co., whose herds range on the Muscleshell. His father and mother are both dead, but he leaves a step-mother and two step-brothers in Texas.

Sim Roberts left his home in Texas in May 1878, and went to Wyoming, where he assisted his brother in herding until February 1879, when he came to Montana and went to work for the Montana Cattle Company. He is two years younger than his brother William, being 20 years of age last October. On the night of the shooting, he says he would never have left the saloon but for Sanborn's attempt to arrest him. He was a stranger in town, was not aware that Sanborn was an officer of the law. Fearful that in the excitement following the shooting and death of two men, the people might mob him, he concluded to leave town if possible. He rode from here to Benson's landing, on a horse without saddle or bridle, in three hours, making ten miles an hour.

He immediately sent in a friend to see that his brother was properly buried and ascertain if it would be safe for him to return and surrender himself to the officers of the law. The messenger arrived him Saturday, with a request to Sim to come in and attend the funeral of his brother, which was set for 2:30 pm Sunday. The message did not overtake Mr. Roberts, however, until 4 pm Sunday, on Sweet Grass, 116 miles from Bozeman. He immediately started for town, and arrived here Monday evening. No attempt being made to arrest him, on Tuesday he voluntarily appeared before Probate Judge McPherson, waived examination and gave bonds in the sum of \$4,000 to appear before the Grand Jury, which convenes in Bozeman on Monday next.

Eli Keeney was buried on Saturday last. A committee of citizens, consisting of G. W. Wakefield,

Nelson Story, Geo. Ash, Warren Evans, Walter Cooper, L. S. Wilson, J. D. Chestnut, H. B. Galfee, P. O. Worsham and J. S. Mendenhall, in the absence of relatives, took charge of the body of William Roberts, and the funeral took place on Sunday from the M. E. Church, Rev. C. L. Richards officiating. The funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Bozeman.

Source: The Avant Courier, 6 November 1879, Bozeman, Gallatin Co., Montana [the above article also showed a diagram of the crime scene] [Another version located online.](#)



Mary Winner found this online @ <http://www.langeonline.com/Heritage/bjorkman.html>

It can also be found @ <http://genforum.genealogy.com/keeney/messages/385.html>

I thought I was related to the John who married Sarah Webster but the ages didn't make sense. I now see that I am related to the other John.

PROOF FOR JOHN KEENEY m. SARAH WEBSTER (courtesy of [Gwen Boyer Bjorkman](#))

Donald Lines Jacobus and Edgar Francis Waterman, Hale, House, and Related Families, (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1978, c1952), p. 587 and also Donald Lines Jacobus, "John Case Family of Glastonbury, Conn". The American Genealogist (July 1949) 25:205-206.

Sarah Webster m. John Keeney [b. 1699] son of Joseph Keeney and Hannah Hills [not John Keeney b. 1712]. John Keeney (b.22 May 1699) m. 1st Mercy Smith, b. abt. 1706, dau of Samuel and Mary (Church) Smith and 2nd after 1749, Sarah (Webster) Case, b. at Glastonbury, 13 Jan 1718/19, dau of Jonathan and Esther (Judd) Webster, widow of John Case.

On 17 July 1727 Jonathan Webster's deed from John & Mercy Keeny. Wee John Keeny and Mercy his wife of the Town of Hartford in the County of Hartford ... for 30L to Jonathan Webster of Glastonbury ... a piece of land partly in Glastonbury and partly in Hartford bounded west upon the Connecticut River, east on present county road, north on land in the improvement of the widow Mary Smith and south on the land of Mary Smith the younger ... [Glastonbury, Hartford Co, CT DB 3:156]

On 18 Feb. 1746/7, Jonathan Webster of Hartford conveyed for love to his son-in-law John Case and Sarah his wife of Glastonbury [Glastonbury Deeds, 5:26]. This deed seems to have been missed by the compilers of the Webster Genealogy, which states that Sarah Webster married a Keeney, that being proved by her father's will.

The inventory of the estate of John Case of Glastonbury was taken 1 July 1749 by Jonathan Webster of Glastonbury and Timothy Porter, Jr., of Hartford. Jonathan Webster was surety on the bond of the widow, Sarah Case. The small estate was insolvent and half of it was set out to the widow. [Manwaring's Digest, 3:521.]

Therefore Sarah Webster Case m. John Keeney after this 1749 inventory and before Jonathan Webster's will was written in 14 Sep 1758 where he names his dau Sarah Keeney [Hartford Wills from the Webster Genealogy]

While all of this was going on, our John Keeney [b. 1712] was having children: Anna b. 1739, Mark b. 1740, Ephraim b. 1742, Mary B. 1746, Esther b. 1754 and more. Our John Keeney was in the deed records of Stratford, Fairfield Co. from 1737 to 1752 and in Kent, Litchfield Co. from 1752 to 1774 and in Washington in 1784. It would have been quite unlikely for Sarah Webster Case who was married to John Case up until his death in 1749 to have been the mother of these children b. 1739 to 1754.

Andrew Jackson Keeney 1822 - 1898

KEENEY SETTLED IN LANE IN 1850

Sampled California First But Oregon Was More To His Liking

Like many another early Oregonian, Andrew Jackson Keeney sampled California first and found it not to his liking. Born in Missouri, he went to California in 1850, but returned to Missouri after 18 months.

In May, 1857, with his wife and four children, he set out for Oregon. They went by way of California, and there disposed of their wagons and took sea passage to Portland. They came to Lane county and purchased the Milton Riggs donation land claim of 640 acres, to which he added another 202 acres. His first wife and child had died in Missouri, and it was a second wife, the former Mrs. Hannah Cooper, who came to Oregon. Mrs. Cooper's daughter, Ann Cooper, married James W. Matlock. The second wife died, and Keeney then married Mrs. Amanda Jane Mathews, daughter of Benjamin and Sophrona Morss of Creswell. They had five children, Martha Ellen, Benjamin Franklin, now county assessor, Andrew Alva, Thomas Paine and a son who died in infancy.

Andrew Keeney's brothers, Eli and Elias, twins, were also among early settlers. Eli settled near Pleasant Hill and Elias near Brownsville.

Eli Keeney 1828 - 1878

LONG KEENEY TRIP SADDENED BY DEATH

The loss of their infant daughter saddened the plains journey for Eli and Elizabeth Keeney, who left Holt county, Mo. in April 1851. They arrived here six months later.

Captain Jonathan Keeney, elder brother of Eli Keeney, was captain of the train. Indians did not attack the emigrants, but constantly stole cattle and horses. Mrs. Keeney had a beautiful saddle mare given her as a parting gift by her father. This, too, was stolen.

Near The Dalles baby Francis died. The child was placed in a little wooden box and buried near the Columbia river. A large mound of stones was placed over the grave to discourage coyotes.

The Keeneys located near Pleasant Hill, taking up a donation claim now owned by John Sellers. Grass about their log cabin was so high it nearly reached the backs of grazing cattle.

Food was scarce the first year, and all winter the family used browned wheat for coffee. The large amount of game saved them. Indians made no serious trouble, but often alarmed Mrs. Keeney by demanding food. Eli Keeney served in the Indian war.

Nine children were born to the couple, all now dead except Mrs. Leathe E. Ryckard, the youngest daughter.

Frank Abner Keeney 1867 - 1958

The first time I heard about the Keeney Music Hall was on November 20, 2001 by way of [Betty C. Richards](#) at the time I tried looking it up online and didn't really find much on it. I then got busy doing other things and it slipped to the side of things to do.

Then in the 2009 issue of [KFG](#) I was asked if I knew anything about Frank Keeney who owned the Keeney Theater in Brooklyn, NY. I looked online again and found a little bit about the theater and it's owner. It got pushed aside yet again and then at the beginning of the summer 2014 I dug up quite a bit about Frank Keeney and his several theaters. As far as I can tell all were vaudeville theaters when established and then movie screens were eventually added and both types of entertainment were offered.

In attempting to research the Keeney Theaters it looks like that around 1926 Loews bought out 3 of the theaters that Frank had, as near as I can figure out the names appear to be this way.

1. **Keeney Music Hall (Keeney's Theater)** 1915 - 1926 was located at 300 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217 when sold 9 June 1926 it became Loews Livingston Theater then was renamed in 1928 to Loews Melba Theater which was demolished in 1954 and is now is a four level parking & commercial building.
2. **Keeney's Bay Ridge** 1921 - 1926 was located at 7120 Third Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209 became Loews Bay Ridge Theater now it's a McDonald's and Rite Aid
3. **Keeney's Bedford Theater** 1924 - 1926 was located at 1372 Bedford Avenue at Bergen Street Brooklyn, N.Y. 11216 became Loews Bedford Theater and is now a church.

I keep finding more theatres that he owned and will just add them to the PDF below. Newspaper advertisements from 1909 also found a Keeney's Theatre at 323 Wall Street, Kingston, New York that was built in 1918/19 I'm not sure why the date conflict is there but it is.

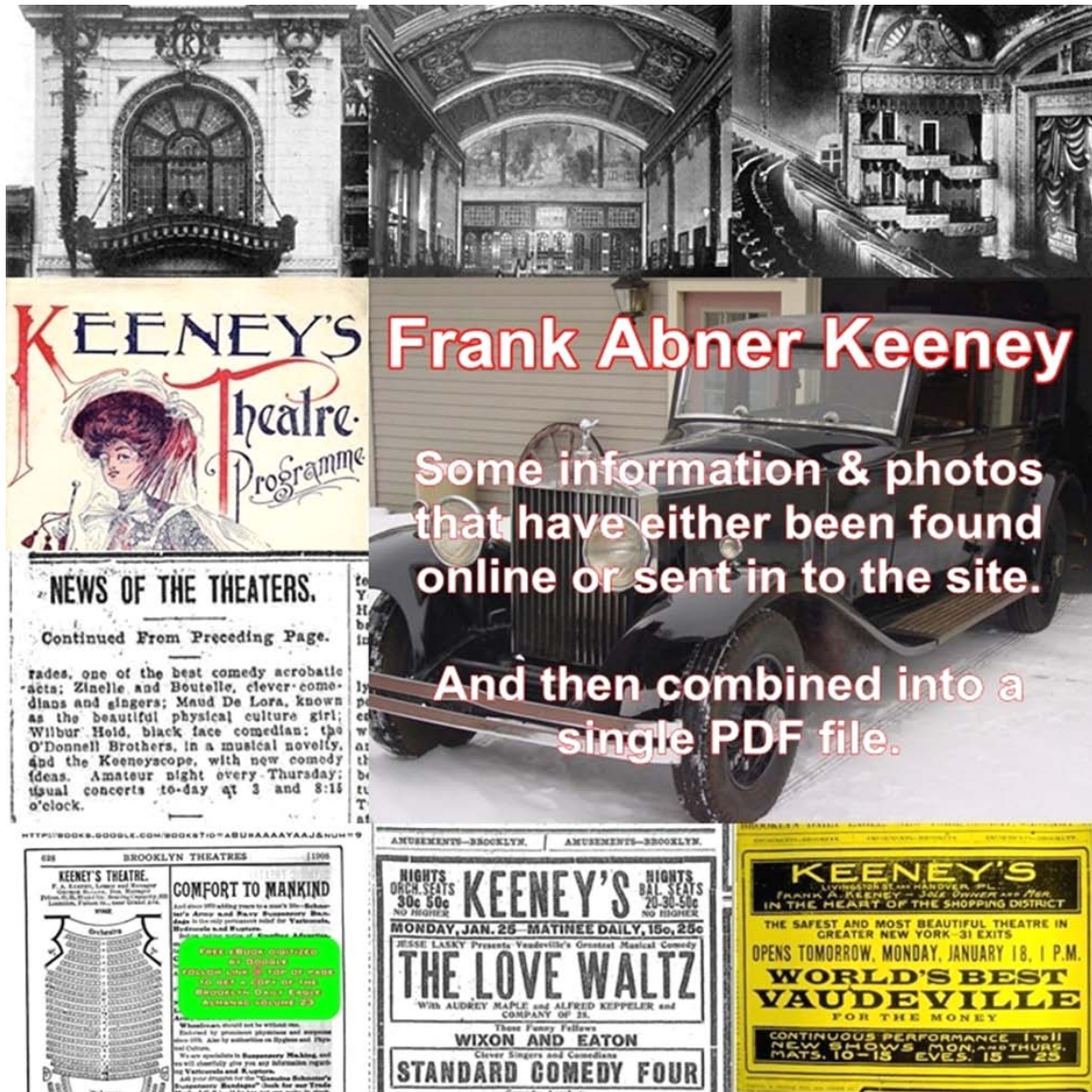
Mentions of Keeney Music Hall and Keeney theaters

- [Barbra Streisand Archives](#)
- [Funny Girl \(Fanny Brice\)](#)
- [Photo's Loews Melba Theater managed by Frank Keeney](#)

● [Loews Bedford managed by Frank Keeney](#)

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- [Keeney's Bay Ridge Theater](#)
- [A seating chart found in a free ebook on Google](#)
- A [PDF file](#) with a collection of items relating to Frank and his theaters.



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Daniell Lee Keeney

Saturday, August 10, 2013

Chino Champion

Professional Santa Claus finds daily reason to say 'Ho Ho Ho'

By Brenda Dunkle

Tired of cheap razors, Dan Keeney of Chino Hills let his beard grow out. When it came in white, the former school bus driver discovered a new calling.

Mr. Keeney, 55, has been portraying Santa Claus for two years and is a member of the Inland Empire chapter of the Fraternal Order of Real Bearded Santas (FORBS), a non-profit group of 41 professional Santas. He is also the webmaster for the group's website, www.ie-forbs.com.

In 2010, Mr. Keeney's sister suggested he play Santa at a family Christmas party. Realizing there might be some call for the Jolly Old Elf at other holiday get-togethers, the Chino Hills resident joined a FORBS group in fall 2011, but never got a call back about insurance and other business aspects of the Santa job.

That group disbanded in 2012, but was soon revived by the president of the FORBS Orange County chapter.

Although Mr. Keeney didn't get Santa work in 2011, he made up for it in the 2012 holiday season, working 12 to 14 hour days for a Christmas amusement center in Irvine.

He said most professional Santas usually have their holiday jobs lined up by August. He recently applied for a job as a relief Santa at Bass Pro Shops in Rancho Cucamonga, but was told that at 5-foot-7, he was too short to relieve the 6-foot-1 main Santa.

When you look like Santa, you have a reputation to uphold all year long, so Mr. Keeney doesn't smoke, swear or drink alcohol.

While the Chino Hills resident wears red 99 percent of the year, "no matter what color I wear, the kids see Santa," he said.

He bleaches the hair on his head every seven days during the holiday season, and cuts down to four to six weeks during the off season when his hair is more of a straw color. His beard and mustache need no color enhancing, he said.

Playing Santa isn't cheap. Mr. Keeney has spent about \$3,300 in the last two years for his suits and accessories, chemicals to keep his hair white, insurance, a background check, and the FORBS dues of \$25 a year.

Mr. Keeney's least favorite part of his job is wearing the velvet and faux fur covered suit when there isn't any air



Submitted photo

Dan Keeney as Santa talks to his grand-nephew, Michael Saunders of Hemet, at a family Christmas party in November 2012.

conditioning. The suit, including real leather boots and brass buckle, weighs about 12 pounds, he said. One of his two suits retailed for \$550, but he got it for \$300 from an online Santa clothing store.

He said his favorite part of the job is being with the children and listening to their wishes. Even screaming youngsters don't faze him. He said his 22 years driving a school bus in the Glendale/Pasadena area may help him deal with noise.

When an 8-year-old autistic girl refused to sit on Santa's lap last year, Mr. Keeney told her, "I'm not going to bark. I'm not going to bite, but I might say Ho, Ho, Ho." She eventually was coaxed onto his lap for photos, thrilling her parents, Mr. Keeney said.

Some children ask for a lot and others want just one or two items.

"One kid, 8 or 9, asked for a Mac computer, an Apple iPad, a mini iPad, and an iPhone, and this, before he even got to any toys," Mr. Keeney said, shaking his head.

He said a common request is for "mom and dad to get back together."

Mr. Keeney said he never promises children any particular present, but tells them he will try to get it for them.

As a joke, adults often bend the ear of Santa during the holidays, asking for expensive cars and new homes. A staff member at the Home Depot in Chino often tells Mr. Keeney, "I didn't get my Corvette again this year." To which, the year-round Santa replies, "Well, you haven't been good enough."

Recently, in a Chino pizzeria, a young girl approached

Mr. Keeney and asked if he was Santa. "Do you think I look like Santa?" he asked. "Yes," she said. "My friends aren't going to believe this. I'm going to have a heart attack. I'm going to have a heart attack."

Sometimes children ask him why he's in the Chino Valley when it isn't Christmas. "I say, 'I'm here watching you,'" he said. Mr. Keeney carries a pouch filled with candy and pencils to hand out to youngsters.

He said his wife Christina doesn't mind his Santa gig, as long as he has insurance. He currently has \$4 million in coverage, just in case one of his customers slips off his lap while reciting their Christmas wishes.

Because of his holiday season obligations Mr. Keeney usually doesn't have time to decorate his home for Christmas. But it's just as well, because his wife is allergic to pine.

The Inland Empire FORBS members meet once a month to socialize and share Santa stories. About 15 of them were at Tom's Farms in Corona last November, where they surprised visitors by walking as a group around the produce store and restaurant.

On other occasions, they took in a baseball game at the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes minor league stadium, tossed down ice teas at a restaurant in Norco, and ate Basque food at the Centro Basco restaurant in Chino.

"If there's a group of us together, we tell kids 'it's your job to pick out the real Santa,'" Mr. Keeney said.

When Mr. Keeney is asked if he's the real Santa, he answers "Maybe I am, maybe I'm not, take your choice."

Here's [a link to a larger image](#) of this article. When the web page opens move your mouse over the image and it should change to a magnifying glass with a + plus sign then just click on the image for a full size view.

Note: the original article was published with the same photo in black & white. There are a couple of mistakes the biggest one being Chino Hills it should be just Chino the other being that I do not refer to children as being kids. I'll either say children or child



Keeney Obituary links

I found 91,400 links using Keeney Obituaries as a search term here are a few.

[Durbin Keeney, Jr.](#) 1948 - 2014

[Marie J. Keeney](#) 1959 - 2014

[Whitney K. Keeney](#) 1988 - 2010

[John W. Keeney](#) 1933 - 2013

[James L. Keeney](#) 1937 - 2014

[Richard Keeney](#) 1947 - 2014

[Esta Mae Keeney](#) 1917 - 2014

[Danny L. Keeney](#) 1941 - 2014

[Mary J. Keeney](#) 1925 - 2014

[John E. Keeney](#) 1971 - 2014

[Larry E. Keeney](#) 1955 - 2014

[Walter K. Keeney](#) 1926 - 2014

[Allan L. Keeney](#) 1941 - 2013

[Dr. Bradford L. Keeney](#) 1949 - 2014



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I was looking for a photo of the John David Keeney family of Keokuk, Iowa for the March 1988 Keeney Update & I found this by accident it's a PDF on Captain Jonathan Keeney and it has some newspaper clippings & photos that I have not seen before in it. The file contains 16 pages.

http://www.oregonpioneers.com/bios/JonathanKeeney_1846.pdf



If anyone has access to old newspaper archives maybe they could send in a link for better copy of the following:

This may have come from Lindsay, Oklahoma but I am not sure of that or even when it was published.

As you can tell the only parts that are readable are the Headline & the sub-headline.



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Submitted by: Mary Winner

Are We Correctly Identified?



[Larger image](#)



[Larger image](#)

This is the log cabin my great grandfather built in Osceola, Lewis, NY. The picture was taken around 1900 because the baby on the blanket is Harriet Abbey Keeney who was born in 1900. I was informed that the baby was Hattie, the boy closest to the door was Justus and the women was Hattie Abbey Keeney my great grandmother.

Right to left my best guess is Edna Keeney Mellen 1891-1967, Harriet Abbey Keeney Kinney 1900-1955, George Ellsworth Keeney 1886-1938, Harriet L Abbey Keeney 1858-1915, Justus Thayer Keeney 1884-1955 and Adelbert Keeney 1894-1962.

Maybe someone in the family will see this picture and let us know if I got them correct.



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Another newspaper clipping of a Keeney involved shooting. This on Joseph Elias Keeney (1850 -1938) also a son of Captain Jonathan Keeney. This is the brother of Eli Keeney in the 1879 Headquarters saloon shooting in Bozeman, Montana above.



So this is the first issue put together with some submitted items, some from the site and some found online.

Let's make the next issue even better!!!

Send in items you have and we will get started on another issue, we are only committing our selves to two issues a year to start with but if enough is sent in to make up at least an 8 page issue as printed from either the word document or the PDF we will put them out at the rate we receive enough items.

Don't forget by sending items in you maybe helping someone over a brick wall.



Send items to either [Dan Keeney](#) or [Mary Winner](#) using 'The Keeney Family Researcher' for the subject line.

[Facebook Page](#)



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