



State of Tennessee
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Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

“BEAUTIFUL JIM KEY” COLLECTION

1885-[1897–1907]-1933

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INTRODUCTION

The Beautiful Jim Key Collection (1885 – [1897-1907] – 1933) was donated to TSLA in 2005 by a relative (Annie Mott Whitman) of Dr. William Key, the self-trained, African-American veterinarian (and former slave) who partnered with promoter A. R. Rogers to showcase the extraordinary talents of the horse, Jim Key, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The collection is comprised of photographs, tickets, letters, programs, broadsides, flyers, newspaper clippings, and other ephemera related to Jim Key's travels around the country. This collection is significant for its documentation of the humane movement for animals in the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, especially as it relates to humane education for children. The most important item at TSLA related to this collection is Mim Eichler Rivas' 2005 book, *Beautiful Jim Key: The Lost History of a Horse and a Man who Changed the World*, which details the life of Jim Key and those who promoted him.

The collection is approximately 1.5 cubic feet and includes two scrapbooks and one box of loose items. These items were most likely originally a part of the scrapbooks, but at some point fell out of their original locations. The scrapbooks were originally created by Dr. William Key and A. R. Rogers and were later passed on to relatives of Dr. Key. The condition of the scrapbooks was only fair when received by TSLA, as many of the items were torn, damaged, or had fallen out of their original positions in the scrapbooks.

All materials in the collection have been individually listed in the container list for this finding aid. Conservation work has been completed on both scrapbooks: volume #1 was kept in its original order, but reformatted on acid-free materials. The second scrapbook, located in box #2, has not been reformatted, but it was interleaved with acid-free paper. Most of the images have been scanned. Volume #1 can be safely handled, but the scrapbook located in box #2 is too fragile for frequent handling or photocopying. The materials in the Hollinger box are safe to handle. Except for conservation issues with the scrapbook in box #2, there are no restrictions on this collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Dr. William Key (1833 - 1909) *owner and trainer of Jim Key*

Dr. William Key was born a slave in Winchester, Tennessee. His master, John W. Key, was a planter in Shelbyville, Tennessee. William was tutored by his master and early on showed signs of high intelligence and remarkable abilities. Key was later trained as an apprentice in veterinary medicine. During the Civil War he fought for the Confederate Army and was at one point imprisoned as a spy. Key was married four times; his first three wives died, but his fourth wife, Maggie, outlived him. At age 57, Key started teaching Jim Key, and was 64 when he started exhibiting the horse and showcasing his talents. Key had no children, but treated Jim as if he were his own child. He was widely known for his gentle treatment of Jim, and his strongly held belief that horses were best trained through kindness and patience.

A. R. Rogers (1864 - 1946) *promoter for Jim Key*

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Rogers first encountered Jim Key at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition in 1897. He established a business relationship with Dr. William Key when he realized that together, they could successfully promote the unusual talents and skills of Jim Key as well as humane education and kindness to animals. Rogers worked with prominent animal advocacy organizations and representatives, including the MSPCA's George T. Angell, during his tenure as Jim Key's business manager. Rogers was involved in promoting and marketing other large-scale entertainment events throughout the country as well.

Beautiful Jim Key (1889 - 1912) *the horse who was trained by kindness and showed signs of high intelligence and special abilities*

Jim Key was born near Shelbyville, Tennessee. At birth, he was "spindly, shank-legged," and named after a bow-legged drunkard who lived nearby. His sire was Tennessee Volunteer, a Hamiltonian horse or standard bred, typically used for trotting (harness racing). Jim Key's dam was Laurette, a pure-bred Arabian mare. According to legend, she was stolen from a Persian sheik. Even though her value was originally \$50,000, William Key acquired her for \$40 – a low sum of money, as she was broken down and unhealthy after years of unkind treatment as a circus horse. Jim Key eventually grew into a beautiful and intelligent horse, and by exhibiting his special gifts, helped to change the landscape of humane education in the United States. Key performed throughout the country from 1897 to 1906.

Monk (? - 1909?) *Jim Key's canine protector and friend.*

Monk was a mixed-breed dog who was Jim Key's constant companion and guard.

SCOPE & CONTENT

The Beautiful Jim Key Collection (1885 – [1897-1907] – 1933) showcases the accomplishments of Dr. William Key, the African-American veterinarian who partnered with promoter A. R. Rogers to promote the special talents of the horse, Jim Key. The collection is comprised of two scrapbooks, which include photographs, tickets, letters, programs, broadsides, flyers, newspaper clippings, and other ephemera related to Jim Key's extensive travels around the country. Scrapbook #1 has been reformatted and encapsulated by the TSLA preservation lab, and can therefore be handled by the public. Scrapbook #2, however, is extremely fragile, and should only be handled when absolutely necessary; most of the pages have been scanned and are available for viewing as tiff files. This scrapbook has been interleaved and placed in an acid-free box, but many of the items are unstable, torn, and falling out. The items from the scrapbooks that fell out of their original location have been placed in acid-free folders and put into a separate box, labeled as box #1 in the collection.

This collection is significant for a number of reasons, only one of which is that it documents the emerging humane movement for animals in the United States. Jim Key's travels with Dr. William Key and his promoter A. R. Rogers were especially important in that they reached children, and taught a new generation the importance of kindness towards animals. What is remarkable is the fact that Jim Key's constant companion, Dr. William Key, was an African-American from the Jim Crow south who was able to impress thousands of Americans, both southern and northern, with his unusual gift for working with horses. His methods involved patience and kindness rather than force; he was ahead of his time in embracing restraint and gentleness in his management of equine training.

Because of the small size of this collection, and its documentation of an important component of the humane movement, the collection was inventoried on an item-level basis. Some of the especially significant materials in the collection include a letter written and signed by George Angell, the founder of one of the first humane societies in the United States, the MSPCA (Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). Rogers communicated with Angell on a number of occasions, one of which was to redeem himself in the eyes of the MSPCA, which had previously relieved him of his board position (vice-president) at the American Humane Education Society, much to Rogers' disappointment. Additionally, some of the photographs in the scrapbook are exceptional, and show Jim Key and Dr. Key performing, or in other cases, groups of individuals assembling in front of a Jim Key show tent. Finally, lists of citizens who attended Jim Key events are included in the first scrapbook, and point to the fact that Rogers felt it necessary to document and prove the talents of Jim Key.

Rogers discovered Dr. Key and his talented horse at the 1897 Tennessee Centennial Exposition. They established a long-lasting business partnership by which Rogers handled promotional matters and bookings, and Dr. Key trained and cared for Jim Key. Their relationship and life story is carefully documented in Mim Eichler Rivas' book, "Beautiful Jim Key: The Lost History of a Horse and a Man Who Changed the World." Rivas consulted the Beautiful Jim Key Collection as she conducted her research.

Key performed for nine years around the country to large crowds at expositions, world's fairs, schools, and other venues. He demonstrated his ability to read, write, spell, tell time, do simple mathematics, sort mail, and more. Famous Americans, including President McKinley, Booker T. Washington, and President Roosevelt's flamboyant daughter, Alice, all personally witnessed Jim Key's remarkable skills. Scientists searched in vain for evidence of fraud, but no one was ever able to show that Dr. Key was unfairly helping his horse complete the tasks he was performing. Instead, they found Jim Key to be charming, intelligent, and highly skilled.

Rogers and Dr. Key embraced the ethos of the humane movement and were able to get thousands of children to sign the Jim Key Pledge, "I promise always to be kind to animals." Various "Bands of Mercy" were established throughout the United States, which promoted kindness to animals. The Bands of Mercy came under the umbrella of the American Humane Education Society, which was overseen by George Angell and the MSPCA. Rogers and Key were eventually able to establish alliances with humane societies throughout the country, although Rogers had a falling out with one national group in his later years. Rogers' devotion to the humane cause was sometimes questioned, as he was fundamentally an events promoter who also touted shows unrelated to humane work such as the "Southern Life and Cotton Exhibition," which displayed a reproduction of a southern plantation with "Negroes gathering cotton in the field" as well as the "Sub-marine Tank Exhibition," which offered a "trip" to the bottom of the sea, where divers were working to raise sunken vessels.

In addition to revealing the extraordinary life of an ex-slave who traveled around the country with his gifted horse, this collection offers a unique blend of Tennessee history and turn-of-the-century popular culture. The underlying theme of kindness to animals was a cause that had recently emerged in American society not long after the Civil War, with the founding of the ASPCA in 1866 by Henry Bergh in New York City, and creation of the MSPCA in 1868 by Angell in Boston. Horses were the focus of much of the early advocacy efforts, as thousands of them were ill-treated as they served as the backbone of the nation's transportation industry until the development of the automobile. The humane movement is in many cases poorly documented, so this collection will help preserve the history of the movement.

Bibliography:

Lee, Essie Mott. *The Man who Educated a Horse (A Pioneer in Humane Education)*. Bloomington, Indiana: Essie Mott Lee, 2002.

Rivas, Mim Eichler. *Beautiful Jim Key: The Lost History of a Horse and a Man who Changed the World*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers Inc., 2005.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1: (These items were probably all originally a part of one of the two scrapbooks, but may have fallen out at some point)

1. Photograph of Jim Key at a circus venue
2. Photograph of the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (no date)
3. Photograph of Monk (a dog) at the Mirror Maze, an attraction promoted by Albert Rogers.
4. Photograph of Gordon Bunch, Jim's famous clown
5. Photograph of man next to car (text on reverse reads, "Bad of Boyd but shows the opening a little better. The white object on the bumper of the car is a traveling ice box. The other pictures were even worse. Juanitas' young sister got car sick in the high altitude" (June 1933).)
6. Photograph of unidentified woman
7. Photograph of Jim Key filing letters or playing postmaster
8. Photograph of horse in carriage with "All Sick and Disabled Animals" written on the side, probably a humane society cart for injured horses, no date given
9. Photographs of Jim Key demonstrating his ability to tell time (4 different copies that are all different sizes)
10. List of Humane Society Sponsors who featured performances of Jim Key
11. Copy of *The Temple Review* (a record of institutional church work) from November 9, 1900, published by The Baptist Temple in Philadelphia. (There is no apparent connection to Jim Key.)
12. Letter to Mr. James Barnett, President of the Humane Society in Cleveland, Ohio, from T. W. Palmer concerning a visit to Cleveland in connection with the Jim Key exhibition. The letter is dated May 1, 1906.
13. Brochures about Jim Key (incomplete parts)
14. Small souvenir brochure from Jim Key appearance in Atlantic City, New Jersey (no date given)
15. Photocopy of newspaper or brochure clipping on Jim Key entitled "Programme" (circa 1898)
16. Broadside or program handout entitled "Falkenfels no. 1899" The text reads, in part, "This splendid specimen of the German Coach Horse will make the season of 1909 at the Fair Grounds, in Shelbyville, Tenn."
17. Portion of program handout or broadside from the Star Theatre with E. J. Nugent's Big Vaudeville Company. The Beautiful Jim Key is listed as the 6th act. The program also lists an act by Belle Hathaway and her trained baboon, dogs, and monkeys.
18. Brochure or program handout for Jim Key appearance on Oct. 25, 1897, in Cincinnati, Ohio
19. Event brochure from Providence, Rhode Island, sponsored by the *American Humane Education Society*, 1902
20. Event brochure entitled "The Marvel of the 20th Century! Jim Key The Wonder of the Age in Animal Education" from 1906 in Columbus, Ohio

21. Last page of a brochure concerning Jim Key and his traveling exhibitions (circa 1897)
22. Photocopy of announcement praising Jim Key at Crescent Park (2 copies)
23. Promotional photograph of Jim Key (reverse includes quotes from Humane Society groups regarding Jim Key) from brochure
24. Endorsement sticker with Jim Key & portion of Robinson-McGill letterhead (In 1899, Dr. Key made an endorsement deal with the Robinson-McGill Manufacturing Company in Shelbyville)
25. Broadside (in color) of Jim Key program at the Cleveland Humane Society (no year listed)
26. Letter to Essie from Archie Rogers from 10/10/72 regarding the Jim Key book and other matters.
27. Drawing of a Standard Bred Trotter by Pat Snekser
28. Advertisement from the Dr. Fair Veterinary Remedy Company (2 copies)
29. Portion of a brochure on Jim Key (from a Cincinnati program)
30. Small handbook on homeopathic veterinary care (Bell's Hand-Book to Veterinary Homeopathy) Copyrighted in 1885. Bell's Homeopathic Pharmacy in New York is listed on the cover.
31. Beautiful Jim Key program for the Benefit of the Atlanta Humane Society (circa December 1898)
32. Woman's Christian Temperance Union of North Carolina newspaper, *The W.C.T.U. Tidings*, Volume VI, No. 4, April 1903
33. 48th Annual Otsego County Fair, Cooperstown, September 21, 22, 23 program (1903)
34. Letter to A. R. Rogers from William Key RE: business matters (Atlantic City, May 3, 1898)
35. Publicity brochure for Jim Key's visit to Chicago: "Some interesting facts concerning the most wonderful horse in the world, Beautiful Jim Key, The Equine Millionaire" (no date listed)
36. Letter to A. R. Rogers, Esq., from William Key, November 18, 1905, RE: financial matters
37. Blank letterhead belonging to Albert R. Rogers, circa 1902 (includes a picture of Jim Key and promotional information) (3 copies)
38. Four pages of a photocopied program/brochure and a portion of an original program/brochure regarding Jim Key, circa 1897-1900
39. Program brochure for a Jim Key appearance at Memorial Hall, courtesy the Columbus Humane Society, 1906
40. Letter to Louise (?) from A. R. Rogers, October 25, 1898, RE: Jim's lame foot, daily observations, weather, etc.
41. Address of Booker T. Washington delivered before the National Educational Association, St. Louis, 11 o'clock A.M., Thursday, June 30, 1904, typed, 11 pages RE: African-American history and racial issues
42. Event program handout entitled, "The Wonderful Jim Key The Equine King" from Omaha Auditorium, March 26-28, 1906, held under the auspices of the Nebraska Humane Society (4 copies)

43. Artist's plan for Jim Key memorial statue at his burial site in on a hill overlooking Tullahoma Highway. The inscription reads, "Kindness, Justice and Mercy to All Creatures," dated 7-20-70, drawing created for the approval of Miss Essie L. Mott
44. Land sale broadside, "240 Acres Fine Land WILL BE SOLD at Ooltewah Junction", 1890 (land from James County, Tennessee)
45. Assorted cards, tickets, etc. related to Jim Key appearances and membership, circa 1897-1899 (15 loose items)
46. Business card belonging to A. R. Rogers, Manager of Jim Key
47. Event Program handout entitled, "Beautiful Jim Key. The Wonderful Education Horse" from Cincinnati, October 18, 1897
48. Ticket stubs (6) originally from scrapbook, only one of which lists the "Beautiful Jim Key, 15 Cts., Admit one" (the reverse side of ticket stubs show portions of newspaper clippings)
49. Cover of Jim Key promotional brochure, in color, reads "Newspaper Clippings and Testimonials Regarding Beautiful Jim Key, The Educated Horse, valued at \$50,000" (circa 1897)
50. Assorted fragments of newspapers, clippings, brochures, etc. from the scrapbook, all relating to Jim Key and the humane movement

Scrapbook #1: (with grey cover and encapsulated sheets)

Contains items such as newspaper articles, tickets, brochures, letters, photographs, etc., relating to Jim Key, including:

Signature sheets for guests of Jim Key appearances at:

- (1) Trenton N. J. (Sept. 27, no year listed)
- (2) Atlanta, Georgia (1898)
- (3) Atlantic City, N. J. (no date listed)
- (4) Columbia, S. C. (Nov. 12, 1898)
- (5) York County Fair, October 1898 (Pennsylvania)
- (6) Winston-Salem, N. C. (October 31, 1898)
- (7) Raleigh, N. C. (no date listed)
- (8) Greensboro, N.C. (no date listed)

Letters:

- (1) Letter to A. R. Rogers from Stanley RE: Jim Key's death (Feb. 13, 1913)
- (2) Letter to William Key from George Angell RE: his service to humanity for his work with Jim Key (November 1, 1901)
- (3) Letter to Mr. Rogers from a representative from the *American Humane Education Society* and *The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals* RE: requested information (Feb. 18, 1905)
- (4) Letter to Mr. A. R. Rogers from (?) Jenkins, New Jersey School for Deaf-Mutes letterhead, RE: students delighted with Jim Key's performance (October 7, 1897)

- (5) Letter to Albert R. Rogers from Charles W. Thomas, President (of the Cincinnati House of Refuge?) RE: Jim Key's visit (August 28, 1897)

Photographs:

- (1) Photograph of Jim Key next to a cabinet letter file

Tickets:

- (1) Negro Day at the Exposition, Charlestown, S.C., Beautiful Jim Key, Jan. 1, 1902
(2) Beautiful Jim Key performance at the Odeon, Oct. 23, 1897

Scrapbook #2: kept in box

(TOO FRAGILE FOR HANDLING: SEE DIGITAL COLLECTION AT
<http://www.tn.gov/tsla/TeVAsites/JimK/index.htm>)

Contains items such as newspaper articles, tickets, brochures, letters, photographs, etc., relating to Jim Key, including:

Page 1: (front)

- (a) Program for Beautiful Jim Key visit
- (b) Jim Key Louisiana State Fair Ticket
- (c) Jim Key Band of Mercy enrollee card
- (d) Typed essay on the arrival of Jim Key
- (e) Newspaper clipping about Jim Key in Pittsburg
- (f) Jim Key Band of Mercy membership slip

Page 1: (back)

- (g) Letter about Jim Key performance from 1897 or 1898 written by Jas. Heekin
- (h) Ticket for Young's Pier Theatre
- (i) Newspaper notice about Jim Key visiting the New Jersey State Fair
- (j) Newspaper clipping about Jim Key

Page 2: (front)

- (a) Letter to A. R. Rogers from Lew Parker from 1899 RE: Jim Key's talents
- (b) Assorted newspaper clippings about Jim Key, including a publication in German from 1897

Page 2: (back)

- (a) 1904 Letter to A. R. Rogers from the World's Fair, St. Louis, Director of Concessions and Admissions, RE: financial matters

- (b) Assorted newspaper clippings about Jim Key
- (c) 1901 program from Atlantic City, New Jersey, that advertises Jim Key's performance

Page 3: (unattached)

- (a) 1913 Letter to Albert R. Rogers from Stanley RE: Jim Key's death
- (b) 1906 Letter to Mr. Rogers from Mrs. Julia A. H. Colby RE: various business matters and Jim Key
- (c) Program announcing a Jim Key performance in Shelbyville, Tennessee (The program lists a Friday morning entertainment for colored schools and a Friday afternoon entertainment for white schools. The Jim Key program benefits the Bedford County Humane Society.)

Page 3: (front)

- (d) Assorted newspaper clippings on Jim Key (includes a notice for a Jim Key appearance in Orange, New Jersey, and a statement of support from Bowen R. Church)
- (e) Beautiful Jim Key flier/advertisement

Page 3: (back)

- (f) 1899 (May 16) Letter from W. J. Leppert, the Secretary of the Progressive Union RE: the Louisiana Industrial Exposition in New Orleans from May 8 to May 31, 1899, and Jim Key
- (g) 1897 Letter from A. R. Rogers to B. Bettmann RE: arranging for Jim Key to meet with Cincinnati school children
- (h) Newspaper clipping about Jim Key from the *Pittsburg Daily News*

Page 4: (unattached)

- (a) Assorted paper and newspaper fragments
- (b) Copy of a letter from 1906 to the President of the Band of Mercy from George Angell RE: membership and pledge sheet

Page 4: (front)

- (a) Page of an undated letter on Jim Key letterhead written by William Steg (?) RE: Jim and other matters
- (b) Newspaper clipping on Jim Key from October 4, 1897

Page 4: (back)

- (a) Undated invitation for Mr. A. R. Rogers
- (b) Broadside promoting numerous public events in Baltimore, including a Jim Key appearance at a casino (undated)

(c) Newspaper clipping on Jim Key

Page 5: (front)

(a) Form letter to teachers from the Jim Key Band of Mercy (Agnetta C. Floris) on how to organize a Band of Mercy (undated)

Page 5 (back)

- (a) letter to Mr. Rogers from Caroline E. White (?) (1905)
- (b) photograph of Jim Key's riding wear (tack)
- (c) Undated pledge note from child (Eleanor C. Bartlett) to be kind to animals (North Carolina)

Page 6 (front)

- (a) Jim Key broadside advertising the Jim Key Special Train to San Antonio
- (b) Newspaper article on an African-American baby contest ("Pickaninny Contest")

Page 6 (back)

(a) Letter (and envelope) to Mr. Albert R. Rogers from Stanley RE: Jim Key's death (1913)

Page 7 (unattached)

(a) Photocopy receipt

Page 7 (front)

- (a) Letter to Mr. Rodgers on Jim Key letterhead RE: Jim and various business matters (1900)
- (b) Receipt signed by William Key

Page 7 (back)

(a) Unsigned Jim Key Band of Mercy pledge sheet (American Humane Education Society) for children

Page 8 (front)

- (a) Photograph of circus or exotic performers
- (b) Photograph of Monk, a dog associated with Jim Key, possibly taken in the Mirror Maze
- (c) Ticket for the Fighting the Flames special performance, also including Jim Key (1906)

Page 8 (back)

(a) Portion of a typed essay on the history of Jim Key (perhaps written by Albert R. Rogers)

Page 9 (unattached)

(a) Photocopy of a letter to Mr. Rodgers RE: Jim and various business matters (1900). A receipt is also attached. These items are a copy of the original item on page 7 (front)

Page 9 (front)

(a) Typed letter to Mr. A. R. Rogers from the president of the Toledo Humane Society, James Brown (?) from 1906 RE: Toledo Humane Society events and Jim Key

(b) Newspaper advertisement promoting Jim Key and the new Bijou Theatre in Philadelphia

Page 9 (back)

(a) Handwritten letter to Mr. Rogers from George Angell, the founder of the MSPCA, from 1906. Angell thanks Rogers for his work with Jim Key and expresses his confidence that Jim Key is being treated well

(b) Newspaper clipping about the Great Midway Parade. Jim Key was a participant

(c) Note about Jim Key's appearance with the Indianapolis Humane Society, 1896

Page 10 (front)

(a) Letter to "Uncle Bert" from 1906 from a child in Minneapolis RE: humane work to help dumb animals.

(b) Newspaper clippings about Jim Key in Pittsburg

(c) Ticket to see Jim Key (1901)

(d) Ticket to see amusement attractions "on the Midway" (1901)

(e) Pass to see Jim Key at Woodside Park

Page 10 (back)

(a) *New York Times* newspaper clipping about animal communication (1927)

(b) Note from Senator Palmer of Michigan to James Barnett, the President of the Humane Society in Cleveland, Ohio RE: Jim Key's abilities (1906)

(c) Letter about Jim Key from the Nashville Humane Society

Page 11 (unattached, side one)

(a) Signed testimony that Jim Key delivers an authentic and wonderful performance, Cincinnati, Oct. 18, 1897.

Page 11 (unattached, side two)

(a) Assorted newspaper clippings about Jim Key (one is in German). One clipping is from Cincinnati, and includes a transcript of the signed testimony listed above.

Page 11 (front)

(a) Letter from Caroline Earle White of the Women's Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals from 1899 announcing an essay contest for children on the subject of "What patience and kindness will accomplish with animals."

The letter is written to principals of public schools.

(b) Letterhead of the National Jim Key Band of Mercy

Page 11 (back)

(a) Letter to Mr. Rogers from the President of the American Humane Association RE: the need for the expansion of humane societies, 1905

(b) Blank envelope (Jim Key Band of Mercy)

Page 12 (front)

(a) Letter to the President of the Band of Mercy from George Angell (1906)

(b) Photograph of Dr. William Key

Page 12 (back)

(a) March 20, 1909, newspaper clipping from Boston showing a drawing of George Angell (1823-1909) with animals. A poem is included.

(b) Photograph of Dr. William Key with Jim Key

Page 13 (front)

(a) Newspaper clipping regarding Jim Key and the children of Philadelphia & Jim Key's talents

(b) Photograph of the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society large animal ambulance (Jim Key's picture and name are on the back)

Page 13 (back)

(a) 1908 letter to Albert R. Rogers from the American Humane Education Society and MSPCA RE: his valuable service on behalf of the Parent American Band of Mercy

Page 13 (unattached)

(a) envelope (empty)

Page 14 (front)

- (a) photograph of a Jim Key event (undated)
- (b) photograph of a clown and a man (undated)
- (c) photograph of a crowd at an outdoors event (undated)
- (d) photograph of a circus tent (undated)
- (e) A. R. Rogers' business card
- (f) Card indicating "1st Prize, Beautiful Jim Key"
- (e) Invitation card from A. R. Rogers of Montrose Park, Orange, New Jersey, inviting people to a private exhibition of Jim Key (Plainfield)

Page 14 (back)

- (a) Photograph of a Jim Key public event with a small crowd
- (b) Photograph of a Jim Key public event without people (faded)
- (c) Photograph of a Jim Key display tent
- (d) Letter to A. R. Rogers from the Western Pennsylvania Exposition Society RE: payment for Jim Key exhibition (1897)
- (e) Newspaper clipping about Jim Key at Riverview Park (undated)
- (f) Jim Key Band of Mercy note (undated)

Page 15 (front)

- (a) Letter to A. R. Rogers (Vice-President of the American Humane Education Society) from the School District of St. Joseph RE: exhibition of Jim Key (1906)
- (b) Form letter to schools from A. R. Rogers RE: National Jim Key Band of Mercy membership and involvement (1907)
- (c) Piece of white string (taped into the scrapbook, unidentified significance)

Page 15 (back)

- (a) Letter to A. R. Rogers from the Merchants Fall Festival Association in Missouri RE: festival business matters (1906)
- (b) Note to Mr. Rogers from George Angell RE: Bands of Mercy work and importance of involvement in New York (1907)

Page 16 (front)

- (a) Letter to J. Hazuka from a sales agent from the National Cash Register Company RE: selling their product (damaged letter, date torn off)
- (b) Seven Jim Key tickets (several types)

Page 16 (back)

- (a) Newspaper clipping (heavily damaged, unknown content)

(b) Note from Albert Rogers RE: Jim Key Band of Mercy membership (2 copies)

Page 17 (front)

(a) Letter to George Angell from A. R. Rogers RE: suggestions about future humane work (1908)

(b) Newspaper clipping about Jim Key and the China festival

(c) Letter from the Toledo Humane Society RE: Jim Key Band of Mercy

Page 17 (back)

(a) Page 13 of a typed letter from Albert Rogers that includes information about the American Humane Education Society (1909)

(b) Invitation card to attend a Jim Key event at Stillman Music Hall in Plainfield

Page 18 (unattached)

(a) Complete letter (except for page 13, pasted above) to the Board of Directors from the American Humane Education Society from Albert Rogers (1909) RE: his relationship with George Angell & the MSPCA and Rogers' loss of the position of Vice-President of the American Humane Education Society.

Page 18 (front)

(a) Page 4 of a typed letter (unknown sender and recipient RE: the work of Jim Key

(b) Secretary's Report from the Jim Key Band of Mercy (1907) that is not filled out

Page 18 (back)

(a) Photograph of Jim Key writing his name

(b) Printed photograph of Beautiful Jim Key

Page 19 (unattached)

(a) Typed document with detailed information about Jim Key (written after his death)

Page 19 (front)

(a) Newspaper clipping about Jim Key

Page 19 (back)

(a) Assorted newspaper clippings about Jim Key, probably from Pittsburg and St Louis

(b) Ticket to see Jim Key at the South Carolina Inter-State and West Indian Exposition

Page 20 (front)

- (a) Typed information about Jim Key (probably the same as page 19, only a portion)
- (b) More typed information about Jim Key (probably the same as page 19, only a portion)

Page 21 (unattached)

- (a) Photograph of Jim Key with a coat on, grazing in the yard
- (b) Photograph of Jim Key tent
- (c) Photograph of man in a top hat in a horse-drawn carriage (perhaps Dr. Key)
- (d) Photograph of a crowd in front of an unidentified building (the reverse side of the photograph reads, "Jim Key – crowds coming in to see him)
- (e) Instructions for Jim key bands of Mercy (two-sided flyer)
- (f) Photograph of Jim Key and Dr. William Key in front of a large white house. A woman is seated on a chair on the porch. A dog is also pictured, sitting on a chair near the horse)
- (g) Letter to A. R. Rogers from Ida Sheehan RE: the need for better treatment of horses and other animals (1896)

Page 22 (front)

- (a) red ribbon (unidentified purpose)
- (b) Letter to A. R. Rogers from Guy Richardson of the MSPCA and American Humane Education Society (1907) RE: vote of appreciation for Albert R. Rogers

Page 22 (back)

- (a) Assorted newspaper clippings RE: Jim Key (circa 1899)

Page 23 (front)

- (a) Blank letterhead belonging to Albert R. Rogers with a picture of Jim Key (ca. 1905)
- (b) Assorted newspaper clippings and promotional advertisements RE: Jim Key

Page 23 (back)

- (a) Letter to John P. Haines, President of the American Humane Society, from Albert R. Rogers (1897) RE: Jim Key's visit to New York (and possibly Boston)
- (b) Letter to T. J. Fitzpatrick from A. R. Rogers (1906) RE: Jim Key's success and travel schedule

Page 24 (front)

- (a) Broadside advertisement for Jim Key's visit to Fitzhugh Hall in Rochester (1902)

Page 24 (back)

- (a) Newspaper clipping advertising John Philip Sousa as well as Jim Key

- (b) Newspaper clipping regarding Jim Key in Chicago
- (c) Letter from William Key to Mr. Rogers (1907) RE: Jim Key's condition
- (d) Newspaper advertisement on Jim Key at Young's Ocean Pier Theatre

Page 25 (unattached)

- (a) Note from A. Rogers RE: financial matters (1907?)
- (b) Invitation (for teachers) to Jim Key event at Woodside Park in Philadelphia
- (c) Request slip for "The Story of Beautiful Jim Key" book (on reverse, a publisher's note about the book). William Key is referred to as a "typical Uncle Tom".

Page 25 (front)

- (a) Note to George Angell from A. R. Rogers (1908) RE: thank you for returned tickets
- (b) Blank envelope with print of Jim Key

Page 25 (back)

- (a) Large newspaper clipping RE: South Carolina Interstate West Indian Exposition and Jim Key

Page 26 (front)

- (a) Portion of the large newspaper clipping from Page 25 (back) RE: South Carolina Interstate West Indian Exposition

Page 26 (back)

- (a) Continuation of the large newspaper clipping from Page 25 (back) RE: South Carolina Interstate West Indian Exposition and Jim Key

Page 27 (unattached)

- (a) Photograph of William Key with Jim Key (two women in the background)
- (b) Letter to Mr. Rogers from Mrs. Julia A. H. Colby (1906) RE: Springfield, Missouri, Humane Society meeting and invitation to come during carnival week.

Page 27 (front)

- (a) Request to the National Humane Alliance requesting funds to carry on humane education among children through Bands of Mercy (from A. R. Rogers)

Page 27 (back)

- (a) Request for assistance in humane education among children through Bands of Mercy (from A. R. Rogers) (see page 27, front)

- (b) Note to A. R. Rogers from J.A. Fynes (1897) RE: upcoming Jim Key performance
- (c) Letter to the "Supt." From George Angell RE: arrangements for Jim Key performances

Page 28 (front)

- (a) Letter to school principals regarding contributions from pupils for memorial to George Angell (1909)
- (b) Letter to A. R. Rogers from the secretary of the National Humane Alliance (1907) RE: Jim Key and business matters
- (c) Newspaper clipping (note to Labor Unions from J. C. Taylor, Pres. Federated Trades' Council)
- (d) Three Tickets to see Jim Key (Orange Riding and Driving Club, New Bijou Theatre, and one other unidentified site)

Page 28 (back)

- (a) Letter to the Illinois Humane Society from James M. Brown (?) RE: recommending A. R. Rogers and Jim Key (1905)
- (b) Note to Mrs. J. A. H. Colby from A. R. Rogers (1909) RE: Jim Key doing well
- (c) Ticket to see Jim Key performance at the Eagles' Exposition
- (d) Ticket to see Jim Key at Casino Hall, Summit (1897)

Page 29 (front)

- (a) Complete issue of "Our Dumb Animals" published by the MSPCA and AHES, Volume 34, No. 6 (Boston, November, 1901), with an article about Jim Key
- (b) Pass to Jim Key performance from George Angell
- (c) Newspaper clipping about Jim Key at the Pittsburg Exposition

Page 29 (back)

- (a) Various newspaper clippings
- (b) Three tickets to see Jim Key (Deep Sea Diving Co., St. Louis Day at the World's Fair, and the Jefferson)
- (c) Program to see Jim Key at Atlantic City, New Jersey (1901)

Page 30 (front)

- (a) Letter to George Angell from A. R. Rogers (1907) RE: planning for future event
- (b) Ticket to see the pet show and fair in Alhambra (1902)
- (c) Season pass to see Capt. Louis Sorcho's Deep Sea Diving and Novelty Co.
- (d) Pass to see Capt. Sorcho's Deep Sea Diving Co.
- (e) Pass to see the Boston Food Fair
- (f) Newspaper clipping regarding the Boston Food Fair and Jim Key

Page 30 (back)

- (a) Letter from the Nashville Humane Society to “Reverend Sir” RE: Jim Key exposition at the Tabernacle (known as the Ryman Auditorium)
- (b) Newspaper clipping RE: the press animal ambulance fund
- (c) Special Student’s Ticket to see Jim Key at the Tabernacle in Nashville (1899)
- (d) Jim Key ticket for Alhambra performance (1902)
- (e) Pass to see Mr. A. R. Rogers’ events in Kenton, Ohio (1900)

Page 31 (front)

- (a) Letterhead belonging to A. R. Rogers with a description of his promotional events (ca. 1901)
- (b) Invitation to see Jim Key at the South Carolina Inter-State and West Indian Exposition
- (c) Jim Key promotional card
- (d) Jim Key Band of Mercy banner

Page 31 (back)

- (a) Letterhead belonging to A. R. Rogers (ca. 1902)
- (b) Letter to George A. O. Ernst (Boston School Committee) from George Angell RE: humane education opportunity (1901)

Page 32 (front)

- (a) Photograph of Jim Key promotional entranceway. Numerous people are gathered in front of the building.

Page 32 (back)

- (a) Print of Jim Key spelling his name
- (b) Photograph of Jim Key with William Key (?) in front of a house

Page 33 (unattached)

- (a) Letter to children from Agnetta C. Floris (National Jim Key Band of Mercy) RE: sales offer to purchase *Black Beauty*.

Page 33 (front)

- (a) Letter to members of the Band of Mercy from Uncle Bert RE: joining the Band of Mercy and buying the book *Black Beauty*.

Page 33 (back)

- (a) Letter to Albert R. Rogers from the President of the American Humane Association (Dr. William O. Stillman) (1905) RE: future Jim Key expositions and the hope that Rogers is “somewhat interested in humanitarian work for its own sake as well as in the commercial side” of his exhibitions.
- (b) Envelope addressed to George Angell

Page 34 (front)

- (a) Blank pledge sheet for children to sign up for the Band of Mercy

Page 35 (back)

- (a) Welcome letter to children from Uncle Bert RE: the National Jim Key Band of Mercy and new membership (1906). The form has been signed by two children from Indianapolis, Indiana.

Page 35 (front and unattached)

- (a) Letter to Mr. Rogers from Steela Preston (?) of the New York State Convention of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals (1905?) RE: Jim Key business matters

Page 35 (back)

- (a) Letter to teachers from the national organizer, Agnetta C. Floris, of the Jim Key Band of Mercy RE: membership. The *St. Paul Dispatch* offers \$100 in prizes to children who write the best composition on the topic “What Patience and Kindness will do with Animals.” The *Cleveland Leader* (separate clipping) is offering \$50.

Page 36 (front)

- (a) Letter to A. R. Rogers from Allen Williams of the American Institute Fair RE: Jim Key as an attraction (1897)
- (b) Letter from A. R. Rogers to the Secretary of the Danbury Fair RE: Jim Key and fees for working at a fair (1897)
- (c) Three tickets to see Jim Key
- (d) Newspaper clipping re: George Angell Memorial Fund

Page 36 (back)

- (a) Letter to the School Committee of Boston from Albert R. Rogers RE: a tribute to George Angell (1909)

Page 37 (front)

- (a) Letter to Frank Connolly from A. R. Rogers RE: request for meeting (1897)

- (b) Letter to “Reverend Sir” from the Nashville Humane Society RE: Jim Key at the Tabernacle
- (c) Newspaper clippings on Jim Key
- (d) Souvenir pamphlet of Young’s Pier in Atlantic City, New Jersey (1901) that includes a promotional advertisement for Jim Key

Page 37 (back)

- (a) Western Pennsylvania Humane Society flyer
- (b) Jim Key flyer (probably from the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society)
- (c) Text of Assembly Bill, No. 256, entitled “An Act to Prevent Cruelty, by Regulating Experiments on Living Animals” (1908)
- (d) Promotional advertisement for Jim Key in Orange, New Jersey (1901)

Page 38 (front)

- (a) Letter to George Angell from A. R. Rogers RE: business matters and sending letters
- (b) Jim Key information for principals and teachers from Agnetta Floris
- (c) Newspaper clipping about Jim Key by Sam Hudson

Page 38 (back)

- (a) Letter to George Angell from A. R. Rogers RE: Bands of Mercy work, fundraising, Jim Key, and other business matters (Feb. 13, 1906?)

Page 39 (front)

- (a) Second page of a letter from J. E. Mellette, President of a Humane Society to unknown recipient RE: Merchants Fall Festival in Springfield, Missouri, business matters and Jim Key (1906?)

Page 39 (back)

- (a) Letter to George Angell from A. R. Rogers RE: Jim Key and humane society work (1897)
- (b) Letter to T. J. Fitzpatrick of the Pittsburg Exposition from A. R. Rogers RE: Jim Key and business matters (1897)

Page 40 (front)

- (a) Letter to A. R. Rogers from E. S. Des Portes (?) RE: clippings about a “wonderful little mare”
- (b) Program for the show at Young’s Ocean Pier on March 24, 1901, which included a Jim Key performance
- (c) Letter to “Lincoln” from H. D. C. RE: Letter of introduction of A. R. Rogers (1903)
- (d) Ohio Humane Society card about Jim Key

Page 40 (back)

- (a) Letter to A. R. Rogers from Richard Welling (?) of the ASPCA RE: communication sent to the Board of Managers (1907)
- (b) YMCA Association Hall from Trenton, New Jersey, receipt for \$3,500 (1898)
- (c) Newspaper clippings on the World's Fair in Chicago

Page 41 (unattached)

- (a) List of individuals who visited Jim Key at the Charleston Exposition

Page 41 (front)

- (a) List of individuals who visited Jim Key at the Western Penn. Exposition in Pittsburgh
- (b) Newspaper clippings on Jim Key
- (c) Letter to Mr. A. R. Rogers from Sallie A. Bassett (March 23, 1902) RE: his recent visit to teachers (with Jim Key) in Charleston, South Carolina

Page 41 (back)

- (a) Jim Key Band of Mercy advertisement with enrollment card
- (b) Letter to A. R. Rogers from the President of the Western Penn. Exposition Society (1897) RE: payment for Jim Key show
- (c) Printed notices of Jim Key's talents, including two images of Jim Key – Jim Key taking a silver dollar out of a bucket and Jim Key making change at the cash register
- (d) Newspaper clipping about Jim Key at the River View Park (Baltimore?)

Page 42 (front)

- (a) Photograph of Jim Key showing how to spell "M'Kinley"

Page 42 (back)

- (a) Photograph of Jim Key working on a cash register with a group of men and boys watching
- (b) Photograph of Jim Key opening a drawer

Page 43 (unattached)

- (a) Card promoting Jim Key at the Cincinnati, Ohio, First Annual Pure Food, Drug, and Confectionery Exposition

Page 43 (front)

- (a) Photograph of Jim Key

- (b) Letter to children from the National Jim Key Band of Mercy (Agnetta C. Floris)
- (c) Business card of Thomas J. Cross, Associate Pastor, The Baptist Temple, Philadelphia

Page 43 (back)

- (a) Photograph of Jim Key in front of U.S. post office sorting cabinet

Page 44 (front)

- (a) Jim Key Band of Mercy sign up sheet for children
- (b) Jim Key Band of Mercy questionnaire

Page 44 (back)

- (a) Newspaper clipping of Jim Key advertisement (from the Street Railway Journal)

Page 45 (front)

- (a) Letter to children from "Uncle Bert" RE: membership in the National Jim Key Band of Mercy
- (b) Pass to see Jim Key at the Minneapolis Humane Society event (1906)
- (c) Admission tickets, including a ticket to see Jim Key (South Carolina Inter-State and West Indian Exposition)

Page 45 (back)

- (a) Letter to A. R. Rogers from Chas. F. Miller, Secretary of the Cleveland Grays Armory RE: Jim Key attendance rates (May 5, 1906)
- (b) Passes and tickets to see Jim Key (3)

Page 46 (front)

- (a) Typed letter to George Angell from A. R. Rogers RE: future exhibits & Rogers' dedication to the cause of humane education

Page 46 (back)

- (a) Photograph of Jim Key writing his name
- (b) Photograph of Jim Key in front of letter box
- (c) Photograph of Jim Key in front of cash register

Page 47 (front)

- (a) Page two of a letter to Miss Julia A. H. Colby from A. R. Rogers RE: School visits and Jim Key performances in Springfield, Missouri
- (b) Newspaper clipping on Jim Key (1907)

Page 47 (back)

- (a) Page one of a letter to Miss Julia A. H. Colby (see page 47, front) from A. R. Rogers
RE: School visits and Jim Key performances in Springfield, Missouri
- (b) Newspaper clippings of Jim Key
- (c) Photograph of decorated Jim Key promotional truck
- (d) Photograph of three (African-American?) men in front of a Jim Key sign

Page 48 (front)

- (a) Blank Jim Key/A. R. Rogers letterhead
- (b) Newspaper clipping on Jim Key

Page 48 (back)

- (a) Blank Jim Key/A. R. Rogers letterhead
- (b) Newspaper clippings on Jim Key

Page 49 (front)

- (a) Hand-written budget notes

Page 49 (back)

- (a) Blank Jim Key/A. R. Rogers letterhead

Beautiful Jim Key Memorial & Burial Place - Shelbyville, TN. All but forgotten, save for a few pockets of interest and markers of obscured hoofprints and footprints, the lost history of Dr. William Key and his best friend Jim Key began to resurface in the 1970s when award-winning filmmaker and great American story hunter David Hoffman acquired an inconspicuous promotional pamphlet, little suspecting he had come across treasure begging to be reclaimed. From that unassuming pamphlet, David Hoffman and Mim Eichler Rivas, joining forces, were able to reassemble the story that leapt onto the p