

ALAN KEEN (1899-1959)

The biographical facts below concerning Alan Keen, the author of *The Annotator* (1954), have been compiled by the author of this website for the purpose of identifying Alan Keen's descendants, the current owners of the copy of Hall's *Chronicle* (1550) containing extensive marginal annotations said to have been written by Shakespeare.

The 1901 Irish census and Irish birth and marriage records which are available online indicate that Alan Keen was born Gordon Alen Keen on 28 October 1899 in Dublin to George Alfred Keen (born in Forebridge, Staffordshire, on 5 August 1860 and described variously in Dublin records as an 'outfitter', 'manager to a merchant', and 'hosier'), and Emily Mary Edwards, the daughter of George Absalom Edwards of Dublin, described as a 'commercial traveller', and Annie Eccles. Alan Keen had two older sisters, both born in Dublin, Mabel Annie Keen (born 12 April 1895) and Dorothy Victoria Keen (born 7 December 1896).

Alan Keen's paternal great-grandparents were Charles Thomas Keen, a Baptist minister born in London, and Isabella Holland. They were married in Cork in 1822, and had six children born in Ireland, Scotland, Suffolk, Worcestershire and Leicestershire.

Alan Keen's paternal grandparents were Charles Thomas Keen (1823 - 22 March 1912), a Baptist minister born in Cork, Ireland, in 1823, and Harriett Hardy (1830 - 13 April 1908). They were married in 1850, and were buried in Mill Road Cemetery in Cambridge. See:

<http://millroadcemetery.org.uk/keen-charles-thomas/>

Alan Keen's father appears to have left Dublin before the 1911 Irish census was taken. He was buried at Chorlton-cum-Hardy on 7 February 1924.

Alan Keen served in the King's Liverpool Regiment (WO 339/132946) and in the Air Force (AIR 76/269/160) during World War I.

During his career Alan Keen was a designer, an antiquarian bookseller, an author, and the owner of Pollock's Toyshop. See:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Pollock%27s_Toy_Shop

Alan Keen died of a cerebral haemorrhage at the age of 59 on 28 September 1959 at the H.M. Stanley Hospital in St Asaph. He appears not to have left a will, nor does there appear to have been a grant of administration of his estate.

In 1968, Alan Keen's widow, Frances, sold some of his papers to University College London. Alan Keen's wife was born Frances Winifred Kloet on 26 November 1900 in Stockport. She was the daughter of James Herbert Kloet and Alice Mary Slater, who were married at Prestwich in 1898.

Alan Keen and Frances Winifred Kloet were married in Manchester on 1 June 1927. The marriage certificate records that his father was deceased and that the witnesses were Emily Keen, Guy Septimus Lodge, and Doris May Kloet (Frances Kloet's sister).

Alan Keen, his wife, Frances, and their two daughters appear in the 1939 Register of all persons in England as residents of 97 Peshurst Gardens, Hendon.

Alan Keen's wife, Frances, died 9 February 1983 at the British Home and Hospital for Incurables, Lambeth. It appears she did not leave a will, nor does there appear to have been a grant of administration.

Alan Keen's elder daughter, Elaine Frances Keen, was born 7 March 1928 in Stockport. She died 14 May 2008 in London. A grant of administration (#2910156) was issued at the Leeds Registry on 18 December 2008 to her nephew, the son of her sister, Freda Mary Keen.

The entry in the 1939 Register (see above) for Alan Keen's elder daughter, Elaine Frances Keen, is closed to view, indicating that her death has not yet been recorded in the 1939 Register.

Alan Keen's younger daughter, Freda Mary Keen, was born 5 March 1931. A later note added to the entry in the 1939 Register states that she married a husband surnamed Booth in 1956. The marriage certificate states that on 1 September 1956 in the parish church of St John at Hampstead, Freda Mary Keen, secretary, aged 25, of 20 Gardnor Mansions, Church Row, daughter of Alan Keen, bookseller, married Gordon Henry Booth, certified accountant, aged 36, of 114 West Busk Lane in Otley, Yorkshire, son of William Clifford Booth, engineer.

According to a grant of probate (#718473) issued at the Leeds Registry on 4 July 2001, Gordon Henry Booth died 29 May 2001, leaving a will dated 6 January 1989.

The fact that the 1939 Register entry for Freda Mary Keen is open to view indicates that she is now deceased. According to a grant of probate (#915659) issued at the Leeds Registry on 27 March 2002, she died 4 February 2002, leaving a will dated 24 October 1990.

Because neither Alan Keen nor his wife, Frances, nor their elder daughter, Elaine, left wills, it is difficult to identify Alan Keen's heir with certainty. However according to the terms of the will of Alan Keen's younger daughter, Freda Mary (nee Keen) Booth, the current owner of the annotated Hall's Chronicle would Alan Keen's grandson, the only child of his younger daughter, Freda Mary (nee Keen) Booth. According to his birth certificate he was Michael Gordon Booth born 2 August 1957 in Leeds.