

Keeley Institute ^[1]

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Keeley Institute



Keeley Institute, ca. 1903, after its move to Blandwood. North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library.
by Alexander R. Stoesen, 2006

The Keeley Institute was incorporated in September 1891 and opened the next month in the Central Hotel Building at Elm and Market Streets in the center of [Greensboro](#) ^[2]. It was reincorporated on 20 Mar. 1892, with [Col. W. H. Osborn](#) ^[3] of Greensboro as president and chief stockholder and [Benjamin N. Duke](#) ^[4] and [James Buchanan Duke](#) ^[5] among the other stockholders. The institute's purpose was the rehabilitation of alcoholics and drug addicts through a program developed by Leslie E. Keeley, who founded the original institute in Dwight, Ill., in 1879.



The Keeley Institute Postcard, Greensboro, N.C. Image courtesy of North Carolina Postcard Collection,

Keeley's literature claimed to "guarantee [UNC Libraries](#). ^[6]success" through use of his "Double Chloride of Gold" remedies. Described as rational and scientific, Keeley's method for use of this substance would result in the "restoration of poisoned and narcotized nerve cells to a healthy condition." This meant an end to cravings-six weeks for alcohol and four weeks for drugs. The Keeley treatment began with a thorough physical examination, followed by daily checks by physicians, careful laboratory work, and reconstructive remedies taken under "daily medical direction." Recreational activities also were used to restore patients to a "normal" medical state. In the early years the institute's services were limited to male patients, but later women were admitted. At one time there was a Keeley Institute in every state. The reasons for the institute's demise likely included the rise of [Alcoholics Anonymous](#) ^[7], the enlargement of state institutions, and the recognition of alcoholism as a disease.

Reference:

Carl Goerch, "The Keeley Institute," *The State* (17 Sept. 1938).

Additional Resources:

Advertisement for the Keeley Institute, ECU Digital Collections: <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/15393> ^[8]

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The Keeley Institute Postcard, Greensboro, N.C. Image courtesy of North Carolina Postcard Collection, UNC Libraries. Available from http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/nc_post/id/6335 [6] (accessed August 1, 2012).

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Authors:

[Stoesen, Alexander R.](#) [14]

Origin - location:

[Greensboro](#) [15]

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[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#)[16]

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