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**Edward Kirby Collection,
1954 - 2004
(MSS-012)**

*Finding Aid Compiled by
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Edward Kirby Biographical Sketch

Edward P. Kirby, better known by the nickname “Ned,” was a long time Massachusetts politician for the Republican Party. He was born in Whitman, MA in 1928. After graduating from Holy Cross and Boston College Law School he joined the Army during the Korean War and served as a Lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps from 1952-1955. He was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives three consecutive terms from 1961-1966, representing the 5th Plymouth District. Kirby was the youngest Republican in the House when he was first elected. From 1968-1976 he served as Plymouth County Commissioner. In 1981 he was elected to the Massachusetts Senate, a position he would keep until 1992.

With strong support from his wife, Mary Alice, Ned Kirby was influential on a number of political issues in the local area during his time in office. These include local water supply issues in multiple towns including Brockton, the Old Colony Railroad Project, use of nuclear power, gay rights, and capital punishment.

Edward Kirby Scope and Content Note

This collection depicts political issues that were important in Plymouth County over roughly a 30 year period, with a focus on the Republican Party stance. Nearly all the material reflects Kirby’s time in political office. Photographs include Kirby with many different important politicians on both the state and national level. The series arrangement for this collection is primarily based on material created during the years Kirby spent in each of his political positions.

Related collections include the Congressman Hastings Keith Collection. Kirby and Keith were not only connected on a political level, but were personal friends as well. More information on Edward Kirby can be found at the Special Collections Department at the State Library of Massachusetts.

Edward Kirby Box and Folder List

Series 1: Biographical/Personal Material, 1956-2004

Box 1 Folder

1. Biographical Information on Edward Kirby, undated
2. Correspondence of Mary Alice and Edward Kirby, 1956-2004
3. Kirby announces retirement, 1997
4. Copies of correspondence with President Richard Nixon, 1972
5. Photographs – Edward and Mary Alice Kirby portrait shots, undated
6. Certificate of Appreciation from the Kiwanis Club of Hyannis, 1963

7. Hastings Keith material and correspondence with Kirby, 1962-2001
8. Photograph – Holy Cross men in MA legislature, including Kirby, 1965
9. Negatives of Kirby with Ronald Regan at the White House, 1981
10. Photograph – Kirby and George H. W. Bush, 1988
11. Photographs – Kirby with MA Governors and Senators, including Ed King, Dukakis, John Volpe, and Saltonstall, 1962-1987
12. Photographs – Kirby at public events, 1970-1991
13. Photocopied photographs of the Kirby's campaigning, and with political figures such as Ronald Reagan, undated

Series 2: House of Representatives, 1960-1967

Box 2

Folder

1. Official state document of Kirby being elected to the House of Representatives, 1960
2. Official state document of Kirby being elected to the House of Representatives, 1964
3. Massachusetts House of Representatives election, 1960
4. Massachusetts House of Representatives election, 1962
5. Massachusetts House of Representatives election, 1964
6. Massachusetts House of Representatives election, 1964
7. Massachusetts House of Representatives election and redistricting, 1964
8. Massachusetts House of Representatives election letter from Hastings Keith, 1966
9. Errands completed, 1962
10. Errands completed, 1965
11. Errands completed, 1966
12. Abington 250th anniversary letters appointing the Kirby's positions for the anniversary, 1962
13. Abington 250th anniversary photographs, 1962
14. Abington 250th anniversary event information, 1962

Box 3

Folder

1. Brockton water supply crisis, "Resolve providing for an investigation..." 1963
2. Brockton water supply crisis, published reports and bills, 1964
3. Brockton water supply crisis, research and background information, 1963-1965
4. Brockton water supply crisis, news clippings, 1964-1966
5. Brockton water supply crisis, news clippings, 1965
6. Town and City Monographs for Whitman, Hanson, Pembroke, and Marshfield, 1962-1963
7. Brockton water supply crisis, photographs of Silver Lake at a low level, 1964
8. "Conversation Piece" – Kirby's rebuttal of a radio interview advocating sex, 1963
9. License plates, 1965
10. Comprehensive Community, Mental Health Act, 1967
11. Governor's Council, 1966
12. Republican Town Committee, 1965-1966
13. Republican Town Committee, 1966-1967

Series 3: Plymouth County Commissioner, 1962-1976**Box 4****Folder**

1. Plymouth County Commissioner election, 1968
2. Hingham Courthouse, highway map showing location of the courthouse, 1962
3. Hingham Courthouse, 1963-1967
4. Hingham Courthouse – blueprints of Barnstable County Courthouse, 1971
5. Hingham Courthouse, 2nd District, Plymouth County, 1971-1972
6. County Government Study, Kirby appointed member of special commission, 1969
7. County Government Study, news clippings, 1969-1972
8. County Government Study, publications, 1963, 1970
9. County Government Study, 1970-1972
10. County Government Study, 1971
11. County Government Study, 1971-1972
12. Plymouth County Commissioner photographs and related material, 1970-1976

Series 4: Massachusetts Senate, 1980-1997**Box 5****Folder**

1. Official Massachusetts document of Kirby being elected to the MA Senate, 1982
2. Official Massachusetts document of Kirby being reelected to the MA Senate, 1986
3. Official Massachusetts document of Kirby being reelected to the MA Senate, 1990
4. Massachusetts Senate election, 1980
5. Massachusetts Senate election, 1982
6. Massachusetts Senate election, 1984
7. Massachusetts Senate election, 1986
8. Massachusetts Senate election, 1988
9. News clippings on Kirby's "Whistlestop" campaign tours, 1980-1984
10. Massachusetts Senate election, 1992
11. The Kirby Derby Annual Horse Show fundraiser, 1984, 1986, 1989
12. Photographs – Annual Kirby Derby, undated
13. Photographs – Kirby campaigning, 1980's
14. Photographs from Kirby's "Whistlestop" tours, 1980-1988
15. Old Colony Railroad Project, news clippings and other material, 1982, 1984, 1992, 1997
16. Old Colony Railroad Rehabilitation Project Summary, 1988
17. Environmental Study of the Old Colony Railroad Project, 1991
18. Old Colony Railroad Project, Kirby speech transcript and photographs, 1992

Box 6**Folder**

1. Hanson Water Supply Operation bill and background material, 1992
2. Gay and Abortion rights involving Kirby, 1990-1993
3. Massachusetts Aids Fund bill resolution (copy), 1990
4. News clippings of Kirby's involvement with local matters, 1981-1993

5. Photographs – Kirby at Plimoth Plantation, 1986, 1988
6. Photographs of a tribute to Senator Kirby at the Pembroke Country Club, 1991
7. Photographs – Pro-life fundraiser, undated

Series 5: Judge Advocate General, 1954-1955
RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Box 7
Contents Restricted

Series 6: Media Audio/Video, 1980-1994

Box 8

- DVD (quantity of 2) Cover the subjects of Energy Awareness Day where Kirby spoke at Plymouth for the use of nuclear power, 1988; Kirby's 1984 "Whistlestop" tour to Plymouth with Andy Card as a speaker (digitized from original VHS recordings).
- 1 cassette tape 1980 1st campaign planning meeting for State Senate – speakers are Andy Card, Lloyd Thompson, Tom Nash, Lloyd Potriquin
- 14 VHS Tapes Subjects covered include:
Capital Punishment; Gay Rights; Radiation Levels; Old Colony Railroad Project; Kirby's "Whistlestop" Tour; AIDS Confidentiality Testing; and Nuclear Power, 1980-1994

Series 7: Oversized Material

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts resolution honoring Edward P. "Ned" Kirby for his lifetime of public service, 1993
- Certificate of appointment by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts naming Kirby the Administrative Law Judge of the Industrial Accident Reviewing Board, 1994
- Certificate of appointment by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts naming Kirby a member of a special commission to investigate and study the modernization of county government, 1994
- 3 separate political cartoon sketches of Kirby used to promote his election campaigns. 2 of the 3 were created by Brooks Kelly of Pembroke, 1980, 1984
- Republican Party promotional poster titled "Contract with America," signed by multiple members of the party, including: Newt Gingrich, John Boehner, Tom DeLay, Dick Army, and others, undated