Bridgewater State University

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Archives & Special Collections

Edward Kirby Collection,
1954 - 2004
(APAP-002)

Finding Aid Compiled by
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Volume: 3.25 linear feet (8 document boxes)

Acquisition: All items in this manuscript group were donated to Bridgewater State University by the Kirby family in 2013.

Access: Access to this record group is unrestricted with the exception of Series 5, box 7.

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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
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
8. Photograph – Holy Cross men in MA legislature, including Kirby, 1965
13. Photocopied photographs of the Kirby’s campaigning, and with political figures such as Ronald Reagan, undated


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
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
10. Errands completed, 1965
11. Errands completed, 1966
12. Abington 250th anniversary letters appointing the Kirby’s positions for the anniversary, 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
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
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
4. Hingham Courthouse – blueprints of Barnstable County Courthouse, 1971
5. Hingham Courthouse, 2nd District, Plymouth County, 1971-1972

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
10. Massachusetts Senate election, 1992
12. Photographs – Annual Kirby Derby, undated
13. Photographs – Kirby campaigning, 1980’s
16. Old Colony Railroad Rehabilitation Project Summary, 1988
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
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