Name: Price, Eli Kirk (1797-1884)  
Material: Family Papers (1797-1937)  
Volume: 0.75 linear feet (Document Boxes 1-2)  
Donation: Gift of Samuel and Anna D. Moyerman, 1965  
Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Eli Kirk Price was born near Brandywine in Chester County, Pennsylvania on July 20, 1797. He was the eighth of eleven children born to Rachel and Philip Price, members of the Society of Friends. Young Eli was raised within the Society and received his education at Westtown Boarding School in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

After his years at Westtown, Price obtained his first business instruction in the store of John W. Townsend of West Chester. In 1815 Price went on to the countinghouse of Thomas P. Cope of Philadelphia, a shipping merchant in the Liverpool trade. While in the employ of Cope, Price familiarized himself with mercantile law and became interested in real estate law. In 1819 he began his legal studies under the tutelage of the prominent lawyer, John Sergeant of Philadelphia, and he was admitted to the Philadelphia Bar on May 28, 1822.

On June 10, 1828 Price married Anna Embree, the daughter of James and Rebecca Embree. Together Eli and Anna had three children: Rebecca E. (Mrs. Hanson Whithers), John Sergeant, and Sibyl E (Mrs. Starr Nicholls). Anna Price died on June 4, 1862, a year and a half after their daughter Rebecca had died in January 1861.

Price’s reputation as one of Philadelphia’s leading real estate attorneys led to his involvement in politics. In 1845 he became a member of the first state revenue board and was subsequently reelected to the second board in 1848. At that time Philadelphia was made up of twelve separate municipalities. In 1850, along with Judge Cadwalader, Price was sent to Harrisburg to argue for the consolidation of the city. Although this attempt was not successful, Philadelphia was later consolidated on February 2, 1854 under a new charter. Price was elected to the State Senate in that same year and served a three-year term. In 1873 he penned the history of the consolidation process in Philadelphia (a copy of which is included in this collection).
Price was involved in many social and political ventures. He was a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania, President of the University Hospital, President of the Preston Retreat, President of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society, Vice President of the American Philosophical Society, President of the Numismatical and Antiquarian Society, a member of the Historic Society of Pennsylvania, and a founder of Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, among other things. By the mid-1850’s Price also began drafting many bills enacting changes in real estate law, including several which helped to secure the rights of women in matters of inheritance.

Price was also an active writer. His works, which generally revolved around legal issues, included such titles as “Our Unknown City Laws,” “An Address to Friends, or, Can All Professing to be Friends Become United?”, “The Glacial Epochs,” and “Some Objections to the Proposed Constitution.” He also wrote works about his family, including a biographical memoir of his parents, Philip and Rachel Price, and a memorial for his daughter Rebecca.

Eli Kirk Price died unexpectedly on November 15, 1884 in Philadelphia as a well-known and highly respected lawyer, author, and political figure.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Eli Kirk Price Family Collection is housed in two document boxes. It is organized into five basic categories: Correspondence, Financial and Legal Documents, The Keene Home for Women, Miscellaneous Materials, and Printed Materials.

The Correspondence section of this collection contains letters written by Eli Kirk Price as well as numerous letters written to Eli Kirk Price from his family, friends, and associates. There are also a few miscellaneous letters between associates of Price. The letters authored by Price are arranged chronologically, followed by those letters which Price received. The miscellaneous letters are arranged alphabetically by author.

The Financial and Legal Documents section of this collection includes bonds, bills and receipts, deeds, and other various papers reflecting primarily Price’s professional and personal business affairs, as well as some transactions involving Philip Price and John Sergeant Price. These materials have been arranged alphabetically by individual and then alphabetically according to folder title.

The Keene Home for Women section is made up of papers involving the Home, with which Eli Kirk Price was involved. This section includes Applications to the Keene Home, arranged chronologically, as well as correspondence regarding the Keene Home, which are arranged alphabetically by author.

The Miscellaneous Materials section of this collection includes newspaper clippings and articles, as well as personal notes. These items are arranged alphabetically.

The Printed Materials section is arranged alphabetically and then chronologically under each author or title. It includes pamphlets written by Eli Kirk Price, booklets relating to legal matters, and biographical memoirs of Eli Kirk Price and fellow family members.

Included at the end of the inventory is a bibliography of bound volumes which, while a part of the Eli Kirk Price collection, have been separated out and are shelved in the Archives and Special Collections Department according to the call number listed.
CORRESPONDENCE

Eli Kirk Price - Letters Sent

Folder 01) Letter to John Gamber - Aug. 2, 1839
Letter to Elwood Morris - June 7, 1843
Letter to Brown and Shipley - Apr. 7, 1851
Letter to Carl Steinhauser - Apr. 7, 1851
Letter to John Tucker - Oct. 11, 1851
Letter to G. M. Dallas - Nov. 27, 1851
Letter to G. M. Dallas - Dec. 6, 1851
Letter to the Canal Commission - Dec. 12, 1851
Letter to G. M. Dallas - Feb. 25, 1852

Folder 02) Letter to St. Stephen’s Church, Philadelphia, PA - Apr. 11, 1860
Letter to Anthony W. Garvey - Apr. 16, 1869
Letter to Mr. Miller - Aug. 10, 1876
Letter to Miller and Hayes - Oct., 1876
Letter to Russell Thayer - Jan. 3, 1877
Letter to Charles H. Miller - Jan. 10, 1877
Letter to Russell Thayer - Oct. 8, 1877
Letter to Charles H. Miller - July 17, 1878
Letter to Charles H. Miller - Oct. 5, 1880
Letter to Charles H. Miller - May 1, 1882
Letter to Charles H. Miller - Mar. 30, 1884

Eli Kirk Price - Letters Received

Folder 03) Letter from William Rerry - undated
Letter from F. E. Brewster - undated
Letter from J. Erwin - undated
Letter from C. J. Picot - undated
Letter from J. Abrahamy - Mar. 27, 1823
Letter from Lewis Mayland - Feb. 25, 1826
Letter from John Barrett - Aug. 22, 1828

Folder 04) Letter from John Waits - Oct. 9, 1830
Letter from J. B. Noss - Aug. 21, 1833
Letter from Jacob Alrichs and Son - Nov. 18, 1833
Letter from John B. Steriger - Nov. 30, 1833
Letter from James M. Broom - Mar. 15, 1836
Letter from T. G. McCulloch - Nov. 11, 1836
BOX 1 - MC 1999.13 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)
Eli Kirk Price - Letters Received (cont.)

Folder 05) Letter from John Norris - Mar. 16, 1837
Letter from Benjamin Davis - Mar. 30, 1837
Letter from R. Moore - Apr. 28, 1837
Letter from Thomas Biddle - June 7, 1837
Letter from Horace Burr - Jan. 16, 1838
Letter from P. Palterman - Mar. 8, 1838
Letter from Hebenton Hibler - Apr. 12, 1838
Letter from Edward Lamb - Nov. 17, 1838
Letter from John M. Read - Sep. 14, 1839
Letter from T. Tilghman - Sep. 27, 1839
Letter from E. D. Ingraham - Feb. 14, 1840

Folder 06) Letter from Siter Price - Apr. 1, 1840
Letter from B. Jackson - Apr. 30, 1840
Letter from Sta[] Kel[] - Mar. 19, 1841
Letter from D. H. Dillingham - May 10, 1841
Letter from W. Abbott - Nov. 9, 1841
Letter from J. G. Clarkson - July 13, 1842
Letter from A. L. Pennoch - Aug. 22, 1842
Letter from E. Taylor - Nov. 1, 1842
Letter from Theodore Garrett - Nov. 14, 1842
Letter from John Northrop and James Harper - Mar. 2, 1843
Letter from Lewis S. Coryell - Feb. 14, 1844
Letter from William Maris - Aug. 16, 1844

Folder 07) Letter from W. M. Meredith and Morris Meredith - Apr. 21, 1845
Letter from James Gibson - Oct. 21, 1845
Letter from T. Tilghman - May 26, 1846
Letter from G. F. Mason - Aug. 15, 1846
Letter from Edgar Huidekoper - Sept. 22, 1846
Letter from L. Mifflin - Aug. 24, 1847
Letter from Morris, W., and J. D. Meredith - Apr. 7, 1848
Letter from William Henry Rawle - Dec. 18, 1848
Letter from T. Biddle - June 11, 1849
Letter from Robert C. Embree - Nov. 1, 1849

Folder 08) Letter from John G. Watmough - Feb. 2, 1850
Letter from John G. Watmough - Feb. 4, 1850
Letter from C. Yeates - July 4, 1851
Letter from Thomas Wilson - July 11, 1851
Letter from J. A. Underwood - Oct. 1, 1851
Letter from Israel Painter - Oct. 4, 1851
Letter from J. Watson Williams and Samuel A. Munson - July 17, 1852
Letter from Edward V. Kinsley - Feb. 16, 1853
BOX 1 - MC 1999.13 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)
   Eli Kirk Price - Letters Received (cont.)

Folder 09)  Letter from G. Mallery - Jan. 14, 1854
            Letter from Morris Longstreth - Feb. 5, 1854
            Letter from S. Colwell - Feb. 10, 1854
            Letter from Horace Binney, Jr.- Feb. 18, 1854
            Letter from W. B. Franklin - Aug. 18, 1854
            Letter from Josiah Randall - Dec. 9, 1854
            Letter from James Cox - Feb. 24, 1855
            Letter from James Cox - Mar. 12, 1855
            Letter from Thomas Daly - Mar. 18, 1856
            Letter from James Emlen - Feb. 15, 1859

Folder 10)  Letter from J. Randall - May 18, 1860
            Letter from John Tucker - Feb. 17, 1862
            Letter from E. E. Marius - July 28, 1864
            Letter from George V[?] Moody – Aug. 11, 1864
            Letter from Miriam Meredith - Sep. 15, 1864
            Letter from B. H. Throop - Dec. 9, 1865
            Letter from Edward H. Stokes and John Stiles - Feb. 27, 1866
            Letter from Charles H. Hart - Dec. 7, 1866
            Letter from George Connell - Feb. 26, 1868
            Letter from William L. Elkins - Dec. 15, 1868
            Letter from Henry Paul Beck - Aug. 31, 1869

Folder 11)  Letter from J. H. Barton - June 6, 1870
            (Includes newspaper clippings on the death of Philip Price)
            Letter from J. H. Nichols - Oct. 24, 1872
            Letter from James T. Mitchell - Nov. 16, 1876
            Letter from Russell Thayer - Nov. 16, 1876
            (Includes letter from George Smith to Eli Kirk Price)
            Letter from Joseph Dowdall - Sep. 20, 1881
            Letter from Joseph Edwards - Oct. 23, 1881
            Letter from Francis R. Cape - Mar. 12, 1884
BOX 1 - MC 1999.13 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)
   Miscellaneous Letters (cont.)
   Folder 12) Cox, R. M.
               Letter to Charles H. Miller - May 18, 1892
               Fraley, F.
               Letter to James Cox, Esq. - Feb. 24, 1855
               Keene, S. L.
               Letter to George Miles, Esq. - Nov. 27, 1844
               Price, John Sergeant
               Letter from Mr. Thwing[?] - Mar. 14, 1855
               Letter from M. Edgar Richards - Feb. 21, 1860
               Letter from M. Edgar Richards - Dec. 14, 1870
               Letter from Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Co.
               - Apr. 19, 1883
               Letter from Charles Huston - Feb. 12, 1886
               Letter from Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Co. –
               May 20, 1887
               Letter from Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Co. –
               June 1, 1887
               Letter from Hood Gilpin - June 26, 1889
               Price, John Sergeant, Jr.
               Letter to Duke – undated
               Price, Philip M.
               Letter to J. W. Quiggle - Dec. 12, 1853
               Randall, J.
               Letter to John Miles, Esq. - Feb. 14, 1831
               Unknown
               Letter to the Commissioners of Fairmount Park - Oct. 10, 1876

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS
   Eli Kirk Price
   Folder 13) Bonds
             Woodlands Cemetery Co. of Philadelphia - 1847-1851
   Folder 14) Estates
             Ann Clein - 1878
             Sarah Lukens Keene - 1866
   Folder 15) Indentures
             Fishing Creek Improvement Company - 1869
   Folder 16) Miscellaneous Documents, Bills and Receipts
   John Sergeant Price
   Folder 17) Miscellaneous Documents, Bills and Receipts – 1860-1878
   Philip Price
   Folder 18) Miscellaneous Documents, Bills and Receipts – 1856-1864[?]
KEENE HOME FOR WOMEN
Applications and related materials
Folder 19) Josephine Brick - Nov. 11, 1910
Eliza Dabziel Williams - Nov. 11, 1910
Amy D. Cochran - Feb. 2, 1911
Elizabeth R. Fuller - Feb. 2, 1911
Jacobina O. Tuzo - Feb. 2, 1911
Julia Earnest Wayne - Feb. 2, 1911
Harriet Arundel - July 25, 1911
Mary Macaulley - Apr. 10, 1917
Emily Deane - Nov. 23, 1925
Jessie Dale Pearce - 1927
Laura Matlack - 1928
Folder 20) Clara Powell - Jan., 1930
Ada Sybilla James - Mar. 15, 1930
Clara Gaston - 1932
J. Louise Ryder - 1932
Fannie Wright - 1932
Elizabeth S. Kerns - Feb. 16, 1932
Mary A. Clarke - Jan. 1933
Grace Fitzhugh Thomson - 1933
Correspondence
Folder 21) Brachear, Mrs. E. A.
Letter to Eli Kirk Price - Oct. 18, 1932
Bonn, Emma Penell
Letter to Reverend Francis M. Tait - Jan. 7, 1933
Crawford, George L.
Letter to H.E. Keene, Esq. - Feb. 11, 1874
Haines, Mary J.
Letter to Eli Kirk Price - Mar. 5, 1931
Letter to Eli Kirk Price - Mar. 13, 1931
Letter to Eli Kirk Price - June 1, 1931
Letter to Howard Hanson - Apr. 26, 1934
Jefferys, Edward M.
Letter to William Grant Jr., Esq.- Mar. 7, 1930
Thompson, Clara
Letter to Harold - undated
MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS

Folder 22) An Act In Relation to Artificial Navigations - undated
Collection of clippings and notes regarding Mar. 2, 1846 Ohio Tax Act
Edgar, James A., petition nominating for county office - Aug. 30, 1922
Notes regarding an act - Mar. 14, 1822
Note regarding a Jan. 24, 1849 Act of Assembly - undated
Plan for Military March by Thomas S. Lavard, Commanding State Fencibles
Infantry - undated

PRINTED MATERIALS

Folder 23) Brewster, Benjamin Harris
“Address on the late Eli Kirk Price” (2 copies) - Nov. 15, 1886
Fallon
“Faries’ Appeal - Reath’s Appeal” - 1852
Grandom Institution
“Report of the Board of Managers” - 1850
Keyser, H. L.
“Will of Alexander J. Derbyshire” - 1879
“Lincoln Lore”, article regarding a check made out to Abraham Lincoln by
Eli Kirk Price for $500 - Oct. 11, 1937

Folder 24) Orphans’ Court, Philadelphia
“Estate of Joseph Dugan” (6 pamphlets) - 1878

Folder 25) “Paid Fire Department” (2 pamphlets) - 1853
Parrish, Isaac
“Health and Mortality of Convicts” - 1849
Philadelphia House of Refuge
“James J. Barclay. Celebration in honor of his ninetieth birthday”–
Jan. 15, 1884

BOX 2 - MC 1999.13

PRINTED MATERIALS (cont.)

Folder 01) Price, Eli Kirk
“The City of Philadelphia, Plaintiffs in Error vs. The American
Philosophical Society, Defendants in Error” (2 copies) - undated
“Peter Hotz’ Estate - Appellees’ Brief” - undated
“Our Unknown City Laws” (2 copies) - undated
“The Appeal of Thomas and Joseph Wood” - undated

Folder 02) Price, Eli Kirk
“The Address Delivered at the Laying of the Corner Stone of the
Preston Retreat” - July 17, 1837
“Position of Eli Kirk Price on the Liquor Question (2 copies) - 1854
“The City of Philadelphia, to use, &c vs. George W. Tryon” - Sep. 1859
PRINTED MATERIALS (cont.)

Folder 03) Price, Eli Kirk

“An Address to Friends” - 1865
“The Diary of John Pemberton” - 1867
“Penn Squares” - May, 1867
“In the Matter of League Island...” - June, 1867

Folder 04) Price, Eli Kirk

“Some Phases of Modern Philosophy” - Jan. 5, 1872
“Some Objections to the Proposed Constitution” - 1873
“Letter of Eli Kirk Price to the Judiciary Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives” - 1874
“The Glacial Epochs” - 1876
“Proceedings of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia” - Mar. 20, 1879

Folder 05) Reese, John

“A Review of the Recent Trial of Mrs. Elizabeth G. Wharton on the Charge of Poisoning General W. S. Ketchum” - 1840

Rothrock, J. T.

“Biographical Memoir of the Late Eli Kirk Price” - Nov. 19, 1886

Supreme Court


West, R. A.

“Proceedings of the Bar Meeting Called to pay respect to the Memory of the Late Chief Justice Sharswood” - May 31, 1883

This collection register was prepared by Emily S. Walters, September 1999.

COLLECTION BIBLIOGRAPHY


