

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Price, Eli Kirk (1797-1884)** **MC 1999.13**

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 Withers), 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.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 1999.13

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. Abrahany - 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 Heberton 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[?]

BOX 1 - MC 1999.13 (cont.)

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

BOX 1 - MC 1999.13 (cont.)

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

BOX 2 - MC 1999.13 (cont.)

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
 "Shippen, et al. vs. Eli Kirk Price and J. B. Townsend, Executors of
 Edward Shippen Burd, Deceased" (4 pamphlets) - 1861
- 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

- Price, Eli Kirk. *Centennial Meeting of the Descendants of Philip and Rachel Price*. Philadelphia: Caxton Press, 1864. [301.421 P945]
- Price, Eli Kirk. *Discourse on the Family as an Element of Government. Read before the American Philosophical Society, January, 1864*. Philadelphia: Caxton Press of C. Sherman, Son & Co., 1864. [301.421 P945]
- Price, Eli Kirk. *Memoir of Philip and Rachel Price*. Philadelphia: Printed by C. Sherman for Eli K. Price and Philip M. Price, 1852. [289.6 P946P]
- Price, Eli Kirk. *Memorial of Our Daughter, for Her Child*. Philadelphia: Printed for E. K. Price, 1862. [973.6 P946P]
- Price, Eli Kirk, William E. DuBois, and J. Sergeant Price. *Biographical Sketches of James Embree, Philip Price, and Eli K. Price*. Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, 1881. [289.6 P945]