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Kirby Family Papers (MSS 749)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Department of Library Special Collections
 Western Kentucky University
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 749 KIRBY Family Papers

1 box. 9 folders. 57 items. 1879-1972. Originals.

SC2023.8.1

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of the papers of members of the Kirby family of Warren County, Kentucky. Chiefly represented are Sarah Jane “Jennie” Kirby (1863-1918); her son Percy Warren Kirby (1889-1972); and Percy’s grandson Joseph Warren Harris (1937-2019).

Journals of Jennie Kirby (Box 1, Folders 3, 4) are remarkable for their close chronicling of the farm, household and other work performed by herself and husband Josiah “Joe” Kirby. Joe Kirby was also a stonemason, and in 1889 Jennie lists the names of people for whom he built chimneys. She also records work she did for others, such as weaving (Folder 4) and notes local births and deaths. Notes on some Kirby genealogy are also among the loose items in the journals.

The records of general contractor Percy W. Kirby include time and wage records, an account book, and an invoice bearing his letterhead (Folder 6).

Papers of Joseph W. Harris relate to his attendance at Bowling Green High School and Western Kentucky State College (now WKU). A “Senior Class Memories” album contains the calling cards of many of his high school classmates (Folder 7). His college materials include a merit certificate from the Western Players and the script of a play in which he appeared.

Photographs (Folder 9) include an auto race, possibly at Bowling Green’s Beech Bend Park. Also included are snapshots of basketball games, possibly at Bowling Green High School, including a contest between the Harlem Globetrotters and the Washington Generals.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Kirby Family Papers	1879-1972	57 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Memorandum re: John Kirby Civil War-era rifle	n.d.	1 item
Folder 3	Sarah Jane “Jennie” Kirby – Journal	1879-1898	1 item

Folder 4	Sarah Jane "Jennie" Kirby – Journal	1899-1916	1 item
Folder 5	Deeds of Jesse A. Kirby lands	1889, 1901	3 items
Folder 6	Percy W. Kirby – Business records (time books, account book, letterhead)	1912-1972	9 items
Folder 7	Joseph W. Harris – School records (promotion certificate, report card, senior high admission certificate, commencement invitation, Senior Class memories album, <i>Beacon</i> yearbook inscriptions)	1949-1955	6 items
Folder 8	Joseph W. Harris – Western Kentucky State College records (penmanship certificate, Western Players merit certificate, grade record, radio script with song lyrics, play script)	1956-1958	7 items
Folder 9	Photographs	1911, n.d.	28 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS KIRBY Family Papers 1879-1972
749

Papers of the Kirby family of Warren County, Kentucky, especially Sarah Jane "Jennie" Kirby, her son Percy Warren Kirby, and his grandson Joseph W. Harris. Includes some genealogical data collected by Jennie.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Automobile racing – Bowling Green? – Photographs B1,F9
 Beech Bend Raceway Park? – Bowling Green B1,F9
 Bowling Green High School – Basketball, 1950s – Photographs B1,F9
 Bowling Green High School – Relating to B1,F7
 Certificates – Penmanship, 1956 B1,F8
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Warren County – Relating to B1,F2
 Deeds – Warren County, 1889, 1901 B1,F5
 Diplomas – Bowling Green Junior High School B1,F7
 Elections and election campaigns, 1896 – Relating to B1,F3a
 Farms and farming – Warren County B1,F3

Harris, Joseph Warren, 1937-2019 – Relating to B1,F7,8
 Hewlet, Louisa J. (Kirby), 1836-1908 – Relating to B1,F3a
 Horses – Prescriptions and remedies B1,F3a
 Kirby family B1,F3a,4a
 Kirby, Jesse Anderson, 1811-1881 – Relating to B1,F5
 Kirby, John Jackson, 1815-1878 – Relating to B1,F2
 Kirby, Josiah Davis “Joe,” 1840-1913 – Relating to B1,F3,4
 Kirby, Leonard Crutchfield, Jr., b. 1838 – Relating to B1,F2
 Kirby, Percy Warren, 1889-1972 – Relating to B1,F2-4,6
 Kirby, Sarah Jane “Jennie” (Whalen), 1863-1918 B1,F3,4
 McKinley, William, 1843-1901 – Relating to B1,F3a
 Radio stations – Bowling Green – WKCT – Relating to B1,F8
 Report cards – Bowling Green Junior High School B1,F7
 Stock car racing – Bowling Green? – Photographs B1,F9
 Warren County – Weather, 1899 B1,F4a
 Western Kentucky University – Western Players – Relating to B1,F8

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