

# WILLIAM H. AND RUBY KIRK PAPERS

## INTRODUCTION

### **PROVENANCE:**

William H. and Ruby Kirk donated their papers (date unknown).

### **ACCESS:**

The collection is open for research.

### **OWNERSHIP:**

William H. and Ruby Kirk Papers are the physical property of the Denver Public Library.

### **PUBLICATION RIGHTS:**

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### **PREFERRED CITATION:**

[Identification of item], William H. and Ruby Kirk Papers, ARL92, Blair-Caldwell African American Collection, The Denver Public Library.

### **SIZE:**

Number of boxes: 1

### **LOCATION:**

ARL92

### **PROCESSED:**

Denise Lord

August 2007

### **ENCODED BY:**

### **PROJECT MANAGER:**

## **WILLIAM H. AND RUBY KIRK PAPERS BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

### **William H. Kirk**

William H. Kirk was born March 6, 1911. He graduated from Louis School of Mortuary Science with honors. Kirk married Ruby J. Currin on August 21, 1941. A World War II veteran he opened Kirk Mortuary in Denver Colorado. He became the first black member of the Colorado State Board of Mortuary Science Examiners. A life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, he died on December 29, 1984

### **Ruby Kirk**

Ruby Kirk a native of Hugoton, Kansas attended the Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, the University of Colorado and the Colorado Women's College in Denver. She along with her husband, William H. Kirk, established Kirk Mortuary in Denver. In 1979 found the Learning to Live Again Organization –a grief support group. In 1984, she sold Kirk Mortuary to Elvin R. Caldwell, Jr. participant in many community organizations and Clubs – Owl Club. Mrs. Ruby married Elliot Gray.

### **Elliot Gray**

Elliot Gray worked as District Director and Regional Commissioner for the IRS, in New York. City, he married Ruby Kirk.

## **WILLIAM H. AND RUBY KIRK PAPERS SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The William H. and Ruby Kirk Papers contain material on the Kirk Mortuary and Kirk family. Material consists of certificates of membership, certificate of awards, Mortuary Director license, newspapers articles, photographs (framed) and obituary of William H. Kirk.

**WILLIAM H. AND RUBY KIRK PAPERS  
SERIES DESCRIPTION**

**SERIES 1 PAPERS**

**1951-2003**

**BOX 1**

The papers on Kirk Mortuary consist of certificate of membership, certificate of awards, certificate of appreciation, license of Mortuary Directors, newspapers clippings and correspondence

**SERIES 2 PHOTOGRAPHS**

**BOX 1**

Photographs of the old and new buildings Kirk Mortuary, photographs of William H. and Ruby Kirk and Elvin R. Caldwell.

**SERIES 3 OVERSIZE**

**2000**

**OVFF**

Framed architecture rendering of the Caldwell-Kirk Mortuary Building in Denver, Colorado.

## WILLIAM H. AND RUBY KIRK PAPERS CONTAINER LIST

### SERIES 1 PAPERS

<b>Box 1</b>	<b>William H. and Ruby Kirk papers</b>	
FF1	1958	Shorter AME Church: Matrons Club of Shorter: newspaper clipping
FF2	1962,1971	Awards presented by Kirk Mortuary
FF3	1967-2003	Correspondence
FF4	1971-1990	Colorado Funeral Directors & Embalmers Association Inc: Mortuary Science Commission The Mortuary Education Commission Institute of Religious Science Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Denver Metropolitan Funeral Directors Association Certificate of Membership; The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Certificate of Appreciation
FF5	1975	Women of the Year Award by the Funeral Directors and Morticians Association: certificate
FF6	1975, 1991	Macedonia Baptist Church Women's Day Speaker Mrs. Ruby Kirk: newsletter
FF7	1976	Department of Regulatory Agencies: license
FF8	1977	9 <sup>th</sup> anniversary Dr. Martin Luther King Assassination: newspaper clipping
FF9	1977	Tribute to our Beloved Employee Larry Love: obituary
FF10	1977	Best Dressed Women Club Betty Wilkins: newspaper clippings
FF11	1979	Esquire Club: correspondence
FF12	1982	Learning to Live Again Organization articles.
FF13	1984	Kirk, William H: obituary
FF14	1988, 1996	Christmas cards
FF15	2000	Caldwell-Kirk celebrates 50 years of service
FF16	2002-2003	Bennett College: Fundraiser
FF17	2002-2004	Advertising
FF18	2005	History of The Caldwell-Kirk Mortuary
FF19	2006	Caldwell-Kirk Mortuary: press release Celebration

FF20 n.d. Genealogy: George and Catherine Walker

FF21 n.d. Shorter AME Church: Men's Day:  
newspaper clipping

**SERIES 3 PHOTOGRAPHS**

**Box 1 Kirk, William and Ruby**

FF22 1960 New Kirk Mortuary: photograph  
FF23 n.d. Kirk Mortuary: photograph  
FF24 n.d. Caldwell, Elvin R: photograph  
FF25 n.d. Kirk, William and Ruby: photograph

**SERIES 4 OVERSIZE MATERIAL, DRAWING**

**OVFF 1 Architecture rendering**

Item 2000 Caldwell-Kirk Mortuary building:  
architecture rendering (framed)