

McLean County Museum of History

Betty Kinser Collection

Processed by
Jonathan Oesterlein
Winter 2023

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	2004-2024
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	Gift of children of Betty Kinser—Brent Kinser and Kristine Bergman, January 2024.
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	Past Perfect #2024.0007
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives

Brief History

Betty Marshall Kinser was born on November 15, 1941 in Bloomington, IN. In her youth she was known to be strong-willed and athletic. She married Ronnie Kinser in 1960, graduated from Indiana University in 1962, and began work as a high school teacher in LeRoy. Betty and Ronnie had two children, Brent and Kristine. They were born March 15, 1961, and February 10, 1964, respectively. Betty Kinser returned to school, earning a master's in arts at Illinois State University in 1975. Two years later, she became a lecturer in the ISU art department. After her retirement from ISU in 2005, she served as a member of the ISU Board of Trustees. She was also involved in Democratic Party politics, supporting state and national figures, including Lane Evans, Barack Obama, and John Edwards.

Scope

The collection includes newspaper clippings, photographs, books, and other items, mostly relating to Kinser's support of Democratic Party candidates / officeholders. There are also folders on Kinser's appointment to the ISU Board of Trustees, and her Women of Distinction honor in 2006.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General Information

- 1.1 Gift Agreement, from the children of Betty Kinser, January 2024.
- 1.2 Typed list of materials donated, January 2024, 3 pp.
- 1.3 Kinser obituary, *WGLT*, January 5, 2024, 9 pp.
- 1.4 "Brent Kinser bio of Betty," Greg Koos email to Museum Librarian Bill Kemp, forwarding a copy of the obituary of Betty Kinser written by her son, Brent Kinser, 8 January 2024.

Folder 2: Obama

- 2.1 Photo, unknown event, signed to Betty from Obama, 8.5x11, color, undated.
- 2.2 Photo, Obama portrait, 5x7, c. 2004.
- 2.3 Article, "The Candidate—How the son of a Kenyan economist became an Illinois Everyman" by William Finnegan, *The New Yorker*, May 31, 2004, pp 32-38 (includes photo of Obama and Kinser signed by Obama),
- 2.4 Flyer, "Barack Obama—Democrat for U.S Senate," 2004.
- 2.5 Laminated newspaper clippings of Betty Kinser and Barack Obama sent to Betty by Peggy Ann Milton, 2004.
- 2.6 Photo of Betty Kinser and Barack Obama in Bloomington, c. 2008, 8x10.
- 2.7 The Obama Family at Chicago to the Kinser Family at Bloomington, seasons greetings card with Obama family photo, c. 2010.

Folder 3: Misc. Photographs

- 3.1 Betty Kinser on composite board, 8x10, undated.
- 3.2 Betty Kinser and Illinois Secretary of State Jessie White with adult and child; signed by Jessie White, 7x5, undated.
- 3.3 Betty Kinser, Jessie White, and unidentified child; signed by Jessie White, 7x5, undated.
- 3.4 Betty Kinser with unidentified figure; signed to Bett, illegible, 6x4, undated.
- 3.5 Betty Kinser with Jessie White and Illinois State University President Al Bowman; signed by Jessie White, 7x5, undated.
- 3.6 Betty Kinser with Dick Durbin wearing identical, gold pins, 7x5, undated.
- 3.7 Betty Kinser with Dick Durbin, 7x5, undated.
- 3.8 Betty Kinser and Jessie White with unidentified child, 7x5, undated.
- 3.9 Betty Kinser with Tammy Duckworth, 6x4, undated.
- 3.10 Betty Kinser with Michelle Obama, 6x4, undated.
- 3.11 Betty Kinser with Michelle Obama in a group photo, 6x4, undated.
- 3.12 Betty Kinser in group photo with unidentified persons, 4x6, undated.
- 3.13 Unidentified figure with two children, 6x4, undated.
- 3.14 Unidentified man and dog with matching hat filters, 11x8.5, undated.
- 3.15 Polaroid photo of Gerald Ford at unidentified event, 3.5x4.25, undated.

Folder 4: Political Involvement

- 4.1 Volunteer badge for John Edwards' visit to Central Illinois, 7 September 2004.
- 4.2 Signed photo of John Edwards, 8.75x11, undated.
- 4.3 "Women's Caucus—America's Women of 2004," flyer promoting the 2004 women's caucus hosted in the Sheraton Boston Hotel, July 2004.
- 4.4 Bumper sticker promoting Congressman Lane Evans, undated.
- 4.5 Photo of Betty Kinser with unidentified person at Springfield Dinner, 6.5x4, 9 October 2004.
- 4.6 Photo of Betty Kinser with Lane Evans at Springfield with attached Lane Evans pin, 4x6, 9 October 2004.
- 4.7 Dinner Ticket for the Lane Evans Unity Dinner, 9 October 2004.
- 4.8 Photo of Lane Evans speaking to unknown persons, 9 October 2004.

Folder 5: Illinois State University Board of Trustees

- 5.1 Illinois General Assembly confirmation of Betty Kinser's appointment to the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University, 19 May 2011.
- 5.2 Certificate. appointment to the Board of Trustees, 1 March 2006.
- 5.3 Certificate, appointment to the Board of Trustees, 23 May 2011.

Folder 6: Honors

- 6.1 Certificate of nomination for the Women of Distinction award, 27 May 2004.
- 6.2 Certificate of nomination for the Women of Distinction award, 11 May 2006.
- 6.3 Women of Distinction booklet, 17th annual awards banquet, 11 May 2006.

6.4 “Relentless volunteer given honor as top Normal citizen.” *Pantagraph*, 12 July 2007.

Folder 7: Kickapoo Creek Rock Festival slides

7.1 Eleven slides of Memorial Day weekend 1970 music festival north of Heyworth.

7.2 Flattened box previously containing the slides.

Loose items:

Obama, Barack. *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*. New York, Kodansha International, 18 July 1995.

Signed retirement book, School of Art, Illinois State University 2005.

Obama, Barack. *The Audacity of Hope*. New York, Cron, 25 September 2006.

See also:

Book in Museum Library Stacks:

Edwards, John. *Home: The Blueprints of Our Lives*. New York, HarperCollins, 2006.
Call number: 306.85 HOM 2006. Sticker inside book reads: “A symbol of appreciation from Dave & Leigh Anne Dorris for meeting at our home with John Edwards on February 5, 2007.”

Three oversize items:

Poster promoting John Kerry’s presidential campaign, signed by John Kerry, 2004.

Illinois State Homecoming Poster, signed by Betty Kinser and Town of Normal Mayor Chris Koos, October 14, 2007.

Black and white photo on posterboard of Kinser and Obama, from *The New Yorker*, May 31, 2004.