



Guide to the Michael J. Birkner Papers, 1979, 1983-1989

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Michael J. Birkner Papers, 1979, 1983-1989

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
nhhistory.org

Collection Number:

1989.051

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Birkner, Michael J., 1950-

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

2 boxes ; 0.83 linear feet

Abstract:

The Michael J. Birkner Papers, 1979, 1983-1989, contain the papers of Michael J. Birkner while he was an editorial writer with the Concord Monitor. Papers consist of general correspondence and documents related to Birkner's coverage of the 1984 and 1988 presidential elections.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Michael J. Birkner Papers were a gift of Michael J. Birkner in May 1990.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date, and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in July 2022. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Michael J. Birkner Papers, 1989.051. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Michael J. Birkner is an educator and a journalist. He was an editorial writer for the Concord Monitor from the early 1980s until 1990. Following that, he became Associate Professor of History at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, PA.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Michael J. Birkner Papers, 1979, 1983-1989, consist of the papers of Michael J. Birkner while he was an editorial writer with the Concord Monitor. The Concord Monitor correspondence in series one reflects the daily routine when Birkner was an editorial writer at the Monitor. There are response letters from readers either agreeing or disagreeing with opinions expressed by the Monitor staff. There are letters and copies of political cartoons from aspiring cartoonist Tom Sheehan as well as others who write or would like to write for the Monitor. The second and third series are mainly photocopies of columns and editorials from New Hampshire

newspapers carrying the New Hampshire by line. There are notes, outlines, and the resulting interviews done with each candidate for the Monitor articles.

Arrangement:

The collection is divided into three series:

Series 1. Concord Monitor correspondence, 1983-1984

Series 2. 1984 Election files, 1984-1987

Series 3. 1988 Election files, 1979-1989

Contents List

Series 1. Concord Monitor correspondence, 1983-1984

Extent: 12 folders

Scope and Content: The Concord Monitor correspondence in series one reflects the daily routine when Birkner was an editorial writer at the Monitor. Included are correspondence from Concord Monitor editor, George Wilson. There are response letters from readers either agreeing or disagreeing with opinions expressed by the Monitor staff. There are letters and copies of political cartoons from aspiring cartoonist Tom Sheehan as well as others who write or would like to write for the Monitor. Also included are articles written by either Birkner or by those who have written in to the newspaper.

Box 1

Folder 1	George Wilson, publisher Concord Monitor, 1983
Folder 2	Correspondence, 1983 January
Folder 3	Correspondence, 1983 June-August
Folder 4	Correspondence, 1983 September
Folder 5	Correspondence, 1983 October
Folder 6	Correspondence, 1983 November-December
Folder 7	Correspondence, 1984 January-February
Folder 8	Correspondence, 1984 March-April
Folder 9	Correspondence, 1984 May-June
Folder 10	Correspondence, 1984 July-August
Folder 11	Correspondence, 1984 September-October
Folder 12	Correspondence, 1984 November-December

Series 2. 1984 Election files, 1984-1987

Extent: 12 folders

Scope and Content: Series two focuses on the 1984 presidential election, though newspaper articles extend through to 1987. The series consists of articles from New Hampshire newspapers on the election as well as Birkner's notes. Finally, series two has articles relating to individual candidates Gary Hart, Jesse Jackson, Walter Mondale, Geraldine Ferraro, and Ed Meese, as well as other minor candidates in the election.

Box 1

Folder 13	NH Primary, 1984
Folder 14	National Campaign, New Hampshire papers, 1983 December-1984 February 28
Folder 15	National Campaign, notes, 1983 December-1984 February 28
Folder 16	National Campaign, 1984

Folder 17	Gary Hart, 1984, 1986
Folder 18	Jesse Jackson, 1983-1987
Folder 19	Walter Mondale, 1984
Folder 20	Geraldine Ferraro, 1984
Folder 21	Ed Meese, 1984-1985
Folder 22	Reporting on minor candidates, 1983-1984
Folders 23-24	Political cartoons, 1984

Series 3. 1988 Election files, 1979-1989

Extent: 31 folders

Scope and Content: Series three focuses on the 1988 presidential election and consists of articles and notes on presidential candidates. The series has notes and articles on Bruce Babbitt, George Bush, Bob Dole, Pete DuPont, George Dukakis, Richard Gephardt, Al Gore, Gen. Richard Haig, Gary Hart, Jesse Jackson, Jack Kemp, Paul Laxalt, Pat Robertson, Paul Simon, Pat Paulsen, as well as some former fringe candidates. Series three also includes Birkner's notes on the presidential debates in New Hampshire, as well as programs from the debates. Finally, the series has reviews of the books *First in the Nation: New Hampshire and the Premier Presidential Primary* by Charles Brereton, *Media and Momentum: The New Hampshire Primary and Nomination Politics* by Gary R. Orren and Nelson W. Polsby, and *Hart and Soul* by Susan B. Casey.

Box 2

Folder 1	General Issues, 1988
Folder 2	1988 Primary, last two days, 1988
Folder 3	Babbitt, Bruce, 1986, 1988
Folder 4	Bush, George H. W., 1985-1988
Folder 5	Dole, Bob, 1987-1988
Folder 6	DuPont, Pete, 1987-1988
Folder 7	Dukakis, Michael, 1987-1988
Folder 8	Gephardt, Richard A., 1988
Folder 9	Gore, Al, 1988
Folder 10	Haig, Alex, 1987-1988
Folder 11	Hart, Gary, 1987-1988
Folder 12	Jackson, Jesse, 1988-1989
Folder 13	Kemp, 1987-1988
Folder 14	Paul Laxalt, Pres, 1987
Folder 15	Robertson, 1987-1988
Folder 16	Robertson & McCloskey, 1988
Folder 17	Simon, 1987-1988
Folder 18	Pat Paulsen, Pres, 1988
Folder 19	Former fringe candidates, 1987
Folder 20	"Horse Race," 1987-1988
Folder 21	Iowa Caucuses, 1988
Folder 22	Miscellaneous, 1988
Folder 23	Constitutional convention issue, 1979, 1988
Folder 24	Debates, 1988
Folder 25	Democrats Debate, Hanover, 1988 January

Folder 26 Polls & politics, 1984-1988
Folder 27 New Hampshire in the 1980's, 1987-1988
Folder 28 Book Review – *First in the Nation*, undated
Folder 29 Reviews by others of *First in the Nation*, Charles Brereton, 1987-1988
Folder 30 Book Review – *Media and Momentum*, undated
Folder 31 Review of Susan B. Casey's book *Hart & Soul* by Birkner, 1986-1987

Subject Terms

People:

Babbitt, Bruce, 1938-
Birkner, Michael J., 1950-
Brereton, Charles, 1947-2016
Bush, George, 1924-2018
Dole, Robert J., 1923-2021
Dukakis, Michael S. (Michael Stanley), 1933-
Du Pont, Pierre S., 1935-2021
Ferraro, Geraldine, 1935-2011
Gephardt, Richard A. (Richard Andrew), 1941-
Gore, Al, 1948-
Haig, Alexander Meigs, 1924-2010
Hart, Gary, 1936-
Jackson, Jesse, 1941-
Kemp, Jack, 1935-2009
Laxalt, Paul, 1922-2018
McCloskey, Paul N., 1927-2024
Meese, Edwin, 1931-
Mondale, Walter F., 1928-2021
Paulsen, Patrick, 1927-1997
Robertson, Pat, 1930-2023
Simon, Paul, 1928-2003
Wilson, George

Organizations:

Concord Monitor

Subjects:

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
Constitutional conventions
Debates and debating
Elections
Newspaper employees
Newspapers
Political campaigns
Political cartoons
Politics and government
Primaries
Voting

Locations:

Concord, NH

Iowa

Occupations:

Journalists

Politicians

Related MaterialsLibrary

Birkner, Michael J. “‘He’s My Man’: Sherman Adams and New Hampshire’s Role in the ‘Draft Eisenhower’ Movement.” *Historical New Hampshire* 58, no. 1-2 (Spring-Summer 2003): 5-25. Call number: 977.8 N5321h

Birkner, Michael J. “Bringing Out the Vote: New Hampshire and the Presidential Campaign of 1952.” *Historical New Hampshire* 57, no. 1-2 (2022): 28-55. Call number: 977.8 N5321h

Birkner, Michael J. “That Defining Moment: The 1980 Nashua Debate.” *Historical New Hampshire* 42, no. 3 (Summer 1987): 283-296. Call number: 977.8 N5321h