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0302: Arvil Ernest Harris Papers, 1925-1965

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FINDING AID
FOR THE
ARVIL ERNEST HARRIS COLLETION, 1925-1965



ACCESSION NUMBER: 1980/07.0302

Special Collections Department

James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University

Huntington, West Virginia

2019

James E. Morrow Libraries
Marshall University

Arvil Ernest Harris Collection
1925-1965

Accession Number: 1980/07.0302

Processed by: James R. Hanna, Rebecca Henderson, Steven C. Straley

Date Completed: April 2019

Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library, Room 217

Access and Use: For more information or to use any collection, contact:

Special Collections, Morrow Library
Marshall University
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755
(304) 696-2343
speccoll@marshall.edu

Corporate Name: N/A

Date: 1925-1965

Extent: 4.5 Cubic Ft.

System of Arrangement: By subject, then date.

Restrictions on Access: None

This collection was a gift from Virginia (Brannon) Harris.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

Mr. Harris was a local (Huntington, WV) professor and politician who served as the first director of Marshall University's Graduate Program as well as the mayor of Huntington, West Virginia. Born in Little Birch, West Virginia, Harris received a teaching certificate at the Glenville State Normal School (Now Glenville State College) where he served as an English teacher before embarking on further education. Receiving a bachelor's degree from Marshall University; he would attend both the Universities of Pennsylvania and Iowa where he would earn terminal degrees. Harris is the namesake of Harris Hall at Marshall University. Materials

originating from Glenville State College were utilized in establishing the facts used in this biography.

PROCESSING NOTES

The collection was donated by the subject's wife years after his passing. The collection is mostly comprised of various personal and professional artifacts from Harris's life and career. Consisting mostly of paper-based materials, the collection is very well preserved considering its age. Most of the damage that does exist comes from rodents that fed on many of the letters within the collection. Other than the rodent damage, all other degradation is age related; which is to be expected when paper-based materials are concerned.

When processing the collection, the greatest difficulty was both finding the proper context to place the items and handling the now brittle paper materials which make up the bulk of the collection. Of particular interest in the collection are the materials dealing with his relationship with his wife, Virginia. Letters and materials from his early teaching career allow researchers to trace the evolution of the relationship between Harris and his eventual wife. Materials pertaining to both his educational and political career may be of interest and use to scholars researching the history of Huntington, West Virginia, Marshall University, Glenville State College, and early 20th century education.

Box 1 – Miscellaneous – Personal and Church Papers

Folder 1 – Personal Photos

Folders 2 – 4 – Evangelical church materials – Booklets, Bulletins, Pamphlets

Folder 5 – South East Ohio Association Of Congregational Christian Churches
Conference Bulletins – 1950s

Folder 6 – First Congregational Church of Huntington – Programs, Bulletins, Church
History - 1947

Folder 7 - Merger documents pertaining to joining of Congregational and Evangelical and
Reformed Churches, 1957

Folder 8 – Articles, Clippings and Related letters on Catholicism, 1940's - 1950's

Folder 9 – Letter from Arvil to a Mrs. Dixon – 1961

Folder 10 – Financial Papers – Receipts and Ledger Book

Folder 11 – “Henderson” Family Genealogy – 1925 (2 Copies)

Folder 12- Personal Papers – Fraternities, Civic Groups, Church and Social Studies
Teaching Certificate

Folder 13 - “Who’s Who in American Education”, Book order forms, and information of
Harris’s biographical sketch -1950-1

Folder 14 - “Teachingest Family” - Article on Harris family and letters pertaining – 1965

Folder 15 – Pamphlets and letter on Communism in Schools – 1949

Folder 16 – Misc. Newspaper Clippings – Church and Harris Family 1940s – 1960s

Folder 17 – Misc. West Virginia Newspapers, 1937-1950

Folder 18 – Postcards of Virginia and Washington, DC.

Folder 19 – Various Marshall University Publications

Folder 20 – Lecture Notes and Exam Questions and Answers

Folder 21 – University of Kansas Faculty Awards

Folder 22 – Newspaper Articles and Opinions on Academic Freedom

Folder 23 – Statistics and Funding for Education

Folder 24 – Misc. Articles

Folder 25 – Misc. Invoices

Note: In the back of box 1 are three cardboard boxes. The letters held within the
collection were originally stored within these boxes.

Box 2 – Education, Personal and Career

Folders 1-3 - Personal Essays – Glenville Normal School (Now Glenville State College) -
1920s

Folder 4 – George School – 1928

Folder 5 – Glenville Student Newspapers – 1922 – 1923

Folder 6 – Job Applications – 1929

Folder 7 – University of Pennsylvania Materials – Photo Book and Graduate Catalog

Folder 8 – Graduate School Applications – 1931-34

Folder 9 – Applications and Correspondence to Marshall University

- Folder 10 – Harris Dissertation Chapters 1-2 and Preface
- Folder 11 – Harris Dissertation Chapter 3
- Folder 12 – Harris Dissertation Chapter 4
- Folder 13 – Harris Dissertation Chapters 5-6
- Folder 14 – Harris Dissertation Alternate Chapter 1
- Folder 15 – PhD. Exam – Final and Preliminary Responses
- Folder 16 – Documents Regarding Dr. Benjamin Shambaugh – University of Iowa.
- Folder 17 – Various Pamphlets and Articles on Education
- Folder 18 – Social Studies 303 Lesson Plans and Book Lists
- Folder 19 – Academic Speeches and Notes
- Folder 20 – Misc. Speeches
- Folder 21 – Other Speeches and Notes – Religious Speeches
- Folder 22 – Commencement Programs
- Folder 23 – Harris's School Transcripts
- Folder 24 – Harris's Teaching and Funding Contracts 1954- 1964
- Folder 25 – Department and Board of Education Correspondence – With D. Banks Wilburn – July 15, 1963
- Folder 26 – Correspondence – Marshall University – 1936, 1960, 1963
- Folder 27 – Retirement Policy – Marshall University
- Folder 28 – Kappa Delta Pi Retirement Banquet and Graduate Loan Fund

Box 3 – Political Career and Related Documents

- Folder 1 – Housing Readings and Clippings
- Folder 2 – Reports, Pamphlets, and Clippings on Housing – 1950s
- Folder 3 – Reports, Pamphlets and Clippings on Housing – 1960s
- Folder 4 – Housing Proposals
- Folder 5 – Housing Correspondence
- Folder 6 – Housing Related Clippings and Correspondence – 1943 – 1952

Folder 7 – City Council Campaign Correspondence – 1957
Folder 8 – City Council Campaign Materials – 1957
Folder 9 – City Council Campaign Newspaper Materials – 1961
Folder 10 – City Campaign Materials – 1961
Folder 11 – R. M. Hoisington’s Reports to City Council
Folder 12 – Progress Reports to City Council – 1960
Folder 13 – Housing and Other Clippings – 1943-1952
Folder 14 – Sanitary Board Documents, Reports, and Correspondence – 1950s
Folder 15 – Street Lighting Proposals – 1958-9
Folder 16 – Documents Regarding Police Department Pay Increases – 1961
Folder 17 – Fire Protection documents, 1953-60
Folder 18 – R.M. Hoisington’s Reports to City Council – 1958-9
Folder 19 – Rules and Procedures of City Council – 1959
Folder 20 – Report on Huntington Urban Renewal – 1962
Folder 21 – Documents on Tax Objectors
Folder 22 – Labor Management Council Papers
Folder 23 – Refuse Handling Procedures
Folder 24 – News Paper Clippings Regarding Charter Election – 1962
Folder 25 – Documents concerning the Charter Election – 1962
Folder 26 – City Council Finances – 1958-63
Folder 27 – Special Survey – 1961
Folder 28 – Health Documents

Box 4 – City Council Papers

Folder 1 – City Council Correspondence
Folder 2 – Council Meeting Documents
Folder 3- Ordinances and Resolutions

Folder 4 – Cabell-Huntington Hospital Documents
Folder 5 – Administrative Personnel Documents
Folder 6 – City Job Applications
Folder 7 – Letter from Robert Hoisington
Folder 8 – Misc. Reports
Folder 9 – Documents Concerning Gas Rate Increases
Folder 10 – Documents for Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission
Folder 11 – Misc. Maps
Folder 12 – Traffic Ordinances – 1960
Folder 13 – City Planning Commission – Urban Renewal

Box 5 – Letters to Virginia Brannon from A.E. Harris – 1931-36

Folder 1 – Letters to Virginia Brannon from A.E. Harris – 1931
Folders 2-3 – Letters to Virginia Brannon from A.E. Harris – 1932
Folders 4-6 – Letters to Virginia Brannon from A.E. Harris – 1933
Folders 7-10 – Letters to Virginia Brannon from A.E. Harris – 1934
Folders 11-14 – Letters to Virginia Brannon from A.E. Harris – 1935
Folder 15 – Letts to Virginia Brannon from A.E. Harris – 1936

Box 6 – Letters to A.E. Harris From Virginia Brannon 1932-1947 and other Misc. Correspondence

Folder 1 – Letters to A.E. Harris from Virginia Brannon -1932
Folders 2-3 – Letters to A.E. Harris from Virginia Brannon – 1933
Folders 4-5 Letters to A.E. Harris from Virginia Brannon – 1934
Folder 6 – Letters to A.E. Harris from Virginia Brannon – 1935
Folder 7 – Letters to A.E. Harris from Virginia Brannon – 1936
Folder 8 – Undated letters to Virginia Brannon from A.E. Harris

Folder 9 – Letters to Virginia Brannon from her Aunt Kate

Folder 10 – Misc. Letters to A.E. Harris

Folder 11 – Misc. Letters to Virginia Brannon 1934-1947

Folder 12 – Correspondence between Virginia Brannon (Harris) and American Historical Co. Inc. Publisher, 1965-6.

Folder 13 – Empty Envelopes – 1933 – 1936

Folder 14 – Undated and Unaddressed Letters without Envelopes

Folder 15 – Misc. Items found within Letter Boxes

Note: This box has two Hollinger boxes in the back in order to give structural support to the folders. They contain no materials.