

**Archives and Special Collections  
Martin Library of the Sciences  
Franklin and Marshall College**

**Neal and Estella Harris Papers  
MS 59**

**Summary Information**  
**Administrative Information**  
**Additional Information**  
**Historical/ Biographical Information**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
**Inventory**

**Contact information:**

Archives and Special Collections  
Martin Library of the Sciences  
Franklin and Marshall College  
850 Harrisburg Ave. - P.O. Box 3003  
Lancaster, PA 17604-3003  
717-291-4225 or 717-358-4433  
Fax: 717-291-4160  
Email: [archives@fandm.edu](mailto:archives@fandm.edu)  
[www.library.fandm.edu/archives](http://www.library.fandm.edu/archives)

**Summary Information**

Creators

Harris, Neal O., 1906-1982  
Harris, Estella Cooper, 1908-1990

Title

Neal and Estella Harris Papers

Dates

1898-1989, 1926-1978 (bulk)

Extent

3 LF (7 ms. boxes, 1 flat box, 1 carton), plus 85 artifacts

Arrangement

The collection is divided into two subgroups. The first group contains Neal Harris and the Harris family's personal papers and memorabilia. The second group consists of material relating to his wife Estella Cooper Harris and the Cooper Family of Columbia, PA. Each subgroup is divided into series' based on type of material.

Language of Materials

All materials in English.

Abstract

This collection contains personal papers, correspondence, photographs scrapbooks, personal artifacts and sports memorabilia relating to Neal Okleigh Harris (1906-1982), his wife Estella Elizabeth (Cooper ) Harris (1908-1990) and their families, the Harris' of Schuylkill County Pa and the Coopers of Lancaster County Pa.

Subjects

Harris family.  
Cooper family.  
Harris, Neal O., 1906-1982.

Harris, Estella Cooper, 1908-1990.  
Franklin and Marshall College--Alumni and alumnae--Biography.  
Wilson College (Chambersburg, Pa.)--Alumni and alumnae--Biography.

### **Administrative Information**

#### Acquisition Information

Estella Cooper Harris, Lancaster, PA, Bequest, 1990.

#### Custodial History (Provenance)

The Harris materials were bequeathed as part of a larger gift to Franklin and Marshall College in 1990 by Estella Cooper Harris.

#### Access Restrictions

Access unrestricted.

#### Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Photocopying and publication may be restricted by copyright. Permission to publish must be secured from the repository and copyright holder.

#### Preferred Citation

Neal and Estella Harris Papers (MS 59), Archives and Special Collections, Franklin and Marshall College.

#### Processing Information

Processed by Michael Lear, September 2003. Description based on DACS.

#### Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

### **Additional Information**

No additional information.

### **Historical/Biographical Information**

Neal Okleigh Harris, a 1929 graduate of Franklin and Marshall College, was born in Ringtown, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania in 1906. He was the son of Peter and Hattie (Manbeck) Harris. His brother Thorne Sanford Harris was a member of the Franklin and Marshall Class of 1923. After graduating from Franklin and Marshall, Neal played professional baseball, basketball and football from 1930-1932. In 1937 he married Estella Cooper of Columbia, Pa and soon became basketball coach at Albright College, where he served from 1938-1949. In 1947 he took a leave of absence to serve as the coach of the Egyptian Basketball Team in the 1948 Olympics in London. From 1950 until his retirement in 1976, Harris directed the military sports program of the United States Army in Europe. He died in 1982.

Estella Elizabeth Cooper was born in 1908 in Columbia Pa, the daughter of Truman E. and Anna (Burger) Cooper. A 1927 Columbia High School graduate, she received her A.B. in Social Studies Education from Wilson College in 1931. After graduation, she taught at

Drumore Township High School, Columbia High School, and Muhlenberg Township High School. In the early 1950s she accompanied her husband to Germany and taught for 26 years in the Department of Defense's Dependent Schools. She died in 1990.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection contains personal papers, correspondence, photographs scrapbooks, personal artifacts and sports memorabilia relating to Neal Okleigh Harris (1906-1982), his wife Estella Elizabeth (Cooper ) Harris (1908-1990) and their families, the Harris' of Schuylkill County Pa and the Coopers of Lancaster County Pa.

### **Inventory/Contents**

#### **Group 1 Neal Harris and Harris Family Papers and Memorabilia**

Box/Folder	<u>Series I</u>	<u>Awards, certificates, diplomas</u>
1/1		Marriage record- Peter Harris and Hattie Manbeck, 1898- with list of children. Neal Harris Birth certificate Baptismal Certificate of Neal Harris, 1906 (copy). Original in OSDR. Phi Alpha Sigma membership certificate, Thorne Sanford Harris, 1923 Department of the Army Certificate of Service, Neal Harris for 25 years of Service, 1976.
1/2		Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation and Certificate of Retirement Neal Harris, 1976. Albright College recognition certificate, 1980-Varsity Basketball
	<u>Series II</u>	<u>Correspondence, Personal papers</u>
1/3		Correspondence and personal papers- 1942-1954.
1/4		Correspondence and personal papers- 1947-1948 (re. Egyptian trip)
1/5		Personal papers- Invitation to Estella Cooper and Neal Harris wedding 1937 Neal Harris identity card, 1948 Olympics. XIV Olympic Games, 1948- Programs Letter from Ronald Reagan to Mr. and Mrs. Neal Harris, 1981. 7 Photo Christmas cards Neal Harris Obituary
	<u>Series III</u>	<u>Photographs</u>
1/6		Personal Photographs ca. 1925-1980 (portraits, wedding, etc.)
2/1		Drawing of Neal Harris with 1948 Packard by Joseph Woltcheck, 1983.
2/2		Career Photographs (awards, coaching, teams)
2/3		Harris Family Photographs (parents, brother, etc.)
OSDR		Phi Alpha Sigma Fraternity-Franklin and Marshall College ca. 1923. Thorne Harris pictured.
	<u>Series IV</u>	<u>Scrapbooks</u>
2/4		Scrapbook- Neal Harris trip to Egypt, 1947-1948

Series V      Memorabilia

Box 7

Jewelry and commemoratives

S HS tie clip; Tie clip-gold; Tie clip- silver with initials NOH; Swiss made tie clip; USA eagle motif service pin 25 years; USA eagle motif service pin 20 years; Replica Roman coin- from the Roman Baths of Bath England; State of Nevada Commemorative coin; Charm from Oberammersau; Pocket New Testament Miss Alda Harris, Mt. Hope School, 1964; Miniature New Testament (see Rare books collection BS 2553.A3 1938); Silver engraved "Neal Harris" belt buckle; Bronze replica ancient Greek ballots; Key chain, Berlin, with military emblem; Tie clip- United States Armed Forces CISM ; Pendant -CISM Basketball, Amsterdam, 1953; XIV Olympiad- London, 1948- Name Badge "Team Manager"; Embroidered Military patch; Embroidered patch- Athletic Officials Association, USAREUR Basketball; Money clip- CISM Participants Award-United States Armed Forces; Cigarette Lighter-Conseil International Du Sport Militaire- Boxing Munich, 1957 -Official; Cigarette Lighter-1652 Handarbeit 310 Jahre in Familienbesitz; 2 id tags; Official Representative USAREUR Athletic Office; whistle; Track runner motif pin;

Box 7

Sports medals and awards

15 Medals, US Forces Basketball Team, 1976; Medal- Heidelberg Junior High, 1976; 3 Medals, US Forces Basketball Team, 1975; 2 Medals Championnat International De Basketball CISM Le Caire 1955; 2 Basketball medals- Arabic letters, one with Neal O. Harris engraved on it; Egyptian Basketball medal, CISM, 1956; Medal with Greek Cross motif; Medal-participant- Boxing, CISM, 1957; Medal -Track and Field 1956, Berlin- CISM; Medal- Sectie Lichamelijke Opvoeding En Sport 1964 Dankbetuigingen; Medal La Federazione Italiana Palla Base con Gratitude; Plaque SHAPE International Basketball Tournament, 1975 Medallion XIV Olympiad London, 1948; Armed Forces Interservice Award Medal.

Box 8

Oversize items

Harris-Cooper Genealogical coat of arms plaque; Carved wooden plaque with US Forces Basketball Team, 1976 and embroidered military patch insignia; 1949 Aichi Trophy- 1st All Japan Collegiate Basketball Tournament, 1949; Plaque LA F.I.P.A.B; Trophy CISM Champ. International Militaire, Basketball, 1953; Plaque Columbia Area Chapter-Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame "Neal Bucky Harris Coaching, 1985; Trophy 15th SHAPE International Basketball Tournament, 1975- Championship Team Member; Ceramic Stein/Tankard- Area Command- Mr. Neal Harris; Pewter Charger - Happy Birthday Neal- 9 May 1974 from the Sports Directors; Brass cup, Delagazione Italiana al CISM; Baseball; Signed softball- All Army 1972; Pewter tankard-16th SHAPE International Basketball Tournament, 1976; Desk clock and trophy Neal O Harris Athletic Consultant US Army Europe.

**Group 2      Estella Cooper Harris and Cooper Family Papers and Memorabilia**

- Box/Folder    Series I      Awards, certificates, diplomas
- 2/5            Confirmation certificate- Truman E Cooper, 1899  
Sunday school Diploma, 1918.  
Columbia HS, 1926-1927, Varsity certificate  
Department of the Army Commendation, 1971  
Department of the Army Certificate of Service – 10 years –1973  
Department of the Army Commendation, 1975  
Department of the Army Certificate of Achievement, 1977
- 2/6            Estella Harris retirement certificate, DOD Dependent Schools, 1978
- Series II      Correspondence, Personal papers
- 2/7            Correspondence to Estella Cooper, 1936-37
- 2/8            Correspondence to Estella Cooper and Neal Harris, 1937 (re; Wedding)
- 2/9            Correspondence (mostly RSVPs) to Mr. and Mrs. Truman Cooper (re:  
                 Cooper/Harris wedding, 1937)
- 2/10          Correspondence to Estella and Neal Harris, ca. 1948-1958
- 2/11          Correspondence to Estella from Neal , 1950, 1952
- 2/12          Correspondence from Estella to Mr. and Mrs. Truman Cooper, 1937.  
Correspondence from Estella to Mother, 1948.
- 3/1            Correspondence from Estella to Mother- Mrs. Truman Cooper (Anna  
                 Burger), 1953
- 3/2            Correspondence from Estella to Mother- Mrs. Truman Cooper (Anna  
                 Burger), 1954
- 3/3            Correspondence from Estella to Mother- Mrs. Truman Cooper (Anna  
                 Burger), 1956
- 3/4            Correspondence from Estella to Mother- Mrs. Truman Cooper (Anna  
                 Burger), 1957
- 3/5            Correspondence from Estella to Mother- Mrs. Truman Cooper (Anna  
                 Burger), 1958.
- 3/6            Miscellaneous correspondence, notes papers.
- 3/7            Professional career papers ca. 1934-1978- containing Wilson College and  
Millersville State Teacher's College transcripts, notes, employment  
                 applications, correspondence, letters of recommendation, credentials.
- 3/8            Personal papers ca. 1931-1938- theatre, church and special event program  
brochures, social invitations, personal correspondence, etc. from post  
Wilson College years ca. 1931-32 and from early teaching position{s}  
(Drumore High School, etc.)
- 3/9            Spiral Composition notebook containing poems and stories.
- Series III      Diaries
- 4/1            Diary of 1948 European trip

Series IV      Photographs

- 4/2-4/3      Personal photographs (portraits, graduations, etc.)  
4/4-4/5      Career Photographs- Drumore Township High School 1933-1935  
4/6           Career photographs-Germany 1950s, 1970  
4/7           Cooper Family Photographs- Early family Daguerrotype  
5/1           Cooper Family Photographs- Snapshot album (vacations etc.)  
5/2-5/3      Cooper Family Photographs (portraits)  
5/4           Cooper Family Photographs- Portraits of Anna Burger Cooper?  
OSDR        Panoramic Photograph of Wilson College's 1927-1928 student body by  
                  Ensminger, Harrisburg.  
OSDR        Panoramic Photograph of Wilson College's 1930-1931 student body by  
                  Penn Photo Service, Philadelphia.  
OSDR        Panoramic photograph- Columbia High School Class of 1937 trip to  
                  Washington DC.

Series V        Scrapbooks

- 6/1           High School scrapbook, "Memories of My School Days" 1927 Columbia High  
                  School with various photographs, newsclippings, mementos, etc.  
Box          Wilson College scrapbook (1927-1931) containing photographs, theatre and  
                  special event programs, social invitations, personal correspondence,  
                  etc.  
6/2           Scrapbook photos Fouad Ist University, Cairo Egypt 1947-1948  
6/3           Newsclippings- ca.1979-1989

Series VI       Memorabilia

- 6/4           1931 Yearbook "Conococheague" Wilson College.  
                  1931 Wilson College Senior Commencement Program with embossed  
                  leather cover/binding.(2)  
                  The Golden Book of the Coronation (Elizabeth II)- 1952.  
Box 9        Columbia High school pin 1927 Estella Cooper.  
                  Miniature Lord's Prayer book in 6 languages with case and magnifying glass  
                  (see Rare books BV233.A1 1958)  
                  Locket with photo of Neal Harris and Truman Cooper  
                  Class Ring 1931, Wilson College, inscribed EEC, by Elliott-Philadelphia.  
                  Gold Wilson (Choir?)Pin with musical note and book motif.  
                  Silver Virgin Mary Pendant

*rev 07/07/2009*