

# A Guide to the Mabel Harris Papers, 1888-1945

Mabel Harris Papers, 1888-1945

1888-1945

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A Collection in Special Collections and Archives 1945-5  
Special Collections and Archives, Johnston Memorial Library  
2002

## History

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## Title Statement

A Guide to the Mabel Harris Papers, 1888-1945

**Subtitle:** Harris, Mabel Papers, 1888-1945

**Collection:** 1945-5

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## Profile Description

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## Revision Description

**Feb 17, 2004** PUBLIC "-//Virginia State University::Johnston Memorial Library::Special Collections and Archives//TEXT (US::ViPetS::vipets00007::A Guide to the Mabel Harris Papers, 1888-1945)//EN" "vipets00007.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

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## Descriptive Summary

**Collection number**

1945-5

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

This collection contains business, personal, and legal correspondence of the 1889 Normal Graduates of Virginia State University. Miss Harris taught in the public schools in Petersburg until her retirement.

**Collector**

These materials were collected by the late Luther Porter Jackson in 1945.

**Physical Characteristics**

There are c. 200 items in this collection.

**Repository**

Special Collections and Archives, Johnston Memorial Library, Virginia State University

## Administrative Information

**Access**

There are no restrictions to this collection.

**Use Restrictions**

There are no restrictions to this collection.

**Preferred Citation**

Mabel Harris Papers, 1888-1945, Accession #1945-5, Special Collections and Archives, Johnston Memorial Library, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.

## Biographical/Historical Information

Mabel Harris was born in Petersburg, Virginia in 1867. Information about her early life is not well documented. She was at the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute (now Virginia State University) in 1886, taking a normal degree three years later. She began her career in the Petersburg Public School system in 1890. Miss Harris retired in 1931. She was very active in local church affairs and the Virginia State University Alumni Association. She was the first female to be appointed editor of the Alumni Journal for the University, in 1898.

## Scope and Content Information

Most of the materials in this collection pertain to Miss Harris' uncle, the Reverend Mr. Henry Williams. There are a few items from friends, basically discussing personal business and/or inquiring as to her health and other activities. The materials are useful for local history, women's history and the history of education.

## Organization

Series I. Correspondence

Series II. Legal Documents

Series III. Financial

Series IV. Tax Receipts

Series V. Writing

Series VI. Photographs

Series VII. Printed Material

## Contents List

### Series I. Correspondence 1888-1945

**Scope and Content**

Letters and postcards, mostly personal, all incoming.

**Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically, from 1888-1945.

#### General correspondence 1888-1894

**Folder 1**

**General Correspondence 1900-1906**

**Folder 2**

**General Correspondence 1907-1908**

**Folder 3**

**General Correspondence 1908-1910**

**Folder 4**

**General Correspondence 1912-1928**

**Folder 5**

**General Correspondence 1944-1945**

**Folder 6**

**Series II. Legal Documents 1889, 1895, 1896, 1899**

**Folder 7**

**Scope and Content**

Teaching contracts for Petersburg Public Schools, 1880s-1890s

**Series III. Financial n.d.**

**Folder 8**

**Scope and Content**

This collection contains 3 documents: Savings Book for the Peoples Bank of Petersburg; an account of the holdings of the Old Dominion Investment Company; A true Reformer Insurance Policy.

**Series IV. Tax Receipts n.d.**

**Folder 9**

**Scope and Content**

City & state tax receipts

**Series V. Writings n.d.**

**Folder 9**

**Series VI. Photographs n.d.**

**Folder 11**

**Scope and Content**

There are 2 photographs in this collection, one sent from a member of the Tenth United States Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers), stationed in Cuba.

**Series VII. Printed n.d.**

**Folder 12**

**Scope and Content**

One hand bill for Camilla Williams