

Guide to

William K. Harrison Jr. Papers

1936-1987 and undated, bulk 1948-1985 and undated

1.25 linear feet

Accession Numbers: 2007-15 and 2007-22

Collection Number: CN 038

Prepared by Lolana Thompson

June 2017

Abstract: The papers of a U.S. Army officer, including correspondence, writings, speeches and articles relating to many subjects, especially the Bible, war, eschatology, and Christian life.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of the Item], William K. Harrison Jr. Papers, CN 038, Box [number],
Folder [number], Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary.

F. Frederick & Mary Della Moss Archives & Special Collections

Dallas Theological Seminary, 3909 Swiss Ave., Dallas, TX 75204

Biographical Sketch: William Kelly Harrison Jr. was born September 7, 1895, in Washington, D.C., to Kate Harris Harrison and Commander William K. Harrison, a U.S. naval officer. The younger Harrison graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in the spring of 1917. His first assignment was commanding a squadron of cavalry at Camp Hearn in California, not far from his parents' home. While stationed there, he met Eva Antoinette Toole at his parent's church. William and Eva married December 13, 1917. They had three children: William Kelly Harrison III, Evelyn, and Wentworth Terry. Harrison served at various posts in the United States, including West Point, where he taught French, Spanish, and History. He served in the Philippine Islands from 1925 to 1927, and was next stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. There Harrison and his family were active in a local Baptist church, where he even served as interim pastor for six months. Harrison continued to advance in his military career. He was wounded in France while serving as Assistant Division Commander of the 30th Infantry Division from 1944 to 1945. Harrison served on Douglas MacArthur's staff from 1946 to 1949, during the occupation of Japan. When Harrison returned to the United States, he accepted some invitations to speak at religious events. This led the American Tract Society to request that he write a leaflet titled "The General Speaks." Armistice talks to settle the Korean conflict began in the summer of 1951, but little progress was made. In December 1951, Harrison was appointed Deputy Commander of the 8th Army and spent three weeks visiting each front line division in Korea. Assigned to the armistice conference in January 1952, he became the senior delegate for the United Nations forces in May 1952. Annoyed that the Communist negotiators used the conference primarily as a platform for propaganda, Harrison instructed his delegation to attend the meetings in fatigues instead of dress uniforms. When the Communists continued stalling, Harrison received permission to "walkout" by recessing for a few days instead of overnight. When the Communists failed to meet a deadline in the settlement negotiations in October 1952, Harrison obtained authorization to recess the meetings indefinitely. The Communist strategy changed after Joseph Stalin died in March 1953. Talks resumed that spring, and the Armistice agreement ending the Korean conflict was finally signed July 17, 1953. Because he was the chief representative of the U.N. delegation, Harrison signed the agreement. In September 1952, Harrison was promoted to Lieutenant General and named Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Forces, Far East. He was reassigned as Commander-in-Chief of the Caribbean Command from 1954-1957, and headquartered in the Canal Zone. He was a friend of Jim and Elisabeth Elliot, visiting them in Ecuador in 1955, a few months before the Acua Indians killed Jim.

Harrison retired from the army in 1957, but pursued other interests. He was the executive director of the Evangelical (Child) Welfare Agency of Chicago for three years. He served as president of Officers' Christian Fellowship from 1954 to 1972, and was president emeritus until his death in 1987. Harrison functioned on the Board of Incorporate Members for Dallas Theological Seminary from 1957 to 1980, serving as chairman from 1964 to 1975. He was a contributing editor of *Christianity Today* and wrote a few articles for *Bibliotheca Sacra*. In 1966 Moody Press published Harrison's book *Hope Triumphant: Studies on the Rapture of the Church*. Harrison did not drink, smoke or gamble. He read through the Old Testament annually and the New Testament every three months. His wife, Eva, died February 17, 1976. Harrison later married Forrest King. Harrison died May 25, 1987 at the age of 91. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

References:

“General W. K. Harrison dies at 91.” *Dallas Insider* 10, no. 4 (August 1987) : 8.

Lockerbie, D. Bruce. *A Man Under Orders: Lieutenant General William K. Harrison, Jr.* San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1979.

“William Kelly Harrison, Jr.” 2006. Online. Arlington National Cemetery. Available: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/wkharrisonjr.htm>. January 4, 2006.

System of Arrangement:

The William K. Harrison Jr. Papers are arranged in three series:

Series I. Correspondence, 1966-1975. .02 linear foot (1 folder)
Four letters.

Series II. Printed Material, 1952-1955, 1972, and undated .02 linear foot (1 folder)
Nine items, primarily pamphlets.

Series III. Subject Files, 1936-1987 and undated. 1.21 linear feet. (42 folders)
Primarily contains typed and handwritten notes with journal articles by Harrison and other authors, also includes a few letters. Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Content Note: This collection, in forty-two folders housed in three half size boxes, is composed primarily of Harrison’s writings on a variety of subjects, but mainly the Bible, war, and Christian life. The collection is organized in three series. The first series, Correspondence, 1966-1975, is small but provides information about Harrison’s concerns. The second series, Printed Material, 1952-1972, and undated, includes writings by Harrison and some biographical information about him. The third series, Subject Files, 1936-1987, and undated, is the largest and indicates some of Harrison’s diverse interests. The subject files primarily have typed or handwritten notes, and articles by Harrison and other authors. Harrison included some correspondence in these files, so the letters were not refiled. This collection provides insight into the beliefs and opinions of one career army officer.

Selected Search Terms:

Harrison Jr., William K.
War, Religious aspects Christianity
Christian life
Eschatology

Donor/Source: Mrs. Evelyn H. Kent, February and August 2007.

Custodial History: Mrs. Kent inherited the papers from her father. In 1988, she donated photocopies of many of the papers, and donated the originals in 2007. The collection of photocopies was withdrawn after the originals were processed.

Literary Rights: It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of copyright laws. Mrs. Kent signed an agreement transferring what copyright she owned to Dallas Theological Seminary.

Related Material: See also the papers of John F. Walvoord, second president of Dallas Theological Seminary and a Reference File in the archives titled "William K. Harrison Jr."

Note to the Researcher: See the attached container list for more details about this collection. The U.S. Army Military History Institute Carlisle Barracks has a collection of William K. Harrison Jr.'s military papers. [OCLC number: 47083101]

Processing Information: The original order of the papers was usually maintained. Many of the papers were received in spiral notebooks or ring binders. If the notebooks had titles, those were used on the file folders. Subject files were arranged alphabetically. Photocopies were made to replace some papers which were deteriorating. Many of the notebooks arrived with lists of the contents on the front. The archivist does not know if William Harrison or his daughter created those lists. Notations on the lists seem to refer to the file number in the collection of photocopies originally donated to Dallas Theological Seminary. The collection of photocopies was arranged differently because there was no indication of their original order.

Container List

Series I. Correspondence

1966-1975

Box Folder Title, Dates, Description

1	1	Miscellaneous Correspondence	1966-1975
		Includes three letters by Harrison and one received by him. Topics include salvation, Satan, and the desired qualities of a pastor.	

Series II. Printed Material

1952-1955, 1972, and undated

Box Folder Title, Dates, Description

1	2	Booklets, Tracts, and Articles	1952-1955, 1972 and undated
		One article about Harrison, one article mentioning him, and six articles or booklets by him: "Holding Forth the Word of Life," <i>Everyday Questions on Practical Christian Living</i> , <i>Practical Christian Living</i> , "The General Speaks," "Victory Through Conflict," and <i>May a Christian be a Soldier?</i>	

Series III. Subject Files

1936-1987 and undated

Box Folder Title, Dates, Description

1	3	Amillennialism	undated
		A forty page typed study based on works by Marcellus Kik, Russell B. Jones, and George L. Murray; and a ninety-four page typed study of Hoekema's book.	

Series III. Subject Files (continued)**1936-1987 and undated**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title, Dates, Description</u>
1	4	Antichrist undated Two sets of notes: one has seven typed pages and the other twenty-eight handwritten pages.
1	5	Armageddon 1957-1975 and undated Writings by Harrison: one article, a partial manuscript with about ninety typed pages, and five letters, including an eleven page letter to Donald K. Campbell regarding his book <i>Daniel, Decoder of Dreams</i> .
1	6	Bible Prophecies and The Blessed Hope 1948-1962 and undated Includes lectures, twelve pages titled "The Blessed Hope," and notes, all typed. Also has two charts: one printed and one typed.
1	7	Bible Study undated Handwritten notes: one set intended to "assist Christians as they begin to study the Bible," and a second set titled "The Bible Inspired by God."
1	8	Biblical 1950-1980 and undated Several topics, including pacifism, baptism, church growth, regeneration, and God's judgements. Most are typed.
1	9	Biblical Inerrancy 1936-1985 and undated Includes two letters, "Why Study the Bible?" (an article), typed and handwritten notes about fundamentalism, and notes for five speeches or classes, including "The Mosaic Authorship of the Pentateuch" and "Authority of the Bible."
1	10	Capital Punishment undated Two sets of notes: four typed pages and six handwritten pages.
1	11	Christians in Today's World undated Twenty-one typed pages.
1	12	Evolution 1972-1982 and undated Includes a typed submission to <i>Christianity Today</i> , a forty-six page typed paper titled "God or Evolution," and periodical articles by other authors.
1	13	Falkland Island 1982 Conflict with the United States 1987 Seven typed pages.
1	14	Global Outlook for U.S. 1985 Six pages of handwritten notes and a photocopy of a newspaper article.
1	15	Government 1945-1948 and undated Five sets of typed notes, including "Some Thoughts on the Kind of Government I Want," and "Government Ownership or Management of Business." Other topics are population, Russia, and food.

Series III. Subject Files (continued)**1936-1987 and undated**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title, Dates, Description</u>	
1	16	Holy Spirit in the Church Ten typed pages.	undated
2	1	Israel and Anti-Semitism Primarily periodical articles by other authors with a few handwritten notes and one typed letter.	1973-1979 and undated
2	2	Millennium Untitled typed 155 page manuscript and correspondence from Inter-Varsity Press and Master's Press.	1978
2	3	Military Labor Union Six page typed submission by Harrison titled "Invitation to Disaster" and one letter from <i>Newsday</i> newspaper.	1977
2	4	"No Room in the Lifeboats" Eleven pages of handwritten notes commenting on an article in the <i>New York Times</i> with a photocopy of the article.	1978
2	5	Nuclear Weapons Includes correspondence and articles by other authors regarding the effect on foreign policy.	1983-1985
2	6	Paley's Book Twenty pages of typed notes. "This study is a summary of Paley's book on Evidences—the Resurrection of Christ."	1936
2	7	Revelation, 1 Two sets of typed notes on the Book of Revelation: seventy-six pages and thirty-two pages.	undated
2	8	Revelation, 2 Typed notes with various paginations.	undated
2	9	Salvation and the Sovereignty of God Four sets of typed notes: "Salvation-How God Deals with Sin" (twelve pages), "The Sovereignty of God in Salvation" (thirty-five pages), "The Atonement-Limited or Unlimited?" (eleven pages), "Predestination" (three pages), and one set of untitled handwritten notes (ten pages).	1949-1971 and undated
2	10	Salvation, Grace and Faith in Thirty-nine typed pages.	1978
2	11	Schaeffer [Francis]: A Christian Manifesto Seventeen typed pages.	undated
2	12	The Soul and the Spirit of Man Ten pages of handwritten notes.	undated

Series III. Subject Files (continued)**1936-1987 and undated**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title, Dates, Description</u>
2	13	Universalism Three typed pages. undated
2	14	Vietnam and Nuclear Armament Includes typed notes, correspondence, printed articles by Harrison, and articles by other authors. [The processor reorganized the papers chronologically.] 1944-1984
2	15	Vietnam-Roche Article Twenty-four handwritten pages and an article by John P. Roche, "The Demise of Liberal Internationalism" in the <i>National Review</i> . 1985
3	1	War A one hundred seventy-five page typed manuscript which "is the effort of one officer to seek ... the various general truths or principles and methods, if any, which form an intellectual concept of war and its conduct." 1956
3	2	War and Christians Includes typed notes, correspondence, fourteen articles by Harrison, and articles by other authors. Mentions his involvement with Officers' Christian Union. 1950-1973 and undated
3	3	War and SALT [Strategic Arms Limitation Talks] Includes typed and handwritten notes, correspondence, United States government publications, and articles by other authors. 1979 and undated
3	4	War, Principles of Nine pages of typed notes. 1982
3	5	Miscellaneous, Notebook 1 Includes two pages of handwritten notes about the origin of life, articles by other authors, and twenty-two pages of handwritten notes about economic systems. 1984 and undated
3	6	Miscellaneous, Notebook 2 Includes handwritten notes on Romans, divorce, Ephesians 2, and the route of the Exodus from Egypt. 1984 and undated
3	7	Miscellaneous, Notebook 3 Primarily handwritten notes and a few articles by other authors. Topics include free trade, soul and spirit, Israel's covenant with death, Christians and politics, abortion, and the need for a common purpose for Americans. 1984-1987 and undated
3	8	Miscellaneous, Notebook 4 Topics include human futility, creation or evolution, fossils, female elders, capital punishment, prayer in schools, baptism of the Spirit, and speaking in tongues. Consists of primarily handwritten notes, a few typed notes, and some articles by other authors. 1948-1984 and undated

Series III. Subject Files (continued)**1936-1987 and undated**Box Folder Title, Dates, Description

- | | | | |
|---|----|--|-----------------------|
| 3 | 9 | Miscellaneous, Notebook 5
Topics include Daniel, Babylon, a third world war; God's future program, and "the end of the age." Contains handwritten and typed notes. | 1962 and undated |
| 3 | 10 | Miscellaneous Notes
Topics include Genesis, inexcusable rejection of the Gospel, liberal bias of reporters, and creation. Consists of handwritten and typed notes with some articles by other authors. | 1959-1982 and undated |
| 3 | 11 | Miscellaneous Subjects
Topics include Harrison's thoughts about an article on religion by Paul Tillich; Harrison's 1957 speech to students at The Citadel; comments on Thomas Merton's book, <i>The Ascent to Truth</i> ; drinking wine; an article by Harrison on thanksgiving; the Far East; Christian ethics; isolationism; and Harrison's 1969 Veterans' Day speech. Consists of primarily typed notes, with some correspondence and articles by other authors. | 1948-1971 and undated |