

**Military Collection**  
**State Archives of North Carolina**

**Leland S. Harris Papers (WWI 94)**  
[World War I]

**Collection Number:** WWI 94

**Title:** Leland S. Harris Papers

**Dates:** 1917-1920, undated

**Creator:** Leland S. Harris; U.S. Army; and various individuals.

**Abstract**

The Leland S. Harris Papers is composed of correspondence, photographs, military records, 1917 Reserve Officers' Training Corps documents, military menu and show programs, a scrapbook, newspaper clippings, and artifacts, documenting the ROTC and World War I service of Leland S. Harris of Raleigh, N.C., in the U.S. Army. Harris served from August 1917 to June 1919 as an officer in Headquarters Company, 316th Field Artillery, 81st Division. The bulk of the collection documents Harris' time during his training at the famous ROTC camp at Camp Warden McLean at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, in the summer of 1917.

A number of the records and correspondence in the collection are related to Harris' ROTC service. Loose photographs in the collection are largely unidentified, and show scenes from Harris' military and family lives. Perhaps the most interesting item in the collection is a military show program for the 81st Division's "Wildcat Follies" show, performed aboard the U.S. troop transport ship USS *Minnesota* in the first week of June 1919 as Harris' unit was traveling back to the United States from France in WWI (**see Box 1, Folder 6**). Harris' scrapbook features original artifacts, coins, military documents, and newspaper clippings, mostly documenting his time at Camp Sevier with the 81st Division. Many of the scrapbook's newspaper clippings document aspects of the war in Europe that Harris found interesting or related to his unit. The scrapbook contains damaged photographs of the 316th Field Artillery upon their return to the United States in June 1919 (**see Box 2**). Also in the scrapbook is Harris' original 316th Field Artillery, 81st Division, uniform patch, glued onto a page.

**Physical Description:** 0.4 linear feet

**Language(s):** English

**Repository**

State Archives of North Carolina, 4614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4614

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on accessing this collection.

**Restrictions on Use:** There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

### **Preferred Citation**

[Item name or title], [Box Numbers], [Folder Numbers], Leland S. Harris Papers, WWI 94, WWI Papers, Military Collection, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C.

### **Acquisition**

The materials in this collection were donated to the Military Collection at the State Archives of North Carolina from Margaret Williams of Cary, N.C., in March 2002.

### **Separated Material**

Oversized Folder 1 in this collection was relocated to an oversized, flat archival box and folder from WWI 94. The box it was stored in contains oversized materials larger than 11" x 14" for WWI Papers collections' WWI 93 through WWI 150; the box is marked "Oversized" and has the collection numbers listed.

The four artifacts in this collection were stored in a large, flat artifact box, which has the collection number, collection title, and box number on a box label. The box is stored in "WWI Papers, Artifacts Box 4" at the end of the WWI Papers' materials on the shelves in the Archives Stacks.

### **Processing Information**

The materials in this collection were originally organized in folders based on format or subject content of the items. The collection was reprocessed from its prior arrangement and storage in order to separate the materials in the collection into smaller groups by format, to allow for better long-term preservation of the collection. Correspondence is arranged within folders chronologically based on the dates written on the letters or from the content of the letters.

The scrapbook in this collection was originally stored on its spine upright in an archival storage box. However, the spine of the scrapbook has largely separated from the pages. It was determined to stabilize the item for long-term preservation, to store it flat in a flat archival storage box. A spacer board was fitted in the box to ensure the scrapbook does not shift during handling of the box. The scrapbook had all of the other materials in this collection stored interleaved in the scrapbook, which has caused the spine damage, and bowing of the pages and cover. The scrapbook also suffered water damage at some point, and numerous photographs included have surface damage or discoloring from dry mold. Mold once was active in select pages and materials within the scrapbook, but it is no longer active. The scrapbook includes artifacts, coins, newspaper clippings, photographs, letters, and military records, loose and glued into it.

The photographs in the collection have been individually stored in an acid-free, archival plastic sleeves to allow for researchers to handle the original images without causing damage to the image's surface, and to improve preservation during long-term storage. The photographs have been numbered with a soft HB No. 2 pencil on the back, according to the collection number, the folder number, and an individual image number. For example, the number "WWI 94.B1.F1.1" should be interpreted as "WWI 94 collection, Box 1, Folder 1, Photograph 1." The identification of these images has been created in the finding aid, but not written on the photographs themselves. Historical research was conducted to provide an accurate descriptions for the photographs.

The artifacts in the collection were removed and housed separately in acid-free artifact boxes. This will provide more stability for the artifacts in storage. Each artifact was assigned an "artifact number" containing a corresponding description of the artifact. Multiple artifacts were stored in the artifact box together (see "Separated Material" note for more information). Custom dividers and a storage tray for the two small artifacts to fit within the larger artifact box were created to improve long-term preservation for the items. The oversized certificates in the collection have been removed from the collection and stored in an oversized folder and box (see "Separated Material" note for more information).

**Processed by:** Matthew M. Peek, December 2017.

### **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged by format or subject of the materials within boxes and folders, then chronologically (where possible) within folders.

### **Biographical Note**

Leland Stanford Harris was born on January 1, 1893, in Raleigh, N.C., to John Cebern Logan and Florence Carolina Upchurch Harris. John Harris was an attorney in Raleigh. From 1899 to 1918, the Harris family lived in a large house on Fayetteville Street in Raleigh, that would later be replaced on the same site by the Sir Walter Hotel. The Harris family needed a large home, as there were nine living children and several extended family members living there by the early twentieth century. By the time of his draft registration for World War I, Leland Harris was working as an automobile salesman in the Raleigh. He would serve in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) during the summer of 1917. Harris attended the famous ROTC training camps at Camp Warden McLean at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, that summer through August 1917.

Leland Harris was called into active U.S. Army service from ROTC on August 15, 1917, with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in a field artillery unit. He was sent for basic training to Camp Jackson, S.C., and assigned to Headquarters Company, 316th Field Artillery, 81st Division. Between the end of 1917 and August 1918, Harris would be stationed at the following stateside military camps or locations for Army training: Kenosha, Wisconsin; Camp Stuart, Virginia; and Camp Le, Virginia. He was promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant on March 4, 1918. A few days after his promotion, Leland's father died on March 17, 1918, in Raleigh.

Leland Harris left the United States with his unit for overseas service in France during World War I on August 5, 1918. He would serve in Europe and remain on occupation duty with the 316th Field Artillery until June 9, 1919, when Harris arrived back in the United States. He was honorably discharged on June 16, 1919.

Leland Harris returned to Raleigh, and lived with his brother's family. He married Hattie McKnight Bell on October 28, 1925, in Raleigh, N.C. With his background in automobile sales prior to WWI, by 1930 Harris worked as a manager with the North Carolina License and Theft Bureau (LTB), which was the oldest state law enforcement agency in North Carolina. Its initial purpose was to combat automobile theft in the early era of the use of cars, which was rising due to the increase in sales of the Model-T Ford. By 1934, Harris had become the Director of the LTB, renamed the North Carolina Motor Vehicle Bureau.

It is unknown what caused his shift in careers—though it is likely due to the effects of the Great Depression—that Leland Harris would become a traveling salesman by 1936 (it is believed this was in an automotive-related position). By the start of World War II, Harris was working for the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1933, the AAMVA represented state and provincial officials in the United States and Canada who administered and enforced motor vehicle laws. AAMVA's programs encouraged uniformity and reciprocity among the states and provinces. Harris appears to have traveled between Raleigh and Washington frequently for his job.

By 1948, Harris was working on auto statistics for R. L. Polk and Company, originally a city directory publishing company that launched its motor vehicle statistical operations in 1922, when the first car registration reports were published. The company's early use of computer compilation of vehicle information in the early 1950s while Harris worked there, led to the development in the 1990s of the car reporting business Carfax, Inc. Leland S. Harris died on April 18, 1965, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh, N.C.

## Scope and Content

The collection is composed of correspondence, photographs, military records, 1917 Reserve Officers' Training Corps documents, military menu and show programs, a scrapbook, newspaper clippings, and artifacts, documenting the ROTC and World War I service of Leland S. Harris of Raleigh, N.C., in the U.S. Army. Harris served from August 1917 to June 1919 as an officer in Headquarters Company, 316th Field Artillery, 81st Division. The bulk of the collection documents Harris' time during his training at the famous ROTC camp at Camp Warden McLean at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, in the summer of 1917.

A number of the records and correspondence in the collection are related to Harris' ROTC service. Loose photographs in the collection are largely unidentified, and show scenes from Harris' military and family lives. Perhaps the most interesting item in the collection is a military show program for the 81st Division's "Wildcat Follies" show, performed aboard the U.S. troop transport ship USS *Minnesota* in the first week of June 1919 as Harris' unit was traveling back to the United States from France in WWI (see **Box 1, Folder 6**). Harris' scrapbook features original artifacts, coins, military documents, and newspaper clippings, mostly documenting his time at

Camp Sevier with the 81st Division. Many of the scrapbook's newspaper clippings document aspects of the war in Europe that Harris found interesting or related to his unit. The scrapbook contains damaged photographs of the 316th Field Artillery upon their return to the United States in June 1919 (**see Box 2**). Also in the scrapbook is Harris' original 316th Field Artillery, 81st Division, uniform patch, glued onto a page.

## **Subject Terms**

### **Persons/Families**

Harris, Leland S. (Leland Stanford), 1893-1965

### **Corporate Names**

American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators  
North Carolina. Bureau of Motor Vehicles

### **Places**

Fort Oglethorpe (Ga.)  
Raleigh (N.C.)

### **Subject—Topical**

United States. Army. Field Artillery Regiment, 316th  
United States. Army. Infantry Division, 81st  
United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps

### **Material Types**

Military records  
Photographic postcards  
Photographs  
Scrapbooks

## Collection Inventory

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/1	Photographs	circa 1917, undated

**WWI 94.B1.F1.1:** Small photograph of an unidentified U.S. Army soldier [believed to be Leland S. Harris], wearing his full Army uniform, standing outside on the steps of an unidentified building [believed to be in Europe] during World War I (undated).

**WWI 94.B1.F1.2:** Snapshot of three unidentified U.S. Army soldiers posing outside in an Army camp, with tents in the background, during World War I (undated).

**WWI 94.B1.F1.3:** Snapshot of the interior of an unidentified U.S. Army building [apparently for officers], with tables for eating and high-backed couches, at an unidentified military camp during World War I. Lines of hanging garland are seen dropping down from the ceiling, an American flag in the corner, and a heating stove in the middle of the room. A little boy is seen sitting at an upright piano in the corner (undated).

**WWI 94.B1.F1.4:** Snapshot of several unidentified U.S. Army soldiers and Red Cross nurses standing and sitting in the interior of an unidentified U.S. Army building [apparently for officers], with tables for eating and high-backed couches, at an unidentified military camp during World War I. Lines of hanging garland are seen dropping down from the ceiling, an American flag in the corner, and a heating stove in the middle of the room (undated).

**WWI 94.B1.F1.5:** Photograph taken looking down from a height at a public square and street with crowd of people milling about a bandstand on a Fourth of July in an unidentified city during World War I. Some soldiers are seen standing around (undated).

**WWI 94.B1.F1.6:** Photograph of a line of U.S. Army officers receiving medals during an award ceremony [believed to be in France], with a stand of other soldiers in the background, at an unidentified location during World War I (undated).

**WWI 94.B1.F1.7:** Real-photo postcard of an unidentified event with a crowd of people gathered around the steps to the entrance of a building in Chaumont, France, during World War I. Unidentified American soldiers and French officials are pictured on the steps. The sign in the background shares a statement from the Mayor

of Chaumont. One of the men pictured may be Brig. Gen. Samson Lane Faison, commander of the 60th Infantry Brigade, 30th Division, U.S. Army (undated) [Photograph by: M. Laurent].

**WWI 94.B1.F1.8:** Real-photo postcard of an unidentified event with a crowd of people and a line of soldiers on the street, as unidentified French officials and American officers are seen walking down the street [believed to be in Chaumont, France] in World War I. It is believed that one of the men pictured may be Brig. Gen. Samson Lane Faison (second from left, foreground), commander of the 60th Infantry Brigade, 30th Division, U.S. Army (undated) [Photograph by: M. Laurent].

**WWI 94.B1.F1.9:** Group photograph of U.S. Army soldiers from Raleigh, N.C., believed to all have attended the 1917 summer Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) training camp at Camp Warden McLean at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, during World War I. Leland S. Harris of Raleigh, N.C., is believed to be included in this picture. A slate chalkboard in the photograph is captioned "Raleigh Boys" [circa 1917].

**WWI 94.B1.F1.10:** Group photograph of U.S. Army soldiers from Raleigh, N.C., believed to all have attended the 1917 summer Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) training camp at Camp Warden McLean at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, during World War I. Leland S. Harris of Raleigh, N.C., is believed to be included in this picture. A slate chalkboard in the photograph is captioned "Raleigh Boys" [circa 1917].

**WWI 94.B1.F1.11:** Photograph of two unidentified young men and an older woman, standing on the lawn in front of a picket fence with a building in the background. The people are believed to be members of the Harris family of Raleigh, N.C. [and the photograph is believed to be taken in Raleigh] (undated).

**WWI 94.B1.F1.12:** Real-photo postcard of the old house of attorney John Cebern Logan Harris and his family of Raleigh, N.C., on Fayetteville Street. The site of this home became the Sir Walter Hotel in downtown Raleigh (undated).

**WWI 94.B1.F1.13:** Damaged group photograph of unidentified businessmen, including Leland S. Harris of Raleigh, N.C. [believed to be an early group photograph of either the North Carolina Motor Vehicle Bureau employees or the administrators for the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators] (undated).

1/2	Battery 7, ROTC Camp Dinner and Dance Program	August 2, 1917
1/3	Harris' Camp McLean ROTC Training Course Certificate	1917
1/4	Headquarters Company, 316th Field Artillery, 1917 Thanksgiving Dinner Menus	November 29, 1917
1/5	Harris' Military Travel and Troop Ship Documents	November 1918, undated
1/6	"Wildcat Follies" Regimental Show Program	June 1919
1/7	Miscellaneous Records and Correspondence	1917, 1919-1920, undated
1/8	Newspaper Clippings	1917, 1919, undated
2	Leland Harris War Scrapbook [ <b>Fragile</b> ]	1917-1919

**Oversized Folder 1 Harris Military Appointment Certificates** August 1917, December 1917

#### **World War I Artifact Box 4**

**Artifact 1:** 1 original 9" x 10" felt souvenir with a blue five-point star having a photograph of Leland S. Harris transferred onto fabric. A pin for the 316th Field Artillery, 81st Division, U.S. Army, is stuck in the top left corner of the felt piece [believed to be a souvenir for Harris' family from his time while stationed in South Carolina for training (undated)].

**Artifact 2:** Leland S. Harris' World War I U.S. Army campaign hat cords, patterned with blue, gold, and white strands (undated).

**Artifact 3:** Leland S. Harris' U.S. Army ribbon bar (with the backing pin having fallen off) (undated).

**Artifact 4:** One original blue two-star enamel pin for service, believed worn during World War I by one of Leland S. Harris' family members (undated).