

COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON

AVERY RESEARCH CENTER  
FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN  
HISTORY AND CULTURE

**Inventory of the  
Helen Evangeline Banks Harrison  
Papers, circa 1850 - 1985**

Avery Research Center  
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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Helen Evangeline Banks Harrison Papers,
<b>Dates:</b>	circa 1850 - 1985
<b>Creator:</b>	Harrison, Helen Evangeline Banks.
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>Helen Evangeline Banks Harrison was born in Hampton, Virginia in 1898, to Issiah and Anna DeCosta Banks. Often called Evangeline, or "Vangi," she attended city schools in Charleston, South Carolina, as well as Avery Normal Institute, and Howard University. In 1922 she married Armistead B. Harrison and in 1935, she began working as a clerk in the outpatient clinic of Charleston's segregated Hospital and Training School for Nurses. Harrison became Medical Records Librarian at McClennan-Banks Memorial Hospital, the successor organization to the Hospital and Training School. Evangeline Banks Harrison retired in 1966 and continued to serve a number of women's, social and civic organization, including the Charleston Chapter of LINKS, of which she was a charter member. Mrs. Harrison died in 1985.</p> <p>The collection consists of personal materials and those documenting Harrison's mother, Anna DeCosta Banks, the Hospital and Training School for Nurses, and McClennan-Banks hospital. Personal papers of Evangeline Banks Harrison and her family include her Avery Institute graduation program (1917), biographical data, inspirational clippings, photographs, and a sporadically kept diary (circa 1937-1940s). Armistead Harrison materials document his membership in the Owls Whist Club and his long time career as a barber at Felder's Barbershop, Charleston, South Carolina. Anna DeCosta Banks materials include photos, biographical data, and diplomas. There are early graduation programs from the Hospital and Training School for Nurses, and clippings and notes regarding the history of the segregated hospital founded by Dr. Alonzo McClennan including photocopies of some issues of <i>The Hospital Herald</i> journal he edited. Included are constitutions, bylaws, and charters of that institution and its successor, the McClennan-Banks Memorial Hospital. With significant correspondence (1947-1959) regarding the closing of the earlier institution, and the struggle to secure financing to support a hospital to treat African Americans. With some miscellaneous materials regarding hospital staff and their descendants.</p>
<b>Extent:</b>	1 linear feet(2 archival boxes)
<b>Repository:</b>	Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston
<b>Call Number:</b>	AMN 1032
<b>Language of Material:</b>	Material in English

## Biographical Note

Born in Hampton, Virginia in 1898, Helen (often called Evangeline, or "Vangi") Banks, the daughter of Issiah and Anna DeCosta Banks, came to Charleston, South Carolina as a child and spent most of her life there. She attended city schools, Avery Normal Institute, and Howard University. In 1922 she married Armistead B. Harrison (1893-1985), son of Charles Alonzo Harrison (1876-1942), rector (1918-1936) of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and long time barber and eventual owner of Felder's Barbershop in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1935, she began working as a clerk in the out patient clinic of Charleston's segregated Hospital and Training School for Nurses, where her mother served as superintendent of nursing for 35 years. Harrison became Medical Records Librarian at McClennan-Banks Memorial Hospital, the successor organization to the Hospital and Training School, partly named in honor of her mother. Evangeline Banks Harrison retired in 1966 and continued to serve a number of women's, social and civic organization, including the Charleston Chapter of LINKS, of which she was a charter member. Mrs. Harrison died in 1985 a few months after her husband.

## Collection Overview

The collection consists of personal materials and those documenting Harrison's mother, Anna DeCosta Banks, the Hospital and Training School for Nurses and McClennan-Banks hospital. Personal papers of Evangeline Banks Harrison and her family include her Avery Institute graduation program (1917), a school essay, biographical data, inspirational clippings, photographs, including an unidentified daguerreotype (circa 1850s) and a sporadically kept diary (circa 1937-1940s). Armistead Harrison materials document his membership in the Owls Whist Club and his long time career as a barber at Felder's Barbershop, Charleston, South Carolina. Anna DeCosta Banks materials include photos, biographical data, diplomas, etc. There are early graduation programs from the Hospital and Training School for Nurses, and clippings and notes regarding the history of the segregated hospital founded by Dr. Alonzo McClennan including photocopies of some issues of The Hospital Herald journal he edited. Included are constitutions, bylaws, and charters of that institution and its successor, the McClennan-Banks Memorial Hospital. With significant correspondence (1947-1959) regarding the closing of the earlier institution, and the struggle to secure financing to support a hospital to treat African Americans. Those active in the debate included the Catholic Diocese of Charleston, Roper Hospital and Medical Society of South Carolina, the city of Charleston, and the county of Charleston which eventually took responsibility for a new structure. Correspondents include hospital officers, Thomas Carr McFall, Samuel J. Poinsette, building designer Augustus E. Constantine, other architects, a representative of the Society for Preservation of Spirituals, and Harold S. (Dick) Reeves, wanting to hold a Gullah reading to raise money. With some miscellaneous materials regarding hospital staff and their descendants.

## Collection Arrangement

Personal Papers

Hospital and Training School for Nurses Historical Papers

Hospital and Training School/McClennan-Banks Administrative Papers

Miscellaneous Material

## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

### Copyright Notice

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## Separated Material

1032-OPF/1

## Subject Headings

African American barbers -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
African American men -- Societies and clubs.  
African American nurses -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
African Americans -- Segregation.  
African Americans -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- History.  
Architects -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Banks, Anna DeCosta, 1869-1930.  
Catholic Church. Diocese of Charleston (S.C.)  
Constantine, Augustus Edison, 1898-1976.  
Felder's Barbershop (Charleston, S.C.)  
Harrison, Armistead, 1893-1985.  
Harrison, Helen Evangeline Banks, 1898-1985.  
Hospital and Training School for Nurses (Charleston, S.C.)  
Hospitals -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
McClennan, Alonzo, 1855-1912.  
McClennan-Banks Memorial Hospital (Charleston, S.C.)  
McFall, Thomas Carr, 1908-1969.  
Nursing schools -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Nursing -- Study and teaching -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Owls Whist Club (Charleston, S.C.)  
Reeves, Harold S.

## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Helen Evangeline Banks Harrison Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

### **Acquisitions Information**

Donated by , Rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, April 1990 and by Daniel Messier, Reverend, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, November 2006

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Harlan Greene, November 2006

Encoded by Melissa Bronheim, August 2010

Funding from the **Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation** supported the processing of this collection.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### 1. Personal Papers, 1917-1980s

- Box 1 Folder 1      Biographical Data, 1967
- Includes certificates of appreciation; and nomination for Woman of the Year, Charleston Chapter, LINKS, Inc.
- Box 1 Folder 2      Avery Normal Institute Commencement Booklet, 1917
- Includes holograph essay by Evangeline Banks regarding influences of heroes on culture and mothers on families.
- Box 1 Folder 3      Diary, 1937-1980s
- Includes sporadic notations, mostly regarding excursions, anniversaries, etc. With later notations, as well as two locks of hair.
- Box 1 Folder 4      Correspondence and Miscellaneous
- A few letters to Evangeline Banks Harrison, including one with data regarding "Negro Artisans and Craftsmen of the Pre-Civil War Period" and "Contemporary [circa 1940] Negro Artists" With list of duties of medical records librarian.
- Box 1 Folder 5      Inspirational Poems Clippings and Photocopies
- Mostly from papers and magazines, with some regarding local history; some handwritten poems and sayings on prescription pad sheets, "Outdoor Clinic, Hospital and Training School."
- Box 1 Folder 6      Friends and Family Notices and Programs, 1962-1981
- Includes photocopied clippings of death and funeral notices; funeral programs of William Lawrence and Emmett Lampkin; wedding program of Millicent Brown and Aquilo Lipscomb.
- Box 1 Folder 7      Armistead Harrison: Owls Whist Club, 1939-1974
- Includes clippings, plaque, certificate, programs, and speech regarding Harrison's membership in it.
- Box 1 Folder 8      Armistead Harrison: Felder's Barbershop
- Includes clippings and correspondence regarding his long tenure there; most materials removed from a scrapbook of tributes compiled in 1980 at the time of his retirement.
- Box 1 Folder 9      Armistead and Evangeline Harrison: Clippings
- Box 1 Folder 10      Armistead and Evangeline Harrison: Miscellaneous Materials, 1894-1922
- Includes mostly social events such as wedding invitations for Armistead Harrison and Evangeline Banks and Anna DeCosta and Issiah Banks, with some family data; engraving plates and two handkerchiefs.
- Box 1 Folder 11      Armistead and Evangeline Harrison: Photographs

Includes two candid images of the Armistead in his barbershop; with a daguerreotype of an unidentified man, metal casing loose in larger case.

Box 1 Folder 12 Anna DeCosta Banks: Materials to Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina, 1979

Includes photocopies, clippings, correspondence, etc. regarding gift.

Box 2 Folder 1 Anna DeCosta Banks: Tributes

Includes photocopies, clippings and handwritten tributes regarding her role in the Hospital and Training School for Nurses

Box 2 Folder 2 Anna DeCosta Banks: Photographs, Certificates, and Diplomas

Oversize Paper Folder 1032-OPF/1 Diplomas, 1891 and 1917

Anna DeCosta, Hampton Institute; Helen Evangeline Banks, Avery Normal Institute.

## 2. Hospital and Training School for Nurses Historical Papers, 1899-1992

Box 2 Folder 4 History of the Hospital And Training School for Nurses, circa 1900-1905

With later brief handwritten and typed histories and lists of directors and officers; with a photocopy of a report assessing hospital's effectiveness.

Box 2 Folder 5 *The Hospital Herald*, 1899-1900

Edited by Dr. Alonzo McClennan. With much information regarding the needs and work of the Hospital and Training School for Nurses. Photocopies.

Box 2 Folder 6 Hospital and Training School Graduation Programs, 1906-1909, 1911 and 1927

The early programs list the names of the graduates from 1899 on.

Box 2 Folder 7 Various Programs, 1959-1992

Regarding the Hospital and Training School and its successor organization, the McClennan-Banks Memorial Hospital and the McClennan Banks Alcohol and Drug Center.

Box 2 Folder 8 Newspaper Clippings, circa 1930-1979

Photocopies regarding Hospital and Training School and its successor, McClennan-Bank Hospital, and some staff members.

## 3. Hospital and Training School/McClennan-Banks Administrative Papers, 1898-1966

Box 2 Folder 9 Governing Papers, 1898-1958

Includes constitution and bylaws of Hospital and Training School; and that of McClennan-Banks; with duties of officers. With transcript of original charter of incorporation; and that of McClennan-Banks; and agreement between County of Charleston and McClennan-Banks regarding hospital's operation.



- Box 2 Folder 10 Meeting Minutes, 1950s  
Includes three meetings of various committees regarding construction management of McClennan-Banks Memorial Hospital
- Box 2 Folder 11 Correspondence, 1947-1949  
With the Catholic Diocese of Charleston, County of Charleston and others regarding potential financial and administrative help to Hospital and Training School. With letter of County Health Office Leon Banov regarding pay discrimination to a black nurse. Correspondents include Samuel J. Poinsette and Thomas C. McFall.
- Box 2 Folder 12 Correspondence, 1950-1953  
Includes T. C. McFall, Medical Director, and S. J. Poinsette, President of the Hospital and Training School, with a variety of others regarding need for new building, funds, partnership, and inability to meet state standards. Many letters refer to Reverend Amos Carnegie's plan to raise funds, with letters of architect Augustus Constantine, County Council, City of Charleston, the Society for the Preservation of Spirituals (donating to the building fund) and H.S. Reeves wanting to hold Gullah programs to help fund the project.
- Box 2 Folder 13 Correspondence, 1954-1955  
Regarding the Hospital and Training School meeting state licensing standards and correspondence with Roper Hospital and the Medical Society of South Carolina regarding possibility of adapting Riverside Infirmary for its new hospital. With resumes of possible architect and consultant to use.
- Box 2 Folder 14 Correspondence, 1956-1957  
With South Carolina State Board of Health, Charleston County Manager, architect Augustus E. Constantine, vendors, consultant and others regarding construction and planning of new McClennan-Banks hospital.
- Box 2 Folder 15 Correspondence, 1958-1959  
Includes various Charleston County officials, vendors, architect Augustus E. Constantine, consultants, and State Board of Health regarding construction, opening, and funding of McClennan-Banks Hospital.
- Box 2 Folder 16 Miscellaneous Financial Records, 1937-1966  
Includes deposit book, lists of donors, costs of furniture, bonds, salary lists, policies for financial office and financial statements ;with some papers regarding IRS exemption status.

#### 4. Miscellaneous Material, 1951-1976

- Box 2 Folder 17 Dr. Thomas Carr McFall  
Includes funeral program and transcript of Television editorial; with typed medical notes labeled "Dr. McFall's lectures, 6-3-'33," possibly of McFall's father, Dr. John Allen McFall, Sr. or his own medical school notes.
- Box 2 Folder 18 Maude McClennan Thomas, 1976 Memorial Service Program  
Daughter of Dr. Alonzo McClennan.

Box 2 Folder 18      Hattie Chambers Memorial Plaque, 1951

Wife of Thomas E. Miller.

Box 2 Folder 19      Miscellaneous Materials

Includes Negro Young Men's Christian Association envelope and photocopy of voter registration certificate of Sam Lee, Dorchester County, South Carolina