

**The Filson Historical Society**  
**Harrison Family**  
**Papers, ca. 1930s – 1990 (bulk 1941-1945)**

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these papers, see the  
Curator of Special Collections.

**Size of Collection:**  
1 cubic foot

**Locator Number:**  
Mss./A/ H318

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**Biographical Note**

William B. Harrison (1889-1948) was mayor of Louisville, Kentucky from 1927 until 1933. He was elected to a two-year term as mayor after the Kentucky Court of Appeals threw out the election of Republican Arthur A. Will. When his term as mayor ended, Harrison became president of the Louisville Industrial Foundation. Harrison married Margaret W. Allis in 1912. Together they had five children: William H. Harrison (1913-1990), Winston P. Harrison (1914-?), Margaret Harrison (1921- ), Penelope Harrison (?), and Dorothy Harrison (1925- ).

Both Winston and William H. Harrison served in the U.S. Army during the Second World War. William H. “Bill” Harrison, a graduate of Princeton University, served as Battery Commander of Battery C of the 27<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion. He was deployed to the European theatre in May of 1942, and achieved the rank of Captain while overseas. On December 6, 1942, Harrison and 33 other men were captured by the Germans near Tabouba, Tunisia. Harrison was taken to German prison camp #21 at Chieti, Italy. He escaped in the fall of 1943, as the Germans were moving prisoners to Germany. In May of 1945, Harrison was again sent overseas to India where he served through the remainder of the war.

William H. Harrison married Louise Taylor with whom he had four children. Louise T. Harrison (1940- ), William H. Harrison, Jr. (1946- ), Phillip T. Harrison (1948- ), and David W. Harrison (1958- ).

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**Scope and Content Note**

This collection consists primarily of correspondence between members of the Harrison family of Louisville, Kentucky. Most of the correspondence is between William H. Harrison (“Bill”) and his wife Louise Taylor Harrison (“Wege”) during William’s deployment overseas during World War II. The collection also includes correspondence with other members of the Harrison and Taylor families. The majority of the collection concerns the periods of Bill’s deployment overseas between 1942 and 1945. Letters describe Bill’s training period in Northern Ireland, his capture by the Germans in Tunisia in December of 1942, and his internment in a prison camp in Italy between December of 1942 and the fall of 1943. Later correspondence concerns his deployment to India in 1945.

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**Folder List**

- Folder 1: Correspondence, ca.1930s - 1941
- Folder 2: Correspondence, April 1 – 15, 1942
- Folder 3: Correspondence, April 16-30, 1942
- Folder 4: Correspondence, May 1-20, 1942
- Folder 5: Correspondence, May 21-31, 1942
- Folder 6: Correspondence, June 1-10, 1942
- Folder 7: Correspondence, June 11-20, 1942
- Folder 8: Correspondence, June 21-30, 1942
- Folder 9: Correspondence, July 1-15, 1942
- Folder 10: Correspondence, July 16-31, 1942
- Folder 11: Correspondence, August 1-10, 1942
- Folder 12: Correspondence, August 11-19, 1942
- Folder 13: Correspondence, August 20-31, 1942
- Folder 14: Correspondence, September 1942
- Folder 15: Correspondence, October 1942-March 1943
- Folder 16: Correspondence, April – October 1943
- Folder 17: Correspondence, November – December 1943
- Folder 18: Correspondence, 1944
- Folder 19: Correspondence, May – June 1945
- Folder 20: Correspondence, July 1-20, 1945
- Folder 21: Correspondence, July 21 – September 1945
- Folder 22: Correspondence, ca. 1940s –1990; undated
- Folder 23: Newspaper clippings
- Folder 24: Misc.

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**Subject Headings**

Fort Dix (N.J.)  
Harrison family  
Louisiana - Description and travel  
Louisville (Ky.) - Social life and customs  
Michigan, Lake - Description and travel  
United States. Army - Military life  
United States. Army. Artillery Regiment, 27th  
V-mail  
World War, 1939-1945 - India  
World War, 1939-1945 - Italy  
World War, 1939-1945 - Northern Ireland  
World War, 1939-1945 - Prisoners and prisons  
World War, 1939-1945 - Women - United States