



**THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS  
ARCHIVES & RESEARCH CENTER**

**Guide to**

**Eleanor Norris Papers, 1908-2012**

**NR.MS.Coll.1**

**by Laura Kitchings**

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Archives & Research Center  
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Extent: 6 boxes

Other storage formats: 4 General Oversize Box folders, 1 Broadside Cabinet small folder, 1 Broadside Cabinet large folder

Linear feet: 4.0

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **PROVENANCE**

Gift of Eleanor Norris, 2012.

### **OWNERSHIP & LITERARY RIGHTS**

The Eleanor Norris Papers are the physical property of The Trustees of Reservations. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns.

### **CITE AS**

Eleanor Norris Papers. The Trustees of Reservations, Archives & Research Center.

### **RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS**

The majority of the collection is open for research, with one restricted series.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Eleanor Almy Miller Norris was born in Chicago, Illinois on 5 December 1911. Her father, Loris Almy Miller (b. 1884), was a banker. Her mother, Bostonian Madeleine Tinkham Miller (b. 1888), homeschooled Eleanor Norris. In 1919, the parents moved to Boston, and Eleanor entered private school. She attended Vassar College, and also attended Harvard Summer School courses to study philosophy. After her college graduation, she attended the Kellogg Institute of Domestic Science in Battle Creek, Michigan where she learned to prepare healthy meals. During the Depression she worked at a variety of clerical positions. In 1939 she began spending time with Albert Frederick Norris.

Albert Frederick Norris was born 15 January 1891 to Henry Norris (1844-1920) and Angelina Carson Norris (1850-1912) in Worcester, Massachusetts and grew up as part of a large family. He majored in chemistry at Clark College, graduating in 1911. He then taught science and math at schools ranging from St. Alban's School in Washington, D.C. to Provincetown High School. He served in the United

States Navy during World War I. In 1921, his uncle, George Carson, offered him a partnership in a new iron foundry at the Harrison Square Foundry in Dorchester. Later in 1921, the Foundry purchased its first piece of land in Norwell. Albert Norris also took cello lessons in Coolidge Corner in Brookline, Massachusetts and was a volunteer at the Boston Skating Club.

After a seventeen-year courtship, Eleanor and Albert married in 1956 and purchased a Cape Cod style house. Albert Norris did much of the carpentry himself, including installing antique posts and beams. The couple routinely hosted small gatherings in their home, including parties in the riverfront cottage and skating parties on the millpond. Albert Norris died in 1962.

After her husband's death, Eleanor Norris began teaching in the Hanson elementary schools. She encouraged local children to spend time outside and assisted in the founding of the South Shore Nature Center (now the South Shore Natural Science Center), which used her property as a classroom. She continued an active life, which included hosting a French language group and taking ballroom dancing classes. After her retirement, she traveled and continued to swim and kayak. In her nineties she took college courses to learn how to use computers.

Eleanor Norris maintained the property, including the outbuildings and paths, until 1970. She gave her first donation of property to The Trustees in 1970 to encourage the preservation of the area. She remained an active supporter of The Trustees, both by fundraising and encouraging others to give property, and by regularly interacting with property visitors. She also worked with her neighbors, Richard McMullan and Ralph and Betsy Gordon, to give additional land to expand the property. She remained active in her community and in 1994 was named the Norwell Citizen of the Year. She died on 23 November 2012 in Duxbury, Massachusetts. More information about the property can be found at <http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/south-shore/norris-reservation.html>.

**Source:**

"Eleanor A. Norris." *The Norwell Mariner* (Norwell, MA), January 4-11, 2013.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS**

The Eleanor Norris Papers focus on the public life of Eleanor Norris, who donated property in Norwell, Massachusetts to The Trustees beginning in 1970. The bulk of the material is from 1992-2012. The papers are organized into ten series: Correspondence, Literary Productions, Diaries, Printed Material, Financial Documents, Legal Documents, Photographs, Maps and Plans, Library, and Restricted Material.

Series I, Correspondence, is organized into two subseries: Albert Norris, and Eleanor Norris. The first subseries, Albert Norris, includes correspondence from the Navy and American Legion and also includes a letter about an antique panel.

The second subseries, Eleanor Norris, includes thankyou cards to Eleanor Norris regarding her gift of her property and birthday cards from children and Norwell adults relating to her role at the property. There are also cards from Senator John Kerry, and a letter signed by President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama related to Eleanor Norris's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Series II, Literary Productions, includes speeches given by Eleanor Norris at property events, notes related to oral history, typed notes for a speech given by Tom Foster at Eleanor Norris's Trustees of Reservations 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party, and plans for that party.

Series III, Diaries, consists of a guest book signed by visitors to the property on the occasion of Eleanor Norris's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2011.

Series IV, Printed Material, is organized into two subseries: Albert Frederick Norris, and Eleanor Norris. The first subseries, Albert Frederick Norris, includes certificates related to his naval service and his obituary.

The second subseries, Eleanor Norris, includes newspaper clippings about the Norris Reservation, certificates relating to Eleanor Norris's receipt of the Norwell Citizen of the Year award, and her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Series V, Financial Documents, includes bills and receipts related to septic system repairs.

Series VI, Legal Documents, includes deeds related to the property.

Series VII, Photographs, includes photographs of Albert F. Norris from his time in the navy, photographs of Eleanor Norris, photographs of the property, photographs of events on the property, and photographs from her 95<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> public birthday parties on the property.

Series VIII, Maps and Plans, includes property plans, and septic repair plans.

Series IX, Library, includes Albert F. Norris's scrapbooks from South High School and Clark College, and books and booklets related to Norwell ecology and history.

Series X, Restricted Material, consists of materials limited to the use of Trustees staff members or by permission of the Head Archivist.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Series I. Correspondence</b>			
0.4' (1 box)			
Dates: 1920-2011			
Series I, Correspondence, is organized into two subseries: Albert Norris, and Eleanor Norris. Each subseries is arranged chronologically.			
<b>ALBERT NORRIS</b>			
1	1	Correspondence from Navy	1920 Dec
1	2	Correspondence from American Legion	1930 Dec 24
1	3	Correspondence about antique wall panel	1960 Aug 8
<b>ELEANOR NORRIS</b>			
1	4	General correspondence	1969-2007
1	5	Thank you correspondence	1971-1981
1	6	Invitation to 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Trustees of Reservations	1991
1	7	Letters to politicians	1993, 2004
1	8	Saint Patrick's Day cards	1997
1	9	Collection of 95 <sup>th</sup> birthday & thank you letters	2007 Jun 24
1	10	Birthday cards	2007-2011
1	11	Birthday cards	2007-2011
1	12	Birthday cards	2007-2011
1	13	Birthday cards	2007-2011
1	14	Birthday cards	2007-2011

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>ELEANOR NORRIS</b>			
1	15	Card from Senator John Kerry to Eleanor Norris on her 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday	2011 Dec 5
1	16	Letter signed by President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama to Eleanor Norris on her 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday - includes photograph of President	2011 Dec 5

## Series II. Literary Productions

0.4' (1 box)

Dates: 1974-2011, n.d.

Series II, Literary Productions, is organized chronically.

### LITERARY PRODUCTIONS

2	2	Draft of <i>The Albert F. Norris Reservation Norwell, Massachusetts</i>  By Caroline F. Brown. Annotated.	1974
2	3	Speech given at celebration of McMullan land addition to Norris Reservation	1992 Sep 13
2	3	Speech given at Celebration of Gordon land addition to Norris Reservation	2001 Sep 21
2	4	Oral history materials	2007
2	5	Guest list for Trustees party for Eleanor Norris	2007 Jun
2	6	Typed remarks by Tom Foster and Betsy Gordon given at Eleanor Norris's 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday party  Includes party plans.	2011 Dec 3
2	7	Notes about property history	n.d.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
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**Series III. Diaries**

0.2' (1 box)

Dates: 2011

Series III, Diaries, consists of a guest book from Eleanor Norris's public 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

**DIARIES**

2	8	Birthday guest book	2011
		100 <sup>th</sup> birthday guest book	2011

Stored in: General Oversize Box, Folder 4

**Series IV. Printed Material**

0.2' (2 boxes)

Dates: 1920-2011, n.d.

Series IV, Printed Material, is organized into two subseries: Albert Norris, and Eleanor Norris. Items within the subseries are arranged chronologically.

**ALBERT NORRIS**

U.S. Navy. Certificate of appreciation,	1920 Dec 13
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Stored in: Broadside Cabinet 2. Drawer L  
Small Folder 1

The American Legion. Resolution of Appreciation certificate	1930 Oct 6-9
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Stored in: General Oversize Box  
Folder 1

2	9	U.S. Naval Reserve courtesy card folder and registration cards	1931-1942
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<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>ALBERT NORRIS</b>			
2	10	U.S. Armed Forces. Memorial certificate	[1962]
2	11	Obituary	1962 Jun 21
2	11	Clipping regarding millstone gravestone	n.d.
<b>ELEANOR NORRIS</b>			
2	12	Norris Reservation clippings	1969-1992
2	13	The Trustees of Reservations materials	1970-1972
		Norris Reservation clippings	1970-2008
		Stored in: General Oversize Box Folder 2	
2	14	The Trustees of Reservations annual report	1975
2	15	The Trustees of Reservations materials	1989-2001
2	16	The North and South Rivers Watershed Association materials	1991
		Eleanor Norris received the Barbara Pearson Memorial Award.	
2	17	Norris Reservation clippings	1991-2005
2	18	Materials relating to the history of the Norris Reservation	1993, n.d.
2	19	Norwell Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year certificate	1994 Apr
2	19	Clippings about Eleanor Norris	
		Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year	1994
		Photographs removed	

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
		<b>ELEANOR NORRIS</b>	
		Certificate from Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding award as Norwell Citizen of the Year	1994 Apr 27
		Stored in: General Oversize Box Folder 3	
2	20	<i>Special Places</i>	2005 Win
2	21	Norris Reservation clippings	2006-2008
2	22	Report on “The Brook, the Land, and the River”	2007
		Land Use History and Cultural Resources of the Norris Reservation by Electra Kane Tritsch, Oakfield Research, for The Trustees of Reservations.	
3	1	Cedar Grove Cemetery guide	2007
3	2	Birthday party clippings	2011 Nov-Dec
3	3	Poster for Eleanor Norris’s 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday	2011
3	4	Certificate from Gov. Deval Patrick to Eleanor Norris on her 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday	2011 Dec 5
3	5	Certificate from United States House of Representatives in recognition of 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday of Eleanor Norris	2011 Dec 5

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
		<b>ELEANOR NORRIS</b>	
		Official citation from Mass. Senate in recognition of Eleanor Norris 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday	2011 Dec 5
		Stored in: General Oversize Box Folder 3	
3	6	Clippings about Eleanor Norris Turning 100	2011
3	7	Flyer from Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts for environmental action	n.d.

### **Series V. Financial Documents**

0.4' (1 box)

Dates: 1941-2001.

Series V, Financial Documents, is organized chronologically.

### **FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS**

3	8	Financial documents related to property and renters	1941-1943
3	9	Property tax materials	1961
3	10-11	Relating to septic system repair	2001

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>Series VI. Legal Documents</b>			
0.4' (1 box)			
Dates: 1942-1957			
Series VI, Legal Documents, consists of Land Deeds.			
<b>LEGAL DOCUMENTS</b>			
3	12	Land deeds	1942- 1957
<b>Series VII. Photographs</b>			
0.4' (1 box)			
Dates: 1908-2012, n.d.			
Series VII, Photographs, is organized chronologically.			
<b>PHOTOGRAPHS</b>			
3	13-14	Albert F. Norris	1908-1947
3	15	Albert Norris in his Stutz Bearcat 1921?"	1921[?]
		Rolled up.	
		2 photographs.	
4	1	Property building	1969-1979, n.d.
4	2	Eleanor Norris	1972-1996

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>PHOTOGRAPHS</b>			
4	3	Black and white winter photographs of property  Some photos annotated on back.  Some photographs identified as taken by S.S. Baer.	1971 Jan
4	4	Photographs of property  One photograph a reprint of a 1957 photograph.	1972-1991
4	5	Albert F. Norris Reservation walks/talks	1991 Sum
4	6	Norris Reservation  Photographers noted on back.	1991
4	7	Envelope of 5 color photos of celebration for McMullen's donation	1992 Sep 16
4	8	Photographs removed from Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year	1994
4	9	Indoor events	2000
4	10	Property photograph album	2001
4	11	Septic system polaroids	2002 May-Jun
4	12-13	95 <sup>th</sup> birthday party  Robert Bayard Severy photographer.  2 folders.	2007 Jun 24

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>PHOTOGRAPHS</b>			
4	14-15	100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday party  Robert Bayard Severy photographer.  2 folders.	2011 Dec 3
4	16	President George W. Bush  Thank you for donation.	2012
4	17	Black and white photographs of young lady in profile  By Bachrach  Possibly Eleanor Norris.	n.d.
4	18	Property photographs	n.d.
4	18	Photograph of car at CVS	n.d.
4	18	Black and white photograph of stores	n.d.
4	18	Photograph of Hilda and Barbara  Copy of 1951 photograph with a note.  Photographs. Bryant Grist Mill  Stored in: General Oversize Box	

### **Series VIII. Maps and Plans**

0.4' (1 box)

Dates: 1959-2001, n.d.

Series VIII, Maps and Plans, is organized chronologically.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>MAPS AND PLANS</b>			
4	19	Septic repair plan  3 plans.  Property plan 1959 Sep  Stored in: Broadside Cabinet 2. Drawer L Folder 1	2001 Aug 1
		Property plan  Stored in: Broadside Cabinet 2. Drawer L Folder 1	1959 Sep
		Property plan  Stored in: Broadside Cabinet 2. Drawer L Folder 1	1968
		Property plan  Stored in: Broadside Cabinet 2. Drawer L Folder 1	1969 Jun 17
		Property plans  Stored in: Broadside Cabinet 2. Drawer L Folder 1	1970 Sep 17
		Property plans  Stored in: Broadside Cabinet 2. Drawer L Folder 1  Two plans.	1974 Apr 26
		Property plan  Stored in: Broadside Cabinet 4. Drawer F Folder 2	1970 Apr 24

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
		<b>MAPS AND PLANS</b>	
		Property plan	1970 Oct 5
		Stored in: Broadside Cabinet 4. Drawer F Folder 2	

### **Series IX. Library**

0.4' (1 box)

Dates: 1908-2011, n.d.

Series XI, Library, is organized chronologically.

### **LIBRARY**

5	1	South High School yearbook	1908
		Page 57 Albert Norris.	
5	2	Clark College yearbook	1911
		Handwritten list inside of pages mentioning Albert Norris.	
5		History of South Scituate-Norwell Massachusetts	1938
		By Joseph Merritt.	
5	3	The New North River Almanac	1965
5		A Study of the Marine Resources of the North River	1966 May
5		Norwell Village with Stetson Farms & the Tack Factory	1980
		By Professor Quentin L. Coons.	
5		The Norwell of Fifty Years Ago from Notes of Joseph Merritt	1981 Apr

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>LIBRARY</b>			
5		The Norwell Celebration Centennial Program booklet	1988
5		Guide to the Jacobs Homestead Norwell Historical Society.	1990 Sum
5		Marshfield: A Town of Villages Historical Research Associates 1990.	1990
5		Nature Walks in Eastern Massachusetts By Michael Tougias.	1993
		Saving Special Places By Gordon Abbott, Jr. Removed to ARC Library.	1993
5		The Trustees of Reservations annual report	2008
5		South Shore Quest booklet Note to Eleanor on front.	2011
5		Historical Homesteads of Norwell Four volumes. Norwell Historical Society.	n.d.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Series X. Restricted Material</b>			
0.2' (1 box)			
Dates: 1952-2007, n.d.			
Series VIII, Restricted Material, is limited to the use of Trustees staff members or by permission of the head archivist. Please see Restricted Material Appendix.			
<b>RESTRICTED MATERIAL</b>			
6		Restricted Material	1952-2007
<b>GENERAL OVERSIZE BOX</b>			
GOS	1	The American Legion certificate	1930 Oct 6-9
GOS	2	Norris Reservation clippings	1970-2008
GOS	3	Certificate from Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding award as Norwell Citizen of the Year	1994 Apr 27
GOS	4	Guest book from 95 <sup>th</sup> birthday party	2007
<b>BROADSIDE CABINET 2. DRAWER L</b>			
BSD	1	Property plan	1959 Sep
BSD	1	Property plan	1959 Sep
BSD	1	Property plan	1968
<b>BROADSIDE CABINET 2. DRAWER L</b>			
BSD	1	Property plan	1969 Jun 17
BSD	1	Property plan	1970 Sep 17
BSD	1	Property plan	1974 Apr 26
		2 plans.	
BSD	1	U.S. Navy. Certificate of appreciation	1920 Dec 13

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
		<b>BROADSIDE CABINET 4. DRAWER F FOLDER 2</b>	
BSD	2	Norris Reservation plan	1970 Apr 24
		<b>BROADSIDE CABINET 4. DRAWER F FOLDER 2</b>	
BSD	2	Norris Reservation plan	1970 Oct 5