

**AMANDA  
EMMA HARSELL  
ESTILL-HARBOUR  
1884-1967**



**LOVED  
HISTORY  
AND  
POLITICS**

Dr. Estill-Harbour was a graduate of the first class of the Oklahoma College for Women. Appointed to committees by Presidents Wilson and Hoover, she was made an honorary colonel three times by Oklahoma governors as a tribute to her work.

Amanda Emma Harsell was born in November 1884 in Liberty, Missouri. She graduated from Colorado Springs High School, and studied at Colorado College. She married Dr. Forrest Leon Estill in September 1905 but he died two years later. She left Colorado in 1907 and came to Oklahoma, settling in Chickasha, where she received her bachelors of arts in 1912 from the Oklahoma College for Women (now USAO). She then moved to Edmond to serve as a professor and chairman of the social studies department at Central State Teachers College (now UCO) until her retirement in 1952.

She also studied at the American College of Dramatic Arts in New York in 1917 as well as did graduate work at the University of Chicago and Columbia University. She received her masters from the University of Oklahoma in 1923 and her Ph.D. in history there in 1933. Her dissertation, "The History of the Red River Country Since 1893", was published in 1938 by the Chronicles of Oklahoma.

Dr. Estill was not only active in the field of education but also took a lively interest in political and social affairs. As a member of the Democratic Party, she was State speaker for the League of Nations cause during the 1920 campaign. At the 1924 national convention in New York City, she served as honorary secretary. She was the first chairman of the women's division of the Oklahoma County Democratic Party.

During World War I, she served in France, where she was stationed at Neufchateau, doing work with the Young Men's Christian Association, having been sent there by the Federation of Women's Clubs, which chose her as one of three women from Oklahoma for this work.

In addition to educating several generations of history students, Dr. Estill served as state president of the American Association of University Women and first vice-president of the National Council of Administrative Women. She also belonged to the Oklahoma Writers Association, Federated Women's Clubs, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of 1812, and Daughters of the American Colonists.

Serving on the Oklahoma State Historical Society board, she also wrote articles for the Chronicles of Oklahoma, Southwestern Political Science Magazine, Shakespearian Magazine, and Oklahoma Teacher. She was a member of the Cambridge Club, MacDowell Club, Women's Overseas League and Alpha Phi, Pi Gamma Mu and the Dramatic Fraternities. She was also a lifetime member of the Oklahoma Educational Association.

Dr. Estill was appointed by Governor Trapp to the State Illiteracy Commission, by President Herbert Hoover to the National Commission for Better Homes in America, and to the State committee for the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. She was also a member of the American Academy of Political Science and the Peace Foundation Committee.

On August 14, 1926, Dr. Estill married Pleasant James Harbour, who died in 1936. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1934 and posthumously into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame in 1996. In addition to her many other honors, she was selected by the State of Oklahoma as one of one hundred persons – both men and women – for whom a tree was planted in the state. As her colleague Joe Jackson wrote, "Let us be reminded that Oklahoma, the nation, and the world is a better place because Dr. Harbour came their way." The veteran educator died in January 1967 at age 72.