Daniel and Emily Oliver arrived in Brummana, Syria (later Lebanon) in 1895 and were put in charge of the Friends Mission School at Ras-el-Metn. As a result of World War I, with the invasion of Turkey into Syria, and famine, many children were made orphans. In 1915, the Olivers opened an orphanage for both Druse and Christian children, educating them for careers as teachers, administrators, and the like. The children were also taught skills such as carpentry, shoe repair, sewing, painting, etc. In addition, the Olivers started a local industry of carpetmaking and needle work, the goods to be sold abroad. The papers consist primarily of correspondence between the Olivers and supporters of their work, Marriott and Jane Morris, Elliston and Ann Morris, Thomas and Ethel Potts and Grace and William Rhoads, concerning the work of the orphanage and school at Ras-el-Metn, and the schools at Brummana; also included are photographs of the buildings, some children and faculty.

Background note
Daniel Oliver (1870-1952) was born in Scotland to Scots Presbyterians. He was educated to the age of 15 or 16 and entered the mission field in Morocco. In 1890, Oliver went to Palestine, then studied Arabic at the American Mission in Beirut and worked at a mission school in Brummana. In 1895, Oliver married Emily Wright, a member of the Society of Friends and on the mission school faculty as well. They immediately went to work at a mission school at Ras-el-Metn which soon was giving vocational training to orphans. Daniel Oliver joined Friends in ca. 1907. In 1908, Daniel Oliver became principal of the Boys' School at Brummana and Emily Oliver was its manager and in 1909 had charge of the Girls' High School. They returned to Ras-el-Metn in 1910. From 1936-1946, Oliver published an Arabic
weekly designed to promote peace in the Near East. He was awarded the Lebanese Order of Merit by the President of Lebanon as well as a golden medal ten years later for his efforts on behalf of Peace between Arabs and Jews.

A. Douglas Oliver is the son of Daniel and Emily Oliver who served as treasurer, based in Philadelphia, of the orphanages

B. Hubert Cooper, based in Philadelphia, was chairman of the board of the orphanages

Biographical information from the Dictionary of Quaker Biography, biographical sketches in typescript, Special Collections, Haverford College Library and internal evidence.

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**Collection inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18.III.1907</td>
<td>Oliver, Daniel to Mr. and Mrs. Potts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Will be on furlough soon and will come to America to enroll their sons at Westtown School.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.VII. 1908</td>
<td>Oliver, Daniel to Mr. and Mrs. Potts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Has accepted the position of principal of the Boys' School in Brummana after death of former principal.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 23rd, 1910</td>
<td>Oliver, Emily to Mrs. Potts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[had charge of the Girls' High School in Brummana.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.IX.1910</td>
<td>Oliver, Daniel to Thomas and Ethel Potts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[reasons for engaging in the work they do; some Druse sheiks have asked him to open a school for them which he will do.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 9 mo. 1912</td>
<td>Oliver, Daniel to Thomas and Ethel Potts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[has had eye trouble (which later resulted in the loss of use of one eye); encloses marks of the orphan whom the Potts' support; by intervention of the British Consul armed conflict between Druses and Christians avoided; will leave on furlough soon and will see their sons at Westtown.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. 9. 1914</td>
<td>Oliver, Daniel to Thomas and Ethel Potts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[made a successful visit to raise funds in England; has been appointed delegate to a peace conference in Vienna]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 20 '14</td>
<td>Oliver, Emily to Jane R. Morris.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Daniel Oliver has been taken prisoner of war by the Turkish in Damascus. He was supposed to have been a delegate to peace conf. in Vienna; their school in Brummana closed; war report.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 18, 1920</td>
<td>Oliver, Daniel to Mr. and Mrs. Morris.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Morrises have contributed to the orphanage for the maintenance of one of the orphans.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th mo. 29. 1921</td>
<td>Oliver, Daniel to Thomas and Ethel Potts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Service Committee has decided not to make further appropriation for their work in Syria (Lebanon); all work has stopped, other than the orphanages.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.'22</td>
<td>Oliver, Emily to Jane Morris.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oliver, Daniel to Mr. and Mrs. Morris. 3.ix.1922.
[orphans' communal jobs described; have become co-ed, and shown girls can achieve as well as boys.]

Oliver, Daniel to Mr. and Mrs. Morris. 3.ix.1922.
[orphans' communal jobs described; have become co-ed, and shown girls can achieve as well as boys.]

Emily Oliver Orphanages with 8 photos, including Druse, Armenians, Syrians, orphans and staff
Oliver, Daniel to Mr. and Mrs. Morris. 9.4.1923.
[subjects taught and regimen of the school.]

Oliver, Daniel, "Armenian Refugees and Greek Orthdox Refugees" [1923?].
[report on the situation of Armenian and Greek Refugees after the Lausanne Conference, and in relationship to relief work set up at Ras-el-Metn, Syria +] printed.

Oliver, Daniel 1927.
[general progress report]

Oliver, Daniel 1929.
[general progress report. These always consist of school reports and usually report of the Middle East situation and Daniel Oliver's analyses and efforts toward amelioration.]

Oliver, Daniel to Mr. and Mrs. Morris. 23rd October, 1929.
[progress report.]

Oliver, Daniel [1931?],
[D.O. visited Palestine in peace effort to bring Arabs and Jews together.]

Oliver, Daniel December, 1932, [1934?], 1935.
[general progress reports.]

[is going to start a weekly newspaper in Arabic to be sent to Arabs in Syria, Palestine, Iraq.]

Oliver, Daniel to Walter Ayles. (copy). November 4, 1936.
[has again been to Palestine; discusses the British and Arab revolutionaries.]

Oliver, Daniel The Lighthouse of the East”. [1937?]
[description of this periodical published by the Olivers, and its circulation.]

Oliver, Daniel An Appeal to the Arabs” March 3, 1937.
[against the brutal murders of some Arabs and Jews in Palestine.]

Oliver, Daniel to Walter Ayles. (copy). March 10, 1937.
Oliver, Daniel
[general progress report.]

Oliver, Daniel This is War” 1938.
[continuing report on the situation in the Middle East.]

Oliver, Daniel Report of the Daniel and Emily Oliver Orphanages” November 6, 1944

Oliver, Daniel to Anna and F. Algernon Evans Letters and reports from the Daniel and Emily Oliver Orphanages, including photos of Daniel Oliver, the orphans and some staff 1945-1949

Oliver, Daniel Reports and letters to Elliston P. Morris, including Oliver's suggestions for peace between Arabs and Jews 1946-1947.

Oliver, Daniel to Mrs. Matlock two circular letters 1948


Cooper, B. Hubert to William Bacon Evans Dec. 12, 1949.

[requests support for the orphanages which have taken in 27 refugee children from Palestine] +

Oliver, Daniel
[general progress reports.]


[Letters to friends of the orphanages, the first after the death of Daniel Oliver, relating that "this Quaker outpost" would be continued; reporting on the new Headmaster, Boutros Khoury, who grew up in the Orphanage, and other matters relating to the institution]

Photographs of buildings comprising the orphanage and school, some of the children and faculty.