



Gordon L. and Phyllis M. Thomas Collection

UA.17.489

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

Business Number: 517-355-2330

archives@msu.edu

URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University Archives and Historical Collections
Creator:	Thomas, Gordon L., 1914-1997
Creator:	Thomas, Phyllis M., 1913-1989
Source - dnr:	Thomas, Marc
Title:	Gordon L. and Phyllis M. Thomas collection
ID:	UA.17.489
Date:	undated
Physical Description:	0.5 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: "Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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Biographical Note

Gordon Thomas was born on December 4, 1914 in England. He came to the United States in 1924. He received his Bachelor's degree from Albion College in 1936, his Master's degree from Michigan State College (now Michigan State University) in 1941, and his PhD from Northwestern University in 1952. He joined the faculty at Michigan State in 1945 in the Speech and Communication Department, later becoming associate chair of the Communication Department and assistant dean of Communication Arts for Continuing Education. He was mayor of East Lansing from 1961-1971. He passed away on October 15, 1997.

Phyllis Lenzner Thomas was born on Decmeber 2, 1913 in Cass City, Michigan. She received her MA degree in 1941 from the University of Michigan. She married Gordon on June 21,

1941 and they had two children. Phyllis was the Lively Arts editor for the East Lansing Town Courier and board member of several community groups. She died on September 14, 1989.

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Scope and Contents

The Gordon L. and Phyllis M. Thomas collection contains articles about Gordon Thomas' election and time on the East Lansing City Council and as mayor, a small amount of correspondence, City of East Lansing annual reports, articles and two letters about Civil Rights, as well as articles and biographical information related to his time at Michigan State University. There are also photographs of Gordon Thomas.

The Phyllis Thomas materials contain articles, drafts, and notes for the East Lansing Town Courier articles she wrote, including an article about East Lansing religion and civil rights. Other topics include profiles on Mrs. Edward Thomas, Truman A. Morrison, Jerome V. MacEachin, Sally Swiss, Ray Krider, historic houses, Margot Evans' art show, Virginia Hutcheson and Cap and Gown Series, Helen Hendrickson, Louise Carpenter Adventure in World Understanding, James J. McCleary, Pat Brogan, Albert Vasils, Ellen Ferency, Raymond Campbell, Mrs. Baker (Central Elementary school principal).

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

Conditions Governing Access

Legal Status: Donor(s) have transferred rights to Michigan State University but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Copyright restrictions may apply. Property Rights: Michigan State University.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Civil rights
- Elections -- Michigan -- East Lansing
- East Lansing (Mich.)
- Annual reports
- Correspondence
- Digital images
- Digital media
- Newspaper clippings
- Photographs
- Programs (Publications)
- Edgewood United Church (East Lansing, Mich.)
- Michigan State University. Faculty
- Thomas, Marc

Collection Inventory

Gordon L. Thomas			
Title/Description	Instances		
1963 East Lansing City Council Election articles, 1964	box 6535	folder 1	
1967 East Lansing City Council Election articles, 1967	box 6535	folder 2	
1971 East Lansing City Council Campaign articles, 1971, 1973	box 6535	folder 3	
1975 East Lansing City Council Campaign, 1975-1976	box 6535	folder 4	

Photograph - 1975 East Lansing City Council Campaign, [1975]	box 6535	folder 5
City of East Lansing Annual Reports, 1958, 1960-1963, 1965, 1969, 1970	box 6535	folder 6
Civil Rights - East Lansing, 1963, 1965, 1968, 2007	box 6535	folder 7
Correspondence, 1962-1988, undated	box 6535	folder 8
Correspondence - Leadership Class Speakers, 1972-1984	box 6535	folder 9
East Lansing City Hall Dedication and Police/ Court Facility Cornerstone/ Time Capsule Event Programs , 1965, 1989	box 6535	folder 10
Gordon L. Thomas Obituaries, 1977, 1997	box 6535	folder 11
Mayor of East Lansing, 1961-1971, undated	box 6535	folder 12
Michigan State University, 1939, 1955, 1959-circa 1984	box 6535	folder 13
Newspaper article - East Lansing City Seal Adopted, 1957	box 6535	folder 14
Photographs - Gordon L. Thomas, undated	box 6535	folder 15
Photographs - Michigan State University, 1954, 1956, 1960, undated	box 6535	folder 16
WJIM Controversy, 1961	box 6535	folder 17
Digital File of Film - Edgewood Church, Soapy Williams (see archivist for access), 1953-1954		
Digital images of wood Dutch clogs given to Gordon Thomas on Mayor Exchange Day (see archivist for access), 1970		

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Phyllis M. Thomas

Title/Description	Instances	
Arts Correspondence and Articles, 1971, 1973-1974, 1981	box 6535	folder 18
East Lansing Religion and Civil Rights research for article, 1964	box 6535	folder 19
Phyllis M. Thomas obituary, 1989	box 6535	folder 20
Portraits - Town Crier Articles and Drafts, 1964-1980, undated	box 6535	folder 21

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