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## Thomas Collection (MSS 31)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 31 THOMAS Collection**

6 boxes. 33 folders. 695 items. 1793-1961. Originals.

1961.16.1

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Frank Morehead Thomas (1868-1921) was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, the son of physician Richard Curd Thomas (1838-1879) and Elizabeth (Wright) Thomas (1842-1931). Their other children were lawyers Thomas Wright (1866-1930) and Richard Curd Pope (1872-1939). Thomas attended Bowling Green schools, including Ogden College where he received his A.B. and A.M. degrees. In 1893 he was awarded a B.D. from Vanderbilt University and at a later date he received his D.D. from Kentucky Wesleyan College. After joining the Louisville Methodist Episcopal Church Conference in 1893, he served a number of the larger Kentucky churches – Louisville, Owensboro, Henderson, and Morganfield. During Thomas' four-year stay at Fourth Avenue Methodist Church in Louisville, he was elected book editor and editor of the *Methodist Quarterly Review*, a position he held from 1915 until his death in 1921. From 1894 to 1916 Thomas served as chaplain of the Third Kentucky Infantry and participated in the Spanish-American War in Cuba during 1898 and 1899. Thomas' most notable work during his ministry was his twelve-year secretaryship of the joint commission planning for the merger of the Northern and Southern Methodist churches. Thomas married Stella Phillips (1868-1924), and their children included Sarah Elizabeth, Thomas Richard, and Frank Morehead, Jr. (1910-1934).

His mother wrote poetry, essays, and articles for the local newspapers and recorded her reminiscences of childhood friends and of her Civil War experiences.

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

The Collection.

Louisville Conference. Methodist Church.  
 Historical Society. *Century of Progress*,  
 1846-1946, 1946.

**THE COLLECTION**

This collection is comprised chiefly of sermons, 1893-1930 (462 items); speeches, 1893-1920 (58); and letters, 1898-1913 (33) of Frank Morehead Thomas. Included are his letters written to his family while serving as chaplain in the Spanish-American War during 1898-1899 (25 items) which describe his regiment while stationed in Lexington, Kentucky, en route to Cuba, and their return to the United States. There are also letters written to the editor of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 1908-1913 (3); prayers; poems; essays; sermons

composed for newspaper publications; compositions written for publications; and the foreword to his book *The Coming Presence*, published in 1912. The manuscript (original and revised) of Thomas' "The Heart of America," ca. 1910, coupled with a penciled copy of "Uncle Tom" from "The Heart of America" are present.

Miscellaneous items concerning Thomas include a letter probably written by his mother; miscellaneous pamphlets; a "Requiem to Frank M. Thomas" by Lucien V. Rule; clippings; resolutions enacted at Methodist meetings; receipts; and a church certificate of membership (photocopy) of Thomas and Ann Bridges, formerly of Scotland, 1793.

Elizabeth Wright Thomas' writings include the "Fall of Fort Donelson," a personal Civil War experience, and an essay written on the occasion of her graduation from Mary Kendall Jones' private school in Bowling Green. Other items include a small scrapbook, pictures, death and funeral notices of Bowling Green residents, and newspaper clippings, one of which relates an account of a "malicious shooting and riot" at Potter College in Bowling Green in 1901. The law notes of Daniel Webster Wright (1839-1921), Elizabeth's brother, taken while a student at law school in Albany, New York, and law notes of Frank M. Thomas, Jr., while attending Harvard Law School from 1932 to 1934, complete the collection.

### **SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Thomas, Frank M. – Sermons A-M</b>	<b>1893-1920</b>	<b>215 items</b>
Folder 1	Sermons, A-C		56 items
Folder 2	Sermons, D-F		40 items
Folder 3	Sermons, G-I		65 items
Folder 4	Sermons, J-M		54 items
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Thomas, Frank M. – Sermons N-Z</b>	<b>1893-1920</b>	<b>247 items</b>
Folder 1	Sermons, N-R		63 items
Folder 2	Sermons, S-T		71 items
Folder 3	Sermons, U-Z		44 items
Folder 4	Incomplete sermons, including loose sheets of sermons		69 items
<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>Letters, speeches and miscellaneous items</b>	<b>1793-1921</b>	<b>188 items</b>
Folder 1	Letters from Frank M. Thomas to his family while he served as chaplain in the Spanish-American War	1898-1899	25 items
Folder 2	Letters from Frank M. Thomas	1908-1913	8 items

Folder 3	Letters to Frank M. Thomas	1901-1920	8 items
Folder 4	Speeches, A-O		33 items
Folder 5	Speeches, P-Z		25 items
Folder 6	Writings: Poems, prayers, compositions for publications		30 items
Folder 7	Miscellaneous items: Letters, church certificate of membership of Thomas and Ann Bridges from Scotland, 1793; pamphlets; a Requiem Poem written May 10, 1921, for Frank M Thomas by Lucien V. Rule; clippings; Resolutions at Methodist meetings; receipts	1793-1921	36 items
Folder 8	Photos taken by Frank M. Thomas during the Spanish-American War in Cuba and in Army camps (index included)	1898(?)	23 items
<b>BOX 4</b>	<b>Thomas, J., Franklin and Thomas, Frank M., Jr.</b>	<b>1932-1947</b>	<b>8 items</b>
Folder 1	J. Franklin Thomas – U.S. Merchant Marine officer’s license	1947	1 item
Folder 2	Frank M. Thomas, Jr., team manager – Official baseball score book for Ogden College	1926	1 item
Folder 3	Frank M. Thomas, Jr. – Law notes, Harvard Law School	1932-1934	1 item, 295 p.
Folder 4	Frank M. Thomas, Jr. – Law notes, Harvard Law School	1932-1934	3 items, 255 p.
Folder 5	Frank M. Thomas, Jr. – Law notes, Harvard Law School	1932-1934	1 item, 109 p.
Folder 6	Frank M. Thomas, Jr. – Law notes, Harvard Law School	1932-1934	1 item, 148 p.
<b>BOX 5</b>	<b>Miscellaneous items</b>	<b>1860-1961</b>	<b>33 items</b>
Folder 1	“Uncle Tom,” copied in pencil by Ella B. Smith from typed pages of “The Heart	1961	1 item, 6 p.

	of America” by Frank M. Thomas, a fictional account of the life of Dr. Thomas Briggs Wright, 1806-88		
Folder 2	Original manuscript of “The Heart of America” by Frank M. Thomas, Part 1	ca. 1910	1 item, 152 p.
Folder 3	Original manuscript of “The Heart of America” by Frank M. Thomas, Part 2	ca. 1910	1 item, 156 p.
Folder 4	Scrapbook of Elizabeth Wright Thomas, world tour postcards from John J. Valentine, and a \$5 bank note from Peoples Bank, Bowling Green	1860-1904	1 item, 56 p.
Folder 5	Miscellaneous items	1866-1961	6 items
	5a - Pictures of Elizabeth Wright Thomas, her sister Ella Wright Smith, and Margaret McFerrin Bagby, all participants in Elizabeth Wright Thomas’ account of the “Fall of Fort Donelson”		3 items
	5b - Manuscript written by Elizabeth Coombs identifying the pictures of Elizabeth Thomas, Ella Smith, and Margaret McFerrin Bagby and giving biographical information about the three girls and their part in E.W. Thomas’ account of the “Fall of Donelson”; the “Fall of Fort Donelson” by E.W. Thomas; typewritten copy from the Bowling Green <i>Times-Journal</i> , Feb. 1923, by Ella B. Smith; and typewritten information by Ella B. Smith to be added to the story “Fall of Fort Donelson”		3 items
Folder 6	Law notebooks (2 vols.) of Daniel W. Wright, Albany, N.Y. law school	1866	2 items
Folder 7	Writings, pictures, etc.	1888-1897	8 items
	7a - Pictures of “Aunt” Minerva Cox, mother of “Aunt” Frances Kersey, who		2 items

	belonged to Dr. Thomas Briggs Wright		
	7b - Tribute to "Aunt" Mary Frances Kersey from scrapbook of Elizabeth W. Thomas and death notice card of her husband, Solomon W. Kersey	1888-1897	2 items
	7c - Unidentified essay "Among Nature's Beauties," possibly written by Elizabeth W. Thomas; speech to Ladies Literary club given by Elizabeth; and poem copied by Agatha R. Strange for Roland Smith	1894, 1927	3 items
	7d - Original copy of the graduation essay of Elizabeth W. Thomas upon her graduation from Mary Kendall Jones' private school	n.d.	1 item
Folder 8	Funeral notices, clippings, etc.	1858-1937	14 items
	8a - Funeral notice cards (with typed copies) of Dr. R. C. Thomas, C. P. Burnam, Dr. T. B. Wright, and M. J. Grafulla and a scrapbook page with affixed newspaper clippings and two Confederate bills, (\$10 and \$50)	1858-1888	5 items
	8b - Miscellaneous newspaper clippings from the <i>Louisville Courier-Journal</i> , <i>New York Times</i> , <i>Cincinnati Enquirer</i> , Bowling Green's <i>Park City Daily News</i> and <i>Times Journal</i> that include a full account of a "malicious shooting and riot" in 1901 at Potter College in Bowling Green	1900-1937	9 items
<b>BOX 6</b>	<b>Miscellaneous items</b>	<b>1910</b>	<b>3 items</b>
Folder 1	Bound typescript of "The Heart of America: A Tale of the Ohio Valley" by Frank M. Thomas (vol. 1)	1910	1 item
Folder 2	Bound typescript of "The Heart of America: A Tale of the Ohio Valley" by Frank M. Thomas (vol. 2)	1910	1 item



Poetry B3,F7  
 Postcards B5,F4  
 Potter College – History B5,F8b  
 Religion – Letters of recommendation, 1793 B3,F7  
 Rule, Lucien V., b. 1871 – Poem B3,F7  
 Scrapbooks – Thomas, Elizabeth (Wright) B5,F4  
 Sermons – Methodist, 1893-1920 B1; B2  
 Slavery B5,F5&7  
 Slavery – Fiction B5,F1-3  
 Smith, Ella P. (Wright), 1848-1916 B5,F5  
 Smith, Ella P. (Wright), 1848-1916 – Photos B5,F5a  
 Spanish-American War, 1898 – Letters B3,F1  
 Spanish-American War, 1898 – Military life – Photos B3,F8  
 Spanish-American War, 1898 – Photos B3,F8  
 Speeches, 1893-1920 – Thomas, Frank Morehead B3,F4,5&7  
 Temperance, 1901 B3,F3  
 Thomas, Elizabeth (Wright), 1842-1931 B5,F4-5&7  
 Thomas, Elizabeth (Wright), 1842-1931 – Photos B5,F5a  
 Thomas family – Letters, 1898-1920 B3,F1-3  
 Thomas, Frank Morehead, 1868-1921 B1; B2; B3; B4,F1-3  
 Thomas, Frank Morehead, Jr., 1910-1934 B4,F2-6  
 Thomas, Richard Curd, 1838-1879 – Funeral notice B5,F8a  
 Valentine, John J., 1840-1901 B5,F4  
 Wright, Daniel Webster, 1839-1921 – Law notebooks, 1866 B5,F6  
 Wright, Thomas Briggs, 1806-1888 – Relating to B5,F1&8a

***SEE and SEE ALSO***

Thomas, Anna Elizabeth (Wright), 1842-1931

See:

Thomas, Elizabeth (Wright)

Minerva (Aunt)

See:

Cox, Minerva

Jeffrey 11/28/2011