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Thomas, Mazie Lee (Allen), 1906-2001 (MSS 199)

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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 199 THOMAS, Mazie Lee (Allen), 1906-2001

½ box. 5 folders. 84 items. 1955-2001.
Originals, photocopies, slides, and videotape.

2008.15.21-22, 25

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mazie Lee (Allen) Thomas was born 13 August 1906 in Jenkins County, Georgia to Susie (Cooper) and Boyce W. Allen. After working as a domestic in Philadelphia and Indiana, she married Joseph Henderson Thomas and resided in Adairville, Kentucky. The largely self-taught artist began drawing and painting at an early age. When she was 47 years old she took a bus to Nashville, Tennessee to show one of her paintings to an art teacher at Tennessee A & I State University. The teacher then traveled to Adairville to persuade Joseph Thomas to allow his wife to attend school to study art. She was a special student at the college for the 1953-1954 academic year. She worked in oil, watercolor and acrylic to produce landscapes and depictions of rural life such as hog-killing. She also created craft items such as decorative bottles, corn shuck dolls, and papier mache figures. Many of her paintings are in the permanent collection of the Kentucky Folk Art Center in Morehead, Kentucky and others are in the collection of the Kentucky Museum, Bowling Green, Kentucky. Mazie Lee Thomas died 30 June 2001 and is buried beside her husband in Maple Lawn Cemetery in Adairville.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of items from a scrapbook about Thomas compiled by her niece, Vicki Lawrence of Bowling Green, Kentucky. The items include original artwork and greeting cards, a biographical sketch, and news clippings about Thomas's art. Also included are slides of four of Thomas's oil paintings and a short 1994 video tape showing Thomas in her home discussing some of her paintings.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	THOMAS, Mazie Lee (Allen)	1955-2001	84 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item

Folder 2	Copies of pages from scrapbook compiled by Vicki Lawrence	1955-2001	31 items
Folder 3	Items from scrapbook compiled by Virginia M. Lloyd	1955-2001	39 items
Folder 4	Slides of four of Thomas's oil paintings	n.d.	12 items
Folder 5	Videotape of Thomas at home	1994	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS THOMAS, Mazie Lee (Allen), 1955-2001
199 1906-2001

Thomas's original art work and greeting cards from a scrapbook compiled by Thomas's niece, Vicki Lawrence. Also, a biographical sketch, slides of four oil paintings, news clippings and a short videotape of Allen discussing her work.

½ box. 5 folders. 84 items. Originals, photocopies, slides and videotape.
2008.15.21-22, 25

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

African Americans – Logan County
Art and artists – Logan County
Chambers, Tommie – Letter from
Christmas cards
Easter cards
Folk artists – Logan County
Get-well cards
Greeting cards
Lloyd, Virginia M. – Letters to
New Year cards
Sympathy cards
Thomas, Mazie Lee (Allen), 1906-2001 – Photos

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