

# CAPE ANN Museum

## Library & Archives

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### JEFF THOMAS PAPERS

<b>Creator:</b>	Jeff Thomas; various
<b>Dates:</b>	1911-2013
<b>Quantity:</b>	0.5 linear feet (1 manuscript box)
<b>Acquisition:</b>	Accession #: 2017.043 ; Donated by: Janet Thomas
<b>Identification:</b>	A84 ; Archive Collection #84
<b>Citation:</b>	[Document Title]. The Jeff Thomas Papers, [Box #, Folder #, Item #], Cape Ann Museum Library & Archives, Gloucester, MA.
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<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Finding Aid:</b>	Processed 2017 by Olivia Melton, intern, for Stephanie Buck, Librarian/Archivist. Updated by Karla Kaneb, June 2020.

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### Biographical Note

Jeffrey Gordon Thomas was born on November 29, 1936, the only son of Gordon W. and Bertha M. (Singer) Thomas. He had two younger sisters, Cynthia and Raymah, both named for schooners. His father, Gordon W. Thomas, was the author of *Fast & Able*, the seminal book on Gloucester's fishing fleet in the days of sail, and his namesake and grandfather, Capt. Jeff Thomas, was master of the iconic Gloucester fishing schooner *Adventure*. Jeff was immensely proud of both of these men and their accomplishments.

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Jeff married Janet Pablo of the Dominican Republic on October 13, 1959, and the couple had four children: Jeffrey Jr., Brock, Carmen, and Eileen.

After serving in the Navy for twenty-two years Jeff joined the Veterans' Administration, working at a hospital in Bedford, MA, for a further thirty-four years. He loved the outdoors, interacting with people, and talking about Gloucester's maritime history. In his retirement, he made daily trips to the Fishermen's Memorial on Stacy Boulevard in Gloucester where he fascinated locals and visitors with the stories behind the more than 5,000 names inscribed on the bronze plaques.

Jeff died March 11, 2017, survived by his wife and children.

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## Acquisition Note

Gift of Janet Thomas, wife of Jeff Thomas.

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## Scope and Content of the Collection

Brief description: Scripts for Gordon Thomas Oral History tapes, misc. clippings, papers, photos, correspondence, maps.

Miscellaneous collection of correspondence, photographs, and newspaper and magazine articles mostly pertaining to Jeff Thomas' father Gordon Thomas, local maritime historian.

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## Container List

### Box 1

- Folder 1      Gordon W. Thomas Oral History Scripts
  - Taping Sessions Appointments Oral Histories and Historical Remembrances of the "Gloucestermen" 1-8
  - Taping Sessions Appointments Oral Histories and Historical Remembrances of the "Gloucestermen" 1-7
  - Gordon W. Thomas- An Oral History Script Outline
  - Gordon W. Thomas- An Oral History Tape #1 Script Outline
  - Gordon W. Thomas- An Oral History Tape #1A Script Outline (Marshall Bourinot)
  - Gordon W. Thomas- An Oral History Tape #2 Script Outline
  - Gordon W. Thomas- An Oral History Tape #3 Script Outline
  - Gordon W. Thomas- An Oral History Tape #4 Script Outline
  - Gordon W. Thomas- An Oral History Tape #5 Continued Script Outline
  - Gordon W. Thomas- An Oral History Tape #11 Script Outline (Harry Eustis)
  - Gordon W. Thomas- An Oral History Tape #12 Script Outline (Capt. Angus Tanner)
  - Gordon W. Thomas- An Oral History Tape #12 Part 1 Script Outline
  - Gordon W. Thomas- An Oral History Tape #20 Script Outline (Harry Eustis)

Original Copy of Questions For “The Gloucestermen” p. 1-11  
Questions for “The Gloucestermen” 8-41  
Gordon W. Thomas (Mr. Schooner) Oral History Tape 2 Notes on A – 2 p.  
Gordon W. Thomas (Mr. Schooner) Oral History Tape 4 Notes on B – 3 p.  
Gordon W. Thomas (Mr. Schooner) Oral History Tape ? Notes on C – 5 p.  
Gordon W. Thomas (Mr. Schooner) Oral History Tape 9 Notes on D – 4 p.

Folder 2      Gordon W. Thomas Misc. Papers  
Gordon W. Thomas Tributes  
Statement of Captain Joseph P. Mesquita of The Schooner *Francis J. O’Hara Jr.*,  
    Regarding The Loss of That Vessel August 20. ‘18  
“The Rape of the Boston Fishing Industry” Letter  
Questions For The Gloucestermen, 8-41  
Gordon W. Thomas Memorial Service Pamphlet  
Card: Gloucester Fishermen’s Institute- Life Membership Gordon Thomas  
Card: Gloucester High School Athletic Association Football Season 1921  
“He was my mate, my pilot.” Gordon W. Thomas  
“On the Waterfront,” Gordon Thomas Honored by Sean Murphy  
Gordon W. Thoma, 1979s (partial)  
“Thomas photos preserved” by Sean Murphy  
Waterfront of old profiled in new book of early photos by Tim Sullivan  
Gordon Thomas’ new book: “Wharf and Fleet”  
“City of Gloucester will honor Ipswich’s Gordon Thomas” at a dinner held at the  
    Gloucester Tavern  
“City salutes fishermen’s historian” *GDT*, 1979  
“Gordon Thomas, 76, expert on schooners” by Sean Murphy  
“Gordon W. Thomas,” Master Mariners Assoc., 1952  
“Gloucester Harbor’s Most Famous Guest” by Gordon Thomas  
Gordon W. Thomas, maritime historian continued (part 2 only)  
Letter South Street Seaport Museum To Ship Committee CC Gordon Thomas Subject:  
    Identity of the Schooner Caviare  
Cast of Play “Miss Civilization”  
Gordon Thomas Autographing  
More than a family affair by Peter Anastas  
“Echoes from the Past,” Marshall J. Bourinot, 1983

Folder 3      Miscellaneous Booklets and MSS  
Fishing notes  
Data on numbers of men lost at sea  
Brochure - Fisheries and Maritime Collections- Cape Ann Historical Association  
Cape Ann Historical Association Newsletter, 1983 (New Fisheries Exhibit)  
Brochure - *Helen Miller Gould, Catherine, Theodore Roosevelt, Annie M. Parker, Oriole*  
Gloucester Master Mariners’ Association Year Book, 1953

Magazine Ad: Gloucester- A Coastal Journal  
"The Last Schoonerman," Joe Russell, advertising notes  
Misc. Photocopies of photographs  
"Proud Pete" Welcome Aboard *USS Peterson* (DD969)  
Moby Duck Script

Folder 4        Items in manila envelope labeled Nantucket Material  
Our Island Treasures- Nantucket Donations for 75th Anniversary  
Handwritten note re: hotels  
Summer Schedule Summer Season 1962 Nantucket Steamship Authority  
Nantucket Travel Guide  
Postcards of Nantucket (8)  
Nantucket Island 37 Color Views of Where to Go Booklet  
Island Queen Pamphlet  
Nantucket Boat Basin Reservation Request Form  
Sea Cliff Inn Pamphlet  
Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Car/Passenger Ships Pamphlet  
Booklet: Listing of the Membership of the Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce  
Nantucket Martha's Vineyard Excursion Ship Pamphlet – *Catherine Tek* (2 copies)  
Martha's Vineyard Island Tourist Map  
Letter to Gordon from Charles F. Sayle  
Charles Sayle painting the billet head, 1961  
2 Photographs of Sloop *Argonaut*, 1953, 1956  
Photo of shanty & sailing dory 1961  
Photo of Charles Jr's Boat 1961  
Martha's Vineyard Your Vacation Port Pamphlet  
Photo card of a Great Point Light  
Wedding Announcement of Charles Sayle and Kathleen Mary Tangula  
Nantucket Cruises- The Siasconset Cruise Ship Pamphlet  
Town of Nantucket Map  
*Argonaut* (Capt. Charlie Sayle)  
Booklet: The Nantucket Whaling Museum by W. Ripley Nelson  
Clippings:  
"Beard and Ship Models—That's Charlie Sayles"  
"Charles Sayle, modelmaker" National Geographic Magazine  
"Young Charley Sayle is the last full-time fishermen" (partial)  
"State Humane Society Medal is Awarded to Charles Sayle Jr." 1959  
"Nantucket Has Bravest Boy"  
"Nantucket's Charles Sayle, Jr. Nominated State's 'Bravest Boy'"  
"Waterfront News" by Charles F. Sayle  
"Sea Cliff Inn being dismantled" News Picture 1972

Folder 5        Gordon W. Thomas Correspondence

Letter To Gordon Thomas From Lunenburg Reception Committee, 1955  
InterNational Dory Race Program  
Letter To Gordon Thomas From Johnson Crescent, 1972  
Letter To Gordon Thomas From The Edison Corp. re: *Eugenia J.*, 1953  
Cape Anne Historical Association Letter To Martin J. Horgan CC. Gordon Thomas From  
Martha Oaks  
Letter To Gordon Thomas From CAHA (Martha Oaks), 1983  
Letter To Gordon Thomas From Lunenburg Fisherman's Mutual Relief Association, 1955  
Letter To Gordon W. Thomas From G.A. Macinnis, 1953  
Letter To Gordon Thomas From Bob Powers Veteran's Admin., 1983  
Letter To G.W. From R.M. Smith, 1956  
*U.S.S. Boston* Plan of the Day (partial), 1958  
Letter To Gordon Thomas From Micky Sears, Building Center, 1983  
Letter To Pierre Trudeau, 1979  
Letter To Gordon W. Thomas. Re: song "Lonely Fisherman," 1954  
Letter to CAHA from L.R. Nickerson, 1961  
Letter To CAHA from Charles H. Jenrich, 1961  
Letter to Gordon Thomas & Charles H. Jenrich from Gloucester Chamber of Commerce  
to Commerce re: Schooner Races, 1961  
Letter To Gordon Thomas From Dunham Brothers Co. re: *Chester Lawrence*  
Letter to Gordon Thomas From Gloucester Chamber of Commerce & North Star Books  
re: photos for books by Mary Ellen Chase, 1960  
Empty Envelope To Gordon Thomas From Thomas M. Hoyne  
Letter To Gordon Thomas re: deadline, 1956  
Letter To Gordon Thomas From J. W. Fletches Library re: T. Hoyne print, 1985  
Letter To Gordon Thomas From Mrs. E.J. Morovka re: *Gertrude S. Thebaud*, 1952  
4 Letters To Gordon Thomas From National Revenue Canada re: Fate of Vessels, 1948-  
1952

Folder 6 Donations and Paper Work

Gift Agreement DesBrisay Museum Jeff Thomas, 1983  
Donation Note To Gordon Thomas From the Peabody Museum, 1956  
Donation Note To Gordon Thomas From Western Counties Regional Library, 2000  
Letter Cape Ann Historical Association Letter To Jeff Thomas From Martha Oaks-  
Inventory of donations since 1983 (original & copy)  
Essex Shipbuilding Museum To Jeff Thomas From The Board re: Donation  
CAHA To Jeff Thomas From Stephanie Buck re: Donations, 2006  
The Gloucester Adventure To Jeff Thomas From Ileen Graham re: Donation, 1993  
The President and Trustees of the Peabody Museum of Salem To Jeff Thomas From  
Peter (Fitihdo?) Donations, 1984  
Trust Agreement Between Gloucester Celebration Corporation and City of Gloucester  
(unsigned), 2002  
P.J. deRonde Granite Company Recipe for Memorial, 2002

Gloucester Fishermen's Memorial Cenotaph Trust Fund (Mission Statement)  
Essex Shipbuilding Museum To Jeff Thomas From J. Witham re: Donation  
Essex Shipbuilding Museum To Jeff Thomas re: Donation  
Notes re: Gift of Life Saving Medal, 1984  
CAHA Accession Sheet #2370  
Appraisal Peabody Museum- from Gregory A. Gibson, 1987 p.2  
Mystic Seaport Donor Jeff Thomas, Books, 2002  
Gift Agreement Shelburne Museum and Jeff Thomas, 1983  
Letter CAHA To Jeff Thomas From Martha Oaks- Inventory of Gifts, 1984  
Ten Pound Island Book Company To Jeff Thomas Appraisal of material, 1987  
Gordon Thomas Collection, Books  
Shelburne County Museum To Jeff Thomas From Finn Bower, 1983  
Cape Ann Historical Association To Jeff Thomas From James Craig, 2006 re: Donation  
Accession Sheet, Documentary artifacts 4 items #2006.13.01.04

Folder 7        Miscellaneous Photos

Patsy and Joan MacInnis  
Amos Bristow & wife  
Three Photo Negatives  
Photograph of Framed Boat Painting  
Photograph of *USS Boston*, 1960  
Photograph of Rocks on the Ocean, Martha H. Harvey  
Unidentified Sch. Oct 65 (2 copies)  
Envelope To Gordon Thomas with photo of T. Hoyne's painting "On Station."

Folder 8        Misc. copies of Newspaper & Magazine Articles

"Sailors love turkey, too"  
"The Birthplace of Capt. Jeff" by Jeff Thomas, 1982  
"People we meet" by Harold Shea, 1983  
"Any Breeze Will Do" by Jeff Thomas, 1982  
"A deep sense of peace" by Jeff Thomas, 1982  
"*Andrea Gail* presumed lost" by Richard Salit  
"Native son shares local lore"  
"5,368 reasons to remember city's fishermen"  
"Many Fine Compliments Given 'Prosperity Builders' Book", 1952  
"Gloucester's historic schooner ready for festival race"  
"Blackburn sloop, Thomas photos earn city grants" by Nick Mencher  
"*Adventure* a source of civic pride" 2013  
George Clooney "Perfect Storm"  
"The Fisherman's Races" by Peter Barnicle  
Poem "Forgotten" William C. Norman  
Poem "God Bless The Fishermen" by Celis  
"The Gang Standing by For A Squall"

Poem "Gloucester" E.J. Buzzelle  
"The memories...remain special" by Sean Murphy, 1982  
"Square Riggers from the Old Word" 1983  
"Preserving past called a must" & "Author denies fishermen ignored"  
"City salutes fishermen's historian" by Bill Cahill, 1979  
"Gloucester Tales of the Sea" by Everett R. Jodrey  
"Wylie Rudolph: The Gloucestermen Found and Remembered"  
Donald Ross Travel Editor (2 copies)  
Partial & undated:  
"Graceful schooner ..."  
"The School Connection"  
Capt, Jeff Thomas at helm of *Cynthia*

Folder 9      Photocopies, Magazine clippings and Maps  
13 clippings of photos of unidentified vessels  
The Beautiful *Oriole*  
"Old Navy Days In Gloucester Harbor" *U.S.S Tennessee* 1921  
17 Year Old Gordon Thomas Walk the Deck of the New Schooner *Puritan*, 1922  
*USS Buchnell* Anchored In Gloucester In 1921-3  
*USS Delaware* Anchored In Gloucester In 1921  
*USS Tennessee*, Gloucester Harbor, 1921  
Young Gordon playing in the rigging of Sch. *Elk*, 1916/19  
1922 Gloucester Schooner *Columbia*  
Gloucester dory at Peabody Museum in Salem  
"Enemy shore fire kicks up fountains of spray" and "The cruiser in action"  
Gloucester Fishing Schooner *L.A. Dunton*  
Model of a Grand Banker, 1741  
Model of a Pinkey, 1810  
Dicks and Company, Lt. Calendar Sch. *Helen & Thomas*  
Calendar picture Schooner *Bluenose II*  
*USS Carr* Gunner Mate Third Class Paul Henry Carr  
Calendar Image of Boats in Bay  
*Elsie* Racing Fishing Schooner Calendar Image  
"Mr. Schooner in Nova Scotia" 1981  
"Capt. Jeff at the Wheel of Sch. *Cynthia*" 1911  
"Young Mr. Schooner at the wheel of *Marchal Foch*" 1919  
"Equal to the Challenge" crew of *Sylvania*, 1918  
Annotated Cape Ann Map in Blue  
Isle Madame Map – noting landing point after sinking by Germans in 1918  
Pictorial map of the White Mountains of New Hampshire showing location of  
Recreational Facilities  
A Salty Map of Cape Ann

Folder 10 Jeff Thomas Papers

Misc. Handwritten Notes

“On The Passing of a Seafarer” by Jeff Thomas pp. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7

“Any Breeze Would Do” by Jeff Thomas

Last page of a Letter from Jeff Thomas To unknown re: Fast & Able

“A Beach of Fine Sand” by Jeff Thomas

Poem “A (Soldier?) From Newfoundland”

Gloucester Daily Times “Dories Away,” 1959

“Young Mr. Schooner Gloucester in Her Blush and Beauty” 1916

The Fishermen’s Memorial Overview

Words written and spoken by Jeff Thomas at Gordon Thomas Testimonial

Gloucester Fish Chowder Recipe

Copy of Letter To Babe From Capt. Jeff Thomas Jan 6th 1934 & last page repeat

Copy of Letter To Babe From Capt. Jeff Thomas Jan 12th 1934 & last page repeat

Handwritten Letter To Mayor from Jeff Thomas

Note on Yellow Paper- Jeff Thomas re: Fuller School Lecture

Different Museum Contact Information

Handwritten Notes Able 4th Edition

List of School Teachers

“Jeff’s Boy” Chapter 3

Note List of Chapters

Notes on Gloucester in her Blush and Beauty

Question for Alphonse Bouchie

Reminiscences about Capt. Jeff Thomas Pages 4-15 Handwritten

Facts About Capt. Jeff

Notes on Twin Lights- Thacher’s Island

Fishermen’s Boarding House Questions

List of Hotels and their Fates

Letter of Appreciation to Mayor Bruce Toby for Jeff Thomas from Long Island Univ.,  
2001

“A royal welcome” *Sir William Alexander*

“Local fishing industry evolves, becomes more unified” by Barbara Taormina, 2000

“*Jesse L. Brown*: pride of the Navy” by Kim Bartlett, July 1973

“Gloucester” by E.J. Buzzelle

American Schooner Association, free membership

The Hull and Rig of Vessels

“British Destroyer to visit harbor starting Tuesday” by Richard Salt

“What a treasure of our past!” Peter Anastas, 1982

“Five great sailing ships honored in silver” by Paul Kenyon

“Famous Schooner Medallion Series”

“An Ode to Old Gloucester” by Richard Buffum

Fisherman’s “Memorial Arrives”

“Giant warship anchors here; cruiser Boston will visit us over holiday” 1963



Letter To Jeff Thomas from Sherman Zwicker, Mayor of Lunenburg, 1979

Reference for Jeff Thomas from Veterans Admin., 1991

Page of names.

Misc. unattributed notes

Folder 11 Gordon W. Thomas Park

“Harbor park to honor author” by Bill Cahill, 1983

“Thomas Park dedication tomorrow” by Kevin Sullivan, 1984

“It was a real Gloucester crowd... “by Bill Cahill

Thomas Park dedication tomorrow by Kevin Sullivan

“Dukakis to attend park dedication” by Sean Murphy, 1983

Handwritten Note For Head of Harbor Park Plaque

Gordon W. Thomas Park Plaque Inscription

More than 300 honor Gordon Thomas

Letter To Mayor Alper From Dorothy H. Stanley re: GWT Park, 1983

Letter To Mayor Alpert From Angus M. Hulslander, 1982

Letter To Mayor Leo Alper From Richard Lopes, Voyage Productions, 1983

Letter To Mayor Leo Alper From William Collins, 1983

Letter To Mayor Leo Alper From Jack Conrad, 1983

Letter To Mayor Leo Alper From Peter Anastas, 1983

Letter To Mayor Silva From William Collins, 1984

Letter From Leo Alper From Niels W. Jannasch, 1983

Letter To Mayor Leo-Alper From Robert Powers, p.2

Disbursed to Vertical Files

The Arichat Frenchmen in Gloucester: Problems of Identification and Identity

PT. W. H. Thomas Died Suddenly, Known Master Mariner and Manager Gloucester Cold

Storage Succumbed to Heart Attack

Book Review “Adventure” J. Garland

Gloucester’s 350th anniversary celebration by Bill Cahill

Ghost’s History haunt Maine windjammer

The Photographs of Martha Hale Harvey

Homeward Bound by William Aeberli

*Herbert Parker, Prosperity Builders* by Gordon W. Thomas

History of This church is history of Portuguese families in Gloucester by Barbara Erkkila

Pamphlet *Lettie G. Howard* A Gloucester fishing schooner of 1893

Curious Naturalist Five Plants that Changed the World

Photograph of Giant Squid on the Beach

These beans never made Boston by Beth Albert, *SS Rio Branco*

The Naming of Capt. Solomon Jacobs Park by Paul Kenyon

What ever happened to Wonson sea serpent? By Alice E. Babson

Complete List of Gloucester Fishing Landings for 1999

Prosperity Builders Thrilling Career of Sch. *Lillian Baxter* by Gordon W. Thomas

Sch. *Marechal Foch* Builders of Prosperity by Gordon Thomas  
Last of a Long line of Nunans by Paul Kenyon  
*J.J. Flaherty*, Model of, Why the change of heart! By Paul Kenyon  
Gloucester Fisherman's Museum, 1979  
American Sailing Craft-11. Gloucester Sloop  
Ocean Perch, Food Fish Facts No.15.  
Essex Ship Building, 1950  
Cap'n Jim Walen was an ace by Joe Garland  
*John J. Fallon* struck by squalls  
*Squanto*  
Note on the Fishermen's Memorial