JEFF THOMAS PAPERS

Creator: Jeff Thomas; various
Dates: 1911-2013
Quantity: 0.5 linear feet (1 manuscript box)
Acquisition: Accession #: 2017.043 ; Donated by: Janet Thomas
Identification: A84 ; Archive Collection #84
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Language: English

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.
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.

Acquisition Note
Gift of Janet Thomas, wife of Jeff Thomas.

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.

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 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

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
Jeff Thomas Papers – A84 – page 4

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

27 Pleasant Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930 USA
+1 978-283-0455
capeannmuseum.org
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 CAHA from L.R. Nickerson, 1961
Letter To CAHA from Charles H. Jenrich, 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
“The 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

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capeannmuseum.org
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