

# York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

## Finding Aid - Archambeau-Thomas family collection (F0612)

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Language of description: English

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# Archambeau-Thomas family collection

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)
<b>Title:</b>	Archambeau-Thomas family collection
<b>ID:</b>	F0612
<b>Date:</b>	[ca. 1891]-2013, predominant 1967-2004 (date of creation)
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Physical description:</b>	0.24 m of textual records 3 scrapbooks : 20 x 37 cm and 30 x 25 cm 42 photographs : col. and b&w ; 18 x 15 cm or smaller
<b>Note [generalNote]:</b>	[RAD 1.8B21] General note: Archambeau was assisted by genealogists Alan Grevson and Madeleine E. Mitchell in compiling genealogical information regarding the Thomas family.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Gerald A. Archambeau is a Canadian citizen (b.1933) who emigrated from Jamaica to Montreal in 1947. He was the first black adolescent to join the Canadian Naval Cadets in Montreal in 1948, and the first black telegraph messenger to work for the Angelo American Telegraph Company. Archambeau worked as a passenger car attendant for the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railway in the 1950s. From 1967 to his retirement in 1993, Archambeau worked worked as a station attendant for Air Canada at the Malton (now Pearson International) airport. In 2004 Archambeau published his autobiography: "A Struggle To Walk With Dignity: The story of a Jamaican-born Canadian."

Archambeau's grandfather was a police inspector, naturalist, lecturer and explorer in Jamaica, Herbert T. Thomas.

His first wife was Gertrude Thomas. They had five sons and one daughter. The couple lost four of their sons during WWI. Archambeau's grandmother, Leonora Thomas, was Herbert T. Thomas' second wife. She was a seamstress and owned a local bakery. The couple had four daughters.

Archambeau's mother Phyllis A. Thomas, was a nurse. Phyllis had three sisters: Dorothy M. Thomas (also known as Dorothy Coot) was a legal secretary and the first female underwriter at New York Life Insurance Company; Beatrice V. Thomas was a cost accountant for a rum company based in Jamaica; Kathleen M. Thomas was also a legal secretary.

Additional biographical information can be found online through a Historica Canada recording of Archambeau speaking about his childhood in Jamaica. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZDurN3G4Gk&feature=youtu.be>.

## Scope and content

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Fonds consists of biographical writing, genealogical documents, published and photocopied books, scrapbooks and mementos created, collected and accumulated by Gerald A. Archambeau from various sources, including genealogical information regarding his grandfather Herbert T. Thomas, a police officer in Jamaica who was also a naturalist, lecturer and explorer. Material relating to Herbert T. Thomas is photocopied and scanned pamphlets, online articles and newspaper articles of material originally published from 1881 to about 1927 and relates primarily to Thomas' campaign to eradicate the practice of obeha in Jamaica.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

### Immediate source of acquisition

Donated by Gerald Archambeau in 2011 and 2013.

### Restrictions on access

No restrictions on access.

### Related material

Copies of Archambeau's autobiography "A Struggle To Walk With Dignity" (Toronto : Blue Butterfly Books, 2008) and his grandfather Herbert T. Thomas's "The Story of A West Indian Policeman, or, forty-seven years in the Jamaica constabulary" (Jamaica: The Cleaner Co. Ltd.) 1927. have been added to York University's Special Collections.

### Accruals

The fonds comprises the following accessions: 2011-047, 2013-016. Further accruals may be expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Final

## Access points

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- Textual record (documentary form)
  - Graphic material (documentary form)
- 

## Collection holdings

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### **Item: 2011-047/001(01) - Impressions on my life : scrapbook**

Title: Impressions on my life : scrapbook

ID: 2011-047/001(01)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
  - Graphic material (documentary form)
- 

### **Item: 2011-047/001(02) - My railroad years : scrapbook**

Title: My railroad years : scrapbook

ID: 2011-047/001(02)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- 

**Item: 2011-047/001(03) - My airline years : scrapbook**

Title: My airline years : scrapbook

ID: 2011-047/001(03)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
  - Graphic material (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(01) - My grandfather's career, his book info and his two marriages, travel to UK, photo of his children and his medals, articles on him**

Title: My grandfather's career, his book info and his two marriages, travel to UK, photo of his children and his medals, articles on him

ID: 2011-047/002(01)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

re. Herbert Theodore Thomas (1856-1930)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
  - Graphic material (documentary form)
-

**File: 2011-047/002(02) - Jamaica police inspector Herbert T. Thomas - grandfather of Gerald A. Archambeau - author: Herbert's travel lists to the USA and the UK with his first wife Gertrude from Jamaica**

Title: Jamaica police inspector Herbert T. Thomas - grandfather of Gerald A. Archambeau - author: Herbert's travel lists to the USA and the UK with his first wife Gertrude from Jamaica

ID: 2011-047/002(02)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(03) - Herbert T. Thomas - sent as a boy to the UK to be educated from Jamaica**

Title: Herbert T. Thomas - sent as a boy to the UK to be educated from Jamaica

ID: 2011-047/002(03)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(04) - Harry Reid Thomas, of inspector H. T. Thomas**

Title: Harry Reid Thomas, of inspector H. T. Thomas

ID: 2011-047/002(04)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records



Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(05) - Francis Hasting Thomas Jamaica police inspector**

Title: Francis Hasting Thomas Jamaica police inspector

ID: 2011-047/002(05)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(06) - Arthur Crichton Thomas**

Title: Arthur Crichton Thomas

ID: 2011-047/002(06)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

**File: 2011-047/002(07) - Herbert Prichard Thomas**

Title: Herbert Prichard Thomas

ID: 2011-047/002(07)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(08) - Godfrey Main Thomas**

Title: Godfrey Main Thomas

ID: 2011-047/002(08)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(09) - Rev. Edmund Josiah Thomas**

Title: Rev. Edmund Josiah Thomas

ID: 2011-047/002(09)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(10) - Herbert Prichard Thomas 1892-1969 of the 126th Baluchistan Infantry/ part I/ Alan Greveson**

Title: Herbert Prichard Thomas 1892-1969 of the 126th Baluchistan Infantry/ part I/ Alan Greveson

ID: 2011-047/002(10)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(11) - Herbert Prichard Thomas 1892-1969 of the 126th Baluchistan Infantry part two: the post-war period/ Alan Greveson**

Title: Herbert Prichard Thomas 1892-1969 of the 126th Baluchistan Infantry part two: the post-war period/ Alan Greveson

ID: 2011-047/002(11)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

**File: 2011-047/002(12) - The military report of my step-uncle Herbert P. Thomas, received from Alan Greveson about his action Malaya and Singapore**

Title: The military report of my step-uncle Herbert P. Thomas, received from Alan Greveson about his action Malaya and Singapore

ID: 2011-047/002(12)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(13) - Lady Marjorie Elaine Thomas**

Title: Lady Marjorie Elaine Thomas

ID: 2011-047/002(13)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(14) - Progress reports by Herbert Prichard Thomas**

Title: Progress reports by Herbert Prichard Thomas

ID: 2011-047/002(14)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

digital copies

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(15) - Herbert Prichard Thomas**

Title: Herbert Prichard Thomas

ID: 2011-047/002(15)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**Item: 2011-047/002(16) - The forgotten man of Jamaican history / Gerald A. Archambeau**

Title: The forgotten man of Jamaican history / Gerald A. Archambeau

ID: 2011-047/002(16)

Date: 21 Feb. 2011 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

re. Herbert. T. Thomas

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(17) - Book distribution in libraries and universities around the world for research and students**

Title: Book distribution in libraries and universities around the world for research and students

ID: 2011-047/002(17)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(18) - Working years recognition correspondences**

Title: Working years recognition correspondences

ID: 2011-047/002(18)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(19) - Readers' response to "A struggle to walk with dignity"**

Title: Readers' response to "A struggle to walk with dignity"

ID: 2011-047/002(19)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2011-047/002(20) - Speeches and revised introduction**

Title: Speeches and revised introduction

ID: 2011-047/002(20)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2011-047/002(21) - News articles re. book publication, model trains, activism**

Title: News articles re. book publication, model trains, activism

ID: 2011-047/002(21)

Date: 1993-2011 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**Item: 2011-047/002(22) - Passport**

Title: Passport

ID: 2011-047/002(22)

Date: 1947-1965 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/002(23) - Education and trades training membership cards, booklets for, United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe fitting industry of the United States and Canada, City of Montreal, Department of Health, Air Canada**

Title: Education and trades training membership cards, booklets for, United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe fitting industry of the United States and Canada, City of Montreal, Department of Health, Air Canada

ID: 2011-047/002(23)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:



- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/003(01) - Copies of Herbert Theodore Thomas' "Untrodden Jamaica"**

Title: Copies of Herbert Theodore Thomas' "Untrodden Jamaica"

ID: 2011-047/003(01)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/003(02) - A struggle to walk with dignity; the story of a Jamaican-born Canadian**

Title: A struggle to walk with dignity; the story of a Jamaican-born Canadian

ID: 2011-047/003(02)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/003(03) - Early booklets on Jamaica and Canada**

Title: Early booklets on Jamaica and Canada

ID: 2011-047/003(03)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2011-047/003(04) - The Canadian and Jamaican railroad info from my perspective**

Title: The Canadian and Jamaican railroad info from my perspective

ID: 2011-047/003(04)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**Item: 2013-016/001(01) - Something about Obeah / Herbert T. Thomas. Kingston : 1891.**

Title: Something about Obeah / Herbert T. Thomas. Kingston : 1891.

ID: 2013-016/001(01)

Date: [ca. 1891] (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

scanned photocopy

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2013-016/001(02) - Newspaper clippings re. career and activities of Herbert T. Thomas**

Title: Newspaper clippings re. career and activities of Herbert T. Thomas

ID: 2013-016/001(02)

Date: 1920-1927 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Includes one compact disc.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

scanned photocopy

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2013-016/001(03) - Scanned pamphlet, news clippings, online articles re. Herbert T. Thomas and his work re. Obeah.**

Title: Scanned pamphlet, news clippings, online articles re. Herbert T. Thomas and his work re. Obeah.

ID: 2013-016/001(03)

Date: [ca. 1891-1904], 2012 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

scanned photocopies and print outs

Publication status:

Published

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