

J.B. CAIN ARCHIVES OF MISSISSIPPI METHODISM

M Manuscript Papers

M 91 THOMAS, (William Nathaniel) Papers (1913-2014)

page 1

William Nathaniel Thomas (1892-1971), Rear Admiral and Chief of Chaplains of the United States Navy, was educated at Millsaps, receiving the B.A. degree with honors in 1912. He was admitted on trial in the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in 1911, and was ordained deacon in 1913 and elder in 1915. His appointments were: junior preacher at Capitol Street, Jackson, 1911; Daleville, 1912-13, Summit and East McComb, 1914; and Summit, 1915-17. In 1917 Thomas volunteered and was accepted for the chaplaincy in the Navy. Thomas became the chief chaplain in the United States Navy in 1945, the first Navy chaplain ever elevated to the rank of Rear Admiral, and served until his retirement in 1949. Admiral Thomas was a member of several organizations, including: Kappa Sigma Fraternity, International Society of Theta Phi, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of World War I, Rotary, and the Masonic Order.

Folder:

- f 1 Memoir, W.N. Thomas, published in 1971 Mississippi Conference *Journal*
Photocopies of pictures owned by Henry A. Wood, pictures of Thomas and family members, childhood through retirement
Photocopies of news articles, obituary of W.N. Thomas
Verse commemorating dedication of Thomas Walk at U.S. Naval Academy, March 11, 1980
- f 2 News clipping, *Fairfax Weekly*, December 7, 2000, W.N. Thomas' and others' recollections of Pearl Harbor attack
Memoir, Mrs. W.N. Thomas, published in 1990 Miss. Conference *Journal*
News clipping about death of W.N. Thomas, *New York Times* April 28 1971
List of Thomas family members
News clippings about W.N. Thomas
- f 3 "Oral History Transcript: Martha Ellen Fondren Thomas, Concerning the Life and Career of Rear Admiral William Nathaniel Thomas, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy (deceased) and of Their Lives Together"
By Commander H. L. Martin, Interviewer, Oral History Program
U.S. Navy, 1981, photocopy, 75 pages
Address given by W.N. Thomas at graduation exercises Navy Chaplains' School, Newport, R.I., October 4, 1951, "The Navy Chaplain's Creed"
Brief biography, 3 page typescript

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- f4 Brief biography, 2 page typed, 1973, attached W.N Thomas writing
Biography, 15 pages typed, written by Commander H. Lawrence Martin
Photocopy of news clipping, "A Great Soul" by Chaplain Frank C. Rideout,
About Thomas departing Hawaii to go to southern California
Photocopy, "A Tribute to William Nathaniel Thomas," *Navy Chaplains Bulletin*,
Spring 1971
Photocopy of Service in Memoriam, Program from the US Naval Academy
Chapel Service, April 30, 1971
Photocopy, List of burials in US Naval Academy Cemetery
Photocopy, "Now Hear This," *Shipmate*, Summer 1971, Concerning the life and
death of W.N. Thomas
Photocopy of news clipping, "Thomas, Former Navy Chaplains Chief, Dies," *The
New York Times*, April 28, 1971
Photocopy of Questionnaire about W.N Thomas Military Service, filled out
September 10, 1999 by son, W.N. Thomas, Jr.
Photocopy of letter written to W.N. Thomas on January 10, 1913 concerning
Ellen Fondren
Typescript of the life and death of "Mrs. William N. (Martha Ellen Fondren)
Thomas", 2 pages
William Nathaniel Thomas, Jr., Dr., Typed brief biography, 2 pages
William Nathaniel Thomas, Jr, Dr., Obituary, *The Sunday Capital*, November 24,
2013
Photocopy of W. N. Thomas Jr.'s Essay, "The Typical Minister," November 2,
1936
Program of the service of interment for W.N. Thomas Jr., M.D. at Arlington
National Cemetery, July 11, 2014
- f5 Photocopy of "The Caduceus of Kappa Sigma" Photo of W.N. Thomas, March
1946
Typescript of Dedication to W.N. Thomas at the Thomas Walk at the US Naval
Academy on March 11, 1980 by James. W. Conte
Photocopy of US Naval Academy Graduation Exercises on June 19, 1942
Photocopy of correspondence between Royal S. Peace and W.N Thomas
concerning the inscription on the tablet on the memorial in the Memorial
Hall at the Naval Academy, picture included, April 1952 – July 1952
Photocopy of news clipping entitled, "Mississippians" by Sue Fite Ramsey on
January 2, 1945, document incomplete

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- Typed article (photocopy of original news clipping attached), entitled "Captain Thomas Promoted to Rank of Rear Admiral" Originally from *The LOG*, June 1, 1945; In Crystal Springs newspaper on July 6, 1945
- Photocopy of letter sent by the Secretary of the Navy to W.N. Thomas concerning Thomas being awarded the Legion of Merit
- Photocopy of letter of commendation sent to W.N. Thomas by J. L. Holloway, Jr. on October 8, 1947
- Photocopy of title and presentation of Bible presented to W.N. Thomas on the 180th anniversary of the Chaplain Corp
- "Rear Admiral William Nathaniel Thomas Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy, Retired" November 23, 1949
- Photocopy of news clipping entitled, "Adm. W.N. Thomas, Former Chaplain"
- Photocopy of news clipping, "Adm. Thomas, 79, Retired Chaplain"
- Photocopy of news clipping, "W.N. Thomas Says Farewell"
- Photocopy of news clipping, "Chaplains Fete Adm. Thomas"
- Photocopy of news clipping, "Army, Navy, Air Force: Good Wishes Keep Pouring in for Retiring Chaplain," written by Anne Tardy Cupp
- f6 Photocopy of title page and article entitled, "Pride Without Prejudice" from *Tales of Annapolis: A Ring-Knockers' Bedside Companion*.
- Photocopy of "Pride Without Prejudice" by Seymour Einstein. *Shipmate*. November 1988
- Document entitled, "Chapter V: Former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal Official Funeral," pictures of funeral included. May 22-25, 1949
- Photocopy of news clipping stating that W.N. Thomas succeeded Robert D. Workman as Chief of Chaplains. July 1945.
- Photocopy of church program from Capitol Street Methodist Church Sunday's service on June 14, 1953
- Photocopy of news clipping. "Boys Visit Rest Camp" by Ch. Ph. Mate E. R. Nichols, USN. *Pearl Harbor Weekly: The Voice of the Navy in Hawaii*. June 27, 1931. 4 pgs.
- Photocopy of news clipping. "Dress Parade High Light of June Week Ceremonies; First Class Will Attend Reception." *Coening*. Vol LIX No. 134. June 7, 1943, 3 pgs.
- Typed from newspaper, "Dress Parade High Light of June Week Ceremonies; First Class Will Attend Reception."
- f7 United States Naval Academy Chapel book. By the US Naval Academy Alumni Association. 2014.

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- Photocopy of title page and chapter in *USNA Life!: Families, Homes, and Treasured Memories of the United States Naval Academy*. By Vicki Escudé, M.A., M.C.C. 2011. 11 pages.
Attached: Photocopy of article in *Telltale* (The United States Naval Academy Women's Club Newsletter), "Member Writes Book about Naval Academy" by Mary Margaret Yodzis. January 1995. 2 pages.
- Photocopy of United States Naval Academy graduation exercises on December 19, 1941, pictures included
- Photocopy of news clipping. "Naval Academy Chapel Nears Completion." *Shipmate* Vol 3. No 2. February 1940. 2 pages.
- Photocopy of program from the US Naval Academy. "*A Celebration of the Chapel*" of the Brigade of Midshipmen in the Eighty-Sixth Year Since the Corner Stone. April 21, 1990. 4 pages.
Attached: Photocopy of flyer for "A Celebration of the Navy Chapel"
Attached: Photocopy of letter sent by Mark A. McMurray, the Midshipman Producer, concerning the celebration of the navy chapel. Duplicate attached.
- Photocopy of title page and article, "Naval Academy Chapel Votive Ship Model" *Shipmate*, Vol 4. No. 5. May 1941. 5 pages.
- Photocopy of sign-in sheet for the US Naval Academy with Thomas signature
- Photocopy of transcript from "Sun and Light Show" by William F. Dillon. February 26, 1990.
- f8 Photocopy of pages from the *Navy Chaplains Bulletin*. "Chaplain Corps Anniversary Edition" Vol III, No 3., 1982. 3 pages.
- Photocopy of title page and article from *the Chaplain*, Vol 26, No 6. "The Rich Years of Chaplain William N. Thomas" by Merle N. Young. December 1969. 4 pages. Duplicated.
- Photocopy of list of chaplain names from July 5, 1921 – August 19, 1946.
- Photocopy of United States Navy Chaplains 1778-1945. 1948. 6 pages
- Photocopy of United States Navy Chaplains 1946-1952. 1953. 2 pages.
- Photocopy of title page and introduction written by W.N. Thomas in *The History of the Chaplain Corps, United States Navy*, Vol 1. 1778-1939.
- Photocopy of title page, acknowledgments, table of contents, introduction, and pages concerning W.N. Thomas in *The History of the Chaplain Corps, United States Navy*. Vol 1 1778-1939.