

## Guide to the Judge Daniel H. Thomas Scrapbooks

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### Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Judge Daniel H. Thomas, 1906-2000

Title: Judge Daniel H. Thomas Scrapbooks

Dates: 1951-1996

Quantity: 2.5 cu. ft.

Abstract: 13 scrapbooks of and one tribute book to Judge Daniel H. Thomas

Accession: 00-09-357

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### Biographical Note:

Daniel Holcombe Thomas was born in Prattville, Alabama, in 1906. He was appointed to the federal bench in 1951 by President Harry Truman. Although Judge Thomas retired in 1972, he retained supernumerary status until his death in 2000, making him one of the United States' longest serving justices. Known as a conservative, Judge Thomas served on several civil rights cases, one of the most important of which was the *Birdie Mae Davis v. Mobile County School Board* school desegregation case. He also developed a national reputation as a justice ruling in maritime cases.

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### Scope and Content:

This collection consists of 13 personal scrapbooks spanning the entire tenure of federal judge Daniel H. Thomas. It also contains one bound volume of congratulatory letters written to Judge Thomas upon the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his installation as a judge, as well as miscellaneous speeches, letters, and articles about the judge. Within the scrapbooks are a myriad of items, including newsclippings, brochures, programs, letters, photographs, telegrams, cards, and invitations. Of particular note within the collection are the clippings related to the *Birdie Mae Davis* and Sunshine Skyway Bridge disaster cases.

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### Usage Restrictions:

None

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**Access Restrictions:**

This material is open for research.

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**Preferred Citation:**

Judge Daniel H. Thomas Scrapbooks, University of South Alabama Archives, Mobile, AL.

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**Related Material:**

Blacksher, Menefee & Stein Records, 89-09-171

Vernon Z. Crawford Records, 04-09-413

Non-Partisan Voter's League Records, 92-09-247

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**Researcher Note:**

This material is available on microfilm from Samford University Library, Birmingham, Alabama. Judge Thomas' case files can be found at the Bounds Law Library, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

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**Content List:**

**Scrapbook 1**

Federal Judge's prayer

Clippings: *Mobile Register*, Jan. 27, Feb. 14, May 31, June 1, 1978: Moonie Suit of Bayou officials

Clippings: noting donation of Pratt portraits to Huntingdon College

Clipping: *Mobile Press*, Feb. 15, 1978: Silver Beaver Award  
Record of Man with Fish; May 1978  
Clipping: *Mobile Register*, Sept. 10, 1978: Merrill Thomas  
Clipping: *Selma Times*, Aug. 10, 1978  
Invitation & Program: Alabama Business Hall of Fame, Oct. 17, 1978  
Biography of Daniel Pratt - Alabama Business Hall of Fame  
Certificate of Membership: Golden Fifties Club, Univ. of Alabama, April 1978  
Letter: Univ. Of Alabama National Alumni Association, May 26, 1978  
Graduation Program: Univ. of Alabama, Jan. 1928  
List of Reunion Participants, 1978 (Class of 1928)  
Class of 1928 - Picture and Identification, Apr. 22, 1978  
Clipping: Bar Association Meeting - Harry Seale, May 1979  
Letter: J. Barton Greer, May 23, 1979  
Letter: Oscar H. Lipscomb, Aug. 11, 1980  
Belated Birthday Card, Aug. 25, 1979  
Clipping: *Mobile Register*, Cameron Retirement, June 1, 1979  
Letter: C. J. Coley, Aug. 17, 1978  
Certificate of 50 years service, Mobile Bar Association  
Announcement: Vow renewal, Oct. 25, 1979  
Telegram: "Hope, Owen & Mike," Oct. 25, 1979  
Clipping: *Selma Times Journal*, Henry Pratt, Aug. 26, 1979  
Program: Naturalization Ceremonies, May 1, 1979  
Clipping: *Mobile Press*, Federal Court and Civil Rights, Oct. 1, 1979  
Transcript: Speech - Daniel Pratt, June 11, 1967  
Clippings: Computer Cases, Dec. 1980-Jan. 1981  
Clipping: Naturalization Ceremonies, May 7, 1981  
Clipping: Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Thomas  
Clipping: Letter to editor, Calvin Wells, Sept. 21, 1981  
Bulletin: Mobile Bar Association, Sept. 1981  
Program: U.S. Court of Appeals, Opening and Closing, Oct. 1-2, 1981  
Clipping: Death Penalty in Alabama, Mar. 11, 1981  
Clipping: Sea Coast Echo - Deep Hole Trial, Sept. 27, 1981  
Clippings: *Mobile Press and Register*, Naturalizations, Dec. 2, 1981  
Letter: William O'Connor, Dec. 31, 1981  
Obituary: Sam Pipes, Oct. 29, 1982  
Clipping: *Azalea City News and Review*, 31 Years for Judge Thomas, May 16, 1982

Clippings: Sports - Prattville Ship Owners and Liability, 1983  
Clippings: Work Party  
Clipping: Cottage, Gulfport, Miss., Aug. 5, 1982  
Clipping: Verta Swetman, Aug. 17, 1982  
Clipping: *Tampa Tribune*, Capricorn Suit, Dec. 30, 1981  
Clippings: *Tampa Tribune* and *Mobile Press*, Blackthorn Collision  
Clippings: *Tampa Tribune*, Summit Venture, Oct. 1982, Mar. 1983; May 1984  
Obituary: Charles Hohenberg, Oct. 22, 1984  
Clipping: *Pensacola Journal*, Skyway Disaster, May 9, 1985  
Clipping: *USA Today*, New Skyway Bridge, Apr. 30, 1987  
Program: Marker Dedication Honoring Hugo Black, Apr. 19, 1974  
Program: Investiture Ceremony for Emmett R. Cox, Apr. 25, 1988  
Letter: Russell T. Infinger, May 1, 1987  
Brochure: "Little Doc's Ambulance"  
Clipping: Prattville Birthday (98<sup>th</sup>)  
Clipping & Letters: Female Juror Virginia Greer, May 12 & 26, 1966  
Clipping: Race Relations - Selma  
Letter: Mrs. William Lewis, Feb. 24, 1966  
Clipping: Prattville Ranch, Dec. 11, 1937  
Clipping: Prattville and the Pratts, Apr. 1949  
Letter & Family Pictures: William Pratt Thomas, May 1984  
Clipping: "Little Doc," Mar. 1978  
Brochure: Tourism in Prattville  
Clipping: *Mobile Press*, Retirement of Judge Thomas, Aug. 22, 1971  
Letter: Dorothy Dixon of American Forestry Association - Dimensions of White Oak Tree on the Thomas Estate in Prattville, Apr. 22, 1964  
Letters: Ida Garrison - Regarding a Court Case, June & Aug. 1954  
Transcript: Speech at Retirement of Judge Thomas, Aug. 25, 1971  
Letters: Mrs. Davis' Class - Brookley School, Dec. 1970

## **Scrapbook 2**

Program: Portrait Dedication, Mar. 14, 1972  
Program: Retirement Ceremonies for Judge Virgil Pittman, June 15, 1981  
Letter: Intention to Retire - To US President, Apr. 16, 1971  
Letter: Acknowledging Intention - From US President, May 5, 1971  
Clipping: *Mobile Press*, Nixon Announces Thomas Retirement, May 6, 1971

Letter: J. Edgar Hoover, Aug. 13, 1971

Letter: Lister Hill, Aug. 4, 1971

Clippings: *Mobile Press*, Judge Thomas Retirement, Aug. 20, 22, 25, 27, 1971

Transcript: Letters from Mobile Bar Association Honoring Judge Thomas

Cards: Retirement Cards from Law Clerks and Others

Pictures: Judge Thomas with Clerks, Judges, and Secretaries

Program: Prayer and Transcript of Retirement Ceremony/Program, Aug. 25, 1971

Letter: Betty Callaway

Telegram: Ros Falkenberry - Selma, Aug. 25, 1971

Telegram: O. S. Burke, Aug. 23, 1971

Bulletin: Mobile Bar Association, Aug. 1971

Letter: Finley, McRae, May 14, 1971

Letters: Sam Pointer, Clarence Allgood, Seybourn H. Lyne, Frank McFadden, Robert Varner, Frank Johnson, Richard Ribes, Walter Gelvin, Robert Hodnette, Lister Hill, Robert Franck, John Godbold, Joseph S. Mead, Maury Smith, Joseph Johnston, Leo Brannon, Ruth McKinley, R. E. Stevenson, Ferrill McRae, William Bolling, James Strickland, Henri Aldridge, Gordon Madison, Reid Barnes, Royal Smith, Charles Arendall, Joe Connors, Joe Boston, Bob Frye, Frank Ahn, Brunswick Deutsch, E. A. Stewart, Sherrill Halbert, William McDermott, Autry Greer, Winston Arnow, Harold Collins, Robert McDonald, John Sparkman, Max Rogers, Ira DeMent, Arthur Tonsmeire, John Manderville, Chester Foster, Julian McPhillips, R. P. Denniston, Harry Seale, Palmer Pillans

Program: Clippings and Transcript from Portrait Dedication, Mar. 14, 1972

Pictures & Clippings: W. B. Hand as Judge

### **Scrapbook 3**

Clippings: STAND Rally/Suit, May-June 1968

Clippings: Civil Rights/Schools, July 1968

Clipping: *Mobile Press*, Wedding Announcement, Mar. 7, 1969

Clipping: *Mobile Register*, Pratt Home/Tour, Apr. 9, 1969

Clipping: *Birmingham News*, Auburn Honors Mrs. Terrell, Apr. 21, 1969

Clippings: Fire Bombing Case, June 4, 1969

Clippings: Bank Merger, June 1969

Transcripts: Civil Rights/Segregation Cases, Mar. 1968

Pictures & Cartoons: School Case

Clippings: Robbery Case

Clippings: Carswell Appointment, Mar. & Apr. 1970  
Program: Silver Beaver Awards, May 7, 1970  
Clipping: Victoria Ewing Retirement, July 1970  
Clippings: Fish Killings Verdict, Aug. 1970  
Pictures: Groundbreaking for Archives and History, Sept. 8, 1970  
Picture & Clipping: Naturalization, Dec. 23, 1970  
Letter & Clipping: *Toshoa Times*, Nov. 10, 1970  
Letter & Clipping: Merchants National Bank, Jan. 15, 1971

#### **Scrapbook 4**

Pictures: Martin Luther King Jr. (n.d.), "Prathoma"-Prattville, Boy Scouts, Judges (n.d.)  
Clippings: School Integration, Apr. 21, 1971  
Clippings & Letter: Wendy Grasskoff, Jan. 31, 1971  
Clippings & Program: Hand Replaces Thomas, Sept. 10, 1971  
Class of 1923 Roll  
Program: Portrait Dedication, Mar. 14, 1972  
Invitations: Nixon/Agnew Inaugural Activities  
Transcript: Mary Flock Funeral Oration, Aug. 23, 1973  
Program: Sidney Gray, June 27, 1973  
Letters: Boy Scouts of America, Archbishop Toolen, Sister Felicidad Canonst, William Pratt  
Thomas, Mrs. D. M. Dowdell, C. J. Coley, Mrs. Ernest B. Johnston  
Pictures & Clippings: Pratt Plaque, Apr. 1975  
Clippings & Program: Silver Antelope Awards, May 23, 1975  
Portrait, Clippings & Picture: Scouts  
Program: Naturalization Ceremony, Apr. 30, 1976  
"Torch Light," Mobile College, Dec. 1976  
Wedding Announcement: Merrill Thomas, Nov. 12, 1976  
Clippings: *Nashville Banner*, Fraud Suit, Oct. 11, 1977

#### **Scrapbook 5**

Clipping: *Mobile Register*, Naturalization, Jan. 6, 1965  
Clippings: Selma Meeting, Jan. 15-16, 1965  
Clipping: King Assault, Jan. 1965  
Clipping: Civil Rights, Jan. & Mar. 1965

#### **Scrapbook 6**

Brochure: U.S. Courthouse, Sept. 1952

Letter: George Washington Carver, Feb. 15, 1938

Article: Prattville, Apr. 1949

Clippings & Pictures: Thomas Recommended for Judgeship, Dec. 1950

Clippings, Program & Pictures: Thomas Confirmed, March 1951

Clippings: Marshall Retires, May 1951

Letter: Joseph Lyons, June 11, 1951

Clippings: 1951 - Auto Theft Ring, Police Beating, Fishing Law, Vote Scandal; 1952 - Portrait Unveiling, Tax Evasion Case; 1953 - Bank Suit, Customs Collector, Marshal Oath, Griffin Retires, Bootleg Ring, New Appointments, Pratt and Prattville, Black Case, Sheriff Kills Witness; 1954 - Dr. E. A. Smith, Murder Trial, Naturalization

Brochure: Alabama Hall of Fame

Brochure: Eugene A. Smith

Program: Mississippi Law Institute, Dec. 2-3, 1954

Program: Newcomen Society, Dec. 14, 1954

Obituary: Mary Thomas, Apr. 27, 1955

Autographed Picture

### **Scrapbook 7**

Transcript: Swearing-in of Thomas, Mar. 1951

Cards: Floral Arrangements

Letter: J. Edgar Hoover

Telegrams & Letters of Congratulation: Mar.-Apr. 1951

### **Scrapbook 8**

Invitation: Country Club

Transcripts: Various Cases, 1962

Program: Judicial Conference, May 1962

Clippings: 1961 - Naturalization, New Appointments, Thomas/Female Jurors, First Female Juror; 1962 - Docks Suit, Auto Theft Case, Reappointment Suit, McLean/Taxes, Civil Rights/Voting, Echols/Larson Wedding, Death of C. E. Thomas, Reapportionment, Hoffa Trial; 1963 - Jansen Censure, Civil Rights/Schools, Counterfeiting Case, School Integration

Program: Newcomen Society, May 1962

Programs: Various Cases, 1963

Program: Judicial Conference, May 30-31, 1963

### **Scrapbook 9**

Obituaries: Judge Ervin, Oct. 24, 1949; Judge McDuffie, Nov. 2, 1950; Virgil Griffin, Jan. 30, 1951; Clarence Allgood, Feb. 2, 1991; Alice Hohenberg, Feb. 1996

Clippings: 1949 - Toulmin's Portrait, Nov.; 1950 - Thomas Nominated, Dec.; 1951 - Thomas Takes Oath (Mar.), Bank Shortage; 1952 - Portrait Unveiling, Various Cases; 1972 - Black's Robe; 1991 - 40 Years on the Bench (Mar.); 1992 - Bank/Hilton; 1993 - Railroad Wreck, New Federal Judge; 1994 - Editorial; 1996 - Thomas/Integration

Certificate: 50 Years, Missouri Bar Association

Transcript: Judson O'Brien, Nov. 17, 1993

Letter: W. Boyd Reeves

### **Scrapbook 10**

Clippings: 1965-1966 - Redistricting/Integration, Various Cases; 1967 - Naturalization; 1968 - Hale Case; N.D. - Scouting

### **Scrapbook 11**

Message (copy): J. Edgar Hoover

Pamphlets: United Fund of Mobile County

Visitor's Pass from Congress

Card: Father's Day from Sister Felicidad

Obituaries: Judge Kennamer, June 3, 1955; Percy C. Fountain, Feb. 1-3, 1956; Joseph Lyons, Oct. 14-15, 1957

Clippings: 1955 - Segregation Cases, Elevator Case, Impersonator Case, Naturalization, Dr. Sellers, New Railroad Comptroller; 1956 - Kennamer/New DA, Grain Elevator, Charles Ward, Judge Shoda, Moot Courts; 1957 - Cotton Gin, Senior Bowl, Loan Officers, Electrical Code; 1958 - Naturalization Case; 1959 - Tommy Thomas, Prattville Mansion, Contempt Case, Counterfeiting Case, Radio Damage Suit, Youth/Robbery Case; 1960 - Voter/Injunction; 1961 - Liquor Case, Integration of Golf Course

Program & Clippings: Mobilian of the Year, Jan. 18, 1960

Letter & Transcript: Writ of Mandamus Case, Mar. 15

Letter: Charles Ward, Feb. 20-24, 1956

Program: Alabama State Bar, July 1956

### **Scrapbook 12**



Clippings: School Integration, 1963-1965

Clippings: Naturalization Ceremonies

### **Scrapbook 13**

Pledge of Allegiance

Bulletin: Mobile Bar Association, June 1986

"Footprints in the Sand"

Pamphlet: Prattville Deer Farm

Transcript: Speech

Clippings: Retirement, 1971

Pamphlets: Atlanta Archives

Letter: Anne, Feb. 2, 1989

Obituary: Frances W. Thomas, Apr. 27, 1988

Telegram: Herman Russomanno, Dec. 1984

Speech: Daniel Pratt (1967)

Transcript: Letter - Mrs. Donald Hawkins

Program: Naturalization, May 1988

Invitations: President George [H. W.] Bush

Program: Second National Conference of Federal Judges

Clippings: 1989 - Ceremony for J. B. Blackburn (June 29); 1991 - Daniel Pratt, Demolition  
of Sunshine Bridge

Program: Tribute to Robert Vance, Feb. 1990

Program: Devitt Award Ceremony, May 1989

Program: Investiture Ceremony, June 1990

Program: Portrait Ceremony, Nov. 1989

Program: Dedication Court of Appeals

Cards, Letters & Pictures: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Feb. 1991

Letter: Judge Hutcheson, Mar. 1951

Alabama Business Hall of Fame Plaque (copy) - Daniel Pratt

Pictures: Hanging of Judge Hand's Portrait, Nov. 1989

Letters, Pictures, Cards & Clippings

### **Box 1**

Book of Tribute to the Honorable Daniel H. Thomas, United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, Upon the Fifteenth Anniversary of His Installation as Such Judge, Inspired by the Clerk of the Court, Honorable William J. O'Connor.

