

Helen Thomas Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2021

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2015085982>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms018023>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2018
Revised 2021 January

Collection Summary

Title: Helen Thomas Papers

Span Dates: 1929-2013

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1980-2005)

ID No.: MSS85982

Creator: Thomas, Helen, 1920-2013

Extent: 19,600 items

Extent: 57 containers plus 2 oversize

Extent: 22.5 linear feet

Extent: 260 digital files (47.97 GB)

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2015085982>

Summary: Journalist. Articles, notes, photographs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and speeches relating to Thomas's work in the White House press corps between 1961 and 2012.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bush, George W. (George Walker), 1946-

Bush, George, 1924-2018.

Carter, Jimmy, 1924-

Clinton, Bill, 1946-

Cornell, Douglas B., 1906-1982.

Ford, Gerald R., 1913-2006.

Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973.

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963.

Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994.

Reagan, Ronald.

Thomas, Helen, 1920-2013.

Thomas, Helen, 1920-2013. *Front row at the White House : my life and times.* 1999.

Thomas, Helen, 1920-2013. *Watchdogs of democracy? : the waning Washington press corps and how it has failed the public.* 2006.

Organizations

Gridiron Club (Washington, D.C.)

Hearst Corporation.

National Press Club (U.S.)

United Press International.

Washington Press Club Foundation.

White House Correspondents' Association.

Women's National Press Club (U.S.)

Subjects

Air Force One (Presidential aircraft)

American newspapers--Washington (D.C.)

Journalism--Political aspects--United States.

Journalism--Societies, etc.

Journalism--United States.

Presidents' spouses--United States.

Presidents--United States--Family.

Presidents--United States.
Press and politics--United States.
White House (Washington, D.C.)
Women journalists--United States.

Places

United States--Politics and government--1945-1989.
United States--Politics and government--1989-
Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Occupations

Journalists.

Aquisition Information

The papers of Helen Thomas, journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by Terri Deleon and Judy Jenkins in 2015 on behalf of the Estate of Helen Thomas.

Processing History

The papers of Helen Thomas were processed and described in 2018 by Colleen Benoit Kim with the assistance of Chanté Flowers, Kathleen O'Neill, Kim Owens, and Tammi Taylor. The finding aid was revised in 2021 to reflect restrictions lifted from the collection.

Transfers

Audiovisual materials have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the Helen Thomas Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Helen Thomas in these papers is reserved. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The Helen Thomas Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Digital Format

Digital files were received as part of the papers of Helen Thomas. Reference copies were created from the original digital media. Advanced notice is required for access to digital content; consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for more information.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number or digital ID, Helen Thomas Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1920 Aug. 20	Born, Winchester, Ky.
1942	B.A., Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich. Copy girl, cub reporter, <i>Washington Daily News</i> , Washington, D.C.
1943-1961	Reporter, United Press International (UPI), Washington, D.C.
1961-2000	White House correspondent, White House bureau chief, United Press International (UPI), Washington, D.C.
1959-1960	President, Women's National Press Club, Washington, D.C.
1971	Married Douglas B. Cornell (died 1982) Financial secretary, National Press Club, Washington, D.C.
1975	Inducted as first female member, Gridiron Club, Washington, D.C. Published <i>Dateline: White House</i> , Macmillan Publishing Company, New York, N.Y.
1975-1976	President, White House Correspondents' Association
1984	Received National Press Club's Fourth Estate Award
1992	Elected first female president, Gridiron Club, Washington, D.C.
1999	Published <i>Front Row at the White House: My Life and Times</i> , Scribner & Co., New York, N.Y.
2000-2010	Columnist, Hearst Newspapers, Washington, D.C.
2002	Published <i>Thanks for the Memories, Mr. President: Wit and Wisdom from the Front Row at the White House</i> , Scribner & Co., New York, N.Y.
2006	Published <i>Watchdogs of Democracy? : The Waning Washington Press Corps and How It Has Failed the Public</i> , Scribner & Co., New York, N.Y.
2008	Published with Chip Bok <i>The Great White House Breakout</i> , Dial Books for Young Readers, New York, N.Y.
2009	Published with Craig Crawford <i>Listen Up Mr. President: Everything You Always Wanted Your President to Know and Do</i> , Scribner & Co., New York, N.Y.
2011-2012	Columnist, <i>Falls Church News-Press</i> , Falls Church, Va.
2013, July 30	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Helen Thomas span the years 1929 to 2013, with the bulk of the material dating between 1980 and 2005. The papers are organized into the following series: [White House Press Corps](#), [Speeches and Events](#), [Writings](#), [Personal File](#), [Correspondence](#), [Digital Files](#), and [Oversize](#).

The collection documents Thomas's career as a journalist in the White House press corps and chronicles her coverage of American presidents and first families across ten presidential administrations. These papers are composed primarily of documents Thomas collected in the course of her work as a White House correspondent and bureau chief and as an active member of many professional organizations. To a lesser extent, these papers reflect Thomas's opinions of American politics and presidents and her contributions to the field of journalism, especially with regard to expanding the profession for female journalists. Evidence of Thomas's celebrity and wide recognition within the profession and among the greater public can be found throughout the collection.

The [White House Press Corps](#) series comprises material related to Thomas's work in the White House press corps and spans the years 1929 to 2012. The bulk of the material dates between 1977 and 1997. This series is organized chronologically by presidential administration, with the Carter, Reagan, and Clinton administrations the most heavily documented. Materials related to the Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, George H.W. Bush., and George W. Bush administrations are also included. Little to no evidence of the Obama administration is found in this collection, although Thomas did cover it during her career. Material Thomas collected from various events hosted by the White House or first ladies, press conferences, and trips with presidents and aboard *Air Force One* comprise the bulk of this series.

The [Speeches and Events](#) file documents the many public appearances, lectures, and award ceremonies in which Thomas participated between 1960 and 2013. Documentation of the many honors and honorary degrees bestowed upon Thomas are contained in this series, as are scripts and programs from the Gridiron Club's annual dinners. Copies of speeches delivered by Thomas are also included, though they are often fragmented and undated. Few complete copies of remarks appear in these files.

The [Writings](#) file contains copies of Thomas's newspaper articles and to a smaller degree, material related to some of her books. Dates in this series span between 1960 and 2011, with the bulk of the material dating between 2000 and 2008, at which time Thomas worked as a columnist for Hearst Newspapers. Thomas's 1999 book *Front Row at the White House: My Life and Times* and 2006 title, *Watchdogs of Democracy? : The Waning Washington Press Corps and How It Has Failed the Public* are the two most documented of her books.

The [Personal File](#) contains material related to Thomas's life and work between the years 1938 and 2013. This series includes an extensive collection of photographs chronicling Thomas's career in the White House press corps and her many speaking engagements. Newspaper articles about Thomas form another significant portion of this series. Material related to Thomas's marriage and husband, Douglas B. Cornell, a White House correspondent for the Associated Press, is also included.

The [Correspondence](#) series is comprised primarily of incoming letters sent to Thomas by friends, family, colleagues, and presidents and first ladies, dating between 1959 and 2013. Topics addressed in the letters are largely professional in nature, though the series includes some notes from Thomas's siblings and nieces and nephews. Several letters from Pauline Philips, also known as the advice columnist "Dear Abby" can also be found in this series.

The [Digital File](#) series includes audio, video, and image files removed from compact discs associated with Thomas's papers. This series is composed primarily of audio and video files, which feature interviews Thomas conducted and speeches Thomas gave at various events. Dates range from 2002 to 2010 and include several years of Gridiron Club dinners and performances.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [White House Press Corps, 1929-2012](#)
- [Speeches and Events, 1960-2013](#)
- [Writings, 1960-2011](#)
- [Personal File, 1938-2013](#)
- [Correspondence, 1959-2013](#)
- [Digital File, 2002-2010](#)
- [Oversize, 1962-2009](#)

Description of Series

Container
BOX 1-22

Series
White House Press Corps, 1929-2012

Material related to Thomas's tenure in the White House press corps. The series primarily consists of programs, invitations, press releases, and printed matter collected by Thomas in the course of her work. Initially, Thomas covered "women's news" and focused on first ladies, first families, and social events. This is reflected by numerous files related to White House events and the weddings and children of Luci and Lynda Johnson and Tricia Nixon, for whom Thomas threw a bridal shower. Material from later in her career often includes itineraries and briefings from international trips taken by presidents and press releases from White House press secretaries, some of which bear notes written by Thomas. Articles, tear sheets, and notebooks are also found in this series, as is an extensive file of Thomas's press passes. Of particular note are files concerning Martha Mitchell, which include a book outline and other writings by Thomas. Correspondence sent to Mitchell, care of Thomas, is located in the [Correspondence](#) series. Photographs associated with presidents and first ladies are located in the [Personal File](#), and additional articles authored by Thomas are held in the [Writings](#) series.

Printed matter, press passes, clippings, notes, and articles.

Arranged chronologically by administration and alphabetically by topic therein.

BOX 22-34

Speeches and Events, 1960-2013

Material documenting events at which Thomas was honored, served as a speaker, or attended. Functions represented in this series are largely related to the many professional associations of which Thomas was a member and include the National Press Club, White House Correspondents' Association, Women's National Press Club, Washington Press Club Foundation, and especially, the Gridiron Club. Remarks and lectures delivered by Thomas form a large part of this series, though they are often undated and incomplete. Where possible, complete speeches were dated and filed chronologically. Programs, schedules, and logistic material related to the events at which Thomas spoke are sometimes included. Scripts, programs and invitations from annual Gridiron Club dinners are contained in this series, as are documents reflecting the many honors, awards, and honorary degrees bestowed upon Thomas. Photographs, clippings, and the program associated with Thomas's winning of the National Press Club's Fourth Estate Award and material documenting her election as the first female president of the Gridiron Club are also included in this series. For video and audio files depicting Thomas at various events, including Gridiron Club dinners, researchers should consult the digital files.

Programs, speeches, invitations, clippings, notes, photographs.

Arranged alphabetically by material type or topic and chronologically thereunder.

BOX 34-42

Writings, 1960-2011

Articles and material related to books authored by Thomas. Copies of Thomas's many newspaper articles comprise the bulk of this series. Articles date between 1960 and 2011, though the vast majority range between 2000 and 2011, when Thomas worked as a columnist for Hearst Newspapers. Material concerning books usually include proposals and drafts. Thomas's 2006 publication *Watchdogs of Democracy? : The Waning Washington Press Corps and How It Has Failed the Public* is the most comprehensively documented titled, followed by *Front Row at the White House: My Life and Times*. In some cases, only promotional material related to a publication is included. Not all of Thomas's books are chronicled in this collection.

Newspaper articles, drafts, proposals, and marketing material.

Arranged alphabetically by material type.

BOX 42-52

Personal File, 1938-2013

Material related to Thomas's life and work. Photographs form a significant portion of this series and include images related to all ten presidential administrations covered by Thomas. Many of the photographs feature Thomas in her capacity in the White House press corps and feature her in the White House, at press conferences, aboard *Air Force One*, and with presidents and first ladies. Several photographs depict Thomas speaking at events and at Gridiron Club dinners. Photographs from Thomas's wedding to Douglas B. Cornell are also included. An extensive file of newspaper and magazine articles about Thomas is included in this series, as are transcripts of interviews Thomas gave. Biographical material, autobiographical material, and documents related to Thomas's death and funeral can also be found in this series. Researchers should note audio and video files of interviews given by Thomas can be found in the digital files.

Photographs, clippings, identification documents, and writings.
Arranged alphabetically by topic.

BOX 53-57

Correspondence, 1959-2013

Primarily letters sent to Thomas from friends, colleagues, fans, and some family members. Topics are typically professional in nature and often include notes of congratulations regarding Thomas's many achievements, invitations to speak or attend events, and comments on her latest stories. Correspondence from presidents and first ladies are also included in this series.

Arranged in two groupings: alphabetical and chronological.

BOX DF

Digital File, 2002-2010

Video, audio, and image files featuring Thomas delivering speeches, giving interviews, appearing in documentaries, and performing at Gridiron Club dinners. The majority of the interviews included in these files feature Thomas as the interviewee, with the exception of a series of audio files featuring interviews Thomas conducted with female senators for Melinda Mara's book *Changing the Face of Power: Women in the U.S. Senate*. Video files of the HBO documentary profile of Thomas, *Thank You, Mr. President: Helen Thomas at the White House*, directed by Rory Kennedy is also contained in this series. Files documenting a release event and panel discussion at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. accompany the documentary. Gridiron Club dinners from 2003, 2007-2008 and 2010 are also documented in video files in this series. These files were removed from storage media found within Thomas's papers. Request files using the digital ID.

Arranged alphabetically by material type or topic.

BOX OV 1-OV 2

Oversize, 1962-2009

Certificates, photographs, correspondence, and artifacts.

Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-22	<p>White House Press Corps, 1929-2012</p> <p>Material related to Thomas’s tenure in the White House press corps. The series primarily consists of programs, invitations, press releases, and printed matter collected by Thomas in the course of her work. Initially, Thomas covered “women’s news” and focused on first ladies, first families, and social events. This is reflected by numerous files related to White House events and the weddings and children of Luci and Lynda Johnson and Tricia Nixon, for whom Thomas threw a bridal shower. Material from later in her career often includes itineraries and briefings from international trips taken by presidents and press releases from White House press secretaries, some of which bear notes written by Thomas. Articles, tear sheets, and notebooks are also found in this series, as is an extensive file of Thomas’s press passes. Of particular note are files concerning Martha Mitchell, which include a book outline and other writings by Thomas. Correspondence sent to Mitchell, care of Thomas, is located in the Correspondence series. Photographs associated with presidents and first ladies are located in the Personal File, and additional articles authored by Thomas are held in the Writings series.</p> <p>Printed matter, press passes, clippings, notes, and articles. Arranged chronologically by administration and alphabetically by topic therein.</p>
BOX 1	John F. Kennedy administration <i>See also Photographs</i>
BOX 1	Assassination, 1963, 1972
BOX 1	Chief of Protocol, 1961
BOX 1	Coverage by Thomas, 1962-1965
BOX 1	Easter Egg Roll, circa 1966
BOX 1	Entertainment, 1961-1963 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Friends and family, 1961-1963
BOX 1	Kennedy, Jackie, 1960-1963
BOX 1	Lincoln, Evelyn, 1963
BOX 1	Notes, circa 1961-circa 1963
BOX 1	Programs and invitations, 1961-1963
BOX 1	Salinger, Pierre, 1961-1964
BOX 1	White House renovation, 1960-1965 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Lyndon B. Johnson administration <i>See also Photographs</i>
BOX 1	Coverage by Thomas, 1963-1968 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Death and memorial, 1973
BOX 1	Haller, Henry (Chef), 1964-1966
BOX 1	Inauguration, 1965
BOX 1	Invitations, 1964-1967
BOX 2	Johnson, Lady Bird, 1960-1968, 2008
BOX 2	Johnson, Luci Baines, 1964-1968 (2 folders)
BOX 2	LBJ Presidential Library, Austin, Tex., 1987-2012

White House Press Corps, 1929-2012

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BOX 2	Mesta, Perle, 1964-1968
BOX 2	Nugent, Patrick John, 1966-1968
BOX 2	Nugent, Patrick L., 1967-1968
BOX 2	<i>Paintings in the White House</i> (television program), 1965
BOX 2	Press releases, 1964-1968
BOX 2	Printed matter, circa 1966
BOX 2	Programs, 1966-1968
BOX 2	Robb, Lucinda, 1968 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Robb, Lynda Bird, 1964-1967 (2 folders)
BOX 3	White House weddings, 1966
BOX 3	Richard Nixon administration <i>See also Photographs</i>
BOX 3	Agnew, Spiro T., 1968-1972
BOX 3	Cabinet members, 1968
BOX 3	Compilation of presidential documents, 1969-1972
BOX 3	Coverage by Thomas, 1970-1976, 1994
BOX 3	Cox, Tricia Nixon, 1969-1971
BOX 3	Eisenhower, Julie Nixon, 1970-1971
BOX 3	Gift inventory, 1978
BOX 4	Inauguration, 1973
BOX 4	International trips
BOX 4	Canada, 1972 Apr.
BOX 4	Ireland and China, 1970, 1972
BOX 4	Kissinger, Henry, circa 1972
BOX 4	Library and birthplace, Yorba Linda, Calif., 1995, undated
BOX 4	Mitchell, Martha <i>See also Photographs</i>
BOX 4	Book outline, 1970-1975
BOX 4	General, 1968-1976 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Nixon, Pat, 1968-1978, 1993
BOX 4	Press pool reports, 1971-1973
BOX 4	Press releases, 1969-1974 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Programs and invitations, 1969-1973
BOX 5	Republication National Convention, 1968 Aug.
BOX 5	<i>Spirit of '76</i> (aircraft), 1971, 1973 <i>See also Container OV 2, Certificates</i>
BOX 5	Watergate Affair and resignation, 1973-1974
BOX 5	Gerald Ford administration <i>See also Photographs</i>
BOX 5	<i>Air Force One</i> , 1974 <i>See Container OV 2, Certificate</i>
BOX 5	Coverage by Thomas, 1973-1977, 1996
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BOX 5	Funeral service, 2007
BOX 5	Press releases, 1974-1977 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Printed matter, 1975-1976

White House Press Corps, 1929-2012

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BOX 5	Trip to Japan, Korea, and the USSR, 1974 Nov. 19-24 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Jimmy Carter administration <i>See also Photographs</i>
BOX 5	Cabinet resignations, 1979
BOX 6	Carter, James ("Chip"), 1979
BOX 6	Carter, Rosalynn, 1977-1979 (2 folders)
BOX 6	Coverage by Thomas, 1977-1981 (2 folders)
BOX 6	Democratic party conferences, 1978
BOX 6	Domestic travel, 1977-1979 (2 folders)
BOX 6	International trips
BOX 6	China, 1979 Jan. 29-Feb. 5
BOX 6	France, 1978 Jan. 4-6
BOX 7	Germany, 1978 July 13-17 (3 folders)
BOX 7	Guadeloupe, 1979 Jan. 5-6
BOX 7	India, 1978 Jan. 1-3
BOX 7	Israel, 1979 Mar. 10-13
BOX 7	Mexico, 1979 Feb. 14-16 (2 folders)
BOX 7	Panama, 1979 June 16-17
BOX 7	Poland, Iran, India, Saudi Arabia, France, and Belgium, 1977 Dec. 29-1978 Jan. 6 (1 folder)
BOX 8	(1 folder)
BOX 8	Interviews, 1977-1979
BOX 8	Invitations, 1978-1979
BOX 8	Miscellany, 1977-1979
BOX 8	Press pool reports, 1977-1978
BOX 8	Press releases, 1976-1980 (4 folders)
BOX 9	(1 folder)
BOX 9	Printed matter, circa 1978-1979
BOX 9	Programs, 1977-1988
BOX 9	Ronald Reagan administration <i>See also Photographs</i>
BOX 9	Coverage by Thomas, circa 1980-1989 (5 folders)
BOX 9	Gorbachev, Mikhail meetings, 1987-1988
BOX 9	Inauguration, 1985, Jan. 19-21
BOX 9	International trips
BOX 9	Belgium, 1988 Mar. 1-3
BOX 9	China, 1984 Apr. 26-May 1
BOX 9	Finland, 1988 May 26-29
BOX 9	France, United Kingdom, and Germany, 1982 June 2-11
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White House Press Corps, 1929-2012

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BOX 10	Iceland, 1986 Oct. 9-12 (2 folders)
BOX 10	Italy and Germany, 1987 June 3-12
BOX 10	Japan, 1986 Apr. 25-May 7
BOX 10	Japan and Korea, 1983 Nov. 8-14
BOX 10	Miscellaneous, 1980-1988
BOX 10	USSR and the United Kingdom, 1988 May 29-June 3 (3 folders)
BOX 11	Invitations, 1982-1987
BOX 11	Meese, Edwin, 1984
BOX 11	Miscellany, 1980-1987
BOX 11	Press pool reports, 1981-1988
BOX 11	Press releases
BOX 11	1981-1985 (6 folders)
BOX 12	1985-1988 (8 folders)
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BOX 13	Reagan family, 1983-1984
BOX 13	Reagan, Nancy, 1980-1988
BOX 13	George H.W. Bush administration <i>See also Photographs</i>
BOX 13	Clippings, 1988
BOX 13	Coverage by Thomas, 1989
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BOX 13	George H.W. Bush Presidential Library, College Station, Tex., 1997
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BOX 13	England, 1990 July 4-6
BOX 13	Japan, China, and South Korea, 1989 Feb. 23-27
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BOX 14	Poland, Germany, and Finland, 1992 July 4-10
BOX 14	Miscellany, 1988-circa 1995
BOX 14	Press releases, 1989-1992 (2 folders)
BOX 14	Programs and invitations, 1989-1993
BOX 14	United States, European, and Soviet relations, 1989
BOX 14	Bill Clinton administration <i>See also Photographs</i>
BOX 14	<i>Air Force One</i> (aircraft), 1994-1998
BOX 14	Clinton, Hillary Rodham, 1992-1998 (2 folders)
BOX 15	Clippings and reports, 1995-2000
BOX 15	Coverage by Thomas, 1993-1997
BOX 15	Domestic travel, 1996-1997
BOX 15	Inauguration, 1997 Jan. 20
BOX 15	International trips

White House Press Corps, 1929-2012

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BOX 15	Australia, Philippines, and Thailand, 1996 Nov. 19-27
BOX 15	France, 1996 June 27-29
BOX 15	Italy, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, 1997 Dec. 21-22
BOX 15	Japan, 1993 July 6-10
BOX 15	Kuwait and Israel, 1994 Oct. 27-28
BOX 15	Latvia, Poland, Italy, and Germany, 1994 July 5-12
BOX 15	Russia and Switzerland, 1994 Jan. 12-16
BOX 16	Russia and Ukraine, 1995 May 9-12
BOX 16	Spain, Poland, Romania, and Denmark, 1997 July 4-12
BOX 16	Invitations, 1995-2000
BOX 16	Lewinsky affair, 1997-1999 (2 folders)
BOX 16	Miscellany, 1994-1998
BOX 16	Press packets, 1994-1999
BOX 16	Press pool reports, 1992-2000
BOX 16	Press releases, 1993-2000 (1 folder)
BOX 17	(7 folders)
BOX 17	Printed matter, 1998-2000
BOX 17	Programs, 1993-2000 (1 folder)
BOX 18	(1 folder)
BOX 18	Selected speeches, 1996-1997
BOX 18	White House acquisitions, 1993-1997
BOX 18	Whitewater, 1996
BOX 18	George W. Bush administration
BOX 18	Bolton, John, 2005
BOX 18	Christmas at the White House, 2007
BOX 18	Miscellany, 2004-2006
BOX 18	National Day of Reason, 2003 May 1
BOX 18	Press releases, 2001-2005
BOX 18	Programs and invitations, 2001-2007
BOX 18	Schedules, 2006-2007
BOX 18	Miscellany
BOX 18	<i>Air Force One</i> flights, undated
BOX 18	Eisenhower, Mamie Doud, 1962-1976, 1990
BOX 19	Employees, undated
BOX 19	First ladies, 1961-1998, undated (4 folders)
BOX 19	Invitations, undated
BOX 19	Notes and article fragments, circa 1960-1970
BOX 19	Notes and notebooks circa 1974-circa 1988 (3 folders)
BOX 20	circa 1989-circa 2008 (4 folders)

White House Press Corps, 1929-2012

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BOX 21	circa 2008-circa 2010, undated (2 folders)
BOX 21	Press conference tally, circa 1999
BOX 21	Press passes, 1964-2010, undated (4 folders)
BOX 22	Rockefeller, Nelson A. and Happy, 1964-1968
BOX 22	Secret Service, 1958-1970
BOX 22	Smith, Margaret Chase, 1964-1964
BOX 22	United Press International
BOX 22	Manual, 1929
BOX 22	<i>UPI (The Greatest)</i> , by Richard H. Growald, 1973
BOX 22	Women of the Republican party, 1967-1968

BOX 22-34

Speeches and Events, 1960-2013

Material documenting events at which Thomas was honored, served as a speaker, or attended.

Functions represented in this series are largely related to the many professional associations of which Thomas was a member and include the National Press Club, White House Correspondents' Association, Women's National Press Club, Washington Press Club Foundation, and especially, the Gridiron Club. Remarks and lectures delivered by Thomas form a large part of this series, though they are often undated and incomplete. Where possible, complete speeches were dated and filed chronologically. Programs, schedules, and logistic material related to the events at which Thomas spoke are sometimes included. Scripts, programs and invitations from annual Gridiron Club dinners are contained in this series, as are documents reflecting the many honors, awards, and honorary degrees bestowed upon Thomas. Photographs, clippings, and the program associated with Thomas's winning of the National Press Club's Fourth Estate Award and material documenting her election as the first female president of the Gridiron Club are also included in this series. For video and audio files depicting Thomas at various events, including Gridiron Club dinners, researchers should consult the digital files.

Programs, speeches, invitations, clippings, notes, photographs.

Arranged alphabetically by material type or topic and chronologically thereunder.

BOX 22	Chronological file <i>See also Photographs</i>
BOX 22	1960-1979 (6 folders)
BOX 23	1980-1992 <i>See also Container OV 2, Arkansas Travel awards</i> (11 folders)
BOX 24	1993-1995 (7 folders)
BOX 25	1996-1999 (8 folders)
BOX 26	1999-2002 (7 folders)
BOX 27	2002-2004 (7 folders)
BOX 28	2004-2008 (9 folders)
BOX 29	2008-2013, undated (8 folders)

Speeches and Events, 1960-2013

Container	Contents
BOX 30	Undated (1 folder)
BOX 30	Schedules, 1987-2009
BOX 30	Speech fragments
BOX 30	circa 1970-circa 1990 (6 folders)
BOX 31	circa 1990-circa 1997 (7 folders)
BOX 32	circa 1996-circa 2007 (8 folders)
BOX 33	circa 2008-circa 2009, undated (8 folders)
BOX 34	Undated (6 folders)
BOX 34-42	Writings, 1960-2011 Articles and material related to books authored by Thomas. Copies of Thomas's many newspaper articles comprise the bulk of this series. Articles date between 1960 and 2011, though the vast majority range between 2000 and 2011, when Thomas worked as a columnist for Hearst Newspapers. Material concerning books usually include proposals and drafts. Thomas's 2006 publication <i>Watchdogs of Democracy? : The Waning Washington Press Corps and How It Has Failed the Public</i> is the most comprehensively documented titled, followed by <i>Front Row at the White House: My Life and Times</i> . In some cases, only promotional material related to a publication is included. Not all of Thomas's books are chronicled in this collection. Newspaper articles, drafts, proposals, and marketing material. Arranged alphabetically by material type.
BOX 34	Articles
BOX 34	1960-1979 (3 folders)
BOX 35	1980-2003 (10 folders)
BOX 36	2003-2004 (7 folders)
BOX 37	2004-2005 (7 folders)
BOX 38	2005-2006 (9 folders)
BOX 39	2006-2008 (7 folders)
BOX 40	2009-2011, undated (3 folders)
BOX 40	Books
BOX 40	<i>Dateline: White House</i> , 1975
BOX 40	<i>Front Row at the White House: My Life and Times</i>
BOX 40	Correspondence, 1997-1998
BOX 40	Drafts, circa 1997 (3 folders)

Writings, 1960-2011

Container	Contents
BOX 40	Press, 1999
BOX 40	Proposal and outline, circa 1996
BOX 40	<i>The Great White House Breakout</i> , 2008
BOX 40	<i>Listen Up, Mr. President: Everything You Always Wanted Your President to Know and Do</i> , 2008
BOX 40	Proposals and miscellaneous, 1996-circa 2008
BOX 40	<i>Thanks for the Memories, Mr. President: Wit and Wisdom from the Front Row at the White House</i>
BOX 40	Chapters, circa 2001
BOX 41	Drafts, circa 2001 (3 folders)
BOX 41	<i>Watchdogs of Democracy? : The Waning Washington Press Corps and How It Has Failed the Public</i>
BOX 41	Agreement, 2003
BOX 41	Book launch, 2006
BOX 41	Drafts, 2005 (3 folders)
BOX 41	Foreward, 2005
BOX 41	Proposal, outline, correspondence, 2004-2005
BOX 42	Notes, undated (2 folders)
BOX 42	Foreward in <i>Dear First Lady: Letters to the White House</i> , by Dwight Young and Margaret Johnson, 2009

BOX 42-52

Personal File, 1938-2013

Material related to Thomas's life and work. Photographs form a significant portion of this series and include images related to all ten presidential administrations covered by Thomas. Many of the photographs feature Thomas in her capacity in the White House press corps and feature her in the White House, at press conferences, aboard *Air Force One*, and with presidents and first ladies. Several photographs depict Thomas speaking at events and at Gridiron Club dinners. Photographs from Thomas's wedding to Douglas B. Cornell are also included. An extensive file of newspaper and magazine articles about Thomas is included in this series, as are transcripts of interviews Thomas gave. Biographical material, autobiographical material, and documents related to Thomas's death and funeral can also be found in this series. Researchers should note audio and video files of interviews given by Thomas can be found in the digital files.

Photographs, clippings, identification documents, and writings.

Arranged alphabetically by topic.

BOX 42	Address book, circa 1987
BOX 42	Apartment plans, 1963
BOX 42	Autobiographical writings, undated
BOX 42	Biographical material
BOX 42	"Asking the Hard Questions at the White House," by Susanlee Bozman, 1990 (1 folder)
BOX 43	(1 folder)
BOX 43	General, 1978-2010
BOX 43	Calendar, 1987
BOX 43	Caricatures and illustrations, circa 2000, undated <i>See also Container OV 2, Illustration</i>

Personal File, 1938-2013

Container	Contents
BOX 43	Clippings about Thomas
BOX 43	1959-1984 (5 folders)
BOX 44	1985-2013, undated (8 folders)
BOX 44	Cornell, Douglas B. papers
BOX 44	Articles and tear sheets, 1939-circa 1972
BOX 44	Certificates and membership cards, 1971-1977
BOX 44	Clippings, 1961-1973
BOX 45	Invitations and programs, 1938-circa 1973
BOX 45	Notebooks, circa 1962-circa 1964
BOX 45	Notes, circa 1947-circa 1976
BOX 45	Press passes, 1972
BOX 45	Press releases, 1940-1973
BOX 45	Death and memorial
BOX 45	Condolences and tributes, 2013
BOX 45	Planning, 2013
BOX 45	Directories, 1959-2009
BOX 45	Engagement and wedding, 1971 <i>See also Photographs</i>
BOX 45	Family, 1972-1989
BOX 45	"Helen and Doug" (unnamed book), tape transcript, 1976
BOX 45	Helen Thomas Award retirement, 2011
BOX 45	Howar, Abraham Joseph, 1943-1957 (2 folders)
BOX 45	Membership cards, circa 1979-1980
BOX 46	Oral history, 2003
BOX 46	Passport, 2003
BOX 46	Photographs
BOX 46	Book signings, circa 1975-2006
BOX 46	Bush, Barbara, 1989-1992
BOX 46	Bush, George H.W., 1989-1992 (2 folders)
BOX 46	Bush, George H.W. and Barbara, 1989-1992
BOX 46	Bush, George W. and Laura, 2003-2007
BOX 46	Carter, Jimmy, 1977-1980, 1992-1999 <i>See also Container OV 2, Photograph</i> (3 folders)
BOX 46	Carter, Rosalyn, 1979
BOX 46	Clinton, Bill, 1993-2000 <i>See also Container OV 2, Photographs</i> (1 folder)
BOX 47	(5 folders)
BOX 47	Clinton, Bill and Hillary, 1993-1997
BOX 47	Clinton, Hillary, 1993-1998
BOX 47	Collages, circa 2008
BOX 47	Commencement addresses, 1975-2000
BOX 47	Cornell, Douglas B., 1967-1973
BOX 47	Events and appearances <i>See also Container OV 2, Photographs</i>

Personal File, 1938-2013

Container	Contents
BOX 47	circa 1960-circa 1969 (1 folder)
BOX 48	1970-1999 (8 folders)
BOX 49	2000-2013 (6 folders)
BOX 49	Fitzwater, Marlin, 1987-1993
BOX 49	Ford, Gerald, 1974-1976 <i>See also Container OV 2, Photograph</i>
BOX 49	Gore, Albert (Al) and Mary (Tipper), 1993-1998
BOX 49	Gridiron Club dinner performances, circa 1993-2005 (2 folders)
BOX 50	Headshots and portraits, circa 1942-circa 2005
BOX 50	Johnson, Lady Bird, circa 1965, 1999
BOX 50	Johnson, Lyndon B., 1963-1971 <i>See also Container OV 2, Photograph</i> (2 folders)
BOX 50	Kennedy family, 1961-1967 (2 folders)
BOX 50	Kennedy, Jackie, 1960-1963
BOX 50	Kennedy, John F., 1960-1963 <i>See also Container OV 2, Photograph</i>
BOX 50	Miscellaneous, 1939-2003
BOX 50	Mitchell, Martha, 1974 Oct.
BOX 50	Negatives, circa 1965-circa 1975
BOX 50	Nixon and Johnson slides, 1969-1970
BOX 51	Nixon children, 1970
BOX 51	Nixon, Pat, 1971-1974
BOX 51	Nixon, Richard, 1969-1973 <i>See also Container OV 2, Photographs</i> (2 folders)
BOX 51	Nixon, Tricia, bridal shower, 1971 May
BOX 51	Obama, Barack, 2009
BOX 51	Presidents, group photographs of, circa 1989-circa 1994
BOX 51	Quayle, Dan and Marilyn, 1989-1990
BOX 51	Reagan, Nancy, 1981-1989 (2 folders)
BOX 51	Reagan, Ronald, 1981-1988 <i>See also Container OV 2, Photographs</i> (3 folders)
BOX 51	Reagan, Ronald and Nancy, 1981-1989
BOX 51	Reporting, circa 1970-1996 <i>See also Container OV 2, Photographs</i> (1 folder)
BOX 52	(1 folder)
BOX 52	Roosevelt, Franklin D., circa 1933-circa 1944
BOX 52	Wedding, Cornell and Thomas, 1971 Oct. 16
BOX 52	White House Press Room, circa 1981-circa 2002
BOX 53-57	Correspondence, 1959-2013 Primarily letters sent to Thomas from friends, colleagues, fans, and some family members. Topics are typically professional in nature and often include notes of congratulations regarding Thomas's many achievements, invitations to speak or attend events, and

Correspondence, 1959-2013

Container

Contents

comments on her latest stories. Correspondence from presidents and first ladies are also included in this series.

Arranged in two groupings: alphabetical and chronological.

BOX 53

Alphabetical

BOX 53

Bush, George H. W., 1989-1997

BOX 53

Bush, George W. and Laura, 2003-2007

BOX 53

Carter, Jimmy and Rosalynn, 1978-1982

BOX 53

Clinton, Bill and Hillary, 1993-2001

BOX 53

Cornell, Douglas B., 1971-1978

BOX 53

Ford, Gerald, 1975-2006

BOX 53

Johnson, Lady Bird, 1973-2007

BOX 53

Johnson, Lyndon B., 1967-1972

BOX 53

Mitchell, John, 1969-1973

BOX 53

Mitchell, Martha, 1971-1976

BOX 53

Nixon, Richard, 1959

BOX 53

Reagan, Ronald and Nancy, 1984-2000 *See also Container OV 2, Correspondence*

BOX 53

Chronological

BOX 53

1960-1977

(5 folders)

BOX 54

1978-1988

(10 folders)

BOX 55

1989-1998

(11 folders)

BOX 56

1999-2008

(12 folders)

BOX 57

2009-2013, undated

(6 folders)

BOX DF

Digital File, 2002-2010

Video, audio, and image files featuring Thomas delivering speeches, giving interviews, appearing in documentaries, and performing at Gridiron Club dinners. The majority of the interviews included in these files feature Thomas as the interviewee, with the exception of a series of audio files featuring interviews Thomas conducted with female senators for Melinda Mara's book *Changing the Face of Power: Women in the U.S. Senate*. Video files of the HBO documentary profile of Thomas, *Thank You, Mr. President: Helen Thomas at the White House*, directed by Rory Kennedy is also contained in this series. Files documenting a release event and panel discussion at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. accompany the documentary. Gridiron Club dinners from 2003, 2007-2008 and 2010 are also documented in video files in this series. These files were removed from storage media found within Thomas's papers. Request files using the digital ID.

Arranged alphabetically by material type or topic.

Documentaries

100 Years of Association of Women in Communications: 1909-2009, 2009

Digital ID: mss85982_153_013

The National Press Club: A Century of Headlines, 2008

Digital ID: mss85982_153_007

Thank You, Mr. President: Helen Thomas at the White House, HBO Documentary Films, 2008

Digital ID: mss85982_153_003

Thank You, Mr. President: Helen Thomas at the White House, Panel discussion, National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 2008

Digital ID: mss85982_153_025

Gridiron dinners

2003 Mar. 8

Digital ID: mss85982_153_031

2007 Mar. 31

Digital ID: mss85982_153_021

Digital ID: mss85982_153_022

2008 Mar. 8

Digital ID: mss85982_153_001

2010 Mar. 20

Digital ID: mss85982_153_020

Interviews

Thomas interviews of women senators: Hillary Clinton, Kay Bailey Hutchuson, Lisa Murkowski, Blanche Lincoln, Debbie Stebenow, Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, Mary Landrieu, Barbara Mikulski, and Elizabeth Dole, for *Changing the Face of Power: Women in the U.S. Senate* by Melina Mara, et. al. 2003

Digital ID: mss85982_153_040

Digital ID: mss85982_153_041

Digital ID: mss85982_153_042

Digital ID: mss85982_153_043

Digital ID: mss85982_153_044

The Daily Show, "White House Press Corps," 2009 Mar.

Digital ID: mss85982_153_004

Monmouth University, MACE Award, press conference and interview, West Long Branch, N.J, 2004 Sept. 21

Digital ID: mss85982_153_028

Digital ID: mss85982_153_029

National Press Club's Centennial celebration kick off panel discussion, 2008 Jan. 4

Digital ID: mss85982_153_034

Nine to Noon, Radio New Zealand, 2007 Mar. 22

Digital ID: mss85982_153_027

Unidentified interviewer, 2008 Oct. 28

Digital ID: mss85982_153_011

News story

Democracy Now, story regarding Thomas's comments on Israel, 2010

Digital ID: mss85982_153_005

Photographs

90th birthday celebration, 2010

Digital ID: mss85982_153_048

Florida Association of Homes for the Aging 39th annual convention speaking and book signing, Orlando, Fla., 2002 Aug.

Digital ID: mss85982_153_016

United States Postal Service Women in Journalism commemorative stamp release event, Fort Worth, Tex., 2002

Digital ID: mss85982_153_036

Speeches

American Friends Service Committee Annual Public Gathering, Philadelphia, Pa., 2006
Nov. 4

Digital ID: mss85982_153_012

American University of Beirut honorary doctorates ceremony, Beirut, Lebanon, 2003 Aug.

Digital ID: mss85982_153_046

Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., 2007 Apr. 9

Digital ID: mss85982_153_047

National Press Club, Washington D.C., circa 2002

Digital ID: mss85982_153_032

Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, Calif., 2007 Oct. 22

Digital ID: mss85982_153_024

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Diversity Education Series, "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams," Washington, D.C., 2006 Mar. 22

Digital ID: mss85982_153_030

BOX OV 1-OV 2

OverSIZE, 1962-2009

Certificates, photographs, correspondence, and artifacts.

Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

BOX OV 1

Unarranged artifacts

BOX OV 1

Awards, tape recorders, and buttons. Includes engraved tray presented to Thomas upon her induction as president of the Gridiron Club, 1992.

White House Press Corps

BOX OV 2

Spirit of '76 certificates of flight, 1971 July, 1973 Feb. (Container 5, *Spirit of '76*)

BOX OV 2

Air Force One certificate of flight, 1974 Aug. 19 (Container 5, *Air Force One*)

Speeches and Events

BOX OV 2

Arkansas Traveler awards, 1987 Feb. 15 (Container 23, Chronological file, 1987, 1991)

Personal File

BOX OV 2

Illustration by Jody Powell, undated (Container 43, Caricatures and illustrations)

BOX OV 2

Photograph of Jimmy Carter in a meeting, circa 1979 (Container 46, Carter, Jimmy)

BOX OV 2

Photographs of Bill Clinton and Thomas with a birthday cake, 1996 (Container 46, Clinton, Bill)

BOX OV 2

Photographs of Thomas, circa 1990-circa 2009 (Container 47, Events and appearances)

BOX OV 2

Photograph of Gerald Ford and Thomas, circa 1976 (Container 49, Ford, Gerald)

BOX OV 2

Photograph of Lyndon B. Johnson playing with beagles, undated (Container 50, Johnson, Lyndon B.)

BOX OV 2

Photograph of John F. Kennedy and Thomas talking, circa 1962 (Container 50, Kennedy, John F.)

Oversize, 1962-2009

Container	Contents
BOX OV 2	Photographs of Richard Nixon talking to Douglas Cornell and Thomas, circa 1973 (Container 51, Nixon, Richard)
BOX OV 2	Photographs of Ronald Reagan with Thomas and building a snowman, circa 1981-circa 1988 (Container 51, Reagan, Ronald)
BOX OV 2	Photographs of Thomas reporting in Kuwait and other various locations, circa 1994 (Container 51, Reporting)
BOX OV 2	Correspondence
BOX OV 2	Christmas card signed by Nancy and Ronald Reagan, 1988 (Container 53, Correspondence)