



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Beach-Thomas family papers

1888-1973 [bulk 1924-1945]

Sc MG 607

Processed by Edwina Ashie-Nikoi, 2009.

Summary

Creator: Beach-Thomas family

Title: Beach-Thomas family papers

Date: 1888-1973 [bulk 1924-1945]

Size: .6 linear feet (1.5 archival boxes)

Source: Gift of Vanessa Thomas-Wilson

Abstract: The Beach-Thomas family originated in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. Beatrice Beach, born in 1889 to James and Caroline Nurse, immigrated to New York City in 1924. She had one sister, Catherine, and a brother Randolph Thomas through her mother. Beatrice's husband, Edward, was a former Corporal in the Trinidad Police Force who became a seafarer in the years immediately before his family emigrated to New York. Eric Thomas, Beatrice's nephew, also immigrated to New York in 1924 and was raised by his aunt and uncle. Later, he served in the United States military during World War II. Except for a trip to Trinidad in the 1950s, Beatrice Beach remained in New York where she died in October 1982. The Beach-Thomas Family Papers span the years 1888-1973. The papers contain letters and property records that reveal various aspects of the Beach and Thomas's lives as homeowners in Trinidad and immigrants in the United States. The letters cover a wide-range of subjects such as immigration, employment, financial hardships, family relationships and support, social customs in Trinidad and the lives of black servicemen in the United States military. The property records consist largely of property assessments and tax receipts for the house on 11 Irving Lane in Port-of-Spain but also include some related correspondence.

Preferred citation: [Item], Beach-Thomas family papers, Sc MG 607, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Edwina Ashie-Nikoi, 2009.

Creator History

The Beach-Thomas family originated in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. Beatrice Beach, born in 1889 to James

and Caroline Nurse, immigrated to New York City in 1924. She had one sister, Catherine, and a brother Randolph Thomas through her mother. Beatrice's husband, Edward, was a former Corporal in the Trinidad Police Force who became a seafarer in the years immediately before his family emigrated to New York. Eric Thomas, Beatrice's nephew, also immigrated to New York in 1924 and was raised by his aunt and uncle. Later, he served in the United States military during World War II. Except for a trip to Trinidad in the 1950s, Beatrice Beach remained in New York where she died in October 1982.

Scope and Content Note

The Beach-Thomas Family Papers span the years 1888-1973. The papers contain letters and property records that reveal various aspects of the Beach and Thomas's lives as homeowners in Trinidad and immigrants in the United States. The letters cover a wide-range of subjects such as immigration, employment, financial hardships, family relationships and support, social customs in Trinidad and the lives of black servicemen in the United States military. The property records consist largely of property assessments and tax receipts for the house on 11 Irving Lane in Port-of-Spain but also include some related correspondence.

Arrangement: I. Family Papers; II. Real Estate and Financial Papers

Key Terms

Subjects

Caribbean Americans
Emigration and immigration
Families, Black
Soldiers, Black
Trinidadians -- United States
West Indians
Women immigrants -- New York (State) -- New York
World War, 1939-1945 -- Participation, African American

Geographic Names

Trinidad and Tobago -- Social life and customs

Names

Beach, Beatrice Nurse, 1889-1982
Beach, Edward, 1883-
Butcher, Caroline
Nurse, Caroline, 1867-
Thomas, Eric, 1915-
Beach family
Beach-Thomas family
Nurse family
Thomas family

Container List

Family papers 1906 - 1973

Correspondence 1906 - 1973

- b. 1 f. 1 Marriage proposal letters 1906
- b. 1 f. 2 Beatrice Beach to Caroline Nurse 1925 - 1926
- b. 1 f. 3 Caroline Nurse to Beatrice Beach 1925 - 1926
- b. 1 f. 4 Caroline Nurse to Eric Thomas undated
- b. 1 f. 5 Eric Thomas to Caroline Nurse 1925 - 1926
- b. 1 f. 6 Catherine Butcher to Beatrice Beach 1917 - 1940
- b. 1 f. 7 Eric Thomas to Beatrice Beach 1934 - 1945
- b. 1 f. 8 Beatrice Beach to Eric Thomas 1943 - 1944
- b. 1 f. 9 Eric Thomas to Edward Beach 1943 - 1945
- b. 1 f. 10 Edward Beach to Eric Thomas 1943
- b. 1 f. 11 Relatives and friends 1924 - 1973
- b. 1 f. 12 Unidentified undated
- b. 1 f. 13 Pension letter 1951
- b. 1 f. 14 Ephemera

Real estate and financial 1888 - 1951

- b. 2 f. 1 Letters 1935 - 1951
- b. 2 f. 2 Property assessments and receipts 1903 - 1951
- b. 2 f. 3 Property assessments and receipts 1888 - 1931
- b. 2 f. 4 Trinidad Building and Loan Association 1938 - 1947
- b. 2 f. 5 New York rent receipts 1924 - 1949
- b. 2 f. 6 Withholding statements 1947 - 1950