

A Guide to the Leri Melissa Thomas Papers, 1926-1995 (bulk 1988-1992) SC 0156

Leri Melissa Thomas Papers
1926-1995



Title Statement

A Guide to the Leri Melissa Thomas Papers, 1926-1995 (bulk 1988-1992) SC 0156

Author: Lindsay Mannell and Chris Bolgiano, Tara Mastrangelo

Publication Statement

Publisher: James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

820 Madison Drive
MSC 1706
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
Telephone: (540) 568-3612
library-special@jmu.edu
URL: <https://www.lib.jmu.edu/special/>



December 1998, October 2010

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-08 07:05:42 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0156

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/301

Unit Date

1926-1995

Unit Date

1988-1992

Language

English

Abstract

The Leri Melissa Thomas Papers, 1926-1995 (bulk 1988-1992), consists of one box of files documenting the relationship between Shenandoah National Park (SNP) and residents and officials in several counties adjoining the park, especially Madison, Augusta, and Rockingham counties, Virginia.

Creator

Thomas, Leri Melissa

Extent

0.33 cubic feet 1 box

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk. (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

Leri Thomas donated the collection to Special Collections in September 1998.

Processing Information

In order to streamline the process of applying collection numbers, Special Collections staff completed a large-scale renumbering campaign in 2017-2018. **This collection was previously cataloged as SC 4015.**

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Leri Melissa Thomas Papers, 1926-1995 (bulk 1988-1992), SC 0156, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Bio/Historical Note

In 1979, Leri Melissa Thomas moved to Madison County within five miles of Shenandoah National Park. In the late 1980s, when the park inaugurated a study of its surrounding lands, she became a leader in the private property rights movement that protested the potential expansion of the park. She contacted government officials at all levels and publicized the public concern over the park's Related Lands Study (also known as Adjacent Lands Study) and other activities. Among her neighbors were descendants of people who had been dispossessed by the park in the 1920s and 1930s, when the park was first established.

Scope and Content

This collection is composed of one box of files documenting the relationship between Shenandoah National Park (SNP) and residents and officials in several counties adjoining the park, especially Madison, Augusta, and Rockingham Counties, 1926-1995. The documents, which are mostly photocopies, constitute a wide variety of materials, including newspaper clippings, newsletters, correspondence, memos, reports, maps, minutes of meetings, and surveys. Some materials were obtained from SNP and other federal agencies by Ms. Thomas through Freedom of Information Act requests. She has made notes on and/or highlighted many of the materials.

Related Material

Shenandoah Park Oral History Collection, 1964-1999, SdArch SNP, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Keywords

Shenandoah National Park (Va.) -- History

Shenandoah National Park (Va.). Related Lands Study
Private property rights movement
Right of property -- United States
Real property -- Virginia
Compensation (law) -- United States
Land use -- Law and legislation -- United States
Land use -- Government policy -- United States
Land use -- Virginia
Land use surveys -- Virginia
Eviction -- Government policy -- United States
Rural-urban migration -- Virginia
Appalachians (People) -- 20th century
Mountain people -- Government policy -- Virginia
Mountain life -- Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)
Hunting -- Virginia -- Shenandoah National Park
Hunting -- Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)
Poaching -- Virginia -- Shenandoah National Park
Poaching -- Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)
Floods -- Virginia -- Madison County
Hunting customs -- Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)
Depressions -- 1929 -- United States
National parks and reserves -- Virginia -- History
Environmental monitoring -- Virginia -- Shenandoah National Park
Gore Tract (Madison County, Va.)
Light Tract (Madison County, Va.)
Rose River Tract (Madison County, Va.)
Madison County (Va.) -- History
Augusta County (Va.) -- History
Rockingham County (Va.) -- History
Page County (Va.) -- History
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- History -- 20th century
Research (documents)
United States. National Park Service
United States. Bureau of Land Management
Blue Ridge Committee for Shenandoah National Park Relations

Location of Originals

Some originals are retained by the donor.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged topically into thirteen folders.

Description of Subordinate Components

Related Lands Study

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1570

Unit Date 1926-1992

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Content

Letters, memos, laws, minutes of meetings, newsletters, reports, and other documents on the adjacent lands study conducted by SNP.

Adjacent Lands Surveys

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1571

Unit Date 1980s-1990s

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Content

Forms containing survey information for Madison and Rockingham counties.

SNP Acquisitions

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1572

Unit Date 1979-1992

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Content

Letters and other documents concerning SNP acquisitions, and the role of The Conservation Fund in securing those acquisitions.

Gore Tract

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1573

Unit Date 1989-1992, undated

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Content

Letters, memos, surveys, maps, etc., related to SNP interest in the Gore Tract in Madison County.

Rose River Tract

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1574

Unit Date 1991, undated

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Content

Documents related to SNP interest in the Rose River Tract in Madison County.

Light tract

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1575

Unit Date 1981-1990

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Content

Documents related to SNP interest in the Light property in Madison County.

Page County

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1576

Unit Date 1988-1992, undated

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Scope and Content

Documents concerning the Park's interest in several tracts of land in Page County.

Park Jurisdiction

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1577

Unit Date 1969-1992, undated

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Content

Documents concerning Park boundaries and concurrent jurisdiction.

Property Rights and Anti-Park Expansion

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1578

Unit Date 1979-1992, undated

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Scope and Content

Newsletters and other documents concerned with private property issues in general and specifically as related to SNP, including the pamphlet Us vs. NPS, co-authored by L. Thomas.

Blue Ridge Committee on SNP Relations

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1579

Unit Date 1992-1993, undated

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Scope and Content

Documents concerning formation of an advisory committee to SNP of the eight bordering counties.

Newspaper articles

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1580

Unit Date 1978-1991

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Scope and Content

Miscellaneous articles related to SNP.

Hunting/Poaching

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1581

Unit Date 1977-1992

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Scope and Content

Letters describing several incidents in or near SNP.

Report of Floods

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1582

Unit Date 1995

Mixed Materials [1000885896] 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Scope and Content

A 15 p. report by L. Thomas entitled, "The floods of 1995: a case study of Madisonian attitudes and experiences in the wake of flood relief efforts," which links attitudes and behaviors in response to floods to those concerning SNP. Includes some biographical information on L. Thomas.