



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.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: [http://archives.nypl.org/scm/request\\_access](http://archives.nypl.org/scm/request_access)

**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