

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

Thomas A. Jolly  
Collection

1998.97

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.  
December 1999

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## Collection Information

Abstract : Thomas A. Jolly, a retired wire tester, was a neighborhood activist in the Heard Street area of Worcester. He was responsible for revitalization of Hadwen Park, and the establishment of cultural and recreational programs for the youth of the area. The collection includes clippings and other documents highlighting some of his and his wife's activities. Jolly died in 1999 at the age of 84.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Jolly, Worcester, June 12, 1998.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcs, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Jolly, Thomas A., ca. 1915-1999.

Jolly, Jeannette M.

Community organization – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Retirees – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Volunteer workers in parks – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Volunteer workers in recreation – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Voluntarism – Massachusetts – Worcester.

### Historical/Biographical Notes

Thomas A. Jolly was born in Oxford, Massachusetts, ca. 1915, and lived most of his life in Worcester. He was a wire tester at Worcester Wire Works for 39 years before retiring in 1975. Jolly was active in revitalization of Hadwen Park in Worcester, and was head of the Heard Street District Area Improvement Society. He was best known for his volunteer activities in cultural and recreational programs for the young people in the Heard Street neighborhood where he lived. He successfully lobbied the city government for improved street lighting and rubbish collection. He also, with his wife, taught square dancing, shuffleboard, and other recreational activities to area youth. He was past president of the Bicentennial Constitution Hill Carnival at Hadwen Park, past president of the neighborhood improvement organization, and chairman of the 'We the people' Bicentennial City. In recognition of his volunteer activities and neighborhood activism, the city named the new Heard Street bridge after him in 1982. He was also recognized by the Massachusetts Senate for his activism. In addition to his neighborhood activities, Jolly was active in the Alhambra Knights of Columbus Council 88, the Model A Ford Foundation of America, the Orientation Club of New England, the Square Dance Foundation and Folk Dance Association of New England and Massachusetts, and numerous other organizations. Jolly died in 1999 at the age of 84.

## Scope and Content

The collection includes copies of clippings of the renaming of the Heard Street bridge in honor of Thomas Jolly, and of some of the recreational activities established by Jolly in the Hadwen Park area of Worcester during the 1970s and 1980s. Also included are copies of photographs of numerous recreational and cultural activities arranged by Jolly in the Heard Street area and Hadwen Park during the 1970s and 1980s, a copy of a print of Jolly's grandparents and their children, and a kodacolor print of pope John Paul II taken at the time of his visit to Boston. The collection includes thank you letters from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Heard Street School in the late 1970s to Thomas Jolly for his activities in the school and neighborhood. Miscellaneous materials include business cards from Mr. & Mrs. Jolly re Worcester Bicentennial celebration, and a proclamation issued by Governor Michael Dukakis to Jeannette Jolly, recognizing her activism by proclaiming her a member of The Order of Paul Revere Patriots.

The collection provides insight into the life of Thomas A. Jolly and his community activism in the Heard Street/Hadwen Park area of Worcester, as well as detailing the recreational and cultural activities available for youth in that area as a result of Jolly's volunteer efforts. In addition the collection shows the potential volunteer capabilities of retirees in areas of civic improvement.

### Series Description

Series 1: Clippings. From Worcester newspapers featuring some of the activities and recognition of Thomas A. Jolly.

Series 2: Letters. Heard Street School teacher to Thomas Jolly re thanks for volunteer recreational activities at Hadwen Park.

Series 3: Photographs. Mostly photocopies of photographs of various activities of Thomas Jolly.

Series 4: Miscellaneous. Business cards and proclamation presented to Jeannette Jolly.

Thomas A. Jolly Collection  
1998.97  
Series 1, Clippings

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1998.97.1.1	“Tom Jolly – the keystone of Hadwen Park carnival” : Worcester Telegram, September 17, 1987 / by Bill Barry. Aqp
		1998.97.1.2	“That’s Jolly, not Heard Street bridge” : Worcester Gazette, March 15, 1983. Aqp
		1998.97.1.3	“Now it’s a Jolly crossing”, in Harrington Corner column : Worcester Telegram, December 16, 1982 / by Mary Beth McCarthy. Aqp

Thomas A. Jolly Collection  
1998.97  
Series 2, Letters

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	1998.97.2.1	Letter to Thomas A. Jolly from Phyllis Kelley, grade 5 teacher, Heard Street School, September 26, 1995. Aqp
		1998.97.2.2	Letter to Thomas A. Jolly from Phyllis Kelley, grade 5 teacher, Heard Street School, June 13, 1997. Aqp



Thomas A. Jolly Collection  
1998.97  
Series 3, Photographs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	1998.97.3.1	“The Joseph Jolly family”, grandparents of Thomas A. Jolly : photocopy of photograph. Manuscript notes and identification by Thomas A. Jolly.
		1998.97.3.2	“Mr. & Mrs. Jolly and children ... square dancing ... Hadwen Park tennis court”, January/February 1979 : photocopy of photograph. Manuscript notes by Thomas A. Jolly.
		1998.97.3.3	“Senate president William Bulger presenting to Thomas A. Jolly citation of ... service, with Senator John Huston, in the Senate chambers”, n.d. : photocopy of photograph. Notes on reverse by Thomas A. Jolly.
		1998.97.3.4-.5	Various scenes in Hadwen Park, Worcester, Massachusetts, with 1978 bicentennial events, 1987 flag pole installation and dedication, etc. : colored copies of photographic prints. Notes by Thomas A. Jolly. 2 p.
		1998.97.3.6	Tom and Jeannette Jolly : photograph in Valentine, 1998. Color copy of card, with notes written by Thomas A. Jolly.
		1998.97.3.7	Pope John Paul II, visit to Boston, Massachusetts, n.d. : Kodacolor print, 3 x 5 in.

Thomas A. Jolly Collection  
1998.97  
Series 4, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	1998.97.4.1a-d	Worcester Bicentennial, April 23, 1990, "We the people" chairman Thomas A. Jolly : Business card. 4 copies
1	4	1998.97.4.2	Proclamation: to Jeannette A. Jolly, proclaiming her a member of the Order of Paul Revere patriots, by Michael S. Dukakis, Governor. aqp