



## **Ian M. Thompson Papers (C4782)**

**Collection Number:** C4782

**Collection Title:** Ian M. Thompson Papers

**Dates:** 1921-1978

**Creator:** Thompson, Ian Murchie, 1921-1977

**Abstract:** The personal and professional papers of a professor of surgery and chief urologist at the University of Missouri.

**Collection Size:** 7.5 cubic feet, 35 oversize items, 1 volume  
(156 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [columbia@shsmo.org](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Ian M. Thompson Papers* (C4782); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Marge Thompson on October 4, 1977 (Accession No. CA4112). Additions were made by Betty Anthony on January 12, October 9, and October 20, 1978 (Accession No. CA4134, CA4193, CA4196), and on April 9, 1984 (Accession No. CA4566).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Ian M. Thompson Papers can be found in the following collections:

[University of Missouri, Department of Anatomy Records](#), (C2515)

[University of Missouri, School of Medicine Records](#), (C3651)

**Processed by:** Autumn Cuddy, January 22, 2026

### **Historical Note:**

Dr. Ian Murchie Thompson was born July 12, 1921, in Yonkers, New York. His parents were first-generation immigrants: his father, Thomas Thompson, emigrated from Ireland in 1914, and his mother, Janet McKillop Murchie, emigrated from Scotland in 1915; both received naturalization status in 1930. He died following a prolonged illness on February 11, 1977.

Dr. Thompson attended Bard College and Harvard College, earned his A.B. in English, and received a medical doctorate from New York Medical College in 1947. After graduation, Thompson interned at City Hospital on Welfare Island, New York, before joining the medical staff at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. The American Board of Urology certified Thompson as a urology specialist in 1956. While in New Orleans, he met Dr. Marjorie Dale, a member of the resident staff at Southern Baptist Hospital. They married on August 5, 1950, and had two children: Ian Murchie, Jr., and Janet.

In 1953, Ian Thompson received a captain's commission with the United States Army Medical Corps. He served for three years, primarily in South Korea, where he conducted research on the medical effects of Japanese occupation through the end of World War II on the health of the Korea population. While on tour in Korea, Thompson earned commendations from the South Korean government for life-saving emergency medical treatment rendered to civilians.

In addition to medical practice, Dr. Thompson held a career in medical education, working as an assistant professor at the University of Texas and as assistant professor of surgery at the University of Michigan. Thompson joined the University of Missouri-Columbia faculty in 1959 as a professor of surgery and chairman of the urology section in the UM Medical Center. His wife, Marjorie - known colloquially as "Dr. Dale" to avoid confusion - accepted a job as the Director of the Emergency Medicine Department. In 1972, Thompson participated in Project Hope, a two-and-a-half month volunteer mission to treat patients and train local medical workers in Natal, Brazil.

He was also involved in a number of medical and scientific professional organizations around the world. Some of these include: Alaska State Medical Association, American Academy of General Practice, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Surgeons, Canadian Urological Association, International College of Surgeons, Pan-Pacific Surgical Association, Singleton Surgical Society, Sociedad de Urologia de El Salvador, Sociedad Peruana de Urologia, Society of the Sigma Xi, Southern Medical Association, and the American Urological Association, for which he served as president of the South Central section and as editor of the organization's publication, *The Journal of Urology*.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following 12 series:

Awards  
Childhood  
Correspondence  
Death  
Education  
Events  
Medical Practice  
Organizations  
Photographs  
Press  
Publications  
Oversize Materials

**Scope and Content Note:**

**Awards**

This series contains certificates, ribbons, pins, medals, and other tokens of appreciation presented to Dr. Thompson by various organizations and institutions for his contributions to the medical field and participation in programming, 1930s-1977.

**Childhood**

This series consists of materials pertaining to Dr. Thompson's birth through early education, including vital records, writings, and school papers from Choir School of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine and Trinity School in New York, 1921-1939.

**Correspondence**

This series contains letters pertaining to personal and professional matters, primarily between Dr. Thompson and other urological physicians and urological or surgical organizations seeking advice or extending invitations and greetings, 1954-1978. A number of letters received after Dr. Thompson's death are included. Correspondence is arranged chronologically by year.

**Death**

This series consists of materials pertaining to Dr. Thompson's death, including letters of condolence to his widow and children, announcements of the news in publications from organizations of which he was a member, and memorial writings by his friends, 1977-1978. Condolence notes are arranged alphabetically by last name.

**Education**

This series contains materials related to each school Dr. Thompson attended after completing high school, including Bard and Harvard Colleges and New York Medical College, 1939-1947, and some additional material generated by these institutions for their alumni.

### **Events**

This series consists of invitations, notices, planning materials, correspondence, travel information, financial records, and other materials pertaining to meetings, engagements, and other events Dr. Thompson attended, organized, or to which he received invitations. The bulk of this series includes planning and attendance materials for professional organization meetings and the annual programs and brochures for these events. Planning materials are arranged alphabetically by organization; programs are arranged chronologically by year.

### **Medical Practice**

This series contains materials related to Dr. Thompson's career as both an educator and practitioner of the medical sciences, specifically urology and surgery, as well as his special interest in pediatric medicine, 1945-1977. The series includes medical licenses and certificates, contract paperwork, workshop programs, lesson plans, and limited correspondence and publications. Additional records pertain to Dr. Thompson's years of service as a captain with the United States Army, 1953-1955, particularly those relating to his tour of duty in South Korea.

### **Organizations**

This series consists of materials pertaining to professional medical and surgical organizations of which Dr. Thompson was a member, including certificates, membership records, ID cards, and by-laws, 1955-1975. Additional records pertaining to annual meetings and conferences can be found in the **Events** series.

### **Photographs**

This series consists of photographs of Dr. Thompson and his family, friends, and associates, including some group images of medical conference attendees, 1930s-1976.

### **Press**

This series contains one folder of newspaper clippings related to Dr. Thompson's military and medical careers, 1956-1970s.

### **Publications**

This series contains newsletters, journals, books, manuscripts, and articles, primarily related to urology and the medical field. A number of these were written by Dr. Thompson or describe his contributions to the field, while others were published by his alma maters or organizations of which he was a member, 1941-1978.

## Oversize Materials

This series consists of oversized certificates and photographs documenting graduations, professional achievements, organizational memberships, conference participation, and miscellaneous attainments, 1930s-1976. This series is arranged by type and size. Also included is one bound volume of *Trinity Times* newspaper issues published during Ian Thompson's student years, 1935-1939.

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- f. 2 Objects, 1930s-1976

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f. 85	Gorgas Hospital, consultancy, 1975-1976
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