MILLARD'S CROSSING

HISTORIC VILLAGE

Albert Thomas: The Tall Man With a Bow Tie From East Texas

Photo of Albert Thomas. Courtesy of the Woodson research center

On April 12, 1898, James and Lonnie Thomas gave birth to a little boy, Albert Thomas, in Nacogdoches, Texas. In his youth and teen years, Albert Thomas worked in his father's store and attended local schools in his youth. When Thomas was 19, he enlisted to fight in World War I when the United States joined the war in 1917. He achieved the rank of second lieutenant before returning home to Nacogdoches when the war ended. After the war, Thomas pursued his education at Rice Institute and graduated in 1920. Thomas continued his education at the University of Texas in pursuit of a law degree, which he would obtain in 1926. While he was attending the University of Texas, Thomas met his future wife, Lera Thomas. The two had an interesting relationship to say the least. Thomas often wrote letters to Lera concerned why she has not written back for such a long time. The two had a strong relationship, and married in 1922.

After graduating from the University of Texas with his law degree, Albert Thomas was admitted to the Texas Judicial Bar in Nacogdoches in 1927. While serving in Nacogdoches, Thomas was part of several murder cases, and sent some men to the electric chair. Thomas continued to practice law in Nacogdoches until 1930 when he became the assistant district attorney for the Southern District of Texas. He moved to Houston, Texas with lera to take his new position. Thomas held his new position until 1936, when he ran for the 8th Congressional District in Texas. Thomas won against Oscar F. Holcombe, the Mayor of Houston, and was elected to Represent Harris County and Houston in the House of Representatives.