

Phoenix Historical Society

Hours of Operation: Thursday-Saturday 1-4 PM

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P.O. Box 1466 Phoenix, Oregon 97535

PHSM 102: Marian B. Towne Collection (1888-1980)

***CREATOR**

Numerous family members and others

***EXTENT**

Number of Containers: 1 clamshell box 5"

Number of Items or Digital Files: 7 .tiff images

Displays: 1 glass fronted wall display

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Photos, ephemera and physical objects related to Marian Towne, her immediate family, her home and her military and political life.

***LANGUAGES**

English

PROCESSING ARCHIVIST

Dorothy Cotton, Margaret Croly, Maureen Flanagan Battistella

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This finding aid was developed in part with funding from an Oregon Heritage Commission grant and with the support of Southern Oregon University.

Collection Details

Biographical / Historical Note

Marian B. Towne (1880-1966) was Oregon's first woman legislator, serving in 1915. She was born in a mining camp at Sterling Creek outside of Jacksonville, Oregon. The family later moved to Phoenix, where Towne's father owned and operated a profitable mercantile store. When she finished high school, Towne worked as an assistant to the Jackson County clerk and just two years after women gained the right to vote in Oregon, Towne was elected to the Oregon legislature. She sought a second term, but was not successful. During her time in Salem, Towne served on three House committees: Education, Health and Public Morals. In 1917, she enlisted in the Naval Reserve at the rank of Chief Yeoman and served in the Navy during World War I. Marian B. Towne were released from active duty following the war, in 1919. The Towne family home, on the National Register of Historic Places, at 120 West 2d Street, then owned by the Jackson County Fuel Committee, burned in the 2020 Almeda Fire. The Jackson County Fuel Committee replaced the building but it has no physical resemblance to the Towne family home.

*Collection Description

The Phoenix Historical Society Museum has a variety of materials related to Marian B. Towne and her family, circa 1880 through 1980. This finding aid describes the contents of the paper ephemera, printed photographs and other material collected in the museum's Towne family collection. Included are newspaper articles describing Marian B. Towne's life, her military and political career, family photographs, property documents related to the Towne family home in Phoenix, Annie Towne's autograph book dated Nov 21, 1893 and other materials. The museum also has a collection of clothing worn by the Towne girls which are displayed in a glass fronted wall display cabinet.

Arrangement Description

This collection was processed at the collection-level and as time allows, at the item level as described below.

Inventory

102.01

Family photographs, physical, including 1 tin type		01	01
Marian B. Towne Chief Yeoman, Navy War Service Cert, no 58092		01	02
US Naval Reserve Discharge, no 1045801	1930	01	02
Newspaper articles, photocopied enlargements of MBT	1959-86	01	03
Memorial obituary, Medford Mail Tribune	1966	01	04
Property records and monies owed, handwritten	1886,1902	01	05
Modern photograph of Towne Family home, JaCo Fuel Committee Open House, 201u	1999-201u	01	06
Photocopy of family home; photograph of Towne Family home		01	06
Marian B. Towne, typewritten text of lectures on women's rights	nd	01	07

Valley Record supplement, Jackson County Election	1892	01	08
Correspondence re William F. Towne estate	1935	01	09
Annie Towne autograph book. 2013.04.01	1893	01	10
Goods in display cabinet: 3 embroidered purses, 4 shirts or skies, pair of leather gloves			
Goods in display cabinet: Family Bible 1822, 4 photographs, 1 photo alb			
Exhibit, on 4 display boards			
Annie Towne's child-sized rocking chair with woven leather seat			

Related Materials

Southern Oregon Historical Society and Rogue Valley Genealogical Society may also have material on Marian Towne.

- Oregon Encyclopedia: Marian B. Towne
- https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/towne_marian_b_1880_1966/#.Y_qXJbMKM8
- Oregon Historic Sites Database. William Francis Towne House. heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/index.cfm?do=v.dsp_siteSummary&resultDisplay=40229
- Cotton, Dorothy. "100 Years Anniversary—Woman's Suffrage—1912-2012." *Gasburg Gazette*, Fall 2012
- O'Harra, Marjorie and Dorothy Cotton. "Marian Towne." *Gasburg Gazette*, Spring 2015

Location of Originals

Primary and secondary material is boxed and also found in a variety of locations in the Phoenix Historical Society Museum as noted above in the Separated Materials section.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Various individuals and groups have donated material to the Phoenix Historical Society Museum over time. This collection also includes materials donated by the Towne family.

Subject Headings

Towne, Marian B.; Oregon-- History -- 1846-1950; Oregon -- Politics and government -- 1846-1950; Legislators -- Oregon; Women -- Political activity; Women politicians; United States. Navy -- Women -- History; Phoenix (Or.)

Processing Note

There may be photographs in the not-yet-scanned files of the 4-drawer file cabinet and in the drawers under the display cases.

Using the Collection

*ACCESS STATEMENT

Collection is open to the public and available for use in the Phoenix Historical Society Museum.

RIGHTS STATEMENT

The material in the Marian Towne collection may be freely used for non-profit, educational and research purposes. Any and all commercial use must be explicitly approved by the Phoenix Historical Society Museum.

Copyright has been assigned to the Phoenix Historical Society Museum by various donors.

PREFERRED CITATION

PHSM 102: Marian B. Town Collection (1888-1980), Phoenix Historical Society Museum, Phoenix, Oregon