

Collection #
M 1443

**MARIAN K. TOWNE
PAPERS ADDITION, CA. 1953–2005**

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Two manuscript boxes, four folders of photographs, one half sized box cold storage color photographs

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1953–2005

PROVENANCE: Marian K. Towne, Indianapolis, IN

RESTRICTIONS: Materials in cold storage need at least 4 hours to acclimate, so patrons should call ahead if they wish to view materials that are in cold storage.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Marian K. Towne Papers, Ca. 1974–1996 (M0746); Dreaming the Impossible Dream: the First Thirty Years of the Edyvean Repertory Theatre at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana (PW 2049.T63 1996); A Midwest Gardener's Cookbook (TX 801.T69 1996); The Onliest One Alive: Surviving Jonestown, Guyana (BP 605.P46T73 1995); That All May Be One: Centennial History of Church Women United in Indianapolis, 1898–1998 (BV 4420.T63 1998); Church Women United in Indiana, Records, 1916–1998 (M 0738); Church Women United in Indiana, Records, 1933–1988 (M 0547); League of Women Voters of Indiana, Records (M 0612)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2005.0299

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL SKETCH

Marian Kleinsasser Towne was born on 24 July 1933, in Freeman, South Dakota. She married Dr. Edgar A. Towne, who later served as a professor at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis. The Townes have four children and eight grandchildren.

Marian Towne is a graduate of Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas, where she received her B.A. in English and speech in 1955. In 1958, she graduated from the University of Chicago, with an M.A. in English and literature. Towne then received a second M.A. in 1978 from the Christian Theological Seminary, with a specialization in communication.

For most of her professional career, Towne worked in the field of education. From 1955 to 1957, she worked for Moundridge High School in Moundridge, Kansas. In 1958, Towne took a position as a part-time instructor in English at Roosevelt University in Chicago, where she worked as an instructor until 1962. Towne's next position brought her to Findlay College in Findlay, Ohio, where she worked as a part-time instructor in English from 1962 to 1968 and as an assistant professor of English from 1968 to 1970. After a hiatus from her career to pursue other academic interests, she became a part-time instructor at Indiana University–Purdue University at Indianapolis. She taught speech communication there from 1984–94. She also did consulting for the Center for Church and Community Ministries, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, from 1992–1994.

Marian Towne has served in several civic roles in the Indianapolis community. She has been a member of the Fairview Presbyterian Church, located in Indianapolis, since 1975. She has served as a member and moderator of the Board of Deacons, and is an ordained elder, a member of sessions, chair of the Mission Committee, and as a member of the choir. Towne has also been affiliated with Presbyterian Women as a member of the Board of Fairview Women and a member of the Board for Women of Presbytery of Whitewater Valley.

Towne has also been very involved with the Church Women United. She served as president of the Indianapolis unit. She also formerly served as vice president for Ecumenical Action, CWU in Indiana; as a member of the Common Council (Board), national CWU; and as a member of the Communication Committee.

Currently Towne is a member of the League of Women Voters and served on the board for the Indianapolis unit. As a member of this organization Towne has compiled and edited an Indianapolis and Marion County Directory of Government Officials.

Other organizations Towne has been involved with include:

- American Association of University Women
- Indiana Religious History Association
- Indiana Women's History Archives, Inc.
- Citizens Concerned About Gun Violence
- Democratic Party
- Gleaners Food Bank and Caring Community, Inc., Indianapolis (Towne was the founding director)

Marian Towne has also been an active participant in politics. In 1986, she was the Democratic candidate for Indiana State Representative in District #49. Towne has also worked for health care reform, especially in the period from approximately 1987 to 1996.

Other interests of Marian Towne include writing. As an author, Towne has written and published five titles. They are as follows:

- *Bread of Life: Diaries and Memories of a Dakota Family, 1936–1945*, self-published, 1994.
- *Dreaming the Impossible Dream: The First Thirty Years of the Edyvean Repertory Theatre at Christian Theological Seminary*, Indianapolis, self-published, 1996.
- *A Midwest Gardener's Cookbook*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996.
- *The Onliest One Alive: Surviving Jonestown, Guyana*, by Catherine (Hyacinth) Thrash, as told to Marian K. Towne, self-published, 1995.
- *That All May Be One: Centennial History of Church Women United in Indianapolis, 1898–1998*, Indianapolis: Church Women United, 1998.

Sources:

Marian K. Towne Papers, Ca. 1974–1996 (M0746)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is arranged chronologically and has been arranged into 4 series: School Papers, Writing, 1986 Indiana State Representative Campaign, and Miscellaneous Items.

Series 1: School Papers includes papers and reports written by Marian for undergraduate and graduate classes. This series also includes papers relating to her time spent as a teacher.

Series 2: Writing contains all papers concerning Marian's writing career. This series includes correspondence, news clippings, photographs, and research documents about the different books she has written. Also included are articles and poetry.

Series 3: 1986 Indiana State Representative Campaign contains all the information concerning Marian's campaign. This includes campaign notebooks, donor information, correspondence, news clippings, and photographs.

Series 4: Miscellaneous Items pertains to all other materials. This includes photographs, certificates and awards, letters, etc.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: School Papers

CONTENTS

"The Evaluation and Teaching of Literature," and skit,
1953

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

"The Development of Education for the Masses in the
Modern Western World," 1954

Box 1, Folder 2

Teaching Career, 1955–1998

Box 1, Folder 3

An Analysis of "The Flower and the Leaf," 1957

Box 1, Folder 4

"The Tilbury Town Portraits of Edwin Arlington
Robinson," 1957

Box 1, Folder 5

Graduate English Courses and Papers, 1957, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 6

"I believe...One Holy Catholic and Apostle Church,"
1978

Box 1, Folder 7

Journalism at Butler University, 1978, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 8

Essays, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 9

Series 2: Writing

CONTENTS

Poetry, 1967–2002

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 10

Short Articles, 1973–1997, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 11

"Encounter: Contemporary Theology," 1987

Box 1, Folder 12

Sermons, 1990, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 13

Letters to the Editor, 1993–2002

Box 1, Folder 14

"Bread of Life," 1994–1997

Box 1, Folder 15

"Bread of Life," Book Signing, 1994

Cold Storage
Color Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

"The Onliest One Alive," 1995–2003 [Folder 1 of 2]

Box 1, Folder 16

"The Onliest One Alive," 1995–2003 [Folder 2 of 2]	Box 1, Folder 17
"Onliest One Alive" Talk and Book Signing, 1995	Photographs, Folder 2 of 4
Jonestown/"The Onliest One Alive," newsclippings, 1995, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 18
"The Onliest One Alive" Performance to mark the 25th Anniversary of Jonestown, 2003	Cold Storage Color Photographs: Box 1, Folder 7
"A Midwest Gardener's Cookbook," 1996	Box 2, Folder 1
"Dreaming the Impossible Dream," 1996–2005	Box 2, Folder 2
"That All May Be One," 1988–2001	Box 2, Folder 3
"James Hutter's Friends," 1999–2001	Box 2, Folder 4
Papers and Speeches, 1999–2004	Box 2, Folder 5
"Celebrating the Journey," 1999, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 6
Orations, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 7
Radio Speaking, Plays, Poems, etc., n.d.	Box 2, Folder 8

Series 3: 1986 Indiana State Representative Campaign

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Indiana House of Representatives Campaign Notebooks, 1986	Box 2, Folder 9
Correspondence Campaign, 1986	Box 2, Folder 10
Campaign for State Representative, 1986	Cold Storage Color Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
Democrats vs. Republicans Baseball Game, 1986	Cold Storage Color Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2
Election Campaign, 1986–2003	Box 2, Folder 11
Campaign News clippings, 1986, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 12

Autographs from Politicians, 1990–2004 Box 1, Folder 13

Letters to Politicians, 1994–2000 Box 1, Folder 14

Series 4: Miscellaneous Items

CONTENTS

Marian K. Towne and Nancy McKee in "The Wild Duck," 1976

Thank You Notes, 1979–2004

Certificates and Awards, 1982–2005

Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence, 2002

Entertainment by CTS Process Pickers, 1986

Marian K. Towne and Ellen Walsh, 1996

Marjorie Dilling, Jerrye Champion, Gladys Kapenga, Susan Mix, 2000

"Courage to Make a Difference" Award, 2002

Dr. Thelma Adain, n.d.

Marian K. Towne at Unknown Event, n.d.

Tapestry, n.d.

Mother's Day, n.d.

Business Letter Writing, n.d.

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Folder 1 of 4

Box 2, Folder 15

Box 2, Folder 16

Box 2, Folder 17

Cold Storage
Color Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 3

Cold Storage
Color Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 5

Cold Storage
Color Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs,
Folder 3 of 4

Photographs,
Folder 4 of 4

Cold Storage
Color Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 8

Cold Storage
Color Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 9

Box 2, Folder 18

Box 2, Folder 19

