

Collection #
M 0746

MARIAN K. TOWNE PAPERS, CA. 1974–1996

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Kristen R. Sanders

28 June 2000

Revised 14 November 2001

Updated 9 March 2004

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

-

-

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 12 boxes

COLLECTION
DATES: Ca. 1974–1996

PROVENANCE: Marian K. Towne, 5129 N. Illinois Street, Indianapolis, IN.
46208

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: *Celebrating the Journey: the Diamond Anniversary of Fairview Presbyterian Church, 1924–1999* (BX 9211.I55 F347 1999); *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: 1999.0308

NOTES: None

BIOGRAPHICAL 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 a number of 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 is also 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 is currently 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 serves on the board for the Indianapolis unit. As a member of this organization Towne has compiled and edited *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:

Information in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains a variety of materials assembled by Marian K. Towne, many of them relating to women's issues. There are three series.

Series one deals with Towne's campaign for District #49 of the Indiana House of Representatives for in 1986. The series contains materials collected to help Towne address the concerns of constituents in the district. There is some correspondence dealing with fundraising and Towne's speeches and notes from the campaign. Materials have been arranged in alphabetical order by topic.

Series two is concerned with Towne's involvement in the campaign for health care reform within the state of Indiana from ca. 1987 to ca. 1996. This series is also arranged alphabetically by topic. The materials represented in this series are primarily articles and publications collected by Towne on Health Care

Series three deals with women's issues in Indiana and in the nation as a whole. It includes pamphlets, articles, and other publications gathered from a number of different sources. Arrangement is alphabetical by topic.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Towne's Campaign Papers for the Indiana House of Representatives, District #49 (1986)

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Abortion (1986 Campaign)	Box 1, Folder 1
Adult Protective Services (1986 Campaign)	Box 1, Folder 2
Agriculture (1986 Campaign)	Box 1, Folder 3
Association for Retarded Citizens of Indiana	Box 1, Folder 4
Campaign Correspondence for State Representative	Box 1, Folder 5
Campaign (1986) Speeches and Notes	Box 1, Folder 6
Child Care (1986 Campaign)	Box 1, Folder 7
Children's Health (1986 Campaign) (1 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 8
Children's Health (2 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 9
Church and State (1986 Campaign)	Box 1, Folder 10
Corrections (1986 Campaign)	Box 1, Folder 11
Economic Development (1986 Campaign)	Box 1, Folder 12
Education (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 1
Election Laws (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 2
Environment- Acid Rain (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 3
Family Stability (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 4
Food and Health (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 5
Fundraising Letters (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 6
Guest Lists from Campaign Fundraisers (1986)	Box 2, Folder 7
Home Health Care (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 8
Homelessness (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 9
Indiana Civil Liberties Union Bill of Rights Lobby (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 10
Insurance (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 11

Legalized Gambling (1986 Campaign) (1 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 12
Legalized Gambling (2 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 13
Libraries (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 14
Literacy (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 15
Lobbyists (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 16
Mailing Lists (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 17
Mental Health (1986 Campaign)	Box 2, Folder 18
<i>On Closer Examination: A Fact Book on a State Lottery and Other Forms of Legalized Gambling</i> (1986 Campaign)	Box 3, Folder 1
Position Papers (1986 Campaign)	Box 3, Folder 2
Public Assistance (1986 Campaign)	Box 3, Folder 3
Social Work Certification (1986 Campaign)	Box 3, Folder 4
State Employees (1986 Campaign)	Box 3, Folder 5
Taxes (1986 Campaign)	Box 3, Folder 6
Uniform Marital Property Act (1986 Campaign)	Box 3, Folder 7
Unions (1986 Campaign)	Box 3, Folder 8
Utilities (1986 Campaign)	Box 3, Folder 9
Volunteers (1986 Campaign)	Box 3, Folder 10
Welfare Reform (1986 Campaign)	Box 3, Folder 11
Youth Training (1986 Campaign)	Box 3, Folder 12

Series 2: Health Care Reform Campaign (ca. 1987–1996)

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Health Care Reform Campaign (ca.1987–96) (1 of 2)	Box 3, Folder 13
Health Care Reform Campaign (2 of 2)	Box 3, Folder 14
<i>Health Care Reform: A Balanced Diagnosis</i>	Box 3, Folder 15
Health Care Reform- Indiana Campaign	Box 4, Folder 1
Indiana Council of Churches Health Care Conferences 1991 (1 of 2)	Box 4, Folder 2

Indiana Council of Churches Health Care Conferences 1991 (2 of 2)	Box 4, Folder 3
Medical Ethics (1 of 2)	Box 4, Folder 4
Medical Ethics (2 of 2)	Box 4, Folder 5
<i>A Monograph on Health Expenditures in Indiana 1982-1996</i>	Box 4, Folder 6
Religious Leaders Conference on Health Care 28 February 1994, Washington D.C.	Box 4, Folder 7
Report to the Indiana Council of Churches Board 13 September 1991	Box 4, Folder 8
Universal Access to Health Care Advocacy Packet, United Church of Christ, Office for Church in Society	Box 5, Folder 1
1991 Women and the Legislative Process: Women and Health Policy 16 November 1991	Box 5, Folder 2

Series 3: Women's Issues

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Abortion	Box 5, Folder 3
Agriculture	Box 5, Folder 4
<i>All the Live Long Day: Women and Work</i>	Box 5, Folder 5
Athletics	Box 5, Folder 6
Aging/ Age Discrimination	Box 5, Folder 7
Alcoholism	Box 5, Folder 8
<i>Bread for the World</i>	Box 5, Folder 9
Brethren Life and Thought	Box 5, Folder 10
The Church Woman- Church Women United Summer 1988 and Winter 1990	Box 5, Folder 11
<i>Concern</i> (magazine)	Box 5, Folder 12
A Call For Citizen Action: Crime Prevention and the Citizen	Box 6, Folder 1
Center for Women and Religion of the Graduate Theological Union	Box 6, Folder 2
Charity-Community Outreach	Box 6, Folder 3

“Christian Faith and Economic Justice”	Box 6, Folder 4
Church Women United- Women’s “Process” Exercises, Skits, and Warm-ups	Box 6, Folder 5
Crime	Box 6, Folder 6
<i>Criminal Justice Issues</i> Vol. 6 No. 2 June 1981	Box 6, Folder 7
Criminal Justice-Miscellaneous	Box 6, Folder 8
Death Penalty	Box 6, Folder 9
<i>Doing Peacemaking: Implementing the Commitment to Peacemaking in Your Congregation 2nd ed.</i>	Box 6, Folder 10
Economic Justice (1 of 4)	Box 6, Folder 11
Economic Justice (2 of 4)	Box 6, Folder 12
Economic Justice (3 of 4)	Box 6, Folder 13
Economic Justice (4 of 4)	Box 6, Folder 14
Economic Justice- “Evangelism and the Poor”	Box 6, Folder 15
Economic Justice- “Inequality of Sacrifice: The Impact of the Reagan Budget on Women	Box 6, Folder 16
Economic Justice- “Women, Faith and Economic Justice”	Box 6, Folder 17
Equal Rights Amendment	Box 7, Folder 1
Ethnic Groups and the Presbyterian Church	Box 7, Folder 2
Family Concerns	Box 7, Folder 3
Feminism and Religion (1 of 6)	Box 7, Folder 4
Feminism and Religion (2 of 6)	Box 7, Folder 5
Feminism and Religion (3 of 6)	Box 7, Folder 6
Feminism and Religion (4 of 6)	Box 7, Folder 7
Feminism and Religion (5 of 6)	Box 7, Folder 8
Feminism and Religion (6 of 6)	Box 7, Folder 9
1985 Directory of Fairview Presbyterian Church, 4609 N. Capitol Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana	Box 8, Folder 1
Food and Gleaner’s Food Bank	Box 8, Folder 2
Food Continued and Hunger Task Force	Box 8, Folder 3

Give Us This Day	Box 8, Folder 4
Granby, Co., Conference on Women's Advocacy 8–10 August 1986	Box 8, Folder 5
Girls, INC.	Box 8, Folder 6
<i>Graduate Woman</i> Vol. 79, No. 1 (January 1985) and Vol. 79, No. 6 (June 1985)	Box 8, Folder 7
<i>Graduate Woman</i> Vol. 80, No. 8 (1986), Vol. 81, No's 1 and 3, (1987) and Vol. 82, No. 2 (1988)	Box 8, Folder 8
Home Care	Box 8, Folder 9
Hunger (1 of 3)	Box 8, Folder 10
Hunger (2 of 3)	Box 8, Folder 11
Hunger (3 of 3)	Box 8, Folder 12
How to Watch a Court	Box 9, Folder 1
Human Sexuality	Box 9, Folder 2
Housing	Box 9, Folder 3
“In the Image of God” International Community at the National Meeting of United Presbyterian Women 18–23 July 1979	Box 9, Folder 4
JSAC- Criminal Justice	Box 9, Folder 5
<i>And Justice For All...A Television Documentary in Four Parts: Participants Handbook</i>	Box 9, Folder 6
Justice Jottings	Box 9, Folder 7
League of Women Voters- President Nancy Newman	Box 9, Folder 8
Listening Teams, Church Women United, Chicago	Box 9, Folder 9
Marriage, Family, and Divorce	Box 9, Folder 10
<i>Mennonite Central Committee on Women's Concerns Report</i> Numbers: 51, 54–61, 63–65, 67–68	Box 9, Folder 11
<i>Mennonite Central Committee on Women's Concerns Report</i> Numbers: 69, 73–80, 82–87, 89	Box 9, Folder 12
<i>Mennonite Central Committee on Women's Concerns Report</i> Numbers: 90–91, 93–102	Box 9, Folder 13
<i>Mennonite Central Committee on Women's</i>	Box 9, Folder 14

<i>Concerns Report</i> Numbers: 103–111, 113, 119, 121, 123–124, 126	
Miscellaneous Correspondence- 9 May 1984, 7 November 1984, and 2 May 19??	Box 9, Folder 15
Miscellaneous	Box 9, Folder 16
Motherhood	Box 9, Folder 17
National Conference on the Religious Communities Roles in Breaking the Cycle of Violence and Vengeance 2–5 November 1983, Indianapolis	Box 10, Folder 1
New Directions for Women May/June 1980	Box 10, Folder 2
The New Women's Budget	Box 10, Folder 3
Newspaper Clippings (1 of 8)	Box 10, Folder 4
Newspaper Clippings (2 of 8)	Box 10, Folder 5
Newspaper Clippings (3 of 8)	Box 10, Folder 6
Newspaper Clippings (4 of 8)	Box 10, Folder 7
Newspaper Clippings (5 of 8)	Box 10, Folder 8
Newspaper Clippings (6 of 8)	Box 11, Folder 1
Newspaper Clippings (7 of 8)	Box 11, Folder 2
Newspaper Clippings (8 of 8)	Box 11, Folder 3
<i>Of A Like Mind</i>	Box 11, Folder 4
<i>Our Rightful Place: The Story of Presbyterian Women, 1970–1983</i>	Box 11, Folder 5
Poverty	Box 11, Folder 6
Presbyterian Women United for Economic Justice, Washington D.C. 4–7 October 1984	Box 11, Folder 7
<i>The President's Health Security Plan</i>	Box 11, Folder 8
Project T.R.U.S.T.	Box 11, Folder 9
Racism and Sexism	Box 11, Folder 10
<i>Report of Cook County Court Watching Project to Illinois Law Enforcement Commission 1974–1975</i>	Box 11, Folder 11
Resource Listing of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ Women	Box 12, Folder 1

Sexual Harassment	Box 12, Folder 2
Sexual and Physical Violence	Box 12, Folder 3
<i>The Tribune: A Women and Development Quarterly Newsletter</i> , Number 42, June 1989	Box 12, Folder 4
July 1985	Box 12, Folder 5
Witchcraft	Box 12, Folder 6
<i>Women Connecting, Participants Handbook</i>	Box 12, Folder 7
Women in Politics	Box 12, Folder 8
Women's Prisons	Box 12, Folder 9
Women's Studies (1 of 5)	Box 12, Folder 10
Women's Studies (2 of 5)	Box 12, Folder 11
Women's Studies (3 of 5)	Box 12, Folder 12
Women's Studies (4 of 5)	Box 12, Folder 13
Women's Studies (5 of 5)	Box 12, Folder 14
<i>World Updates</i> , Vol. 7, No. 1	Box 12, Folder 15

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0746).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.