



## Towar Family Papers UA.10.3.418

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on August 23, 2023.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

Business Number: 517-355-2330

[archives@msu.edu](mailto:archives@msu.edu)

URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical Note .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	6
Correspondence .....	6
Jennie Towar Woodard .....	6
Photographs .....	7
Volumes .....	8
Oversized Materials .....	9

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	University Archives and Historical Collections
<b>Creator:</b>	Towar, Jennie Ann
<b>Title:</b>	Towar family papers
<b>ID:</b>	UA.10.3.418
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1882-1956
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Cubic Feet 1 banker box, 12 volumes (inside banker box), 2 oversize items
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information:  
"Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives &  
Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical Note

---

Jennie Towar was born on December 5, 1865 in Meridian township, Ingham County, Michigan. She was the youngest child of George and Elvira Towar, who settled in Bath township in 1849 and developed a large parcel of land north of East Lansing which is called Towar Gardens. In 1886, Jennie Towar graduated from Michigan Agricultural College (M.A.C., now Michigan State University) with a Bachelor of Science degree. She married Charles S. Whitmore, a farmer, in 1889. They had one son, Maurice Towar Whitmore. Following Whitmore's death in 1899, Towar married James A. Woodard. Jennie Towar Whitmore Woodard died in 1957.

James DeLoss Towar, son of George and Elvira Towar and Jennie's brother, was born September 26, 1863. He was an early graduate of M.A.C. and a member of the first football team in 1884. James Towar taught agriculture courses at Rhode Island State College, was the agriculturalist of the Experiment Station for his alma mater, served as principal of Roseworthy Agricultural School in Australia, and was the president of the University of Wyoming for two months in 1908. In 1933, he wrote the book *History of the City of East Lansing* for the East

Lansing Public Library. According to the introduction in his book, he was responsible for the creation of a bike path on Michigan Avenue, stretching from Lansing to the college. He began the movement to establish a district school for the community and he helped organize the city and suggested the name "East Lansing." James Towar died in 1947.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

This collection contains materials from both Jennie and James Towar. The correspondence of Jennie Towar Woodard is addressed to family members as well as correspondence from those family members. The bulk of this correspondence prior to the second World War came from her brother, James. The letters of the latter half of the collection are from nieces and nephews. In general, the letters are chatty and relate some of the social or economic condition of the times. One exception to this are the letters from James during World War II while he lived in Los Angeles, California. These letters provide some insight into the war economy as well as the war society in Southern California.

Also included is the 167-page unpublished manuscript James Towar wrote for the East Lansing Public Library in 1933 which details a history of East Lansing, Michigan. Reference is made to pre-Revolutionary times, however, the bulk of the manuscript deals with the period 1850-1930.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

Business Number: 517-355-2330

[archives@msu.edu](mailto:archives@msu.edu)

URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

## Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

## Conditions Governing Access

**Legal Status:** Donor(s) have transferred any applicable copyright to Michigan State University but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Copyright restrictions may apply. Property Rights: Michigan State University.

## Custodial History

Gift of Madison Kuhn, 1973-02-07.

## Processing Information

Changed record group from 00129 to UA 10.3.418 to reflect the Towar family connection to Michigan State University. J. Russell, January 2020

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- World War, 1939-1945 -- Economic aspects -- California
- World War, 1939-1945 -- United States
- California -- Social life and customs
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
- Diaries
- Ledgers (account books)
- Legal instruments
- Letters (correspondence)
- Photographs
- Postcards
- Gilchrist, Maude
- Towar, James D.
- Towar, John D.
- Towar family (Jennie Towar Woodard)

- East Lansing Woman's Club
- Daughters of the American Revolution

## Collection Inventory

### Correspondence

#### Jennie Towar Woodard

Title/Description	Instances	
1907-1908	box 6297	folder 1
1909	box 6297	folder 2
1911	box 6297	folder 3
1913	box 6297	folder 4
(1926, 1929)	box 6297	folder 5
1935	box 6297	folder 6
1936	box 6297	folder 7
(1942, 1943, 1945)	box 6297	folder 8
January - June 1946	box 6297	folder 9
July - December 1946	box 6297	folder 10
January - March 1947	box 6297	folder 11
April - June 1947	box 6297	folder 12
July - September 1947	box 6297	folder 13
October - December 1947	box 6297	folder 14
1948	box 6297	folder 15
1949	box 6297	folder 16
1950	box 6297	folder 17
1951	box 6297	folder 18
January - June 1952	box 6297	folder 19
July - December 1952	box 6297	folder 20
1953	box 6297	folder 21
1954-1956	box 6297	folder 22
Undated	box 6297	folder 23-25

John D. Towar Correspondence, (1915, 1946)	box 6297	folder 26
Elivra Towar Correspondence, 1911-1914	box 6297	folder 27

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Probate: Estate of George M. Towar, 1911	box 6297	folder 28
Real Estate, 1901-1945	box 6297	folder 29
Financial Papers - Woodward farm, 1915-1925	box 6297	folder 30
Miscellaneous, 1882-1947, undated	box 6297	folder 31
Financial - Tax, 1903-1947	box 6297	folder 32
Newspaper Clippings, undated	box 6297	folder 33
Manuscript "History of the City of East Lansing" by James D. Towar, 1933	box 6297	folder 34

## Photographs

### Scope and Contents note

(Towar Family collection)

Title/Description	Instances	
Collection		
Automobiles	box 6297	folder 35
Carriages	box 6297	folder 36
Farms	box 6297	folder 37
Homes (2)	box 6297	folder 38-39
Homes. Interiors	box 6297	folder 40
Organizations. Ladies of the Maccabees	box 6297	folder 41
Organizations. East Lansing Womans Club	box 6297	folder 42
People. Gilchrist, Maude	box 6297	folder 43
People. Groups (3)	box 6297	folder 44-46
People. Patch, Bill	box 6297	folder 47
People. Towar, J.D.	box 6297	folder 48
People. Unidentified	box 6297	folder 49
People. Woodard, Jennie Towar	box 6297	folder 50
Scenes. Unidentified	box 6297	folder 51

People

box People  
Photos Box  
25

People. Towar, J.D.	
People. Towar, Jennie	
People. Towar, Perry G.	
CDV	drawer CDV Photos
People. Towar, Jennie A.	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Postcards	box 6297	folder 52
Agriculture. Harvesting		
Colorado. Garden of the Gods		
England. Chester		
France. Nice		
Hawaii. Honolulu		
Michigan. Lansing		
Minnesota. Park Rapids		
National Parks. Yellowstone National Park. Old Faithful		
New York. Ontario County. Farm of Joseph Smith		
New York. Pottersville. Schroon Lake		
People. Unidentified		
Sleighs		
Vermont. Windsor County. Birthplace of Joseph Smith		
Zanzibar		

## Volumes

Title/Description	Instances	
vol. 1: Receipt Book, 1914-1918, undated	box 6297	folder 53
vols. 2, 4, 5: Jennie Towar's Autograph Books, 1882-1884, 1879-1885	box 6297	folder 54-55
vols. 7 - 12: Jennie Towar's Diaries, 1885, 1910, 1914-1917	box 6297	folder 56-58
vol. 6: Jennie Towar's Travel Diary, 1930, 1935	box 6297	folder 59



---

vol. 3: Jennie Towar's book, "Little Rosy's Travels: The Wounded Bird", 1871	box 6297	folder 60
--	----------	-----------

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Oversized Materials

Title/Description	Instances
Daughters of the American Revolution membership certificate, 1925	box 5753
State Agricultural College diploma awarded to Jennie Ann Towar, 1886	drawer 21 folder 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)