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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

TOWNSLEY, MABEL (MRS. HARLEY FRENCH), 1877- 1945

PAPERS, 1887-1968
(Bulk dates, 1899-1910)
Quantity .75 linear ft.

ACQUISITION: Donated by Mrs. Richard E. Frank

ACCESS: This collection is open for research without restrictions.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Photographs are located in Box 1.

PRINTED MATERIAL: Printed Materials are located in Box 1.

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PROCESSED BY: Anne Hinseth, June 2000

History

Mabel Townsley French was the daughter of Samuel S. and Margaret Eliza (Leech) Townsley. They had five children: Mabel, John Boyd, Lucy Edna, Arthur, and Paul. Mabel Townsley was born May 30, 1877 in Brighton, Iowa at the home of her Grandmother Delzell. Townsley attended the University of South Dakota from 1894-1899. She taught Country School in Hartford, SD from 1899 to 1900 and spent 1901 – January 1903 teaching in Keystone, SD. Townsley then became an English Instructor at the University of South Dakota from 1906-1910. In 1908-1909 she also served as the University's Registrar. On September 3, 1910, Townsley married Dr. Harley Ellsworth French (1872-1961). French served as a USD Professor of Anatomy and Bacteriology from 1906-11. The couple had two children: Mary Margaret (Mrs. Richard E. Frank) and Burton Townsley. Mabel Townsley French died in 1945.

Scope and Content Note

The collection was donated by Mabel Townsley French's daughter, Mrs. Mary Margaret (Richard E.) Frank. The bulk of the materials concern the time the family spent in Vermillion, SD. The Townsley papers consist of seven series: **Correspondence, Manuscripts, Photographs, Printed Materials, Scrapbooks, Typescripts, and Ephemera.**

The **Correspondence** series includes letters from the novelist J. Hyatt Downing in response to Mabel Townsley's letters, to Mabel Townsley's friend Helen Myers during her teaching at the Hartford country school, and two letters from Samuel S. Townsley to one of his sons and his grandson Burton Townsley French.

Mabel Townsley wrote all of the items in the **Manuscripts** series. Included is a narrative of her 1906 European tour, a handwritten draft of her USD Master's thesis and an unpublished, handwritten short story about plains life.

The **Photographs** series is divided into four sub series: Native Americans, People, South Dakota Towns and University of South Dakota. The People sub series is exclusively made up of Townsley family photographs, with the exception of Theresa Swezey who was a college classmate of Mabel Townsley's. Included in Edna Townsley Pinkley family pictures are several photos from their home in Arizona and the Casa Grande ruins.

The **Printed Materials** series contains booklets by several of the Townsley relatives and newspaper clippings. The booklets are sorted by author. The booklets concern Townsley genealogy, the Casa Grande National Monument, the Mission of San Jose de Tumacacori, Country School Legacy (which contains an article on Mabel Townsley), and the University of South Dakota. The clippings cover several events in the Townsley family such as Paul Townsley's involvement in World War II, Mabel Townsley's articles in the USD Volante and several obituaries. The clippings are organized by newspaper title and then by date.

The **Scrapbooks** series contains two scrapbooks. The inscription on one of the scrapbook covers is "S.S. Townsley presented by sister Lucy July 20, 1887". It contains news clippings and photographs of Vermillion and family history. Mabel Townsley's photo Album is from her teaching Days in Keystone, SD, USD and Vermillion.

The **Typescripts** series contains writings of Mabel Townsley's and Edna Pinkley, Townsley's sister. Included is a short biography of Edna Townsley Pinkley. Also included is Pinkley's narrative of a trip through the Southwest entitled "Motoring over Padre Serra's Trail" and a poem by Edna Pinkley describing Rain using Hopi Indian imagery. Mabel Townsley's poem was presented at her USD Graduation ceremony and was recognized as the Class Poem.

The **Ephemera** series consists of memorabilia collected by Mabel Townsley during her years at the University of South Dakota. These items are also organized by date. There are several programs from various University of South Dakota events, dance cards with pencils, and Mabel Townsley's Commencement program. Especially interesting in this series are the two silver spoons, one of which is engraved with the likeness of Old Main.

Box No. Description

Box 1

CORRESPONDENCE (1 folder)

Incoming

From J. Hyatt Downing
 1938, Nov. 9
 1940, May 18

Outgoing

To Helen Myers
 1899, Oct. 25
 1900, Feb. 17
 1900, Mar. 9

Miscellaneous

1917, Jan 9 From S. S. Townsley to Son (unidentified)
 1924, Jan. 6 From S. S. Townsley to Burton T. French
 undated letter to Miss Townsley

MANUSCRIPTS

Townsley, Mabel

Writings from European Trip 1906 (1 folder)
 "The Element of Spirituality in Tennyson" Masters Theses
 University of South Dakota 1909, June (1 folder)
 "The Nebraska Paupers" (1 folder)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Native Americans (1 folder)

No. 152 Mandan Yankton Indian
 No. 265 Drying Meat
 No. 362 Sioux Squaw
 No. 640 White Bull, First Indian to Sign Black Hills Treaty and
 Reservation Bill

People

Edna Townsley Pinkley Family (1 folder)
 Edna Townsley Pinkley (4 Photographs)
 Frank Pinkley (2 Photographs)
 Nancy Margaret and Addison Pinkley
 Nancy Margaret Pinkley
 Addison Boyd Pinkley
 Edna and Frank Pinkley
 Edna Frank and Nancy Margaret Pinkley 1912?
 Nancy Margaret Pinkley, Edna and Frank Pinkley, Samuel and
 Nancy Pinkley, Samuel and Margaret Townsley, James Graham
 Thanksgiving Day 1912
 Frank Pinkley (?) In front of a car
 Frank Pinkley excavating a prehistoric room in back yard
 The Pinkley Home, Arizona
 The Pinkley Basket Collection
 The Clan house one of the Ruins Excavated
 Casa Grande ruins with old roof (2 Photographs)
 Casa Grande with new roof

Box No. Description

Box 1, cont.

PHOTOGRAPHS, cont.

People, cont.

Theresa Swezey (3 Photographs) (1 folder)

J. (John) Boyd Townsley Family (1 folder)

J. Boyd Townsley 1898(3 Photographs)

J. Boyd Townsley 1930 ?

Emeline Townsley wife of Boyd 1930

Dorothy and Marjorie, children of Emeline and Boyd Christmas
1925

Marjorie Townsley

Paul H. Townsley Portrait (1 folder)

Samuel S. Townsley Family (1 folder)

Samuel S. Townsley (3 Photographs)

Samuel S. Townsley 1923

Margaret E. Townsley (2 Photographs)

Margaret E. Townsley 1923

Townsley Family 1901

Townsley Family 1926

Edna and Mabel Townsley

South Dakota Towns (1 folder)

Keystone, SD looking south Nov. 29, 1902

Keystone, SD Nov. 29, 1902

Sylvan Lake near Keystone, SD 1905

Vice President Fairbanks arrival at Vermillion, SD Oct. 19, 1907 (2
photographs)

The Site of the First Dakota School House Vermillion, SD

Home of S. S Townsley, 103 N. University Street Vermillion, SD
1897, Dec. 25

The Vermillion River, SD

Registration Yankton, SD 1904, July 18

University of South Dakota (1 folder)

USD Graduating Class of 1899 (2 Photographs)

DVV University of South Dakota women's club ? 1897, Sept.

Professor Smith, Greek and Pedagogy USD 1898 (2 Photographs)

Classroom at USD

East Hall (2 Photographs)

Old Main and East Hall 1899, May 30

PRINTED MATERIALS

Booklets

"Country School Legacy" (1 folder)

Frank, Mary Margaret (1 folder)

"Samuel S. Townsley Schoolboy, Professor and Grandfather",
1974

Pinkley, Edna Townsley (1 folder)

"A Record of the Townsley Family", 1909

"Casa Grande the Greatest Valley Pueblo of Arizona", 1926

"Casa Grande National Monument"

Box No. Description

Box 1, cont.

PRINTED MATERIALS, cont.

Booklets, cont.

Pinkley, Frank

"Mission of San Jose de Tumacacori"

University of South Dakota Booklet 1907

USD Annual Catalogue 1908-09, Personalized with Miss Townsley,
Registrar

USD, SD Alumni Quarterly 1907, Oct.

Newspaper Clippings

Dakota Republican (1 folder)

Sept. 15, 1910

Sept. 8, 1910

July 11, 1912

May 1, 1913

1926

Aug. 1928

Nov. 13, 1929

July 10, 1930

Sept. 16, 1943

The Garden Island (1 folder)

Mar. 16, 1943

July 3, 1945

July 10, 1945

1945

Jan. 28, 1968

Grand Forks Herald (1 folder)

Jan. 13, 1942

Aug. 16, 1942

1942

Volante (1 folder)

Six Stories By Mabel Townsley 1905-06

Miscellaneous (1 folder)

"A Trip to Europe" by Genevieve Blair (3 articles)

1887, Aug.

"Guardians of Our National Parks Frank Pinkley" 1924, Mar. 15

"Book Chat" by Charlotte Hubbard Prescott on Hyatt Downing

"Hy" Downing Writes Novel of South Dakota" 1937, Dec.

"For 35 Years Frank Pinkley's Guidance Has Graced Service"

1939, June 18

"Navy Begins Telling Saga of Submarines in Pacific" n.d.

"Mrs. Lloyd Barnes Laid to Rest 1967, Mar. 16" n.d.

"Arthur Townsley Passes Away Feb. 13" n.d.

SCRAPBOOKS

S.S. Townsley Scrapbook 1887, July 20 – 1941 (1 folder)

S.S. Townsley Scrapbook 1887, July 20 – 1941 (Photocopy)(1 folder)

Mabel Townsley Photo Album of the Black Hills, USD and Vermillion
1903 (1 folder)

TYPESCRIPTS

Pinkley, Edna Townsley (1 folder)

Biography of Edna Townsley Pinkley

Box No. Description

Box 1, cont.

TYPESCRIPTS, cont.

Pinkley, Edna Townsley, cont.

"Motoring over Padre Serra's Trail"

Poem "Rain in Arizona"

Townsley, Mabel

Senior Poem, 1899

EPHEMERA (1 folder)

Programs

The Third Annual Convention of the South Dakota Inter-Collegiate

Young Men's and young Women's Christian Association

Mitchell, SD 1897, May 14, 15, 16

P.E.O. Chapter "E" Vermillion, SD 1911-1912

Senior Class of USD Class Day Exercises 1899, June 13

University of South Dakota College of Music Concert 1898, Mar. 14

Class Day Exercises Class of 1909 June 8

The Mascot, Vermillion SD 1910, Feb. 11

Twenty-Eighty Annual Commencement USD June 9, 1910

USD Athletic Benefit Dance Card 1908, Nov. 28

Annual Football Dance University of South Dakota Nov. 27, 1909

Postcards

Christmas Card

Two Grade book entries

Two USD 1899 Silver Spoons (small box)

USD Alumni Pin 1899