



## Guide to the Townsend Family Papers, 1862-1923

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Townsend Family Papers, 1862-1923

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

1989.044

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

**Creator:**

Townsend family

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English. One card is in Welsh.

**Extent:**

1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

**Abstract:**

The Townsend Family Papers consist of family correspondence, receipts, invitations, and announcements of family events spanning more than three decades. This collection dates from 1862 to 1923.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

The Townsend Family Papers were a gift of Ernest B. Brown on June 13, 1989. Ernest B. Brown purchased the materials at an auction or at a flea market with accession 1989.043 (m), some photographs, and ephemera.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in March 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish material from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item title, Townsend Family Papers, 1989.044. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information:**

John Townsend was born in England in October 1807, son of Joseph and Sarah (Palmer) Townsend. He may have been christened on January 6, 1808 at Wilton, Wiltshire, England. He married Jane Matilda Townsend at Dorchester, Massachusetts, on January 14, 1834. Their children, born at Dorchester, were: Jane Randall born September 18, 1835; Caroline Frances born May 2, 1840 (probably died before 1850); and Henry H. born August 12, 1842. Jane died on December 21, 1843. John married Eliza Ann Townsend at Boston on April 22, 1844. The daughter of Thomas and Jane (Randall) Townsend (both born in England), Eliza was born March 31, 1823 at Milton, MA.

The family had moved to New Hampshire by 1846 when Emma was born. She was followed by William B. who was born May 31, 1850 and died unmarried of consumption on March 12, 1878

at Brookline, MA. Another son, Frank B., was born on July 5, 1855. He died on July 29, 1913 at Brookline, MA. Flora G. was born on November 9, 1863.

John and his family lived at Milton, NH, where he worked as an agent for a woolen manufacturer. The family moved to Brookline by 1865. John was a wool merchant, and his personal and real estate holdings increased to \$115,000 by 1870. John died at Brookline on May 21, 1891, followed by Eliza on September 19, 1896.

Henry, the third child of John and Jane, completed a course in “accountship” at the Mercantile and Nautical College, Tremont Street, Boston in 1862. He was working as a clerk at Brookline in 1865. He married Agnes J. Briley on June 7, 1870 at Milton, NH. She was the daughter of Edward and Margaret Briley, born on May 17, 1844, perhaps at Lowell, MA. Their first child, Herbert J. E. (John E.) was born at Milton on September 17, 1871. Grace was born next on November 14, 1873. An unnamed girl was born in 1884 and lived but one hour. Henry followed in his father’s footsteps and worked as a woolen manufacturer at Milton. Agnes died there on December 26, 1891, and Henry on June 25, 1904.

#### John Clark Townsend

Born in Saugus, MA, moved to Milton Mills and married Grace M. Townsend in 1896. Member of the Bektash Temple, Scottish Rite, and Masons. In 1910 he still carried insurance on a house in Saugus for his mother.

Born at Wilton, Maine, on September 17, 1871, John was the son of Joseph and Ruth P. (Wentworth) Townsend. He married Grace M. Townsend, daughter of Henry and Agnes (Briley) Townsend, on June 17, 1896 at Milton, NH. They had one child: Frank Herbert born on February 15, 1898 at Saugus. John worked as a grocer and farmer at Milton. He died on February 14, 1916 of pneumonia. The 1920-1940 censuses do not show an occupation for Grace and Frank, so it is unclear how they supported themselves. Frank’s WWI draft registration indicates he had a mental illness. Grace had one long-term boarder, but that would be insufficient income to maintain the household. Grace died at Milton on September 7, 1953. Frank died on January 19, 1969.

#### John E. Townsend

John, son of Henry and Agnes (Briley) Townsend, was born at Milton on September 17, 1871. He married Eda B. Lowd at Milton on January 28, 1896. He was a clerk and she a milliner. The daughter of Elbridge and Melissa M. (Buck) Lowd, Eda was born January 31, 1870 at Acton, Maine. They had two children: Henry Albert born January 1, 1898, and Agnes Melissa born May 25, 1900. John worked as a superintendent at a Milton woolen mill. He died at Milton of Bright’s disease on September 8, 1914. Eda died on February 2, 1932 at Haverhill, MA, and is buried at Milton, NH.

#### Charles F. Townsend

The brother of John Clark Townsend (above), Charles Fred was born at Milton, NH, on January 12, 1865. He married Kathleen Blazo on June 29, 1899 at Rochester, NH. She was the daughter of Charles and Augusta (Gilman) Blazo, born on June 23, 1867 at Parsonsfield, Maine. Charles

was a dry goods merchant in Rochester until his death of heart disease on June 15, 1912. Kathleen died at Rochester on November 24, 1954.

**Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Townsend Family Papers consist of family correspondence and receipts, with the bulk of the collection consisting of invitations and announcements of engagements, weddings, graduations, births, etc. Also included are several membership cards of John C. Townsend to the New Hampshire Consistory; the Bektash Temple in Concord, NH; and the Scottish Rite Executive Board. The Townsend family was from Milton Mills, NH, and the materials date from 1862 to 1923.

**Arrangement:**

The materials in this collection are organized into folders by type.

Contents List

**Box 1**

- Folder 0 Register
- Folder 1 Correspondence and receipts, 1862-1916, undated
- Folder 2 Miscellaneous: writings, envelopes, membership cards, 1889-1914, undated
- Folder 3 Invitations, 1884-1899
- Folder 4 Invitations, 1901-1911
- Folder 5 Invitation, 1913-1923, undated

Subject Terms

**People:**

- Townsend family
- Townsend, Grace M., 1873-1953
- Townsend, Henry H., 1842-1904
- Townsend, John C., 1871-1916

**Organizations:**

- Bektash Temple (Concord, N.H.)
- New Hampshire Consistory (Nashua, N.H.)
- Scottish Rite (Masonic order)
- Phoenix House (Milton, N.H.)

**Subjects:**

- Anniversaries
- Birth announcements
- Commencement ceremonies
- Correspondence
- Freemasons
- Invitation cards
- Receipts (Acknowledgements)
- Weddings

**Locations:**

Milton, NH  
Milton Mills, NH

