

DOROTHY TOWNSEND TUCKER COLLECTION

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library.
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Dorothy Townsend Tucker
- Title:** Dorothy Townsend Tucker Collection
- Dates:** 1888 - 2000
- Abstract:** This collection consists of the diaries of three generations of women in the same family: Evalyn T. Preston, Evalyn Preston Townsend, and Dorothy Townsend Tucker. In addition to the diaries the collection includes photographs, postcards, and clippings and ephemera collected or saved by Dorothy Townsend Tucker. Mrs. Tucker was a librarian at Crandall Library and Saratoga Springs Public Library.
- Quantity:** 8 boxes, 2.5 feet.
- Identification:** Archives & Manuscripts: Personal and Family Collections

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dorothy Townsend was born in Glens Falls, the daughter of Evalyn A. Preston and Marcus Cranson Townsend, Jr. The Townsend family was originally from Hartford, Washington County, NY. Marcus C. Townsend, Sr. (1845-1929), Dorothy's grandfather, was married three times. His first wife, Mary K. (1853-1882) is buried in Townsend Cemetery in Hartford. Marcus moved to Glens Falls some time before May 11, 1886 when he married Lillian A. Bullis¹, the mother of Marcus, Jr. Lillian died in 1898 and is buried in Glens Falls Cemetery. In 1901 he married Alice E. Pike (1853-1937), who survived him, and is buried with him in Glens Falls Cemetery. Marcus, Sr., was a farmer in Hartford, a builder and contractor in Glens Falls.

Evalyn Preston was the daughter of William S. and Evalyn T. Preston. William (1851-1933) was born in Vermont, and Evalyn (1857- 1932) was born in Vermont of New York parents. They were married Jan. 15, 1878.² In 1900 and 1910 the family lived in Castleton, VT, where William was the proprietor of a jewelry store. In 1910, daughter Evalyn was training to be a teacher. In 1912 she was teaching, and serving as the organist at her parents' church.

Evalyn Preston and Marcus Townsend were married Dec. 18, 1912, in Castleton, by Rev. W.J. Chapman, Methodist clergyman. They went to Albany on their wedding trip. After spending Christmas with the Prestons in Castleton, they came to Glens Falls, where they stayed with Marcus's father at 60 Lawrence Street. In March of 1913 they moved to an apartment at 16 Leonard Street, around the corner from Marcus, Sr.

Although his marriage record, and most subsequent listings, give Marcus Jr.'s occupation as shirt ironer, in 1913 he was working as a clerk in a freight house (D&H RR). The younger Townsends remained at the Leonard Street address through 1917, and their daughter Dorothy was born there on Dec. 17, 1914. In 1918, however, they were living at 15 Pearl Street, the home of Dorothy's maternal grandparents, William and Evalyn Preston. This move put them about 3 ½ blocks from Marcus's father on Lawrence. This move was permanent, and Dorothy grew up surrounded by grandparents. From this time on Marcus Jr. is listed as an ironer in a shirt factory, no doubt McMullen-Leavens, at 51 Lawrence Street³. William S. Preston was retired (as was Marcus Townsend, Sr.) and 1918 is his first appearance in Glens Falls. However, they were installed there by Christmas of 1917, as Evalyn's 1918 diary is inscribed on the flyleaf "Marcus and Evalyn presented this Diary Christmas 1917 to Evalyn T. Preston 15 Pearl St Glens Falls, N. York." Dorothy's "Notes from Mothers diaries" tells us that Evalyn Preston looked at the Pearl Street house on Dec. 29, 1916. On Jan 10, 1917 "Mama and Dad T. [Townsend?] went upstreet to pay for Pearl St house." (Does this mean Marcus Sr. bought the house?) Marcus, Evalyn and Dorothy moved into the house Feb. 23. "Mar 16 Mrs. Wing and Mrs. Rugg called." In June of 1917 Evalyn P. Townsend served as Assistant to the Enrollment Officer (J. Edward Singleton) in the World War draft ("Enrollment under Military Law").

On April 23, 1916, Dorothy was dedicated at the First Baptist Church in Glens Falls, which her parents then attended. However, by 1919 the family had shifted their membership to the First Presbyterian Church, where Evelyn sang in the choir and was active in church affairs. Eighteen column-inches of newsprint is devoted to an article in 1936 headed "Mrs. M.C. Townsend Elected Christiansen Guild President at 25th Anniversary Dinner" (*Post-Star* ? or *Glens Falls Times* 4 Feb 1936). Previously, the choir in which Evalyn sang had won first prize at the Lake Placid music Festival (*Post-Star*, 28 Sep 1928). The list of choir members includes many people who are mentioned in Evalyn's diaries.

Dorothy's Preston grandparents, with whom she lived, died in 1932 (Evalyn) and 1933 (William S.) They are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Castleton, VT, along with their infant daughter Hattie who died in 1890 at the age of 3 months. Dorothy's Townsend grandfather died in 1929, and her step-grandmother, Alice, in 1937. At her grandfather's funeral, conducted by the Rev. Charles O. Judkins of Christ Church Methodist Episcopal, the bearers were all members of Senate Lodge, 456, F and A.M. Her parents, Marcus Jr. and Evalyn continued to live at 15 Pearl (later renumbered to 21 Pearl) until 1969.

The Preston-Townsend family had as their neighbors the family of E.H. Wing, at 13 Pearl Street. E.H. Wing, a son of Walton Wing and grandson of H.McKie Wing, was a long-time officer and eventually president of McMullen-Leavens company, where Marcus Townsend, Jr. was employed for many years. E.H. Wing died March 17, 1928.

Members of this family appear in the Townsend diary. Deaths in the Wing family are duly noticed, and funerals attended.

In 1935, Dorothy went to work at Crandall Library, where she stayed until 1960, when she resigned to take a position in the Children's Department at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. She lived with her parents in the house at 15 Pearl Street until she married George E. Stillman on June 2, 1943. George was a bookkeeper at the First National Bank of Glens Falls, and they resided at 10 ½ Vanderheyden Street, the home of George's mother, Mrs. George E. Stillman, Sr..

Evalyn's diary notes on Nov. 18, 1944 "M & D brought her things from Vanderheyden St." which seems to mark the end of her marriage to George Stillman. Her divorce was final on April 9, 1946. In 1946, Dorothy was living with her parents at (now) 21 Pearl, and George Stillman was at the address on Vanderheyden. In 1948 George Stillman does not appear in the City Directory, and Dorothy has reverted to her maiden name.

On October 3, 1950, Dorothy married Jerome Tucker at Wallingford, VT. Jerome (Jerry) Tucker, was born in Albany, NY, on 19 April 1913, the son of Russian Jewish immigrants Joseph Tucker and Ida Nisoff. At the time of his marriage to Dorothy he worked for the IRS, and later was a self-employed CPA. He was a tournament bridge player, and he and Dorothy and Evalyn all played cards daily. Jerry and Dorothy lived with Marcus and Evalyn Townsend at 21 Pearl Street until after Marcus' death in 1968.

Marcus Townsend died in September of 1968, and in July of 1969 Dorothy, Jerry and Evalyn moved to Cleverdale, perhaps buying the house which they had rented for several summers. Between 1965 and 1970 Evalyn notes the sale of several houses which have belonged to the family: Hudson Ave., 41 Leonard St., 34 Leonard St (this was formerly 16 Leonard, where Evalyn and Marcus lived when they were first married), and 60 (now 86) Lawrence, the home of Marcus Sr. Also the Hudson Falls home of Marcus' cousin Helen Gilchrist, who died in 1964.

In the mid 1960s Dorothy retired from the Saratoga Springs Public Library, and Evalyn retired from the Lipe and Doring Candy Co., for which she had worked for more than 20 years (obituary). They both had active lives involving lunches and dinners with friends (usually at favorite restaurants), cards, concerts and plays. Both attended church regularly, although not always the same church. In addition, Dorothy was active in the Glens Falls Zonta Club*, of which she was president in 1956, and had a long-time interest in the Glens Falls Operetta Club*. Evalyn, in addition to playing cards, was a crossword puzzle fan, and she several times won prizes for puzzles she either made or solved.

After Dorothy's retirement from the Saratoga library, she worked as a bookkeeper at Berkowitz Jewelers in Saratoga Springs. She became close friends with owners Nathan and Myrtle Berkowitz.

At some point (perhaps 5 Feb 1973)⁴ Evalyn Townsend re-married. She married Gilbert J. Burton (1910-1982). "Gil" appears regularly in Evalyn's diaries – they go to yard sales, he takes her to supper, they play cards – but they not seem to have actually lived together. Evalyn continued to live with Dorothy and Jerry, and Gil had a house in Hudson Falls.

Jerry Tucker died on 16 April 1977. He is buried in the cemetery in Wallingford, VT. Among the bearers at his funeral, along with Nathan Berkowitz, was Alan N. Horne⁵ (1909-1988) who later became a close friend and companion of Dorothy's.

After Jerry's death, Evalyn moved to a series of nursing homes or convalescent facilities, Hallmark Nursing Home, Mrs. Collins' at 291 Ridge, and later Mrs. Laura Lynch's at 10 Marion Avenue. Dorothy visited her almost daily. Gil died in January of 1982, and Evalyn herself on 20 Feb, 1985.

By 1981, Dorothy had sold the house in Cleverdale and moved to an apartment in Robert Gardens North in Queensbury. Her life continued to be busy, with friends, visits to the cemetery in Wallingford, cards, and Alan, whose health was deteriorating.

Alan died on April 11, 1988 and his funeral was April 16 ("11 years ago today" Jerry died, noted Dorothy). His funeral was at Church of the Messiah in Glens Falls, and he was buried in Mt. Dora, FL.

On 27 Dec 1990 Dorothy moved to the Glens Falls Home on Warren Street. She was distressed when, ten years later, plans were made to close the Home and move the residents to the Hiland Park development in Queensbury. "I am sure the new home will be beautiful. ...but this is home." (*Post Star*, Sept. 5, 1999 p. A4). In the spring of 2003, according to her obituary, Dorothy moved to Maplewood Manor in Ballston Spa, NY, to be with her closest friend, Myrtle Berkowitz. Dorothy died on 25 Sept. 2003, and is buried with Jerry in Wallingford. (*Post-Star*, 4 Oct. 2003, p. B8).

Notes:

1. The marriage record of Marcus Townsend, Jr. gives his mother's name as Lillian Cranston, but the marriage record of Marcus, Sr. and Lillian gives her name as Lillian Bullis, and she is buried in the Bullis plot in Glens Falls cemetery. A note of "Marriages" (in Dorothy's hand?) gives 10 Mar 1870 as the date of Lillian Cranson's marriages to Henry Bullis, in Wallingford, VT. Lillian is the daughter of Nicholas and Lydia Cranson. They lived in Edinburgh, NY in 1860, and in Wallingford in 1870. Lillian is enumerated twice in 1870: once with her parents in Wallingford and once with her husband Henry and his twin brother Freylinghuysen in Glens Falls. The Bullis' were both boatmen. According to the same page of notes, Henry Bullis died 1 Mar. 1883 (no confirmation of death date or place, or burial location). In 1880 Lillian is enumerated with her parents and listed as single. There is a Henry Bullis, teamster, b. NY enumerated in Chicago in 1880 who might be Lillian's husband Henry (ED 12, p. 46).
2. Evalyn T. Preston, Diary 1930-1932 "54 yrs ago to night I changed my name. first time."
3. The 1942 City Directory identifies McMullen-Leavens as Marcus' place of employment.

4. Dorothy's diary has a marginal note which says "2/5/73 Mother married" but Evalyn's diary for that date doesn't say so. Evalyn's obituary in 1985 gives her name as Evalyn Burton and says she's the widow of Marcus Townsend – and doesn't give Gil's name. Gil's death certificate 6 Jan 1982, Norwalk, OH, gives his marital status as divorced.

5. Alan N. Horne, b. June 1909 in Cambridge, MA. m1 Margaret Ann Miller in 1931 in Tisbury, MA, with whom he had at least 4 children: Ann 1934, Philip 1935, Granda 1937, and Mary Lou 1940. m2 Jadwega Irene Lemanski in Seabrook, NH, 1945. Jadwega died in June 1984 and Dorothy noted on July 1: "got word that Alan's 1st wife died", which suggests that whatever happened to Margaret and her children Dorothy was not aware of her. Alan's obituary (*Post-Star*, 14 April 1988) does not mention either wife, and lists only four sisters as survivors.

- Folklife Center holds the records of both the Zonta Club of Glens Falls, and the Glens Falls Community Theatre, successor to the Operetta Club.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

INDEX TERMS

Topics:

Places: Cleverdale, NY
 Glens Falls, NY
 Saratoga Springs, NY

Organizations: Crandall Library, Glens Falls, NY
 First Baptist Church, Glens Falls
 First Presbyterian Church, Glens Falls
 Glens Falls Home
 Glens Falls Symphony
 Lakeside Chapel, Cleverdale, NY
 Saratoga Springs Public Library, Saratoga Springs, NY
 Zonta Club of Glens Falls

Important People: **Austin, John and Marcia**
 Berkowitz, Nathan and Myrtle
 Bullis, Henry
 Burton, Gilbert J.
 Dodge, Harland - Townsend cousin

Freeman, Mark and Ann
 Gilchrist, Helen (1885-1964) first cousin of Marcus
 Townsend, Jr.
 Goodrich, Richard J. and Dee
 Harshe, Florence – Dir. SALS
 Hiteman, Alice Baker
 Horne, Alan N. (1909-1988)
 Kennedy, Maud Bullis (1875-1943)
 King, Jane
 King, Minerva (Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Woodford)
 McAndrew, Betty – Crandall Library
 Preston family
 Stewart, Mary asst dir SALS
 Stillman, George E.
 Townsend family
 Tucker family
 Wilson, Hugh A. (Glens Falls Symphony)
 Wing, Mrs. E.H.
 Wing, Walton MacKie

Form/Genre: Diaries
 Correspondence
 Photographs
 Postcards
 Clippings
 Ephemera

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Dorothy Townsend Tucker Collection
 Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
 Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: The bulk of the collection was donated to the Folklife Center on Sept. 27, 2012 by Marlene Bissell of Saratoga Springs, who inherited this material from her mother, Myrtle Berkowitz. Mrs. Bissell later donated additional material including the Walton M. Wing correspondence, family mementos, and printed matter.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke, October and November 2012

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Diaries of Evalyn T. Preston:

Excelsior Diary for 1912 [July 11, 1912 the 55th birthday of the diarist] Diarist is Dorothy Townsend Tucker's grandmother, Evelyn T. Preston. The family was living in Castleton, VT.

5-yr diary covering 1918-1922 (black) "Marcus and Evelyn presented this Diary Christmas 1917 to Evelyn T. Preston, 15 Pearl St., Glens Falls, N. York"
[15 Pearl St. home of William S. Preston; Marcus C. Townsend jr. boards at 15 Pearl St.]

Diary (green) printed for 1920 but used in 1923

Daily Reminder bk for 1924, used as a diary. (Brown; "Compliments of Glens Falls Trust Co., Glens Falls, N.Y." stamped in gold on cover).

5-yr diary covering 1925-1929 (Red)

5-yr diary covering 1930 to part way through 1932 (black with leather clasp and lock)
[Evalyn Prescott]

Diaries of Evalyn Preston Townsend:

Pages from a small notebook with entries 1940-1952

5-yr diary 1953-1957 (green)

5-yr diary 1958-1962 (light green with clasp and lock)

5-yr diary 1963-1967 (green)

5-yrs diary 1968-1972 (brown)

5-yr diary 1973-1977 (white leatherette with plastic cover, clasp and lock)

5-yr diary 1978-1982 (blue, with clasp and lock)

Black Journal account book. On top of the first page: "Notes from Mothers diaries".
Loose pages at the end. Appears to be transcription by Dorothy of parts of her mother's diaries.

Diaries of Dorothy Townsend Tucker:

Vermont Life Engagement books, used as diaries:

Part of 1977 (May 29 to end of year)

1978 – 1983

1984 Sierra Club Engagement Calendar

Vermont Life Engagement books:

1985 – 1994 (no 1995)

Vermont Life calendars 1991-1996

1996 Engagement Book: contains lists of expenditure, clothes; brief entries in monthly planner section

1998 Simple Abundance: A Datebook of Comfort and Joy

1999 *Nature Conservancy Calendar*

2000 *Reader's Digest* Calendar

Postcards

Approximately 102 postcards. Some are postcards sent to/from family members, others were purchased (as indicated by penciled prices, unknown addressees or unused state). Major subjects are Glens Falls, Lake George, Cleverdale, and various locales in Vermont. Of particular interest are 20 postcards dated 1911-1912 from Marcus Townsend to Evalyn Preston before their marriage.

Photographs

141 photographs unframed, sleeved and in a binder. Dates range from 1888 to 1960. The majority of the pictures are of the "family snapshot" type, but there are formal portraits of Marcus Townsend Jr. as a baby (1888), Louise Wing Warner, Walton McKie Wing, Alice Baker Hitely, George E. Stillman, and Jane King. Some of the pictures are dated/identified on the verso. There are numerous pictures of the Preston-Townsend house at 15(21) Pearl Street, and of other houses, only some of which are identified. In addition there are two small photographs in gold frames. One is of Dorothy's friend Jane King, and one of her cousin Helen Gilchrist. The framed photographs are housed in the pockets of the photograph binder.

Clippings and ephemera

The newspaper clippings and ephemera, primarily programs, date from as early as the 1930s, but the bulk of the clippings are from the 1990s, after Dorothy moved to the Glens Falls Home. The clippings, now filed in folders, demonstrate Dorothy's lifelong interests in art, music, history and people.

Correspondence

The bulk of the correspondence is letters and cards from Walton MacKie Wing to Dorothy, over the period from 1932 until Walton's death in 1995. Walton M. Wing was a nephew of Edgar H. and Helen Wing, neighbors to the Prestons and Townsends. It is clear from his letters written from Phillips Exeter Academy, where he was a senior in 1932, that he was on familiar and affectionate terms with, not only Dorothy, but her mother and grandparents as well. Walton M. Wing became an actor and later lived in Florida and Arizona.

There is one folder of Correspondence from various other friends and family.

Box List

Box 1: **Diaries** of Evalyn T. Preston

Box 2: **Diaries** of Evalyn Preston Townsend

Box 3: **Diaries** of Dorothy Townsend Tucker

Box 4: **Diaries** of Dorothy Townsend Tucker, cont.

Box 5: **Clippings and Ephemera**

Folder 1: Austin, John and Marcia

Folder 1A: Berkowitz

Folder 2: Bridge/Card Games

Folder 3: Crandall Library

Folder 4: Dodge, Harland

Folder 5: First Presbyterian Church, Glens Falls

Folder 6: Foulds

Folder 7 Freeman, Mark

Folder 8: Glens Falls Home/Hiland Park

Folder 9: Glens Falls/Queensbury

Folder 10: Glens Falls Symphony

Folder 11: Hiteman, Alice Baker

Folder 12: Jones, Charles

Folder 13: Lake George/Cleverdale

Box 6: **Clippings and Ephemera, cont.**

Folder 14: Lakeside Chapel, Cleverdale

Folder 15: Massachusetts and Connecticut

Folder 16: Obituaries

Folder 17: People

Folder 18: Preston Family

Folder 19: Saratoga Public Library

Folder 20: Southern Vermont Artists

Folder 21: Townsend/Tucker families
 Folder 20: Vermont
 Folder 23: Wing family
 Folder 24: Yaddo
 Folder 25: Zonta Club of Glens Falls

Box 7: **Postcards** (binder)

Photographs (binder)

Printed Matter

“Warren Street Glens Falls, N.Y.” by Leroy C. Wing

“Glens Falls As I Knew It in the 1920s and 1930s” by Cedric Traver

“In the Days of Old Glens Falls” by Samuel Boyd, 1927 (2 copies: # 29 and 183 of 500)

Queensbury’s Heritage by Robert L. Eddy, inscribed to Dorothy, with clippings enclosed in the volume.

Box 8: **Correspondence**

also Folder of EWB’s research notes

Notes:

The following titles have been added to the Holden book collection:

Official Guide Book of the New York World’s Fair 1939, 2nd ed.

Lake George All About It. By the veteran ex-captain of the steamers that run from the head to the foot. 1903

Glens Falls: The “Empire City” 1908. This copy belonged to Jane R. King, sometime after 1930.

The following items came in with the collection but were not retained:

“Vermont” article from *Holiday* magazine November 1949

“Century of Memories; Collector’s Edition of *Glens Falls Post-Star*, Jan 1, 2000 (there is a copy of this in “Special Supplements” in Holden Periodicals)

Holiday magazine, August 1947

Saturday Evening Post, Summer 1971

House & Garden, June 1939

An Atlas of Area Maps prepared for Multiple Listing Service, Board of Realtors, Saratoga County