

Information Sheet

R Towl, J. W.
475 Papers, 1917-1944.
Five folders, photocopies.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This collection includes correspondence and business records of J. W. Towl, a businessman at Potosi in Washington County, Missouri. Included are letters and shipping receipts regarding the barite industry, mineral lands, and the Southeast Missouri Lead Company, 1918-1939, an inventory of goods at the Towl store in Potosi, 1928, and receipts for subscriptions to the Missouri War Chest, Inc., 1944.

J. W. Towl was a general merchant and dealer in lead and barite ("tiff") ores at Potosi. He was a stockholder of the Southeast Missouri Lead Company, and was an owner of mineral lands and small farms in Washington County.

The Towl collection concerns the mineral industry in Washington County during the 1920s and 1930s. Towl was a principal of the Southeast Missouri Lead Company, which seems to have been involved solely with barite ores during this period. Much of the ore was extracted by independent miners from public and private lands at Cannon Mines in Washington County. The accumulated ore was shipped by rail from Potosi to milling companies and mineral agents. Among the firms and individuals noted in the collection are C. P. De Lore Company, Foote Mineral Company, J. C. Finck Mineral Milling Company, National Pigments & Chemical Company, E. J. Boyer, Adelbert E. Stocking, and J. M. Thompson. The papers indicate that Towl attempted to sell some of his mineral lands during the 1930s, and that the Southeast Missouri Lead Company looked into the possibilities of selling the company's holdings to the United States government for incorporation into the national forest.

In addition to his interest in the mineral industry, Towl operated a general store in Potosi. The collection includes an inventory of his store, 1928, and several items of correspondence concerning the Potosi Chamber of Commerce and economic development of the town. The last items in the collection are receipts for subscriptions to the Missouri War Chest, Inc., during World War II.

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Shelf List

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Folder 1: Correspondence, 1917-1939

Folder 2: Southeast Missouri Lead Company, tiff tickets, 1918-1919

Folder 3: Inventory of Towl store, 1928

Folder 4: Telephone bills for long distance service, 1929

Folder 5: Receipts for subscription to Missouri War Chest, Inc., 1944

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