

Roseworthy Campus Association Inc - ROCA

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER



Professor James DeLoss Towar

Principal of Roseworthy Agricultural College 1902-1904

Elected as a ROCA Honorary Life Member - 1923

Professor James DeLoss Towar, the third Principal of Roseworthy Agricultural College was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association in 1923. In the minutes of the Association Committee Meeting held on 30th July 1923, it was resolved: *"That it be a recommendation from this Committee to the Annual Meeting that Professor Towar be elected an Honorary Member of the Association"*.

Whilst there was no published citation when Professor Towar's Honorary Life Membership was awarded, it can be assumed the award was made for:

- Service as ROCA President in 1902 and 1903

James De Loss Towar was born on 26 September 1863 on a farm near Lansing in Michigan in the United States. He was an early graduate of Michigan Agricultural College, receiving a Bachelor of Science in 1885, after which he spent six years operating a 500-acre stock farm.



In 1891 he accepted the position of assistant agriculturist of the Rhode Island Experimental Station and later was promoted to the position of Associate-Professor of Agriculture in the Rhode Island Agricultural College. In 1898 Professor Towar was appointed Agriculturist of the Michigan Experimental Station, during which he had periods of teaching in the public schools of the State of Michigan and for three years, spent three months of each winter lecturing at farmers institutes in that State.

Professor Towar became Director of Agriculture and Principal of Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1902. Vol. 2 No. 1 of The Student, published in June 1902, stated in reporting on his appointment: *"Professor Towar has come from the country that has made far greater strides in agricultural education than any other in the world, a country whose colleges, experimental farms, dairies and stations, with those of Canada, have invariably been pronounced unqualified successes and to whose farmers we can well afford to look to as examples of the certain product of alertness and foresight"*.

Professor Towar however, resigned as Principal of Roseworthy Agricultural College on 25th May 1904 due to allegations of impropriety over student behaviour, management practices and insufficient standards of work and an enquiry by a Department of Agriculture board.

Returning to the United States, Professor Towar continued to work in agriculture and published extensively on agricultural subjects. In 1943 at the age of 80, Professor Towar, who played on Michigan State's first football team (the Spartans) in 1884, threw out the first ball at the Spartans open campus league competition.

Professor James DeLoss Towar died on 28th September 1947.