

Title: Olin Family Collection

Reference Code: Mss-3424

Inclusive Dates: 1893

Quantity: 000.03 cu. ft.

Location: Sm mss

Abstract: Nelson Olin, who arrived in Milwaukee in 1835, played an integral role in the early development of the city. He built the first store in Milwaukee and then constructed part of both Water Street and Wisconsin Avenue in Juneautown (East Town), before moving to Waukesha to farm and mill.

Thomas H. Olin accompanied his older brother, Nelson, to Wisconsin. Shortly after settling in Milwaukee, Thomas bought a farm in Waukesha, where he was elected to the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature. After deciding not to run for reelection, Thomas moved to Minnesota, where he continued farming.

Chauncey C. (C. C.) Olin moved from his native New York to Wisconsin, marrying in Rochester in 1843 and living most of his life in Waukesha. His company, C. C. Olin & Co., Agents, was located in Milwaukee's Furlong's Block in 1858. C. C. Olin is most famous for transporting fugitive slave Joshua Glover from Waukesha, where he was taken after being broken out of the Milwaukee County Jail, through Rochester and then to Racine, where Glover ultimately sailed to freedom in Canada.

Scope and Content: This collection consists of photocopied excerpts from the *Olin Album* on three members of the Olin family: Chauncey C. (C. C.) Olin, Nelson Olin, and Thomas H. Olin.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Notes: Donated by Robert Collins and processed by Emma Kaftan, September 2025. Materials on C. C. Olin donated by Robert Collins and processed by Michael Barera, October 2025.