

CANAWLERS AT REST

TOWNSEND OLIN

Find-A-Grave #35441830

b. July 14, 1822
d. October 23, 1888

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

Cemetery in Paradise, Warrick County, IN.

Reynolds and Mary had four children born while living in Vermont. They moved from Bennington, VT to Warrick County, IN in 1823. There he operated a tan-yard and a saw-mill for about nine years and their fifth child was born in 1825.

Mary passed away on August 2, 1831. She is buried in Paradise, Warrick county, Indiana. Reynolds then leased his farm and moved his children to Newburgh, Indiana, where he began erecting another saw mill. While building the mill, he received a bad fall and, before he was entirely recovered, he came down with cholera and died. The children of Reynolds and his wife were Anna, Susan, Julia, Townsend, and Reynolds Jr..

Townsend Olin, our subject, was born in Bennington, Vermont on July 14, 1822 to Reynolds and Mary (Townshend) Olin. Note that they dropped the letter “h” from his mother’s maiden name. He was their fourth child. He moved with his family to Warrick county, Indiana. Shortly after the death of his father, Townsend , about age 12, moved to Rockport, Spencer county, Indiana and began establishing a trade as a tanner. A year later he returned to Warrick county and was bound out by his guardian to a farmer. He did not remain with the farmer very long.

Around 1836-7 Townsend got a job working on the **Central Canal** that was being built from Evansville to the Pigeon Creek feeder dam located about 18 miles northeast of Evansville. He spent a year working on this portion of canal, which was completed in 1838. This work eventually became the lower reach of the 468-mile-long **Wabash & Erie Canal**. The Pigeon Creek Reservoir was later built for the Wabash & Erie Canal about 13 miles northwest of the feeder dam.

Townsend attended school for a few months in and near Rockport learning to become a teacher. He then returned to Warrick county and lived with Calvin Butler. Butler taught him how to survey. With his gained knowledge, he began his career as a teacher. After teaching for only a few months, he returned to Vermont where he



John Olin, the great-grandfather of our subject, was born March 8, 1712 in East Greenwich, Rhode Island to John Olin (1664-1725) and Susannah (Spencer) Olin (1680-1719). He married Susanna Pierce on December 8, 1734 in East Greenwich. He died on September 24, 1797 and was buried in Shaftsbury Center, Bennington county, Vermont. Susanna died in February 1802. They share the same grave marker.

Giles Olin, the grandfather of our subject, was born March 23, 1745 to John and Susanna (Pierce) Olin in South Kingston, Rhode Island. He married Anna Reynolds, who was born in 1751. They had fourteen children. He died on September 1, 1835 and was buried in Shaftsbury, Vermont. Anna died February 23, 1838 in Bennington, Vermont.

Reynolds Olin was born in Shaftsbury, Vermont on May 17, 1785 and was of Scotch descent. He was married to Mary Townshend of Massachusetts, who was born on April 10, 1786. Mary was the niece of Ethan Allen, “who did so much to aid the State of Vermont in its emergency.” Mary is said to have had an uncommon gift in mathematics. Reynolds died June 21, 1833 and is buried in the Townsend

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Townsend Olin's Family

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Place</u>
John Olin	3-08-1712	E Greenwich RI	9-24-1797	Shaftsbury VT	12-08-1734	E Greenwich RI
m. Susannah Pierce	1708		2-??-1802		12-08-1734	
Phoebe Olin	1735		1808			
Jonathan Olin	1737		1826			
John Olin	1739		1740			
John Olin	1741		1823			
Giles Olin	3-23-1745	South Kingston RI	9-01-1835	Shaftsbury VT	12-17-1769	S. Kingston RI
m. Anna Reynolds	1751		2-23-1838	Bennington VT	12-17-1869	S. Kingston RI
John Olin	1770		1770			
William Olin	1771	Shaftsbury VT	1795			
James Olin	1773		1856	Shaftsbury VT		
m1. Esther Reynolds						
Catherine Olin	8-16-1794	Shaftsbury VT	1887	Nebraska		1824
m. Samuel Whiting						1824
Julia Olin	12-05-1800	Western NY		NY		1822
m. Henry Sage						1822
m2. Sarah Ellis						1804 Shaftsbury VT
Zebulen Utter Olin	9-20-1805		10-09-1843			
Esther Olin	1-08-????	Scholharie, MY	4-05-1873	Croton NY	5-??-1824	
m. Charles Easton						
James O. Easton		Virgil NY				
Sarah J. Easton						
m. Rodney March						
Janet March						
m. Gresham Fuller						
Hiram W. Easton	5-24-1817	Croton NY				
(female) Olin	1775		1775			
Henry Olin	12-16-1776	Cartwright NY	1860			
m1. Orrilla Benedict					1-03-1836	
Nathaniel J. Olin	6-11-????	Homer NY				
m. Eliza Barber					6-??-1858	Cortland IL
Julia Olin	1-27-1841	Cortland IL				
James H. Olin	11-29-1846	Batavia IL	8-27-1870	Cortland IL	1-16-1868	Cortland IL
m. Jane Crandall					1-16-1868	Cortland IL
Lavina N. Olin	2-05-1849	Batavia IL	7-??-1876		1-13-1867	
m1. Rodman Jay			7-18-1874	Columbus KS	1-13-1867	
Lula Jay	12-09-1867	Cortland IL	2-02-1885			
Lottie A. Jay	10-13-1869	Cortland IL				
Mattie E. Jay	3-19-1873	Cortland IL				
Lorena Jay	9-06-1867					
m2. L.K. Blakslee M. D.					6-13-1887	Chicago IL
Harold Blakslee	9-11-1888	Los Angeles CA				
m2. Sarah Upson					6-30-????	
Sarah R. Olin	12-11-1853	Cortland IL			8-01-1874	
m. Witt Garritson M.D.					8-01-1874	Sycamore IL
John Pierce Olin	1778	RI				
m. Cornelia Reiss						
Giles Olin Jr.	1-02-1781	Shaftsbury VT	6-27-1826		3-27-1801	
m. Mary Sage			7-08-1838	Bennington VT	3-27-1801	
Norman Olin						
m. Arletta Dyer					1832	Shaftsbury VT
Aurelia Olin						
Mary Olin						
Emily E. Olin	5-31-1838					
m. ? Burke						
Lauretta Olin						
m. Wm. H. Ritter						
Dyer Olin						
Anna Olin	1783		1833			

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Townsend Olin's Family (continued)

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place
Reynolds Olin	5-17-1785	Shaftsbury VT	6-21-1833	Paradise Deforest IN (cholera)		
m. Mary Polly Townshend	4-10-1786	Hancock MA	8-02-1831	Paradise Warrick Co. IN		
<u>Anna Olin</u>	1815	Shaftsbury VT			1844	
m. Adam Schowler					1844	
Infant						
<u>Susan Olin</u>	1817	Shaftsbury VT	1830	Deforest IN		
<u>Julia Olin</u>	1820		1833	Deforest IN		
Townsend Olin*	7-14-1822	Bennington VT	10-23-1888	Chandler Warrick Co IN	10-1847	IN
m. Margaret Pollard Seeley	1827		4-18-1898		10-10-1847	IN
Nancy Olin**	1849					
James Olin***	1851					
Chauncey Martin Olin	11-14-1865	Deforest IN			6-18-1896	Warrick Co IN
<u>Reynolds Olin Jr.</u>	1825	Deforest IN			1847 (divorced)	
m1. Nancy Cooper					1847 (divorced)	
David M. Olin	Infant					
Mary Elizabeth Olin	Infant					
Allen H. Olin	1853	South Solon OH	7-23-1879	(reared by mother's parents William & Betsy Cooper)		
m. Melissa (Gardner) Griffith						
Garfield Olin	1880	South Solon OH				
Charles O. Olin	1884	South Solon OH		Died in infancy.		
Tressie M. Olin	1886					
Anna M. Olin	1887					
m2. Nancy Carlin						
Jeremiah Olin	1788		1860			
Caleb Olin	1791					
Catherine Olin	1794					
Amasa Olin	1799		1841			
Roxana Olin	12-07-1808	Scholarie, NY	1882		2-24-1832	
m. James Harwood	7-01-1803	Ware MA	7-25-1869	Bennington VT	12-24-1832	
Henry Harwood	1-12-1834	Bennington VT				
Charles W. Harwood	1-26-1835	Bennington VT				
Esther Harwood (twin)	11-12-1836	Bennington VT		(died at about age 3)		
Ellen Harwood (twin)	11-12-1836	Bennington VT		(died at about age 3)		
Mary E. Harwood	7-21-1838	Bennington VT	8-10-1884	Bennington VT		
Eustace Harwood	7-23-1839	Shaftsbury VT	12-06-1839	N Bennington VT		
James E. Harwood	2-17-1841	N Bennington VT	6-15-1871	Brattleboro VT		
George H. Harwood	10-12-1845	Bennington VT			5-14-1870	
m. Caroline Walton					5-14-1870	
Olin W. Harwood	5-10-1879	Troy NY				
George L. Harwood	7-21-1872					
Giles Olin Harwood	Infant					
Barbara Barbery Olin	1748		1830			
Susanna Olin	1748		1801			

*Townsend Olin's name and those of his father, grandfather, and great grandfather are highlighted. The names of his siblings are underlined.

**Nancy only appears on one Public Member Tree. The history book says Townsend and Margaret only had one son, Chauncey.

***James only appears on one Public Member Tree. The history book says Townsend and Margaaret only had one son, Chauncey.

Sources:

Ancestry.com Public member trees.

Olin C. C. *A Complete Record of the John Olin Family*. Indianapolis, IN: Baker-Randolph Co., Printers, 1893.

History of Warrick, Spencer, and Perry Counties, Indiana. Chicago, IL: Goodspeed Bros. & Co. Publishers, 1885.

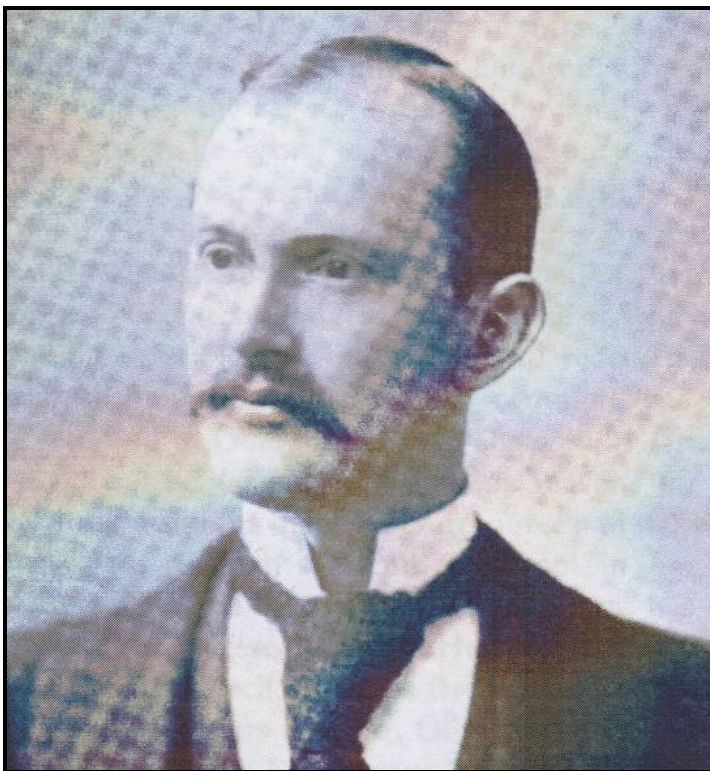
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obtained some money from his father's estate. He returned with the money to Indiana and purchased a farm.

On October 10, 1847, Townsend, age 25, was married to Margaret Pollard Seely, age 20. Margaret was born in 1827 to Benjamin Seely, a native of Vermont and an early settler of Warrick county.

Townsend and Margaret moved onto the farm in 1848. He began farming and teaching. He taught for over six more years. The U.S. Federal Census of 1850 lists him as a farmer with real estate valued at \$600. By 1860 the census shows his real estate having grown to \$3,000 with his personal estate at \$800.

On November 14, 1865, Chauncey Martin Olin was born to Townsend and Margaret in DeForest, Indiana. According to the Warrick county history and the John Olin family genealogy, he was their only child. Having lived on his father's farm all his life and witnessing his father teaching, he followed in his father's footsteps and became a teacher. He taught for some years and then began traveling for the Standard Oil Company in southwestern Indiana. He lived with his mother after Townsend died and inherited the 79 acre family farm located at DeForest, just west of Boonville, Indiana. His name appears on a land ownership map



Chauncey Martin Olin
Son of Townsend and Margaret Olin

of 1903. He was married on June 18, 1896. The Indiana marriage records only show the names of his parents and not his wife.

In 1870 the U.S. Federal Census shows Townsend Olin's real estate valued at \$3,300 and a personal estate of \$1,000. His occupation is still given as a farmer.

In 1872 Allen H. Olin, Townsend's nephew and son of Reynolds Olin Jr., came to live with Townsend's family for a year and a half. It is likely that Allen was named after his great-grandmother's family. His grandmother, Betsy Cooper, was the daughter of Rachel (Allen) Merriman, who was a cousin of Ethan Allen.

After his father, Reynolds Olin Jr. was separated from his mother, Nancy (Cooper) Olin in 1847, Allen was reared by his mother's parents, William and Betsy Cooper. Reynolds Jr. then married Nancy Carlin.

While living with Townsend, Townsend advised Allen to prepare himself for the responsible occupation of a teacher and encouraged him during his course of study. Before Allen Olin left Indiana he had received a certificate to teach in the ordinary branches of common school education. He returned to Ohio in 1875 and tried farming for a year, but was a failure. Through a friend, he was engaged at a school in his own neighborhood. He taught and carried on the small farm for many years.

Allen's father, Reynolds Jr., who was almost blind since the time of his birth, had a great fondness for mathematics, which he probably inherited from his mother Mary. It is said that "he had an intuitive knowledge of mathematical problems in almost every form that could be devised." After he published some of his intricate problems in a circular form in 1865, nearby Evansville citizens asked him to teach a class showing his method of multiplication and to lecture on his methods. His circular said, "Come out and Take Lessons from the Natural Mathematician. Novel System of Multiplication. Entirely Original."

After marrying Nancy Carlin, Reynold's Jr. moved to Newburgh, Indiana. One history describes him as "a deep and close thinker and a leader among those around him."

The U.S. Federal Census of 1880 shows Townsend, our subject, as a farmer. Around this time the county history tells us that he "has confined his attention to farming and looking after the welfare of his guests, who come in large numbers to attest the medicinal properties of St. Ronan's

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Ronan's Well, which has become widely known and justly celebrated." St. Ronan's well was a mineral water well that was 30 feet deep and was located on Townsend's farm. Its properties proved to be beneficial in many diseases. Especially during the summer season, people came to the well to get away from the dust and heat of larger cities and to partake of the well's medicinal qualities. The well was listed in an 1885 history as being on the farm belonging to M.P. Olin, Townsend's wife.

Townsend was a Republican. He and his wife belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Townsend Olin passed away on October 23, 1888. He was laid to rest in Center Cemetery, Chandler, Indiana. He shares a gravestone with his wife, Margaret, who died April 18, 1898.



OLIN
FATHER AND MOTHER
TOWNSEND OLIN
BENNINGTON VT.
JULY 14, 1822~OCT. 23, 1888
MARGARET P. OLIN
RUTLAND VT.
SEPT. 11, 1827~APR. 18, 1898

Courtesy Skyangel 2010

Sources:

A Bicentennial Look At Newburgh, Indiana. Bicentennial year 1776-1976 published by the Newburgh public library.

Ancestry.com:

Indiana. Select Marriages 1780-1993. Townsend Olin
Indiana. Marriage Collection 1800-1941. Chauncey M. Olin
Public Member Trees
U.S. Civil War Draft Registrations Records. 1863-1865:
Townsend Olin
U.S. Indexed County Land Ownership Maps. 1860-1918:
Chauncey Olin.

Find-A-Grave:

Mary Townsend Olin #36898455
Townsend Olin #35441830

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Olin, C. C. *A Complete Record of the John Olin Family, The first of that name who came to America in the year A.D. 1678. Containing an account of their settlement and genealogy up to the present time—1891.* Indianapolis, IN: Baker-Randolph Co. Publishers, 1893.

United States Federal Census: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880