

Title: Noonan Family Papers

Reference Code: Mss-2817

Inclusive Dates: 1836 – 1948

Quantity: 0.6 cu. ft.

Location: LM, Sh. 191 (0.4 cu. ft.)
RC21A, Sh. 005 (0.2 cu. ft.)
OS SM "N" (2 items)

Abstract: The Noonans were one of Milwaukee's pioneer families. Josiah A. Noonan was born in Amsterdam, New York, in 1813. He apprenticed and worked at several newspapers in the East before relocating to Milwaukee in 1836 and working with the *Milwaukee Advertiser*. Two years later, he established the *Wisconsin Enquirer* at Madison before moving operations to Milwaukee and renaming the paper the *Milwaukee Courier*, which he sold in 1845. Noonan was an influential and controversial figure in the state's Democratic Party. He managed Henry Dodge's successful campaign for the U.S. Senate in 1851 and capitalized on his political connections to secure a job as Milwaukee's postmaster from 1843 to 1849 and 1853 to 1857. He retired from public life to engage in several business enterprises, including a stationer/paper warehouse, paper mill and type foundry. These efforts, however, were not very successful, and a long-running legal feud with John J. Orton concerning the paper mill left Noonan deeply in debt. He passed away in December 1882.

Scope and Content: The collection contains miscellaneous records including bound letter books (1836-1838), City of Milwaukee tax receipts, land sale receipts, Internal Revenue receipts and promissory notes related to Josiah Noonan's business. Also included are miscellaneous family records such as report cards, invitations to social events, travel memorabilia, organizational membership papers, scrapbook and letters of Annette (nee Noonan) Newton and Susan Bolton (nee Hayden) Olsen, Robert Newton and Hobart Olson. In addition, the collection includes Civil War discharge and pension-related papers for Wareham P. Rix.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English

Notes: Collection donated by Kathy Kuelthau, Dec. 1999, and Robert Kuelthau, March 2014.