

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—1893.

BY

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The Puritans of 1620 came to America to enjoy civil and religious liberty, but our ancestor, John Olin, became a citizen of this country by compulsion. He was arrested on the coast of Wales in 1678 and forced aboard a British man-of-war and was landed in Boston Harbor, where he deserted at the first opportunity and migrated to Rhode Island. This high-handed transaction took place when he was only fourteen years old. He must have been an extraordinary boy to have taken the steps that he did without friends, and but a very little experience in the ways of the world to have run the risk of capture by the ship's officers and crew. No doubt but that he was a boy of extraordinary energy and sagacity, or he would never have attempted to secret himself in a new and sparsely settled country, as New England was at that early day. What an interesting account it would have been to the descendants of this young man if we had the records of the day and month of his landing in Boston Harbor, and also of the time of his arrival in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. In that event, we could celebrate with a good deal of zeal his arrival in a country that gave him shelter and the right to become a loyal citizen, although he was still a minor in the eyes of the law. But no doubt he was a resolute boy and had made up his mind to overcome all obstacles to his progress in the new country in which he was an unwilling subject. No doubt he was very strong for a boy of but fourteen, being tall and well proportioned, as his descendants are that came after him. For all that he felt it a great sacrifice to be taken ruthlessly from his native land, without friends, or even a hope that he would ever see them again, as there was no communication whatever, only through an enemy's country.