

∞ The Ward M. Canaday Center ∞
for Special Collections
The University of Toledo

Finding Aid

➤ Edward Levis Family Collection, n.d. ◀

MSS-218

Size: 0.1 linear ft.

Provenance: Phil and Nancy Williams

Access: Open

Collection Summary: This collection contains four oversize photographs of members of the Levis family, founders of Illinois Glass Company in Alton, Illinois.

Subject(s): [Business and Commerce](#), [Glass Industry](#)

Related Collections: Owens-Illinois, Inc. Company Records, MSS-200

Processing Note:

Copyright: The literary rights to this collection are assumed to rest with the person(s) responsible for the production of the particular items within the collection, or with their heirs or assigns. Researchers bear full legal responsibility for the acquisition to publish from any part of said collection per *Title 17, United States Code*. The **Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections** may reserve the right to intervene as intermediary at its own discretion.

Completed by: Kim Brownlee, September 2006; revised and updated by Tamara Jones, September 2013, last updated: October 2014

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Biographical Sketches

Charles Levis was born October 7, 1860 in Alton, Illinois, one of seven sons born to Edward Levis, founder of the Illinois Glass Company. When Edward died in 1903, his sons took over the operation of their father's business. Charles played an important role in the manufacturing aspect of Illinois Glass, and he was largely responsible for the company's increased national importance. He remained an active participant in Illinois Glass until he retired. He died in 1948.

Robert Harry Levis was born in Alton on May 2, 1862. Like his brothers, he learned about the glass-making business from the ground up, eventually rising to become company treasurer. He was the last president of Illinois Glass before it merged with the Owens Bottle Company of Toledo in 1929 to form Owens-Illinois, Inc. He died October 14, 1950.

Thomas Middleton Levis was born in Alton on November 18, 1886, the oldest son of Robert H. Levis. He was a clerk at Illinois Glass and served as assistant treasurer of the company for several years before retiring in 1929, when the company merged to form Owens-Illinois. He also served as the district manager of the company's office in St. Louis. He died January 10, 1959.

William Edward Levis was born in Alton on December 14, 1890. He initially planned to study law, and earned his degree from the University of Illinois in 1913. Soon after graduating, however, his father Charles Levis convinced him to join his relatives at the Illinois Glass Company. William got his start at the company loading cars, but eventually worked his way up, serving as assistant secretary; treasurer; vice president; and general manager before becoming company president in 1928. It was under his leadership that Levis-owned Illinois Glass merged with Owens Bottle Company. William served as chief executive officer of Owens-Illinois for 20 years before retiring as board chairman in 1950. He died November 7, 1962.

Additional biographical information on members of the Levis family can be found in the Owens-Illinois, Inc. Company Records, MSS-200.

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Scope and Content Note

The Edward Levis Family Collection consists of four oversize photographs of members of the Levis family: Edward Levis's sons Charles and Robert, Charles's son William, and Robert's son Thomas. None of the photographs are dated.

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Folder List

Box	Folder	Item
1	1	Levis, Charles, n.d.
1	2	Levis, Robert H., n.d.
1	3	Levis, Thomas M., n.d.
1	4	Levis, William E., n.d.