

Collection #
M 0044
OM 0012
R0256–267
R0324–334

JOSEPH W. AND ORVILLE T. CHAMBERLAIN PAPERS, 1829–1932

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4 September 2002

Visual Materials and Artifacts Added by
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June 2011

Manuscript Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	Manuscript Materials: 4 document cases, 2 oversize folders Visual Materials: 1 photograph box, 1 cartes de visite box, 1 cabinet card box, 6 photograph albums, 1 OVB graphics box, 1 oversize photograph, 1 cased image Artifacts: 24 artifacts
COLLECTION DATES:	1829–1932
PROVENANCE:	Mrs. Patrick A. Donnelly, Carmel, Indiana, 1952, and Charles M. Brown, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1971; Notre Dame University Archives, 1972; Jon F. Sipe, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1974
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1952.0004; 1971.1109; 1972.0507; 1974.0114
NOTES:	The original processor of this collection is unknown. It was reprocessed in September 1988 by Hilary Adams.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Joseph Wright Chamberlain (1809–67) was born in Onondaga County, New York. He earned his medical degree and moved west in 1835, traveling through Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, before settling in Leesburg, Kosciusko County, Indiana in 1840. He served as postmaster and physician there until 1851, when he and his family moved to Elkhart, Indiana, following the death of his first wife, Caroline Tryon (1817–51). Joseph Chamberlain served as postmaster, druggist, and bookseller in Elkhart until his death in 1867.

Joseph Chamberlain had six children by two marriages. Two of these children are represented in his papers: Orville Tryon (1841–1929) and Tully (ca. 1844–73).

Orville Tryon Chamberlain was born in Leesburg, Indiana, taught school in Elkhart for three years, then left to attend the University of Notre Dame. He graduated in 1861 and promptly joined the 74th Indiana Regiment. Orville Chamberlain received the Congressional Medal of Honor for “distinguished gallantry” at the Battle of Chickamauga. He was a member of the Army/Navy Legion of Valor (an organization composed of recipients of the Medal of Honor) and served two terms as its commander. He was active in the Legion’s efforts to provide for the widows and orphans of soldiers. Orville Chamberlain read law in Elkhart and was admitted to the bar in 1866. He served as Elkhart City Attorney for four terms and was U. S. District Attorney for the 34th District. He retired from practice in 1901 and moved first to California and then to Arizona, where he died in 1929.

Tully Chamberlain was born in Leesburg around 1844. He served in the 134th Indiana Regiment during the Civil War. Following the war, he moved west where he worked for the Union Pacific Railway and other railroads. He died from gunshot wounds in 1873.

Sources:

Information in collection.

Pumroy, Eric, with Paul Brockman. *A Guide to Manuscript Collections of the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana State Library*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1986. Z 1281 .P5 1986.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Chamberlain papers consist of correspondence, regimental history, material dealing with Orville Chamberlain's military career, and genealogical material.

Chamberlain family and business correspondence includes Joseph Chamberlain's letters to his father, Milo (ca. 1785–1872) mainly detailing his experiences in the Middle West, 1829–60. There also are a few items dealing with Joseph Wright's business interests, 1860–67. There also are ten political letters from Schuyler Colfax to Joseph Wright regarding the circulation of the *St. Joseph Whig Register* and local political matters, 1851–53.

The majority of correspondence dates from 1860–69 concerns Orville Chamberlain's experiences during and immediately following the Civil War. While most of these letters primarily consist of letters to his father describing army life, there is one that contains an excellent account of the action at Missionary Ridge.

The bulk of the materials from 1870–73 are between Tully and Orville Chamberlain, who was working for railroads in Utah, Nevada, and California. These letters were evidently returned to Indiana after Tully's death. In addition, there are several letters of recommendation from the various rail companies for whom Tully worked and some correspondence from other friends and relatives.

Other items in the collection document Orville Chamberlain's legal practice and his work with the Legion of Valor. Much of this deals with his efforts on behalf of families of killed or disabled soldiers from the Civil War through World War I. There also are two regimental histories: one written by Orville Chamberlain about the 74th Indiana Regiment and one by an unknown author with Chamberlain's annotations. The artifacts appear to be related to Orville's military service and his involvement with the G.A.R.

The genealogical materials cover the history of the Wright-Chamberlain family. The progenitor of the family had 26 children by three wives, and all his descendants are traced in some detail. These materials also included excerpts from a book written about the family and information on the Wright-Chamberlain family organization.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Family Correspondence and Papers, 1796–1932

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Photostats of Diary, 1796 and 1800	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence, 1829 and n.d.	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence, 1831–35	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence, 1836–39	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence, 1840–49	Box 1, Folder 5
Correspondence, 1850–53	Box 1, Folder 6
Correspondence, 1854–59	Box 1, Folder 7
Correspondence, Jan. 1860–Oct. 1862	Box 1, Folder 8
Correspondence, Nov.–Dec., 1862	Box 1, Folder 9
Correspondence, Jan.–June 1863	Box 1, Folder 10
Correspondence, July–Dec. 1863	Box 1, Folder 11
Correspondence, Jan.–Sept. 1864	Box 2, Folder 1
Correspondence, Sept.–Dec. 1864	Box 2, Folder 2
Correspondence, 1865	Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence, 1866–69	Box 2, Folder 4
Correspondence, 1870–71	Box 2, Folder 5
Correspondence, 1872–73	Box 2, Folder 6
Correspondence, 1873–97	Box 2, Folder 7
Correspondence, 1904–10	Box 2, Folder 8
Correspondence, 1916–32	Box 2, Folder 9

Correspondence, Business Cards and Envelopes	Box 2, Folder 10
Newspaper Clippings (1 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 11
Newspaper Clippings (2 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 12

Series 2: History of 74th Regiment

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
History of 74 th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry	Box 3, Folder 1
Military History of Orville T. Chamberlain	Box 3, Folder 2
History of 74 th Indiana Regiment (manuscript)	Box 3, Folder 3
Civil War Photographs Album	Album Storage: PAA

Series 3: Genealogical Material

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Genealogical Material (1 of 3)	Box 3, Folder 4
Genealogical Material (2 of 3)	Box 3, Folder 5
Genealogical Material (3 of 3)	Box 3, Folder 6

Series 4: Medal of Honor Material, Diaries, Accounts, 1862–1921

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Accounts, 1901–04	Box 4, Folder 1
Chamberlain Family Register	OM 0012:
Morning Reports 1865	Folder 1
<i>Tri County Gazette</i> [copies] 1898	
Military certificates, 1864–1927	
Joseph Chamberlain medical degree	
John D. Myers Diary	Box 4, Folder 2
Orville T. Chamberlain Diaries, 1862–64	Box 4, Folder 3

Orville T. Chamberlain's University of Notre Dame diploma, 1868

OM 0012:
Folder 2
Flat File 11-f

Medal of Honor Clippings and Related Material, 1914–21

Box 4, Folder 4

Medal of Honor/Star of Valor Material (1 of 2)

Box 4, Folder 5

Medal of Honor/Star of Valor Material (2 of 2)

Box 4, Folder 6

Wallet, pin, studs, ribbons, Medals of Honor, G.A.R. buttons

Artifacts:
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Orville T. Chamberlain's Loyal Legion, G.A.R., and Medal of Honor Documents, 1891–1905

OM 0012:
Folder 2
Flat File 11-f

Series 5: Visual Materials, 1860s–1929

CONTENTS

List of pictures in collection

CONTAINER

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 11

Milo Chamberlain

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Orville Chamberlain, 1860s

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 2

Cartes de visite:
Box 1

Cabinet Cards:
Box 1

Orville Chamberlain, ca. 1870–ca. 1925

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 3

Cartes de visite:
Box 1

Cabinet Cards:
Box 1

“Just a very little about a very great Regiment the 74th.
Regt. Ind. Vol. Infty,” “The Walnut Crackers.” 1913
[small album with narrative and photographs]

Cartes de visite:
Box 1

Helen M. Chamberlain

Cabinet Cards:
Box 1

Livy Chamberlain

Cabinet Cards:
Box 1

OVB Graphics:
Box 1, Folder 1

Oversize Photographs:
Folder 1, Flat File 1-i

Milo Chamberlain

Cabinet Cards:
Box 1

OVB Graphics:
Box 1, Folder 2

Sarah Minerva Chamberlain

Cabinet Cards:
Box 1

Tully Chamberlain, ca. 1870

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

Cartes de visite:
Box 1

Edith Chamberlain Simpson, 1890s–1929

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 5

OVB Graphics:
Box 1, Folder 3

Helena Chamberlain Brown and family

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 6

Views of Elkhart, Leesburg, and Indianapolis

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 7

Wright/Chamberlain farm and grave in Pennsylvania,
1899

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 8

Orville Chamberlain visiting Civil War Battlegrounds,
1913

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 9

Orville and Helen Chamberlain trips to California and
New Mexico, 1904–1917

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 10

Mary Katharine and Orville Evans Truesdell [children]

Cabinet Cards:
Box 1

[Group of women in oriental costume, names on
verso]

Cabinet Cards:
Box 1

Chamberlain Family:

A.N. Chamberlain
Carrie Chamberlain
Edith Chamberlain

Cartes de visite:
Box 1

Identified Individuals:

Phebe Hyde Cleveland [silhouette]
Julia B. Cole
Mattie Fish, nee Truesdell
Cassie Meader, Elkhart
John Hardin Schutt
Nell Schutt
Eliza F. Tibbits, 1872
George Arthur Tibbits, 1872

Cartes de visite:
Box 1

H. Truesdell

OVB Graphics:
Box 1, Folder 4

Unidentified Cartes de Visite:
young man, young girl, and child

Cartes de visite:
Box 1

Dr. J. W. Chamberlain and son

Cased Images

Our Trips:

Pennsylvania in 1898, other eastern points in 1900.
Wright Chamberlain farm near Gibson, Pa. Atlantic
City, Pine Plains, N.Y., Poughkeepsie, N.Y., N.Y. City
and West Point.

Album Storage:
PAA

To the Pacific 1902:

Orville T. and Helen M. Chamberlain. New Orleans, San Antonio, El Paso, Juarez, Mexico, Los Angeles, Pasadena, San Gabriel, Redlands, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterey, Fort Sutler, Maywood, Shasta Springs, Pocatello, Idaho.

Album Storage:
PAA

To the Pacific 1903:

Cripple Creek, Col., Grand Canyon, San Diego, La Jolla, Escondido, San Luis del Rey, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Saratoga Springs, Seattle, Victoria, B.C.

Album Storage:
PAA

Our Travels, 1904:

New Orleans, Havana, Los Angeles, Yosemite

Album Storage:
PAA

“Last Public Appearance of Indiana’s
Civil War Battle Flags...1900...”
[newspaper clipping]

OVB Graphics:
Box 1, Folder 1

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M0044).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.