

**Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2010**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78015503>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010265>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Papers

**Span Dates:** 1775-1913

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1828-1913)

**ID No.:** MSS15503

**Creator:** Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence, 1828-1914.

**Extent:** 1,000 items

**Extent:** 11 containers

**Extent:** 4.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78015503>

**Summary:** Union Army officer, educator, and governor of Maine. Correspondence, biographical notes, record books, military reports, speeches, accounts of engagements of the Army of the Potomac, and other material mostly concerning the Civil War.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Brown, John Marshall, 1838-1907--Correspondence.

Burrage, Henry S. (Henry Sweetser), 1837-1926--Correspondence.

Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence, 1828-1914.

Connor, Selden, 1839- --Correspondence.

Hamlin, Charles, 1837-1911--Correspondence.

Howard, O. O. (Oliver Otis), 1830-1909--Correspondence.

McClellan, Carswell, 1835-1892--Correspondence.

Sargent, Horace Binney, 1821-1908--Correspondence.

Seward, William H. (William Henry), 1801-1872--Correspondence.

Warren, G. K. (Gouverneur Kemble), 1830-1882--Correspondence.

Woodman, Cyrus, 1814-1889--Correspondence.

### Organizations

United States. Army of the Potomac.

United States. Army. Corps, 5th (1862-1865)

United States. Army. Maine Infantry Regiment, 20th (1862-1865). Company G.

### Subjects

Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863.

### Places

Maine--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Maine--Militia.

Pennsylvania--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

### Form/Genre

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

### Occupations

Army officers.

Educators.

Governors--Maine.

## Provenance

The papers of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, Union Army officer, educator, and governor of Maine, were given to the Library of Congress by Rosamond Allen and Eleanor W. Allen, 1938-1956.

## Processing History

The Chamberlain Papers were processed prior to 1950 and revised and expanded, 1968-1973. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

## Other Repositories

A collection of Alice Rains Trulock's research materials for her book, *In the Hands of Providence: Joshua L. Chamberlain and the American Civil War* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1992), is located at the Pejepscot Historical Society, Brunswick, Maine. These research materials include photocopies of documents from several repositories, including the Manuscript Division.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

| Date          | Event                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1828, Sept. 8 | Born, Brewer, Maine                                                                                                                                   |
| 1852          | Graduated, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine                                                                                                          |
| 1852-1855     | Student, Bangor Theological Seminary, Bangor, Maine                                                                                                   |
| 1855          | Married Fannie Adams                                                                                                                                  |
| 1855-1862     | Taught, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine                                                                                                             |
| 1862          | Appointed lieutenant colonel, 20th Maine Regiment                                                                                                     |
| 1863          | Appointed colonel, 20th Maine Regiment<br>Fought at Battle of Gettysburg and awarded Congressional Medal of Honor for his defense of Little Round Top |
| 1864          | Promoted by Ulysses S. Grant to brigadier general of volunteers                                                                                       |
| 1867-1871     | Governor of Maine                                                                                                                                     |
| 1871-1883     | President, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine                                                                                                          |
| 1893          | Awarded Medal of Honor for actions at Battle of Gettysburg                                                                                            |

1914, Feb. 24

Died, Portland, Maine

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain (1828-1914) span the years 1775-1913, with the bulk from 1828 to 1913. The collection consists of correspondence, biographical notes, record books, military reports, speeches, accounts of engagements of the Army of the Potomac, and other material mostly concerning the Civil War. Included are reports of Company G, 20th Maine Volunteers, and Chamberlain's account of the battle of Gettysburg. There are letters relating to the state militia in Maine, military reunions, and data for a history of the 5th United States Army Corps in which Chamberlain served as a colonel of the 20th Maine Regiment.

Prominent correspondents include John Marshall Brown, Henry S. Burrage, Selden Connor, Charles Hamlin, O. O. Howard, Carswell McClellan, Horace Binney Sargent, William Henry Seward, Gouverneur Kemble Warren, and Cyrus Woodman.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

The collection is organized by type of material and includes an addition.

## Container List

| Container | Contents                                                                       |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BOX 1     | General correspondence                                                         |
| BOX 1     | 5 Feb. 1848-2 Feb. 1873                                                        |
| BOX 2     | 15 Apr. 1873-2 July 1882                                                       |
| BOX 3     | 6 July 1882-6 May 1913, undated                                                |
| BOX 4     | Miscellany                                                                     |
| BOX 4     | Sermon in Philadelphia, Pa., 1775                                              |
| BOX 4     | Prewar and Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, papers                           |
| BOX 4     | Celebrations Society of the Potomac, 20th Maine Regiment Association           |
| BOX 4     | Batchelder correspondence                                                      |
| BOX 4     | Papers as governor of Maine                                                    |
| BOX 4     | Transition papers, Jan. 1880                                                   |
| BOX 4     | Political pieces                                                               |
| BOX 4     | Letters to his wife                                                            |
| BOX 4     | Letter to his mother                                                           |
| BOX 4     | Grant, Ulysses S., and J. E. Rice                                              |
| BOX 4     | Reminiscences to Chamberlain                                                   |
| BOX 4     | Army and Navy Escutcheon Co. (F. H. Dyer)                                      |
| BOX 4     | Miscellaneous postwar correspondence                                           |
| BOX 5     | Miscellaneous war correspondence                                               |
| BOX 5     | Civil War correspondence, original military orders, and mustering out papers   |
| BOX 5     | Battles, engagements, and skirmishes, regimental records                       |
| BOX 5     | Regimental records<br>(2 folders)                                              |
| BOX 6     | Regimental records by state<br>(2 folders)                                     |
| BOX 6     | Regimental records, personnel statistics, and officers' obituary announcements |
| BOX 6     | Officers' obituary announcements                                               |
| BOX 7     | List of officers                                                               |
| BOX 7     | Personnel statistics<br>(2 folders)                                            |
| BOX 7     | Photographs                                                                    |
| BOX 7     | Maps                                                                           |
| BOX 8     | Regimental index                                                               |
| BOX 8     | Reports of operations                                                          |
| BOX 8     | Dispatches<br>(3 folders)                                                      |
| BOX 9     | Centennial celebration scrapbook                                               |
| BOX 9     | Quartermaster's log and Chamberlain's scrapbook of press clippings, 1890s      |
| BOX 9     | Press clippings                                                                |
| BOX 9     | Largely 1870s and 1880s                                                        |
| BOX 9     | Largely 1910s                                                                  |
| BOX 10    | Printed materials by Chamberlain                                               |

## Container List

| <b>Container</b> | <b>Contents</b>                                              |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| BOX 10           | Unbound printed matter, largely annotated                    |
| BOX 10           | Printed matter concerning Chamberlain                        |
| BOX 11           | Addition                                                     |
| BOX 11           | General correspondence, 1860-1901<br>(2 folders)             |
| BOX 11           | Writings                                                     |
| BOX 11           | George W. Addams, Paul Parley's Trip to France               |
| BOX 11           | Horace B. Chamberlain, poem                                  |
| BOX 11           | Tracings, sketches, and printed matter                       |
| BOX 11           | Correspondence, 1858-1889                                    |
| BOX 11           | Correspondence and returns relating to Company G, 20th Maine |