Beloit College Archives

Guide to the Rollin T. and Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin Papers MC 31

Unique ID: us-wbb-MC031

Repository: Beloit College Archives

Collection Title: Rollin T. and Thomas C. Chamberlin papers

Creator: Chamberlin, Rollin T. (Rollin Thomas), 1881-1948.

Chamberlin, Thomas C. (Thomas Chrowder), 1843-1928

Date (inclusive): 1873-1997; bulk 1909-1948

Extent: 26 linear feet (29 boxes, published volumes, and oversize items)

Access Note: This collection is open for research; however, certain materials are fragile

and require Archives staff for handling, or use may be restricted altogether.

Language: English

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Beloit College Archives

Colonel Robert H. Morse Library and Richard Black Information Center

731 College Street

Beloit, Wisconsin 53511-5509

Abstract: Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin (1843-1928), class of 1866, was a

professor of science at Beloit College from 1873-1886. Though his academic interests were wide-ranging, he is best known for the

Chamberlin-Moulton Planetesimal Hypothesis, a theory of solar system formation. His son, Rollin Thomas Chamberlin also was an accomplished geologist, and together they embarked on a survey trip to China in 1909

for the Oriental Educational Investigation Commission. The Chamberlins' papers include biographies, correspondence, publications (published and drafts), photographs, travel diaries, notebooks, maps, research materials,

and other personal documents.

This finding aid was last updated in May, 2013 by Michelle Tom Contents of finding aid are subject to changes and updates as necessary.

Table of Contents

Biographical Note	3
Scope and Contents	3
Arrangement Note	4
Related Materials	4
Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	6
Series 1. Rollin T. Chamberlin.	6
Series 2. Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin	12
Series 3. Oriental Educational Investigation Commission Trip to China, 1909	17
Series 4. Photographs	18

Biographical Note

Rollin Thomas Chamberlin

Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin, 1843-1928

From The National Cyclopaedia, with edits.

Geologist and Educator, was born near Mattoon, Illinois, September 25, 1843, son of Rev. John and Cecelia Chamberlin. He was graduated at Beloit College in 1866. He then passed two years as principal of the Delevan High School (Wisconsin), and while there developed an interest in physical science, which determined his future profession. In 1868-69 he took a post-graduate course in science at the University of Michigan and at its close accepted the chair of natural sciences in the state normal school at Whitewater, Wisconsin, where his ability as an instructor soon brought him into notice.

In 1873 he was called to the chair of geology, zoology, and botany in Beloit College, and was at the same time made assistant geologist of the Wisconsin geological survey. In 1876 he became chief geologist of Wisconsin. After this appointment he suspended his active work at Beloit for three years and devoted his whole time to work upon the geological survey.

In 1878 he visited Switzerland and made a special study of glaciers in the Alps. In 1881 he was made chief of the glacial division of the U.S. geological survey and with this appointment his connection with Beloit College closed.

In 1887 he became president of the University of Wisconsin, retaining his position on the survey. During the five years of his administration the prosperity of the university was unexampled. It was reorganized on the modern university basis and doubled in numbers and in its facilities and efficiency. He resigned the presidency in 1892 to accept the head professorship of geology in the University of Chicago.

He work as a U.S. geologist has taken him over a large part of the country and has made him of the recognized authorities on the geology of our country and especially upon the glacial period.

He is the author of "Geology of Wisconsin," and has written many papers on geology, come of which were read before the international congress of geologists; others before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of which he has been vice president; the Wisconsin Academy of Science and Arts, of which he was a charter member, and the Geological Society of America, of which he has been president.

In 1887 Beloit College gave him the degree of LL.D. He was director of the Walker Museum, president of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, and editor of the "Journal of Geology." In 1867 he was married to Alma Isabel. He is the father of Rollin Thomas Chamberlin.

Scope and Contents

This collection is divided into four series: 1. Rollin T. Chamberlin, 2. Thomas C. Chamberlin, 3. Oriental Educational Investigation Commission Trip to China, 1909, 4. Photographs.

Series 1. Rollin T. Chamberlin

This series contains a number of published books from Rollin T. Chamberlin's personal collection, as evidenced by his name written in the front endpaper.

Series 2. Thomas C. Chamberlin

This series primarily gathers many biographical writings about and journal articles by T.C. Chamberlin. There are also some news clippings, a small amount of correspondence from the 1910s-1920s, notes, notebooks from his travels in Greenland and Europe from the late 1800s, photos, manuscripts, and honors awarded to him.

Series 3. Oriental Educational Investigation Commission Trip to China, 1909

The photographs in this series were taken by Rollin Chamberlin during an exploratory trip through China in 1909-1910 as part of the Oriental Educational Investigation Commission. T.C. Chamberlin took the trip with his son, Rollin T. Chamberlin, who was a University of Chicago professor and prominent geologist. There are many fascinating and striking photos in this collection.

The series also contains six diaries written by Rollin T. Chamberlin that provide details and insights into the trip and the Chamberlins' responses to the sights and people they encountered.

Series 4. Photographs

This series contains some photo prints and albums of the Chamberlin family, as well as many prints, negatives, and slides (including glass lantern slides) of photos taken by Rollin Chamberlin on his various geological surveys. They date from the 1890s-1930s.

Arrangement Note

In 1997, Hank Woodard, former professor of Geology at Beloit College, donated these materials to the Beloit College Archives over a few different accessions.

The oversized, foam core mounted photographs were printed for an exhibit at the Wright Museum of Art.

The original order of the documents is unknown. The arrangement order presented here has been imposed by the College Archives staff.

Related Materials

Beloit College Department of Geology records (AC 55) Melvin A. Brannon papers (MC 3) George L. Collie papers (MC 37) Rollin D. Salisbury papers (MC 94)

More Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin papers are available at the University of ChicagoLibrary. http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/scrc/findingaids/view.php?eadid=ICU.SPCL.CHAMBERLINTC

Subjects

Beloit College--History Chamberlin, Rollin T. (Rollin Thomas), 1881-1948. Chamberlin, Thomas C. (Thomas Chrowder), 1843-1928 China--Pictorial works. Cosmogony Geology Chamberlin papers (MC 31)

Glaciers Salisbury, Rollin D., 1858-1922 Vero Beach (Fla.)—Geology

Added Authors

Collie, George L. (George Lucius), 1857-Moulton, Forest Ray, 1872-1952 Salisbury, Rollin D., 1858-1922 Willis, Bailey, 1857-1949

Collection Inventory

Series 1. Rollin T. Chamberlin

Folder Title	Box
Maps - Asian Regions	1
Maps - Beartooth (Contours and Central, etc.)	1
Maps - Big Horn River	1
Maps - Brazil	1
Maps - Brazil Blueprints	1
Maps - Indiana Dunes	1
Maps - Islands (?)	1
Maps - Miscellaneous	1
Maps - Miscellaneous Diagrams	1
Maps - Montana	1
Maps - Montana - Red Lodge	1
Maps - St. Croix	2
Maps - South Africa (2 folders)	2
Maps - United Kingdom	2
Maps - Wyoming	2
Biography of Ernest De Witt Burton, by Thomas Wakefield Goodspeed	3
Biographies of Fritof Fryxell, published by Geological Society of America	3
Biography of Frank Eugene Gurley, by Rollin T. Chamberlin, April, 1944	3
Biography of Rollin D. Salisbury, by Rollin T. Chamberlin, 1931	3
Class Notes, 1930s-1940s	3
Class Notes, 1937-1947	3
Classes - Geology 100 Syllabus (University of Chicago)	3
Classes - Geology 331, 1926-1944 (2 folders)	3
Classes - Geology 331 - Papers (2 folders)	3
Classes - Geology 331 - Papers - Rocky Mountains	3
Collections Information (Wisconsin State Historical Society, University of Chicago Archives), 1931, 1974-1997	3
Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources, 1908	3
Correspondence, 1927-1944	3
Correspondence, 1914-1917	3
Correspondence, 1918	3
Correspondence, 1919	3
Correspondence, 1921-1922	3
Correspondence, 1924-1925	3
Correspondence, 1927-1928	3
Correspondence, 1930-1933	3
Correspondence, 1937-1938	3
Correspondence, 1941-1942	3

Correspondence, 1943-1948	3
Geology Diagrams	3
Gravity Station Data, 1932-1933	3
Guide Book - Big Horn Basin, Yellowstone Valley Tectonics Field Conference, August 3-8, 1937	3
Miscellaneous	3
Notes - Black Hills, Big Horn, Beartooth (2 folders)	3
Notes - Samoa	3
Notes - Miscellaneous	3
Notes - Brazilian Iron Ore	3
Notes - Coral Reefs of the Chicago Region (with photographs), May, 1920	3
Notes and Drafts - One Source of Heat of Batholiths	3
Notes and Drafts - The Structure of the Alps	3
Notes and Drafts - Beartooth, Big Horn, etc.	3
Notes and Drafts - Beartooth, Big Horn Report	3
Notes and Drafts - The Structure of the Beartooth Mountains (3 folders)	3
Notes and Drafts - The Structure of the Beartooth Mountains - Chapter VI and Omission	3
Notes and Drafts - The Structure of the Beartooth Mountains - Miscellaneous	3
Obituaries, 1948	4
Papers - "The Ascent of the Orizaba", 1906	4
Papers - Book Review, A Yanqui in Patagonia by Bailey Willis	4
Papers - "Evolution of South America"	4
Papers - Geological Evidence on the Evolution of the Earth's Atmosphere	4
Papers - Geological Papers, 1905-1915	4
Papers - "More Cariboo Climbs"	4
Papers - Miscellaneous	4
Photographs	4
Publications - "The Ascent of Orizaba" (reprinted from The American Alpine Journal Vol. I No. 2)	4
Publications - "Biographical Memoir of Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin, 1843-1928," published by the National Academy of Sciences, 1934	4
Publications - "Cariboo Mountains," (Bulletin of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia), 1928	4
Publications - "The Gases in Rocks", 1908	4
Publications - "Geological Analysis of the Gravity Anomalies for the Black Hills-Bighorn-Beartooth Region" (Bulletin of the Geological Society of America), 1935	4
Publications - "Geological Problems of the Beartooth-Bighorn Region" (Bulletin of the Geological Society of America), 1934	4
Publications - "The Level of Baselevel" (Journal of Geology), 1930	4
Publications - "Climbing the American Matterhorns" (The University of Chicago Magazine) April, 1928	4

Publications - "Notes on Explosive Mine Gases and Dusts" (U.S. Department of the Interior geological survey), 1909	4
Publications - "A Memorial to Alfred Goldsborough Mayor" (Papers from the Carnegie Institution Dept. of Marine Biology), 1924	4
Publications - "Populous and Beautiful Szechuan" (National Geographic Magazine), 1911	4
Publications - "Early Terrestrial Conditions That May Have Favored Organic Synthesis" (Science Journal), December 25, 1908	4
Publications - "Certain Aspects of Geologic Classifications and Correlations Parts I and II" (Science Journal), February 22, 1935, March 1, 1935	4
Publications - "More Than Two Pre-Cambrian Granites in the Canadian Shield" (Science Journal), August 9, 1935	4
Publications - "The Theory of Laterally Spreading Batholiths"	4
Publications - "Travel in the Interior of China" (The University of Chicago Magazine), March, 1910	4
Publications - "The Wedge Theory of Diastrophism" (Journal of Geology), November-December, 1925	4
Publications - Yellowstone-Beartooth-Big Horn Region Guidebook, 1932	4
Reprints - "The Appalachian Folds of Central Pennsylvania" (Journal of Geology), April-May, 1910	4
Reprints - "Basement Control in Rocky Mountain Deformation" (American Journal of Science), 1945	4
Reprints - "The Building of the Colorado Rockies" (Journal of Geology), May- June, 1919	4
Reprints - "Diastrophic Behavior Around the Bighorn Basin" (Journal of Geology), October-November, 1940	4
Reprints - "Diastrophism and the Formative Processes. VII. Periodicity of Paleozoic Orogenic Movements" (Journal of Geology), May-June, 1914	4
Reprints - "Diastrophism and the Formative Processes. XIV. Groundwork for the Study of Megadiastrophism" (Journal of Geology), July-August, 1921	4
Reprints - "Explorations of the Cariboo Mountains of British Columbia" (Bulletin of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, Vol. XXV, No. 2)	4
Reprints - "Further Studies at Vero, Florida" (Journal of Geology), October- November, 1917	4
Reprints - "The Gases in Rocks" (Journal of Geology), September-October, 1909	4
Reprints - "The Geological Interpretation of the Coral Reefs of Tutuila, Samoa" (Year Book No. 19 of the Carnegie Institution of Washington), 1920	4
Reprints - "The Geological Interpretation of the Coral Reefs of Tutuila, American Samoa" (Carnegie Institution of Washington), 1924	4
Reprints - "The Geology of Central Minas Geraes, Brazil" (Journal of Geology), July-August, 1915	4

Reprints - "The Glacial Features of the St. Croix Dalles Region" (Journal of Geology), April-May, 1905	4
Reprints - "Glacial Movement as Typical Rock Deformation" (Journal of Geology), January-February, 1936	4
Reprints - "Instrumental Work on the Nature of Glacier Motion" (Journal of Geology), January-February, 1928	5
Reprints - "Isostasy from the Geological Point of View" (Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences), November, 1930	5
Reprints - "Isostasy from the Geological Point of View" (Journal of Geology), January-February, 1931	5
Reprints - "The Level of Baselevel" (Journal of Geology), February-March, 1930 Reprints - "Low-Angle Faulting" (Journal of Geology), January-February, 1918	5
Reprints - "The Moon's Lack of Folded Ranges" (Journal of Geology), November, 1945	5
Reprints - "Notes on Explosive Mine Gases and Dusts" (Department of the Interior Bureau of Mines), 1911	5
Reprints - Older Drifts in the St. Croix Region" (Journal of Geology), September-October, 1910	5
Reprints - "On the Crustal Shortening of the Colorado Rockies" (American Journal of Science), September, 1923	5
Reprints - "A Peculiar Belt of Oblique Faulting" (Journal of Geology), November- December, 1919	5
Reprints - "The Physical Setting of the Chilean Borate Deposits" (Journal of Geology), November-December, 1912	5
Reprints - "Pleistocene Coast Range Orogenesis in Southern California: A Discussion" (Journal of Geology), September, 1944	5
Reprints - "Results of Structural Research Work in Beartooth-Bighorn Region, Montana and Wyoming" (Bulletin of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists), June, 1933	5
Reprints - "Review of 'Discussion on the Validity of the Permian as a System'" (Journal of Geology), April-May, 1932	5
Reprints - "Review of 'Isostasy', by William Bowie" (Journal of Geology), February- March, 1928	5
Reprints - "Review of 'Peary' by William Herbert Hobbs" (Journal of Geology), August-September, 1937	5
Reprints - "Richard Alexander Fullerton-Penrose, Jr. 1863-1931" (Journal of Geology), November-December, 1931	5
Reprints - "Shifting Orogenic Belts of the Southern Canadian Shield" (Journal of Geology), August-September, 1937	5
Reprints - "The Significance of the Framework of the Continents" (Journal of Geology), October-November, 1924	5

Reprints - "Some Experiments in Folding" (Journal of Geology), September-October, 1923	5
Reprints - "Some of the Objections to Wegener's Theory" (The Theory of Continental Drift)	5
Reprints - "The Strain Ellipsoid and Appalachian Structures" (Journal of Geology), January-February, 1928	5
Reprints - "Structure of the Middle Rocky Mountains", November 7, 1938	5
Reprints - "Interpretation of the Formations Containing Human Bones at Vero, Florida" (Journal of Geology Symposium on the Age and Relations of the Fossil Human Remains Found at Vero, Florida), January-February, 1917	5
Reprints - "The Theory of Laterally Spreading Batholiths" (Journal of Geology), May-June, 1927	5
Reprints - "Vulcanism and Mountain-Making: A Supplementary Note" (Journal of Geology), February-March, 1921	5
Reprints - "The Wedge Theory of Diastrophism" (Journal of Geology), November- December, 1925	5
Research Materials - "Structural Geology of Alaska" by F.M. Fryxell, June 6, 1928	5
Research Materials - Colorado and Ontario	5
Research Materials - Chicago area	5
Research Materials - Carey Croneis' writings	5
Research Materials - Geological Society of America, April-May, 1932	5
Research Materials - Geological Society on Deep Earthquakes and Mountain Rising	5
Research Materials - Geological Society on Montana and Wyoming regions	5
Research Materials - Gravity anomalies, 1938	5
Research Materials - New Hampshire and Utah, biographical sketch of Edward Hitchcock	5
Research Materials - Miscellaneous papers	5
Research Materials - Science Magazine	5
Research Materials - South Africa and Southern Rhodesia	5
Research Materials - Tulsa Geological Society Digest, 1943-1944	5
Research Materials - "Mineral Lands of Part of Northern Wisconsin", 1929	5
Research Materials - Wyoming Cache Creek Area, 1942	5
Research Reprints - "The Academy Medallion" by Edward A. Birge, 1922	5
Research Reprints - "The Age of the Earth" by Harlow Shapley, 1918	5
Research Reprints - The American Philosophical Society, 1942	5
Research Reprints - "An Ancient Theory of the Pacific", 1923	5
Research Reprints - American Association for the Advancement of Science Boston Meeting, 1934	5
Research Reprints - "Deep-Focus Earthquakes and Their Implications" by James B. MacElwane, 1937	5
Research Reprints - "Faulting South of Billings, Montana" by Gail F. Moulton, 1924	5
P 10	

Research Reprints - 26 more folders	5
Speeches - "Some Mineral Deposits of South America," American Chemical Society	5
Speeches - Great Memorial Lecture, 1940	5
Speeches - Harvard Lectures I, II, III, IV, December 6-8, 1926	5
Speeches - Wisconsin Lectures - North America, South America, Europe, Asia, April 23-25, 1928	5
Speeches (handwritten), 1924	5
Speeches (typed) - 1912-1941, undated	5
University of Chicago Reunion Program, 1942	5
Notebooks - Appalachian Mountains	6
Notebooks - Beartooth and Bighorn, 1931-1933, 1938	6
Notebooks - Brazil, 1911	6
Notebooks - C, circa 1908	6
Notebooks - C1, C2 (Cardiff, etc.), 1907	6
Notebooks - C3, C4	6
Notebooks - C5, C6	6
Notebooks - C8, C10	6
Notebooks - C12, C14	6
Notebooks - Chemistry N. of Geneva, 1900	6
Notebooks - Colorado, Utah, 1903	6
Notebooks - Colorado, 1915	6
Notebooks - Colorado, 1918	6
Notebooks - Dakota, 1881-1883	6
Notebooks - Geology	6
Notebooks - Illinois, 1878-1884	6
Notebooks - Indiana, 1878-1884	6
Notebooks - Mineralogy	6
Notebooks - Montana, British Columbia Trip, 1910	6
Notebooks - New York, Vol. I, 1881-1882	6
Notebooks - Ohio Vol. I, 1881	6
Notebooks - Pre-Cambrian Geology	6
Notebooks - Principles and Theories	6
Notebooks - St. Croix Trip, 1904	6
Notebooks - Samoa, 1920	6
Notebooks - Vero, Florida, 1916-1917	6
Notebooks - Vertebrate Paleontology	6
Notebooks - Wisconsin, Vol. I, 1881	6
Rollin T. Chamberlin's Notes on Articles (binder labeled "Regional")	15
Honors - From State Department of the U.S. Certificate designating Rollin T. Chamberlin as a delegate of the U.S. to the Fifteenth International Geologic Conference held at Pretoria, Transvaal, Union of South Africa, June 13, 1929	loose

Honors - Beloit College grants Rollin T. Chamberlin a Doctor of Science, June 17, 1944

loose

Series 2. Thomas C. Chamberlin

Folder Title	Box
Archives Inventories and Bibliography	7
Articles, Clippings	7
Bibliography - Principle Scientific Papers	7
Biographical - by Walter Bartky in Popular Astronomy, 1929	7
Biographical - Biographical Memoir by Rollin T. Chamberlin, 1934	7
Biographical - Memorial Address by George L. Collie, 1928	7
Biographical - "Chamberlin and Salisbury: Life Partners in Science Work," by George L. Collie and H. D. Densmore, 1932	7
Biographical - "Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin: Creative Scientist," by Carey Croneis, 1968	7
Biographical - Funeral Address by Charles W. Gilkey, 1928	7
Biographical - by H.L. Fairchild in Science	7
Biographical - by Charles Keyes on the Pan-American Geologist, 1923	7
Biographical - by Gordon Laing in Press Impressions, 1928	7
Biographical - by Kirtley F. Mather, 1936	7
Biographical - by F.R. Moulton in the Journal of Geology, 1929	7
Biographical - by J.V. Nash (conversation between T.C. Chamberlin and Moulton), 1928	7
Biographical - by J.V. Nash, "Little Things in the Life of Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin", 1928	7
Biographical - by J. V. Nash - 7 more folders, 1928-1929	7
Biographical - "Urgent Necessities of the Scientific Case," by Robert W. Ridky in Journal of Geological Education, 1980	7
Biographical - by Dr. Henry L. Russell in "The University of Wisconsin and Its Presidents", 1941	7
Biographical - "Chamberlin, Salisbury, and Collie: A Tale of Three Beloit College Scientists," by Allan F. Schneider, 1997	7
Biographical - by Charles Schuchert in American Journal of Science, 1929	7
Biographical - by Bailey Willis in Bulletin of the Geological Society of America, 1929	7
Biographical - by Bailey Willis, presentation of portrait in The University Record, 1918	7
Biographical - by Baily Willis in Scientific Monthly, 1929	7
Biographical - Beloit Alumnus (with notes from Collie), 1928	7
Biographical - "An Assembly Commemorating the Centennial of the Graduation of Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin", 1966	7

Folder Title	Box
Biographical - Journal of Geology Vol. XXXVII No. 4, edited by Rollin T. Chamberlin, May-June, 1929	7
Biographical - in The Daily Maroon, University of Chicago, 1928	7
Biographical - Geology Day Program, University of Chicago, 1941	7
Biographical - Miscellaneous	7
Certificates	7
Chamberlin Hall of Science	7
Chamberlin Springs - Correspondence between Carey Croneis and Dorothy Chamberlin (Mrs. Rollin T. Chamberlin), 1948	7
Condolences on his Death, 1928	7
Correspondence, 1920-1928	7
Correspondence - Beloit College Presidents Chapin, Maurer	7
Correspondence - Bailey Willis	7
Correspondence - Joint Trustee-Faculty Committee on Collegiate Economics, 1917	7
Dedication of Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin Science Library, October 20, 1931	7
Manuscripts - The Major Ice Invasions of the Pleistocene, 1928	7
Manuscripts - The Misuse of Invasional Names for Stratigraphic Names, 1928	7
Manuscripts - Review of Thwaites' Multiple Glaciation, 1928	7
Manuscripts - Review of Thwaites' Development of the Theory of Multiple Glaciation, 1928	7
Miscellaneous	7
Notebook - Europe, 1878	8
Notebook - Greenland, 1894	8
Notebooks - Teaching at Delavan, WI, November, 1866	8
Notes - Robert K. Richardson Article Transcriptions, 1879-1932	8
Notes on the William E. Hale Lectures - The Evolution of the Earth	8
Notes on Potential Energy (handwritten)	8
Oriental Education Commission Expedition, 1907-1992	8
Photographs - Family, Home	8
Photographs - in The University of Chicago Magazine	8
Photographs - Historical Mug Series of 1995, Hydrology Div. of GSA bookmark	8
Photographs - Group and Miscellaneous	8
Photographs - Portraits (3 folders)	8
Presentation of Doctor of Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, 1920	8
Publications - Address Before the Association of Doctors of Philosophy, 1918	8
Publications - "An Attempt to Frame a Working Hypothesis of the Cause if Glacial Periods on an Atmospheric Basis" (Journal of Geology), 1900	8
Publications - "Boulder Belts Distinguished from Boulder Trains: Their Origin and Significance" (Bulleting of the Geological Society of America), 1889	8
Publications - "Certain Valley Configurations in Low Latitudes" (Journal of Geology), February-March, 1910	8

Folder Title	Box
Publications - "The Chinese Problem" (Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science), 1910	8
Publications - "A Contribution to the Theory of Glacial Motion" (The Decennial Publications, University of Chicago), 1904	8
Publications - "The Criteria Requisite for the Reference of Relics to a Glacial Age" (Journal of Geology), January-February, 1903	8
Publications - "Diastrophism and the Formative Processes. V. The Testimony of the Deep Sea Deposits" (Journal of Geology), February-March, 1914	8
Publications - "Diastrophism as the Ultimate Basis of Correlation" (Journal of Geology), November-December, 1909	8
Publications - "Early Terrestrial Conditions That May Have Favored Organic Synthesis" (Science Journal), December 25, 1908	8
Publications - "Editorial: Are There Line Fences in Science?" (Journal of Geology), November-December, 1910	8
Publications - "Editorial: Intrageology-Elastasy vs. Isostasy" (Journal of Geology), January-February, 1927	8
Publications - "The Evolution of the Earth" (The Scientific Monthly), 1916	8
Publications - "Glacial Studies in Greenland" (Journal of Geology), October- November, 1894	8
Publications - "The Greater Earth" (The Bulletin of the Geological Society of America), June 30, 1921	8
Publications - "Groundwork of the Earth's Diastrophism" (The Bulletin of the Geological Society of American), June 30, 1921	8
Publications - "Jones's Criticism of Chamberlin's Groundwork for the Study of Megadiastrophism" (American Journal of Science), October, 1922	8
Publications - "A Group of Hypotheses Bearing on Climactic Changes" (Journal of Geology), 1897	8
Publications - "The Growth of the Earth" (Carnegie Institute of Washington Year Book No. 25), 1925-1926	8
Publications - "Hillocks of Angular Gravel and Disturbed Stratification", 1884	8
Publications - List of Publications in the Field of Geology Issued by the Carnegie Institute of Washington	8
Publications - "The Mathematics of Isostasy" (American Journal of Science), 1920	8
Publications - "The Methods of the Earth Sciences" (The Popular Science Monthly), November, 1904	8
Publications - "The Method of Multiple Working Hypotheses" (multiple publications and reprints), 1892-1944	8
Publications - "On a Possible Function of Disruptive Approach in the Formation of Meteorites, Comets, and Nebulae" (Journal of Geology), July-August, 1901	8

Folder Title	Box
Publications - "On the Habitat of the Early Vertebrates" (Journal of Geology), July-August, 1900	8
Publications - "On a Possible Reversal of Deep-Sea Circulation and its Influence on Geologic Climates" (Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society), 1906	8
Publications - "Review of Reid's 'The Planetesimal Hypothesis and the Solar System'" (Journal of Geology), April-May, 1924	8
Publications - Review of Chamberlin's "The Planetesimal Hypothesis" by F.R. Moulton (Science), December 7, 1928	8
Publications - Report in the 8th Annual United States Geological Survey (USGS) Division of Glacial Geology, July 1, 1887	8
Publications - Review of Harold Jeffries "The Earth, Its Origin, history and Physical Constitution" (Journal of Geology), November-December, 1924	8
Publications - "Seventy-Five Years of American Geology" (Science), February 8, 1924	8
Publications - "The Shelf-Seas of the Paleozoic and Their Relations to Diastrophism and Time Divisions"	8
Publications - "Significant Ameliorations of Present Arctic Climates" (Journal of Geology), July-August, 1923	8
Publications - "Some Additional Evidences Bearing on The Interval Between the Glacial Epochs" (Bulletin of the Geological Society of America), April, 1890	8
Publications - "A Systematic Source of Evolution of Provincial Faunas" and "The Influence of Great Epochs of Limestone Formation Upon the Constitution of the Atmosphere" (Journal of Geology), September-October, 1898	8
Publications - "The Tidal and Other Problems" (Contributions to Cosmogony and the Fundamental Problems of Geology), 1909	8
Publications - "The Ulterior Basis of Time Divisions and the Classification of Geologic History" (Journal of Geology), July-August, 1898	8
Publications - "A Venerable Climactic Fallacy" (Journal of Geology), April-May, 1923	8
Publications - "World-Organization After the World War: An Omninational Confederation" (Journal of Geology), November-December, 1918	8
Reunions - Beloit College Class of 1866 40th Anniversary, June 19, 1906	8
Reunions - Beloit College Class of 1866 50th Anniversary, June 19, 1916	8
"Titans of Science: Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin" Broadcast Script	8
Publications - Wisconsin Geological Survey - Supplementary Report as of 1873, 1873	8
Articles - Climate	9
Articles - Earth	9
Articles - Glacial (2 folders) Articles - Geology	9
Atticles - Geology	9

Folder Title	Box
Articles - Miscellaneous	9
Articles - Solar System, Meteors	9
Addresses, Surveys	9
Geological Papers Vol. I (2 copies)	9
Geological Papers Vol. II	10
Geological Papers Vol. I.	10
Geological Papers Vol. II	11
Geological Papers Vol. III	11
Geological Papers Vol. IV	11
Geological Papers Vol. V (2 copies)	11
Geological Papers Vol. VI	12
Geological Papers Vol. VII	12
Geological Papers Vol. VI	12
Geological Papers Vol. VII	13
Educational Papers Vol. III (4 copies, 2 signed), 1872-1903	13
Publications - The Two Solar Families, by T.C. Chamberlin, 1920 (uncut proofs)	13
Honors - Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin (certificate in Latin)	14
Maps - Miscellaneous (2 folders)	15
Honors - Regents of the University of Wisconsin have admitted T.C. Chamberlin to the degree of Doctor of Laws, June 9, 1904	15
Honors - Diploma stating admission to the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, April 23, 1903	loose
Honors - Diploma from the Regents of University of Wisconsin grant T.C. Chamberlin degree of Doctor of Science, April 23, 1920	loose
Honors - Certificate stating T.C. Chamberlin was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society held at Philadelphia, April 14, 1905	loose
Honors - The Boston Society of Natural History elects T.C. Chamberlin as a corresponding member, December 21, 1904	loose
Honors - Society of Sigma Fi admits T.C. Chamberlin as a member (Chicago, IL), May 1, 1903	loose
Honors - University of Illinois bestows an honorary degree of Doctor of Science to T.C. Chamberlin, October 18, 1905	loose
Honors - George Washington University re-confers T.C. Chamberlin the diploma of Doctor of Laws originally given on June 8, 1887, due to a change in the name of the University. Formerly the Columbian University, July 1, 1905	loose
T.C.C. Signature Stamp	loose
Publications - College Text-Book of Geology, by T.C. Chamberlin and Rollin D. Salisbury, rewritten and revised by Rollin T. Chamberlin and Paul MacClintock, 1930	27

Folder Title	Box
Publications - Chamberlin and Salisbury's College Text-Book of Geology, Second Edition, Part 1 Geologic Processes and Their Results, rewritten and revised by Rollin T. Chamberlin and Paul MacClintock, 1933	loose
Publications - Chamberlin and Salisbury's College Text-Book of Geology, Part II, Historical Geology, April, 1928	loose
Publications - Geology Vol. I	loose
	loose

Series 3. Oriental Educational Investigation Commission Trip to China, 1909

Folder Title	Box
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - Negatives	15
Photographs - Photo Album - China (these photos are from Finch collection), 1909 [photos removed and digitized]	16
Photographs - Photo Album - China - Train trip from south China to Scandinavia, 1909 [photos removed and digitized]	16
Photographs - Photo Album - China - Trip beginning in Hawaii and Japan, 1909 [photos removed and digitized]	16
China Trip, 1909 - R.T. Chamberlin Notebook 1, January 4-February 8, 1909	17
China Trip, 1909 - R.T. Chamberlin Notebook 2, February 9-March 11, 1909	17
China Trip, 1909 - R.T. Chamberlin Notebook 3, March 12-April 22, 1909	17
China Trip, 1909 - R.T. Chamberlin Notebook 4, April 23-May 29, 1909	17
China Trip, 1909 - R.T. Chamberlin Notebook 5, May 31-July 21, 1909	17
China Trip, 1909 - R.T. Chamberlin Notebook 6, July 21-July 25, 1909	17
China Trip, 1909 - T.C. Chamberlin Notebook, 1909	17
China Trip, 1909 - T.C. Chamberlin Notebook, 1909 (2 notebooks)	17
China Trip, 1909 - T.C. Chamberlin Notebook, 1909 (2 notebooks)	17
China Trip, 1909 - Professor Hank Woodward's Collection Materials	17
China Trip, 1909 - Rollin T. Chamberlin's Field Notes - Partial Translation by Deborah A. Schueller in 1986	17
China Trip, 1909 - Rollin T. Chamberlin's Notebooks- "The Cruise of the Chamberlins: of, Coolie Me Back to Old Shanghai, Being a Hastily Transcribed Facsimile of Rollin T. Chamberlin's 1909 China Expedition Notebooks, Copiously Illustrated with Reproductions of R.T.C.'s Own Sketches," by Deborah A. Schueller in 1985-1986	17
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - Chinese Negatives 1-99	17
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - China (negatives returned by Beech)	17
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - China Miscellaneous	17
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - China to Norway	17

China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - Chinese Negatives 100-139	17
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - Chinese Negatives 141-228	17
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - Chinese Negatives Return Trip, Moscow and Stockholm, 229-258	17
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - Chinese Negatives Return Trip, Norway, 256-282	17
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - Norway, Switzerland, and Homeward	17
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - Chinese Negatives, Rollin Chamberlin [post-China, not found in notebooks]	17
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - Photo Album #3 (3 folders)	17
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs	17
Publications - Report of the Oriental Educational Commission Parts I-V, 1909	18
Publications - Report of the Oriental Educational Commission Parts VI, 1909	18
Publications - Report of the Oriental Educational Commission Parts VII-IX, 1909	18
Photographs - China Trip (98 glass lantern slides), 1905	19
Photographs - Photo Album - China Trip, 1909	22
Photographs - Photo Album - China Trip, 1909	23
China Trip, 1909 - Photographs - Oversize, foam core mounted ink jet prints	loose

Series 4. Photographs

Folder Title	Box
Photographs - Greenland, Canada, U.S. glass lantern slides	20
Photographs - Glass lantern slides	21
Photographs - A.P. Coleman Painted Portrait (oversize)	24
Photographs - Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin Portrait (oversize)	24
Photographs - Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin Etchings (oversize)	24
Photographs - Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin Study Portraits (oversize)	24
Photographs - Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin Painted Portrait Prints (oversize)	24
Photographs - Beloit Art Hall Presentation of Portraits (oversize), 1911	24
Photographs - Geology Group Photos (oversize)	24
Photographs - Unidentified (oversize)	24
Photographs - Framed Photos of T.C. Chamberlin Painted Portrait, R.T. Chamberlin, Dr. Monta E. Wing and staff of geological survey of Chile (1954-1955)	24
Photographs - International Geological Congress (panoramic)	24
Photographs - Miscellaneous T.C. Chamberlin and Prof. H.B. Nason	25
Photographs - Photo Album - Chamberlin Family	25
Photographs - Photo Album - Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin Portrait Album	25
Photographs - Photo Album - Mexico, climbing Orizaba, Wisconsin, University of Chicago, T.C.C. and Mrs. T.C.C., Living Quarters and Lab	25
Photographs - Photo Album - South and West (United States)	25
Photographs - Photo Album - R.T.C., T.C.C., Mrs. T.C.C - Europe and Colorado	25

Photographs - Photo Album - R.T. Chamberlin - Brazil (9 Month Trip) plus other travels on South American trip	25
Photographs - Photo Album - R.T. Chamberlin - Colorado, Alaska (1st ascent at Child's Glacier Peak), Canada, Jasper	25
Photographs - Photo Album - R.T. Chamberlin - Various Trips, School-Related, 1902-1922	25
Scrapbook - About T.C. Chamberlin, 1890s-1926	25
Photographs - Brazil negatives nos. 1-100, 1911	26
Photographs - Brazil negatives nos. 101-200, 1912	26
Photographs - South America negatives nos. 201-276, 1912	26
Photographs - Australia negatives nos. 1-96, 1914	26
Photographs - Colorado, California negatives, 1915	26
Photographs - Lake Superior negatives, 1915; Kentland negatives, 1920	26
Photographs - Vero, Florida negatives, 1916	26
Photographs - Colorado Mountains negatives nos. 1-48, 1916	26
Photographs - Colorado negatives, 1918	26
Photographs - Canadian Rockies negatives nos. 100-155, 1919	26
Photographs - Samoa negatives nos. 1-50, 1920	26
Photographs - Samoa negatives nos. 51-132, 1920	26
Photographs - Africa negatives no. 1-50	26
Photographs - Africa negatives no. 51-100	26
Photographs - Africa negatives no. 101-150	26
Photographs - Africa negatives no. 151-200	26
Photographs - Africa negatives no. 201-222 and unnumbered	26
Photographs - Cambrian Cliff[?] on Kananaskis, Alberta [Mt. Yamnuska?] negatives	26
Photographs - Colorado Rockies Paper negatives	26
Photographs - Titan and Beartooth negatives	26
Photographs - Rollin T. Chamberlin portrait (framed)	26
Photographs - Glass Lantern Slides	27
Photographs - Africa	28
Photographs - Beartooth, Geology Camp Red Lodge, MT negatives (3 folders)	28
Photographs - Beartooth and Western Scenes	28
Photographs - Brazil (5x7 negatives)	28
Photographs - Brazil (5x7 negatives from J.W. MacArthur)	28
Photographs - Brazil Diamond Fields (A.C. Austin, University of Chicago), March 9, 1934	28
Photographs - Dunwiddie, Excavation Janesville Courthouse negatives, 1914	28
Photographs - Estes Park negatives, 1913	28
Photographs - Film Envelopes	28
Photographs - Glacial Erosion Paper negatives	28
Photographs - Grand Canyon prints	28

Chamberlin papers (MC 31)

Photographs - Greenland	29
Photographs - Greenland - Peary Auxiliary Expedition (negatives taken by T.C. Chamberlin), 1894	29
Photographs - Hawaii and Yosemite negatives, 1920	29
Photographs - Mexico negatives, 1906	29
Photographs - Miscellaneous prints and negatives	29
Photographs - Rock Island, Illinois	29
Photographs - Rosenwald Hall and Wilmington Trip negatives , 1914; Starved Rock negatives, 1913	29
Photographs - Scott's Quarry, Beloit, November 6, 1890	29
Photographs - Unidentified negatives, returned to R.T. Chamberlin from F.S. Pettijohn	29
Photographs - Unlabeled group	29
Photographs - Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin metal printing plates	29