

## Captain Orville T. Chamberlain's Family Reunion Lists, 1912–1914

*Noah Dahlquist and Natalie Burriss*

The Chamberlain family from Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, was vast and stretched in places across the United States, and it had a strong connection to Indiana. Captain Orville Tryon Chamberlain was born to Doctor Joseph Wright Chamberlain and Caroline Tryon Chamberlain in Leesburg, Indiana.<sup>1</sup> In his early years, Orville taught at the Bunker Hill School, located just a few miles south of Elkhart, Indiana. After a few years of teaching, he attended the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, graduating in 1861. The American Civil War was just beginning, so Orville enlisted in the Seventy-Fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry.<sup>2</sup>

Orville advanced quickly as he had “marked military ability,” eventually rising to the rank of captain of his company.<sup>3</sup> On March 11, 1896, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the most distinguished award in the United States Military. His citation states: “The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Second Lieutenant Orville Tyron [*sic*] Chamberlain, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 20 September 1863 while serving with Company G, 74th Indiana Infantry, in action at Chickamauga, Georgia. While exposed to galling fire . . . Chamberlain . . . procured ammunition and returned with the ammunition to his own company.”<sup>4</sup>

Orville married Helen Maria Mead in 1869. They had one daughter. Orville worked as a lawyer, eventually becoming U.S. District Attorney for the 34th Indiana Judicial District. Helen died in Indiana in 1911. Orville died on May 27, 1929, in Prescott, Arizona, in the home of his daughter, Mrs. L. M. Simpson.<sup>5</sup>

The following lists have been transcribed from records detailing three annual reunions held for the descendants of Wright Chamberlin and his brother Moses Chamberlin.<sup>6</sup> Orville, a descendant of Wright Chamberlin, attended two of the three reunions, which occurred in 1912, 1913, and 1914. These family reunion lists are part of the Joseph W. and Orville T. Chamberlain Papers held by the Indiana Historical Society. Many of the people on these lists did not reside in Indiana; however, they are all relatives of Orville. Some details from the lists have been omitted due to length and some have been paraphrased. However, no information about Indiana residents was omitted from any of the lists. Information surrounded by square brackets was added by the editors.

## Notes

1. “Chamberlin Reunion. 1914,” page 1; and Obituary for Orville T. Chamberlain, page 1, Series 3: Genealogical Material, box 3, folders 4–6, Joseph W. and Orville T. Chamberlain Papers, 1829–1932, M 0044, Indiana Historical Society.
2. Betty Alberty, Collection Guide, page 2, Joseph W. and Orville T. Chamberlain Papers, <https://indianahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/joseph-w-and-orville-t-chamberlain-papers.pdf>.
3. Ibid., Obituary for Orville T. Chamberlain, page 1.
4. “Orville Tyron [*sic*] Chamberlain,” The Hall of Valor Project, <https://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/2487>. Although he rose to the rank of captain by the end of the Civil War, Orville’s medal citation addresses him with the rank of second lieutenant, the rank he held at the time of his act of heroism.
5. Obituary for Orville T. Chamberlain, page 1.
6. “Chamberlin Reunion. 1914,” page 1.

## Chamberlin Reunion Lists

### Chamberlin Reunion. 1912.

Wright Chamberlin’s Family.

Mrs. Callie E. Kookan, Idaho Springs, Colorado

Mrs. J. S. Brown of LaGrange, Ind. or Highland Park, Illinois.

Mr. Orville T. Chamberlain, Elkhart, Indiana.

Mrs. G. E. Chamberlin, Dimock, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. A. N. Chamberlain, Elkhart, Indiana.

Moses Chamberlin’s Family.

Mrs. Ella J. Ryan, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Misses Harriet and Minnie Hopkins, recently of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Miss Vina E. Chamberlin of Hawley, Pennsylvania.

[Names of family members not at the reunion:]

Mrs. Dollie (Chamberlin), Vinita, Oklahoma, descendant of Rev. William Chamberlin, a  
missionary to the Cherokee Nation

Mrs. Ellen E. (Chamberlin) Doe, great-granddaughter of Rembrance Chamberlain, brother of  
Wright and Moses Chamberlain

Mrs. Frances Slocum, Schenectady, N. Y.

#### Marriages Reported During the Year

Guy E. Wescott and Miss Mildred Forsythe (Wright) . . . . . 1911

Oliver Chamberlin (Wright) and Miss Hattie Brown . . . . . 1911

Harvey Chamberlin (Moses) and Miss Mary Everett . . . . . 1911

Raymond S. Tucker and Miss Nellie M. Wood (Moses) . . . . . 1912

#### Deaths Reported during the year, all of Wright branch.

Miss Annetta G. Chamberlin of Royal, Susquehanna Co., Penn., October 9, 1911.

Mrs. Diana (Chamberlin) Coleman of Dimock, Penn., January 5, 1912.

Mrs. Harriet (Sanders) Chamberlin, HopBottom, Penn., March 12, 1912.

Mrs. Phoebe Ann (Chamberlin) Pickering, April 21, 1912.

Each member of Wright Chamberlin's family was represented as follows:

James:—Mr. S. O. Chamberlin, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Chamberlin of Gibson; Mr. and Mrs. James Millard of Buffalo, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Varnum D. Shaw and children[:] Ethel, Esther, Theodosia and Millard of Halstead, Pen.; Mr. and Mrs. John Bailey and daughter Celinda of Gibson, Penn.

Wright:—Charles G. Chamberlin, West Haven, Conn.

Asher:—Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Chamberlin, Mr. and Mrs. George Chamberlin of Harford, Penn.; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Chamberlin and children; Dorothy, George and Robert of Scranton, Penn.; Mrs. George Forsythe and daughter Maude; Mr. and Mrs. Guy H. Wescott of Harford, Penn.; Mrs. Emily Sweetser, and daughter Sara of Scranton, and Calvin P. Chamberlin.

Electia:—Mrs. George Neilson and Children[:] Russel, Robert and Zalmon Monroe of Pittston, Penn.

Harriet:—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Robinson of Montrose, Penn.

Moses Chamberlin's family was represented as follows:

Susan:—Mr. and Mrs. Homer Hall of Susquehanna, Penn.

**Chamberlin Reunion. 1913.**

President of reunion—Joseph Chamberlin of Scranton [Penn.]

Marriages Reported. Moses Chamberlin's Branch.

Ray Wood and Ellen Borchman, August 21, 1912.

Blanche Chamberlin to Ralph G. Tiffany, June 4, 1913.

Charles Wood and [left blank] Douglas, July 8, 1913.

Births

To Ralph R. and Olive (Marcy) Miller, a daughter, Velma L., June 7, 1913

Deaths—Wright's Branch.

William Barber, January 31, 1913. Age, 90y 4m 25d.

Frank Davenport, 1913

Moses' Branch.

Mrs. Sarah Hinman, July 28, 1913.

Mrs. Lillian (Greenwood) Stacy, 1913.

Each branch of Wright C's family was represented as follows:—

James:—

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Millard, Buffalo, N.Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Varnum D. Shaw and children, Esther, Ethel, Martha, Theodosia and James of  
Halstead Penn.

S. O. Chamberlin and sons Bert and Glenn of Gibson, Penn.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bailey and daughters Katie, Celinda and Mindwell of Gibson.

Nises:—

Mrs. Zelia Shew of Susquehanna, Penn.

Levi:—

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Miller of Lenoxville, Penn.

Miena Barber, Montrose, Penn.

Samuel:—

Mrs. Lansing Nipe, Frankfort, N.Y.

Mrs. Frank Jewell, Port Dickinson, N.Y.

Asher:—

Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Chamberlin, Harford Penn.

Mrs. Emily Sweetser, Scranton, Penn.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Chamberlin, children Dorothy, George, and Robert of Scranton, Penn.

Mr. and Mrs. George Chamberlin, Harford, Penn.

Mrs. George Forsythe [Harford, Penn.]

Mrs. Guy Wescott and son Kenneth.

Oliver:—

Mrs. E. W. Beckwith, Port Dickinson, N. Y.

Mrs. M. C. Bennett, Washington, D. C.

Moses C's family.

Samuel S.:—

Mr. and Mrs. George Seal, children Howard, Mildred and Elizabeth of New Milford, R.F.D. 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Tiffany and Mrs. Harvey Chamberlin, Gibson, Penn.

Responses to notices were received from

Mrs. Caroline S. Brown (Wright—Wright), 1409 Griffith Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.

Orville T. Chamberlin (Milo—Wright) Asbury Park, N.J.

Mrs. J. S. Brown, [(Milo—Wright)] LaGrange, Ind.

Harry O. Chamberlin (Oliver—Wright), Indianapolis, Ind.

Joseph Clarke, Creswell, Oregon. (Mary—Wright)

William Chamberlin (Charles—Wright) Laceyvillu, Penn.

Mrs. John W. Morgan, Waverly, N. Y., telling of the death of Mrs. Sarah Hinman (Abigail—  
Moses)

Mrs. Ella J. Ryan (Susan—Moses), 1495 W. Minniehaha St., St Paul, Minn.

Miss Vina Chamberlin, Hawley, Penn. (Simeon—Moses)

Misses Minnie and Harriet Hopkins [(Simeon—Moses)], New York City.

Mrs. Nelson R. Doe (Mary C., Moses—Remembrance) of Bradford, Vt.

Miena Barber, Sec., 31 South Main St., Montrose, Penn.

### **Chamberlin Reunion. 1914.**

President of reunion—Joseph Chamberlin of Scranton, Penn.

Births.

To Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Brown of LaGrange, Ind., April 13, 1914, a daughter named Barbara.

To Mr. and Mrs. Thadeus C. Brown, a daughter named Dorothy Ann.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ray Davies of Lynn, a daughter.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ray Tucker of Susquehanna, a son named Walter Raymond.

Marriages.

Mr. C. D. Mitchell and Miss Maude Forsythe of Harford, Penn., on May 22, 1914. Residence, 51 Clinton St., Oneonta, N.Y.

Mr. George A. Chamberlin of Elkhart, Indiana and Miss Leila Mae Osborn of same place, on August 12, 1914.

Mr. John VanWie and Miss Myrtie Chamberlin of BopBottom [Hopbottom?], Penn., on June 24, 1914.

Deaths.

Mrs. Anna Posey, wife of Wright A. Brown of Peckville, Penn. And adopted daughter of Thomas and Mary (Chamberlin) Clarke of Minnieville, Va., on March 10, 1914.

Mr. Floyd R. Brown died April 24, 1914.

Mr. Durand Chamberlin (Wright<sup>5</sup>) . . . passed away August 12, 1914.

[Mentions of “other relatives”]

Mrs. Mary Clarke [Wright Chamberlin Sr.]

Mrs. Caroline Kooken (Elizwbeth<sup>1</sup>—Wright<sup>5</sup>) of Idaho Springs. . . . Her daughter, Mrs. Edward Cheney . . . of the Philippine Islands since 1904, expected to return to the States in the spring of 1914[?].

Mrs. Ellen (Chamberlin) Doe . . . a cripple for nearly 30 years

Those who have been in poor health . . . are Mrs. Andrew A. Chamberlin of Royal, Mrs. Edward Chamberlin of Dimock, Wright Chamberlin of South Montrose and Delbert Chamberlin of Birchardville[, and] Mrs. Huldah Brown, daughter of Wright Chamberlin Sr. . . . Age 83 years.

Greetings . . . were received from Mrs. J. S. Brown of LaGrange, Ind.; William Clarke of Agnewville, Va.; Mrs. Ella J. Ryan of St. Paul, Minn.; Miss Vina Chamberlin of Hawley, Penn.; Misses Harriet and Minnie Hopkins of New York City; Mrs. A. N. Chamberlin of Elkhart, Ind., and Harry O. Chamberlin of Indianapolis, Ind.

Wright Chamberlin's Family was represented as follows:

James:

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Millard of Buffalo, N.Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Varnum D. Shaw and children, Ethel, Esther, Theodosia, Millard and Martha of  
Halstead, Penn.

Mr. S. Orville Chamberlin of Gibson, Penn. and daughter Mary of Binghamton, N.Y.

Milo:

Capt. Orville T. Chamberlain of Elkhart, Ind.

Levi:

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Miller and daughter Velma and Valentine Barber  
of Lenoxville, Penn.