

<b>Title:</b>	J.W. Spencer fonds, 1866, 1881-1921, undated		
<b>Creator:</b>	J.W. Spencer		
<b>Dates of Material:</b>	1866, 1881-1921, undated	<b>Record Group Number:</b>	RG 360
<b>Summary of Contents:</b>	<p>The records were arranged into six series:</p> <p><b>Series I—Correspondence</b></p> <p>1.1-1.5 Correspondence, 1881-1921, undated</p> <p><b>Series II—Published Material</b></p> <p>1.6-2.2 Offprints, 1881-1913, undated</p> <p>2.3 Book reviews, undated</p> <p>2.4 Issue of Popular Science Monthly, October 1908</p> <p>2.5 House of Representatives reports, U.S., 1906, 1909, 1913</p> <p>2.6 News clipping, House of Commons, Ottawa</p> <p><b>Series III—Maps</b></p> <p>2.7 Map of the route for a canal in Nicaragua, 1866</p> <p>2.7 Submarine valleys off the American Coast, 1903</p> <p><b>Series IV—Invoices</b></p> <p>2.8 Invoice of Specimens from the Smithsonian Institution, 1898</p> <p><b>Series V—Resources</b></p> <p>2.9 List of publications by the Dept. of Mines and Resources, Canada</p> <p><b>Series VI—Loose Pages</b></p> <p>2.10 Title page and frontispiece from <i>The Falls of Niagara: their Evolution and varying relations to the Great Lakes</i>.</p>		
<b>Physical Description / Condition:</b>	25 cm of textual materials.		

<b>Other Notes:</b>	<p>The correspondence includes letters from Charles Walcott, R.R. Gurley, Edward Hull, G.K. Gilbert, J.W. Gregory, J.H. McFarland, E.A. Lancaster, Robert Bell, James Wilson, and G. Frederick Wright. The offprints are technical publications from various journals, covering Spencer's work on Niagara, the Great Lakes, Mexico, Jamaica, Cuba and more.</p> <p>Joseph William Winthrop Spencer (commonly known as J.W. Spencer) was a geologist and geomorphologist best known for his work on the geology of southern Ontario and the Great Lakes. He was born in Dundas, Upper Canada in 1851, but moved to Hamilton, Ontario in 1867. In 1871, he began studies in geology at McGill College in Montreal. In 1875 he worked in the Michigan copper mines and shortly afterwards prepared a thesis on the copper deposits. He submitted this thesis to the University of Gottingen in Germany in 1877 and was awarded a doctorate in geology, the second Canadian to earn a doctorate in this field. In 1880, he became a professor of geology and chemistry at King's College in Windsor, N.S. Subsequently, he taught at the University of Missouri, and then the University of Georgia, but moved to Washington, D.C. in 1894, where he worked as a consultant geologist.</p> <p>Spencer spent much of his life studying preglacial river valleys in Ontario and the origins of the Great Lakes, as well as the Niagara River and Falls. In 1907, he published a book titled <i>The Falls of Niagara: their evolution and varying relations to the Great Lakes</i>. His opinions in these areas differed from some of his contemporaries, namely the American geologist Grove Karl Gilbert. Gilbert published a review of the <i>The Falls of Niagara</i> that exposed some flaws and inaccuracies in Spencer's estimate of the age of the falls. Spencer's studies also took him to the Caribbean and Central America. In 1920 he moved back to Canada, but died the following year.</p>		
<b>Location:</b>	Brock University Archives		
<b>Source Information:</b>	Material was purchased from Thomas Cullen in 2011.		
<b>Described by:</b>	Chantal Cameron	<b>Date:</b>	December 22, 2011