

**Adams-Alger  
Family Papers, 1933-1992  
Doc 620-621 & MSB-70**

**Introduction**

This collection contains the papers of the connected families of Joseph R. Alger (1892-1988), railroad station agent in Fairlee, Vermont, and Raymond H. Adams, builder and planning commission member of Fairlee, Vermont. The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society in May 2008 by Alice Adams Alger (ms. acc. no. 2008.17). The collection occupies two document storage boxes (2 linear feet) and 1 flat storage box (1 linear foot) of shelf space.

**Biographical Notes**

Joseph Remic Alger (August 4, 1892-December 24, 1988) and Laura Rowe Alger (May 1, 1894-September 10, 1982) were married on August 17, 1916, in Peacham, Vermont. Their children were Howard, Donald, Alice, Ivan and Francis. Joseph Alger started working for the Boston & Maine railroad in January 1913 as an assistant station agent in Wilder, Vermont. His career then took him to East Ryegate and then to Fairlee in the fall of 1922. He remained the station agent in Fairlee for 35 years. After he retired from the railroad, he ran "Joe's Boat Shop" in the former Hood creamery building next to the station in Fairlee. He also maintained a commercial fishing camp in Pittsburg, New Hampshire.

Joseph's daughter, Alice (b. 1921), married Raymond (Bob) H. Adams (February 18, 1920-January 19, 1998) on February 3, 1946 in Fairlee, Vermont. Adams was son of Ralph Aldrick Adams and Lois Adams, of Orford, New Hampshire. Adams was a World War II veteran who worked as a contractor and builder in Ely, Fairlee, and West Fairlee, Vermont. He served as the West Fairlee representative to the Two Rivers Regional Planning and Development Commission for many years in the 1970s when planning was just getting started in Vermont.

**Institutional History**

The Two Rivers Regional Planning and Development commission was organized on July 15, 1968, when eighteen Vermont towns along the Connecticut Rivers and the White River voted to join together to prepare regional and town comprehensive plans. Hans Klunder Associates of Hanover, New Hampshire was contracted to prepare the regional plan. The plan was formally adopted on December 2, 1970. The two rivers group also had assistance from Environmental Consulting Group, Inc., also of Hanover, New Hampshire.

## Scope and Content Note

The first half of the collection focuses on the life and career of Joseph R. Alger of Fairlee, Vermont. Joseph was the station agent in Fairlee, Vermont, and could observe the world from his post. He wrote conversational letters to his children and kept copies of them, 1940-1944. The collection also includes some documents related to the administration of the railroad station: weigh freight bills and receipts from the Boston & Maine from the period 1959-1964, including weigh bills for shipping milk in 1959-1960. The collection includes material about Alger's avocation – fishing – including a series of letters to friends during the period 1964-1974. He also kept a diaries from 1965 to 1975 and preserved the sales records on the numerous cars he owned, especially Chevrolets. The collection also includes a scrapbook of various fishing trips (and one family wedding) and a second scrapbook with pictures of his fishing camp in New Hampshire, canoes, and a few family events.

The second half of the collection focuses on Raymond (Bob) Adams and two aspects of his life – his World War II service and the regional planning commission. Adams wrote letters to his mother and others during his service in World War II, 1942-1945. The collection includes six folders of his letters and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings probably kept by his mother. The scrapbook contains news of soldiers from Orford, New Hampshire, and national and international war news. The collection also includes a few letters written *to* Bob Adams, ostensibly by a pet dog. Much later in life Adams served on the Two Rivers Regional Planning and Development Commission.

## Related Collections:

The VHS museum collection contains several items related to the lives of both Joseph Alger and Bob Adams (museum accession no. 2008.38). Among those items are Joseph Alger's station agent hat tag and clipboard and a brass plaque that was used for the women's room at the Fairlee train station. Bob Adams's uniform and canteen are also in the museum collection.

Four panoramic photographs were removed for preservation reasons. They are located in XFB-1. One is a photograph of a group of girls at Camp Wynona (F-Camps, General-Wynona) and the other three are photographs of a golf course in Fairlee, Vermont (F-SP-Golf).

## Inventory

### II. Alger Family

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Doc 620:1 | Joseph Remic Alger Diaries 1965-1970, 1970-1975, 1975     |
| 2         | _____, Fairlee, Vermont, railroad station & miscellaneous |
| 3         | _____, fishing letters 1964-1968                          |
| 4         | _____, _____, 1969-1970                                   |
| 5         | _____, fishing "Bible" letters 1971-1974                  |
| 6         | _____, Joe's Boat Shop                                    |

- 7 \_\_\_\_\_, Joe's Half Acre, Pittsburg, NH
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_, letters to children 1940-1942
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 1943
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 1944
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_, Thetford Academy & personal biography
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_, family & fishing photos 1927-1946
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_, scrapbook
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_, used car information
- 15 Laura Rowe Alger, miscellaneous
- 16 Fairlee, Vermont, Grammar School Photos 1933, building photos, brochures "Fairlee Day," VFW Minstrel Show 1947
- 17 Boston & Maine Railroad, Bradford, Vermont, way bills for milk shipping 1959 & 1960.
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, shipping reports 1 Jan 1963 – 31 July 1964
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, way bills & shipping orders 1 Jan – 27 May 1960
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 1 June – 12 Sept 1960
- 21 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, freight bills & receipts, 1 Jan – 20 Mar 1962
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 20 Mar – 22 June 1962
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, July – October 1962
- 24 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, November – December 1962

## II. Adams Family

- 25 Alice Alger Adams, "Who will Take Grandma" poem, misc
- 26 Adams & Patridge family photos
- 27 Ralph Aldrick Adams & Lois Adams. account book, papers & miscellaneous
- Doc 621:1 Raymond (Bob) Herbert Adams, miscellaneous papers & photos
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_, World War II letters to mother & others, Jan-Apr 1942
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, May-Dec 1942
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 1943
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Jan-July 1944
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, July-Dec 1944
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 1945
- MSB-70 World War II scrapbook
- 8 Fairlee, Vermont Elementary School, bicentennial celebration May 23, 1991
- 9 Vermont Republican Convention, May 16, 1992
- 10 West Fairlee, Vermont, meeting 1970, miscellaneous real estate information
- 11 Two Rivers Regional Planning & Development Commission, meeting schedules, "Introduction, Program Design & approach to Regional Planning & Development," "Proposed Scope of Services", etc., 1968-1970
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_, standard bylaws & regulations, 1970
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_, meeting schedules & memos, 1971
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_, town plan for West Fairlee, Vermont, 1971-1979

- 15 \_\_\_\_\_, "Transportation Study," Oct. 1969; "Field Survey Summary," Dec. 1969; "Existing Land Use," Dec. 1969; "Interpretation of General Soil,s" June 1970; "Overall Work Program Design," 1970-1975
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_, "Inventory of Existing Water & Sewerage Facilities," Jan 1970; "Initial Housing element," Jan. 1970; "Transportation Plan recommendations," Feb. 1970, "Economic Base Study," Fe.b 1970
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_, "Population Report," Mar 1970, "Proposed Water & Sewerage Facilities," Apr 1970; "Regional Land Use Plan Recommendations," June 1970; "Open Space Program," June 1971
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_, "Community Facilities Inventory & Analysis," 1970
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_, "Two Rivers Region, Vermont: An Industrial Profile," 1974-1975

Judeen Barwood  
Paul Carnahan  
December 2010; rev. January 2018  
AdamsAlgerFamily.doc

**Documents removed from Adams/Alger Family Papers (Doc 620-621):**

Project Sponsors, "East Central Vermont Resource Conservation and Development Project," June 1970.

Technical Planning Associates, Consultants, "Industrial Site Potential in Vermont," 1964.

State of Vermont Agency of Development & Community Affairs, "Planning, Zoning & Subdivision: adoption, administration, enforcement," 1971-1972.

State of Vermont Agency of Development & Community Affairs, "Planning, Zoning & Subdivision: process, problems, issues, 1972-1973?"

State of Vermont, "Vermont Municipal & Regional Planning & Development Act," reprinted from Title 24, 1976.

State of Vermont, Central Planning Office, "Vermont Planning & Development Act," V.S.A. 24, SS 4301-4492, May 1, 1970.

Vermont Planning Council, "Vermont's Future: Vision & Choice," The Vermont State Framework Plan, 1968.

University of Vermont, Agricultural Experiment Station, "Goals for Natural Resource Planning: White River Resource Conservation & Development Project Area," Report 20, April 1968.

University of Vermont, Extension Service, "Planning & Development – Reference Manual," October 1968.