

**The New York Public Library  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
The Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History,  
Local History and Genealogy**

**Alfred Vail Genealogical Research Papers**

NYGB Coll 166

## Summary

- Title:** Alfred Vail genealogical research papers
- Collection ID:** NYGB Coll 166
- Size:** 15.5 linear feet linear feet (32 boxes)
- Source:** Presented to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society by James Cummings Vail for the estate of the compiler in 1892. Index cards contributed by Henry Vail, ca. 1902.
- Access:** For permission to publish, contact the Chief of The Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy.
- Preferred citation:** Alfred Vail Genealogical Research Papers, NYGB Coll 166, The Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy, The New York Public Library.

## Abstract

Between 1837 and 1844, inventor Alfred Lewis Vail worked together with Samuel F.B. Morse in the development and spread of the telegraph. In 1848, Vail moved to his home town, Morristown, New Jersey, and spent the last ten years of his life conducting genealogical research.

The collection contains correspondence, research notes and notebooks, questionnaires completed by family members, and family charts on the Vail family, compiled by Alfred Vail. Accompanying card file compiled by Henry Vail, ca. 1902, is an index to the correspondence and research notes in the 20 bound volumes in Boxes 1-11.

## **Container list**

### **Box 1**

Collection inventory  
Vol. 1, Orange County.  
Vol. 2, Orange County.

### **Box 2**

Vol. 3, Westchester.  
Vol. 4, Huntington.

### **Box 3**

Vol. 5, Huntington.  
Vol. 6, Troy.

### **Box 4**

Vol. 7, Long Island, Descendants of John.  
Vol. 8, Long Island, Descendants of John.

### **Box 5**

Vol. 9, Southold.  
Vol. 10, Southold, Jeremiah Thomas, Jeremiah Daniel, Jeremiah Peter etc.

### **Box 6**

Vol. 11, Essex County.

### **Box 7**

Vol. 12, Essex County.  
Vol. 13, Morris County.

### **Box 8**

Vol. 14, Upton Nehemia Ohio, VA. N.C. Ala. Penn., Irish & Missc. Veal & Veale.  
Vol. 15, Orange County.

### **Box 9**

Vol. 16, Ohio, Stephen.  
Vol. 17, Caleb, New Berlin.

### **Box 10**

Vol. 18, Abstracts of deeds, wills etc.  
Vol. 19, Wills & deeds.

### **Box 11**

Vol. 20, Westchester.

### **Box 12-14**

Unarranged correspondence and research notes (16 folders)

## RESEARCH NOTES

Loose miscellaneous notes (3 folders)

### Box 15

- f. 1 Miscellaneous Vails.
- f. 2 Morristown, New Jersey records.
- f. 3 Vail families of New York counties and North Carolina.

Notebooks (47 notebooks. Notebooks numbered 9, 11, and 12 are missing.)

### Box 16

1. Fitz Randolph & John Jr. Vail.
2. Abraham & Thomas Vail, Vermont.
3. Thomas, Anne & Martha Vail, Mahlon & Martha Johnson.
4. John Jr. Vail and wife Margaret Laing.
5. Vail and other miscellaneous names.

### Box 17

6. Alfred Vail
7. Alfred Vail, printed circulars, blank forms, charts, etc.
8. Vail etc. – "This book is used for important extracts from publications and records relating to genealogies and histories of individuals."
10. Orange Co., NY. Copy of surrogate records.
13. New York City, notes from wills. Copied by A. Vail, 1857.

### Box 18

14. Thomas Vail, Morris Class.
15. Arthur Vail, Troy Class.

### Box 19

16. John Vail, married Margaret Laing.
17. Jeremiah Vail & Elizabeth Youngs, Southold, NY.

### Box 20

18. Benjamin Vail, Orange [NY].
19. John Vail & Grace Burgess, Long Island [NY].

### Box 21

20. Moses Vail, Huntington, Long Island.
21. Stephen Vail, Ohio.

### Box 22

22. Josiah – Daniel Vail, Orange, NY.
23. Samuel – Michael Vail, Long Island, NY.
24. Benjamin – Benjamin Vail, Orange, NY.
25. Jeremiah – Peter Vail, Southold, NY.
26. Jeremiah – Abraham Vail, Southold, NY.
27. Arthur – Sampson Vail, Troy, NY.

### Box 23

28. Moses – Platt Vail, Huntington, Long Island.
29. Moses & Isaac Vail, Huntington, Long Island.
30. Moses & Isaac.
31. Arthur – Isaac Vail, Troy, NY.

### Box 24

32. John. Obadiah. Hannah. Mary. Peter Vail, Long Island.
33. Arthur – Esther Vail, Troy, NY.
34. Arthur - Aaron Vail, Troy NY.
35. Moses & Israel Vail, Huntington, Long Island.

### Box 25

36. Ancestral chart: Alfred Vail on blank adopted by Lemuel Shattuck.
37. Genealogy: Edward Vail & Mary Overton.
- 38-50. Genealogies of Vail and allied families, including Young, Caldwell, Miller, and Johnson.

**Box 26-29**

Unarranged family charts (20 folders)

**INDEX CARDS**

**Box 30**

A-K.

**Box 31**

L-Vail, H.

**Box 32**

Vail, I. – Y; Assignment – Southold.