

Marjorie and Roger Vail Family Collection, 1772-2005



Thirteen Vails, circa 1890s-early 1900s

Overview of the Collection

- Title:** Marjorie and Roger Vail Family Collection, 1772-2005 (with gaps)
- Creator:** Vail family members
- Accessions:** PPL-MSS-2005-003
PPL-VIS-2005-004
PPL-ART-2005-001
PPL-2012-036
- Size:** Approximately 30 linear feet of records, comprised of:
51 boxes
11 binders
- Repository:** Plainfield Public Library, Local History Department, 800 Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060
- Abstract:** The Marjorie and Roger Vail Family Collection documents the history of the Vail family from 1772 to 2005. The collection includes Civil War letters, diaries, Bibles, genealogy research, more than 2,700 photographs and postcards, manuscripts, yearbooks, sketches, 19th century wedding dresses and linens, books, ledgers, newspaper clippings, and ephemera of the Vails and their extended family. These materials have been handed down through generations of family members. Many of the records had been stored in hand-hewn chests, and meticulously labeled and dated. The Marjorie and Roger Vail Family Collection chronicles an arm of the earliest families to settle in New Jersey, and one of the most influential Quaker families in Plainfield.
- Language:** The records are in English and German.

Biographical/Historical Information

Introduction

There can be no overstatement about the impact that the Vail family had on America and especially on New Jersey. The *Courier News* said: "No family name is more honorably and

continuously associated with the welfare of the Friends in this locality than that of the Vails.” The family was filled with creative, courageous, and determined settlers. Marjorie and Roger Vail’s ancestor, Thomas Vail’s (c.1628-1687) arrival in the United States was noted in the Salem Massachusetts annals in 1640. His son Samuel (1654-1695) and grandson Samuel Jr. (1678-1733) were born in Westchester County, N.Y. Samuel Jr. had several children, including John Jr. (1708-1754), Stephen (1710-1777), Samuel (1711-c.1733), and Phebe (1712-1776). John Jr. is the direct ancestor of Marjorie and Roger Vail. After their father purchased a large plot of land along Green Brook, John Jr. and Stephen were raised on the farmland, and later raised their children on farms in a settlement still called Green Brook Village (a Plainfield postal address as of 1800).

Many of the Vails were members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). After fellow Quaker William Penn purchased New Jersey in 1682, a number of Vails moved to the state to escape religious persecution by the Massachusetts Puritans. Not all of the Vails were retiring Quakers; some were ambitious industrials and Presbyterians.

The family spread throughout Northern New Jersey. The Plainfield Vails count among their cousins such notables as Stephen Vail (1780-1864), inventor, lawyer, industrial magnate, and developer of the Speedwell Ironworks in Morristown; his son, Alfred Lewis Vail (1807-1859), co-inventor of the telegraph and Morse code; and Theodore Newton Vail (1845-1920), creator of AT&T. Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), statesman, is a very distant relative by marriage.

Three of the original 12 Pioneers of Plainfield were Vails. These were: John J. Vail (1685-1774) and his nephews John Vail and Stephen Vail, sons of Samuel. Stephen became the founding partner of the Baldwin Locomotive Works first known as the Vail Works. The company took government contracts for the Revolutionary War. Stephen saw opportunity, and grabbed it as the source of capital for the Morse Vail telegraph that was first demonstrated at Speedwell. Other Vail relatives helped shuttle runaway slaves via the Underground Railroad to Cousin William Vail, a grocer whose store was nearby the tracks. In the first Plainfield City Directory (1879), 24 Vail households are listed. Their professions include: bookkeeper, banker, clerk, hatter, scroll sawyer, confectioner, truckman, harness oil and dressing manufacturers, blue stone dealers, real estate salesman, and postmaster. Eighty-three of the 243 Friends buried in the Plainfield Quaker Meeting Cemetery are Vails.

A Long Legacy

Important tracts of Vail family land in addition to the original Green Brook farm acres include:

- **Jonah Vail Farm** where in June 1777, General George Washington entered the gateway and asked Marjorie and Roger Vail’s ancestor (grandson of John Jr.) to guide him along Greenbrook to the hill, now known as Washington Rock, where he was able to watch the British troops and narrowly escape their raid.
- **Green Brook Farm** east of Dunellen site of the Vail Dairy.
- **Cedarbrook Farm** site of many of the Vail family reunions, weddings, and picnics.
- The **Vail Plantation Museum** near Morristown.
- **Vail Sawmill and Gristmill** in Greenbrook.
- **Speedwell Ironworks** north of Morristown on the Whippany River. Here were early hydraulic powered forges predating ironworks. Speedwell works made parts for the first American-made locomotive. The first steam engine installed in an ocean-going ship was cast and assembled at the Speedwell Works.
- **Vail Homestead** on the 40 acres adjacent to Speedwell Village.

- **Vail Factory Building** (on same property). This site held the first demonstration of the electric telegraph, as well as the development of electromagnetic automatic telegraphic systems.

Marjorie and Roger Vail

Marjorie (1932-2009) and Roger Vail (1935-2009) were the great-granddaughter and great-grandson of Jonah Vail (1799-1880) and Rachel Pound Vail (1799-1881). Jonah was a farmer and hatter, and lived his entire life on great-grandfather John Jr.'s farm on Greenbrook Road. Marjorie and Roger's paternal grandparents were Adelbert (1834-1917), a bank clerk, and Gertrude Adams Vail (1856-1929).

The Adelbert Vails had eight children: Clarence Brooks (1875-1957), Edith Gertrude (1875-1937), Percy Wilbur (1880-1944), Mabel Howard (1883-1929), Helen Beatrice (1890-1929), Roy Gaston (1894-1980), and Russell Adams (1896-1981). Roy, a public accountant who served in World War I married Ida Vera Stiehl (1898-1987) in 1930, and fathered Marjorie and Roger a few years later.

Ida Stiehl's parents were Ida (1866-c.1950) and Philip Stiehl (1854-c.1930), a flour merchant. The younger Ida was raised in Westchester County, N.Y., and graduated White Plains High School in 1917, and Columbia University in 1921.

Marjorie graduated Plainfield High School in 1950. She attended Beaver College and Douglass College, and graduated from Berkeley Secretarial School. For 33 years, she was employed by the Singer Company in New York and Stamford, CT, including 14 years as Executive Secretary to the Chairman of the Board, President and CEO. She later worked with Olin Corporation in Stamford until her retirement. She returned to Plainfield to live with Roger in the family home, and later at Arbor Glen. She was a lifelong member of the Plainfield Friends Meeting.

Roger, a lifelong resident of Plainfield, attended Evergreen School and graduated Plainfield High School in 1953. He served in the U.S. Army, stationed in West Germany. After returning from military service, Roger was a machinist for 30 years at Wood Industry, and later at Johnson and Johnson. Like his sister, he was a lifelong member of the Plainfield Friends Meeting.

Roger and Marjorie were entrusted with the Vail family papers as the last two surviving members of the Plainfield line. They spent much of the last 30 years documenting their family's history and sharing information at least once a year at the Vail family picnic reunions.

References:

Ameigh, Michael. "They Turned Telecommunications into a Business." *The Vails of Speedwell*. September 1997. Web. 7 Jan. 2013.

"First Settlers." *Green Brook Historical Society*. 2012. Web. 7 Jan. 2013.

"Historic Houses, Jonah Vail House." *Green Brook Historical Society*. 2012. Web. 7 Jan. 2013.

"Marjorie E. Vail." *Courier News*. 26 Jul. 2009. Web. 18 Jan. 2013.

"Roger P. Vail." *Courier News*. 25 Feb. 2009. Web 18 Jan. 2013.

"The Vails of Green Brook, Descendants of Thomas Vail." *Green Brook Historical Society*. 2012. Web. 7 Jan. 2013.

Scope and Contents

The Marjorie and Roger Vail Family Collection spans the time period from 1772-2005. It includes the family records of the direct descendants of John Vail, Jr., including Bibles, correspondence, diaries, manuscripts, diplomas and certificates, photographs, newspaper clippings, artifacts, postcards, works on paper, scrapbooks, sheet music and songbooks, maps, ledgers, textiles, ephemera, genealogical research, and books. Many of the clippings document the births, deaths, marriages, and other major life events of the Vails and those close to them. Additionally, photographs and clippings record the attendees and activities of the annual Vail Family Picnics. Early photographs detail the family members and their houses.

Notable materials include correspondence between David and Maria Vail, letters written between two cousins from 1860-1862, wherein David describes his service in the Civil War. Other collection highlights are postcards sent and collected during World Wars I and II, mid and late 19th century wedding dresses, and Marjorie Vail's exhaustive genealogy research.

Because the Vails were world travelers, and Marjorie and Roger's mother's side of the family originated in Germany, there are materials in the collection that were created in Germany, as well as greater Europe. There is some focus on Historic Speedwell, however, the majority of materials in the collection pertain to the Plainfield area.

Records are in varying conditions, some are in need of conservation. The collection fills 51 boxes of varied sizes, 12 of which are oversized.

Arrangement

The Marjorie and Roger Vail Family Collection is arranged into six series, all of which have been further arranged into subseries:

Series 1: Manuscripts and Papers [Correspondence, Diaries and Journals, Ledgers, and Manuscripts]

Series 2: Genealogy [Diplomas, Bibles, Genealogy, and Wills]

Series 3: Visual Materials [Photographs, Postcards, Works on Paper, and Maps]

Series 4: Realia [Artifacts and Textiles]

Series 5: Scrapbooks and Ephemera [Clippings, Newspapers, Scrapbooks, and Ephemera]

Series 6: Published Material [Sheet Music, Song Books, Yearbooks, and Books]

Index Terms

People:

Bloom, Thurston, R.

Bloom, Wilson

Ditzel, Augustus

Haring, Mabel

Fitzrandolph, Katherine

Knight, Edith V.

Knight, Frank

Leis, Carl R.

Leis, Charles

Leis, Elise D.

Leis, Robert
Leis, Rudolph
Stiehl, Ida
Stiehl, Otto
Stiehl, Philip
Vail family.
Vail, Adelbert
Vail, Catherine
Vail, Clarence B.
Vail, Cornelia R.
Vail, David
Vail, Edith G.
Vail, Gertrude A.
Vail, John, 1734-1814
Vail, Jonah
Vail, Mabel H.
Vail, Margaret F.R.
Vail, Maria
Vail, Marjorie
Vail, Rachel P.
Vail, Roger
Vail, Roy G.
Vail, Walter L.
Varian, Marguerite V.

Organizations:

Historic Speedwell
Plainfield Friends
Plainfield Quaker Meeting House
Plainfield High School
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Speedwell Iron Works

Places:

Cedar Brook Park [Cedarbrook]
Germany
Plainfield (N.J.)

Subjects:

Civil War America
Early American Settlers
New Jersey--History
New Jersey--History--19th century
New Jersey--History--20th century
Plainfield, NJ – Local History
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
United States – History
World War I
World War II

Related Items

[The Marjorie & Roger Vail Family Photograph Collection](#)

[Plainfield Public Library's Bible Records Project - Vail Family Bible Records](#)

[Catherine Webster Family Tree](#), from the [Records of the Ladies Homes of Plainfield, 1917-2007](#)

Please contact the [Local History Department](#) (localhistory@plainfieldlibrary.info) to find out more about additional Vail family-related material.

See Also:

[Plainfield library now home to one of few remaining copies of oldest Bible printed in America](#) (Courier News article, January 18, 2013)

["Prized Artifacts of the Garden State,"](#) www.GardenStateLegacy.com, December 2012 : p. 34.

[Green Brook Historical Society](#)

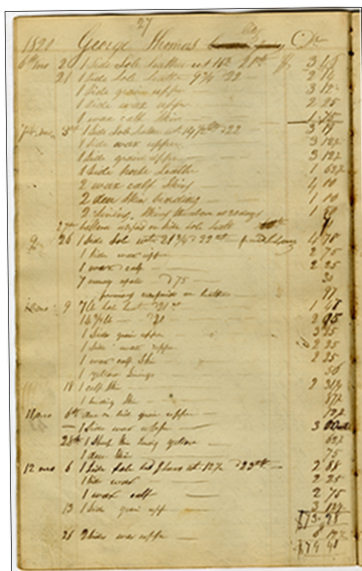
[New Jersey Historical Society's Alfred Vail Papers](#)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

This collection consists of paper documents that do not require any additional technology for access. Some of the materials are quite fragile and require the assistance of library staff for viewing.

Series Description

Series 1: Manuscripts and Papers [1820-2002 (with gaps), undated]



Series Description

Series 1 comprises the following subseries: Correspondence, Diaries and Journals, Ledgers, and Manuscripts. Correspondence includes a set of letters between David and Maria Vail during his service in the Civil War. David describes battles, troop movements, and conditions of war from 1860-1862. This subseries also includes Marjorie Vail's letters to family members and other individuals interested in helping her with genealogy research. The Diaries and Journals subseries features materials from Ida and Philip Stiehl, Marjorie and Roger Vail's maternal grandparents. There also is a small composition book from Marjorie's childhood, which holds poems and songs by her Stiehl grandmother.

The Ledgers subseries includes an 1820-1822 accounts ledger whose pages had previously been covered with newspaper clippings (the clippings are found in Series 5: Scrapbooks and Ephemera). This accounts ledger has been conserved by the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) in Philadelphia (folio

shown above). Additionally, the subseries contains Jonah Vail's Day Book ledger dating from 1825-1831.

In the Manuscripts subseries, patrons will find poems, plays, Mabel Vail's cookbook, travelogues, and an account of N.J. historic sites.

Arrangement

The Correspondence subseries is arranged alphabetically by author. The Diaries and Journals subseries is arranged alphabetically, then chronologically. The Ledgers subseries is arranged chronologically, and the Manuscripts subseries is arranged alphabetically, then chronologically. Series 1 is housed in Boxes 1, 2, 3, and 49.

Series 2: Genealogy [1791-2005 (with gaps), undated]

Series Description

Series 2 consists of four subseries: Diplomas, Bibles, Genealogy, and Wills. The Diplomas subseries documents the formal studies of Ida Vera Stiehl, Marjorie and Roger Vail's mother. The Bibles subseries contains a 1791 Bible believed to have belonged to John and Catherine Vail, and an 1822 Bible believed to have belonged to Jonah and Rachel Vail.

The 1791 First Edition of the Isaac Collins Bible is the first Bible to be printed in New Jersey and the first "Family Bible" to be printed in America. This King James version Bible was the most influential Bible in Colonial America from the late 1700s until the mid-1800s. The American "Family Bible" -- large and extensively illustrated -- became a fixture in the 19th and 20th century American home. The 1791 Isaac Collins Family Bible is an early example of that historical trend.

The bulk of this series is held within the Genealogy subseries. It comprises Marjorie Vail's genealogy research, family trees, and reference materials. It also contains wedding certificates. The Wills subseries includes the wills of Abraham Smith (1797) and John Bloom (undated transcript; original is dated 1868).

Arrangement

Series 2 is arranged alphabetically by name and topic, then chronologically. It is housed in Boxes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 49, as well as Map Drawer 4.

Series 3: Visual Materials [c. 1858-1988 (with gaps), undated]



Series Description

Series 3 is divided into four series: Photographs, Postcards, Works on Paper, and Maps. The Photographs subseries contains nearly 2000 individual photographs and 5 photo albums. Some of the images date to the earliest day of commercial photography in the mid-19th century. Many of the images are of family members, but family homes, pets, and travel also play a role in the collection.

There are black and white, as well as color photographs and negatives.

The Postcards subseries contains more than 700 postcards and 12 postcard booklets. There are 34 family and house cards, 19 Plainfield cards, approximately 300 World War I and German language postcards, and more than 330 travel and tourism cards.

The Works on Paper subseries includes drawings, sketchbooks, and sketches, many by Otto Stiehl, and Robert and Otto Leis. The Maps subseries includes site maps for houses on Woodbine and Stilford Avenues, as well as a lot at Coolidge and Sterling Streets. Additionally, there are modern copies of the Great Peconic Bay and Battle of 2nd Manassas maps.

Arrangement

Series 3 is primarily arranged by topic, then chronologically. It is housed in Binders 1-10, Boxes 9-24, 49, and Map Drawer 4.

[Search the Vail photographs](#)

Series 4: Realia [1772-c. 1950s (with gaps), undated]



Series Description

Series 4 is divided into two subseries: Artifacts and Textiles. Within the Artifacts subseries are Roger Vail's harmonica; a Verdun, France medal; wood and nails from the original Plainfield Quaker Friends' Meeting House (1777, shown on left); a sewing box; wooden shoes; and woven metal handbags.

Arrangement

Series 4 is arranged by type and size, and is housed in Boxes 25-39.

Series 5: Scrapbooks and Ephemera [1870-2003 (with gaps), undated]

Series Description

Series 5 is further divided into five subseries: Clippings, Newspapers, Scrapbooks, Ephemera, and Stock Certificates. The Clippings subseries mainly contains family birth, death, wedding, and military announcements, however there also is a fascinating collection of Mabel Vail's travel diary entries that had been published in the 1912 *Plainfield Daily Press*. Additionally, the clippings include material on Plainfield historic sites and historic homes. Box 41 contains newspaper clippings ranging from 1888-1924 exclusively, which have been conserved from the 1820-1822 ledger in Box 1.

The Newspapers subseries includes copies of complete issues published on pivotal days such as the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Plainfield Centennial, and the end of World War I. Additionally, there is an 1870 German language newspaper.

Within the Scrapbooks subseries are a 1917 World War I scrapbook created by Mabel Haring, an English and German language scrapbook created by the elder Ida Stiehl, and two scrapbooks created by Marjorie Vail.

The Ephemera subseries includes notes previously housed with the textiles and photographs, European travel materials, and a program from the Marjorie's Plainfield High School Class of 1950 50th reunion.

The Stock Certificates subseries comprises Jonah Vail's three shares in Morris and Essex Mutual Coal Company from 1867, and A.W. Vail's 2000 shares in Plainfield Mining Company in 1909.

Arrangement

Series 5 is arranged chronologically and housed in Boxes 40-44, 49-51.

Series 6: Published Material [1886-2001 (with gaps), undated]

Series Description

Series 6 is further divided into two subseries: Sheet Music and Songbooks, and Books. The sheet music and songbooks include various vocal and piano arrangements ranging from 1900-1948. The Books subseries comprises Plainfield High School yearbooks (1949-1953), genealogy texts, Quaker histories, New Jersey histories, and Plainfield histories.

Arrangement

Series 6 is arranged chronologically for the Sheet Music and Songbooks, and yearbooks, and alphabetically by author for the Books. It is housed in Boxes 44-48.

Administrative Information

Access & Restrictions

The Marjorie and Roger Vail Family Collection is available for research.

Access is restricted to materials prepared by the Local History department staff. All materials must be viewed in the Plainfield Room and may not be removed to another area of the library without permission of the Library Director or designee. Materials must be handled carefully and kept in order. Materials must not be leaned upon, altered, folded, ripped, or traced upon. Marks may not be added or erased from materials. Materials must be returned directly to Local History department staff and inspected before the researcher leaves the Plainfield Room.

One photocopy may be made (by Plainfield Public Library staff) of each document for the purpose of research; official Local History departmental reproduction fees may apply. Permission to publish must be obtained by the Plainfield Public Library Board of Trustees as delegated to the Library Director. Permission to publish does not constitute a copyright clearance. The researcher is responsible for further copyright restrictions. The Plainfield Public Library is not responsible for the misuse of copyrighted material.

Preferred Citation

Identification of item; Date (if noted); "Marjorie and Roger Vail Family Collection", Box and Folder Number, Local History Department, Plainfield Public Library, Plainfield, New Jersey.

Acquisition Information

Marjorie and Roger Vail donated the majority of the collection in April 2005. A posthumous donation of two family Bibles dated 1791 and 1822 was given to the Library as per the Vails' wishes in 2012.

Processing Information

This collection was inventoried by Jessica Myers in July 2005, updated in September 2007, and re-inventoried by Debra Schiff in 2012. The finding aid was compiled using historical information researched by Jessica Myers, then prepared and encoded by Sarah Hull in March 2009. Partial processing of the visual materials was completed by Local History staff. Further processing of the collection was completed by Debra Schiff in 2013. The finding aid was updated in 2013 by Debra Schiff and again in September 2024 by Sally Weiner. Finding aid content follows the guidelines suggested by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Manuscripts and Papers [1820-2002 (with gaps), undated]

Box	Folder	Title/Description	Date(s)
1	1	Correspondence, Bloom, Thurston R. (to his sister Pamela)	1838
	2	Correspondence, Bloom, Wilson (to his niece, Vail, Maria)	undated
	3	Correspondence, [Dakin]	1896
	4	Correspondence, Chase, Theodore	1869
	5	Correspondence, Christmas Card	1953
	6	Correspondence, Vail, David (Civil War) with Vail, Maria, transcriptions follow letters	1860-1862
	7	Correspondence, Vail, Gertrude (Mrs. Adelbert Vail), regarding the estate of William Hayes	1851-1904
	8	Correspondence, Vail, Ida mainly from Emma	1977-1986, with gaps
	9	Correspondence, Vail, Jeanette	1862
	10	Correspondence, Vail, John R.	1860
	11	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, with Brown, Frances E.	1976-1983, with gaps, 2001
	12	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, with Days, Frances	1956
	13	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, with Deadwyler, George B.	1979, undated
	14	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, Dunn, Philomena	1991
	15	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, Genealogy, Fowler, Arlene	1972-1976, with gaps
	16	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, Genealogy, General	1973
	17	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, Slocum Disaster	1998
	18	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, with Hagestad, Diane E.	1996
	19	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, with Hayes, Robert	1986-1990, with gaps
	20	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, with Johnson, Robert and Nancy	1973-1974, 1998
	21	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, with King, Harlan F.	1977-1978

2 3	22	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, with Kirchner, Marguerite	1976, undated
	23	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, with Mason, June W.	1974-1978, with gaps
	24	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, with Vail, Roy G.	1965-1998, with gaps, 2002
	25	Correspondence, Vail, Marjorie, with Vail, Ruth and Horace E.	1976
	26	Correspondence, Marjorie Vail, with Silence, William A.	1988
	27	Correspondence, Vail, W.W.	1861
	28	Diary, Stiehl, Ida	1913
	29	Diary, Stiehl, Philip	1909, 1911
	30	Journal, Stiehl, Philip Jr.	1942-1946
	31	Items removed from Stiehl, Philip Jr., journal in German and English	1942-1963, with gaps, undated
	32	Journal, Vail, Marjorie	1937-1947, with gaps
	33	Accounts Ledger (pages previously covered with newspaper clippings) See index here	1820-1822
	34	Accounts Ledger cover	1820-1822
		Day Book Ledger, Vail, Jonah	1825-1831
	1	Manuscript, Leis, Clara, poem/song	undated
	2	Manuscript, Regen, Rosalie, "Washington Rock"	undated
	3	Manuscript, Stiehl, Ida, play sent from Germany to NY	1927
	4	Manuscript, Vail, Mabel's cookbook, with clippings	1951-1952
	5	Manuscript, Vail, Marjorie, 8th grade graduation, papers, measurements	1946, 1947, 1955
	6	Manuscript, Vail, Marjorie, European Trips	1959, undated
	7	Manuscript, Vail, Marjorie, travelogue on Yosemite	1971, undated
	8	Manuscript, handwritten account of N.J. Historic Site visits [unattributed]	undated
	9	Award, Vail, Roy G., American Institute of CPAs, 49 years of service, framed	1976
	10	Organizational papers, Fall Membership Dinner and Society List of Seraphic Society	1979

Series 2: Genealogy [1791-2005 (with gaps), undated]

Box	Folder	Title/Description	Date(s)
4		Regents Exams results, Stiehl, Ida Vera, White Plains High School	1917
		Certificate, Stiehl, Ida Vera, University Scholarship Certificate No. 734, for four years at Columbia University, from the University of the State of New York	1917
		Diploma, Stiehl, Ida, White Plains High School	1917
		Diploma, Stiehl, Ida Vera, Westchester Congregational Church, Sunday School	1917
		Diploma, Stiehl, Ida Vera, Columbia University Bachelor of Science	1921
		Diploma, Stiehl, Ida Vera, Teacher of Household Arts, Columbia University	1921

5		Bible, said to have belonged to Vail, John and Catherine	1791
6		Bible, said to have belonged to Vail, Jonah and Rachel	1822
7		Bible, Leis, Carl P.	1861
8	1	Genealogy, Bailey, Judy	1994, 1998
	2	Genealogy, Ditzel, Augustus	1992
	3	Genealogy, Ditzel, Newark Census	1860
	4	Genealogy, Hayes Jenkins Papers	1987-1989, 1998
	5	Genealogy, Leis, Elise, widow pension records for Rudolph Leis	undated
	6	Genealogy, Leis, Frieda	1996
	7	Genealogy, Leis, Rudolph	1996
	8	Genealogy, Leis/Stiehl, also includes Dietzel/Ditzel	1912-1913, 1926, 1980, 1991
	9	Genealogy, Seldeneck, Charles	1861-1864, with gaps, 1889 (all copies)
	10	Genealogy, Ida Stiehl's Interment	undated
	11	Genealogy, Vail, Gertrude E.	1874, 1844, 1927
	12	Genealogy, Vail, Mabel H.	1916-1917
	13	Genealogy, Vail, Margaret F.R.	undated
	14	Genealogy, Vail, Walter L.	1971
	15	Genealogy, Varian, Marguerite V.	1937, undated
	16	Genealogy, "Jacob Zavitz and Elizabeth Pound, their Background and Descendants" Zavitz, James	1973
	17	Genealogy, Vail Family Tree	1916, 1953, 1957, 2005, undated
	18	Genealogy, Vail Family Tree	1970, 1973, undated
	19	Genealogy, index card book, notes	undated
	20	Genealogy, manuscript, Vail, Marjorie	undated
	21	Genealogy, manuscript, "Vail Family History"	undated
	22	Genealogy, notes	1973, 1989, undated
	23	Genealogy, reference materials	1971
	24	Genealogy, reference materials	1853, 1874 (copies), 1982-1996 with gaps, undated
	25	Genealogy, research	1986, undated
	26	Genealogy, research	1990, undated
	27	Genealogy, research, Civil War correspondence	undated
	28	Will, Transcript, Bloom, John	orig. 1868
	29	Will, court record of Smith, Abraham	1797
	30	Will, Smith, Abraham	1797
	31	Family History, Vail Picnic	1951, 1972-1974, 1976, 1978
	32	Rahway & Plainfield Monthly Meeting/Quaker	1951, 1963, 1983, 1986, 1997, 2000
49		Certificates and Photographs, German-language wedding certificate and wedding portrait	1894
		Certificates, Modern reproduction of Frank Corman Knight and Edith Gertrude Vail's wedding certificate	1906, modern reproduction
Map Drawer 4		Genealogy, Vail family tree (9 panels), 1620-1960	undated

Series 3: Visual Materials [c. 1858-1988 (with gaps), undated]

Box	Folder	Title/Description	Date(s)
Binder 1		Photographs VV60000-VV60262	various dates
Binder 2		Photographs VV60263-VV60685	various dates
Binder 3		Photographs VV60686-VV60911	various dates
Binder 4		Photographs VV60912-VV60967	various dates
Binder 5A		Photographs, reproductions VV60968-VV61609	various dates
Binder 5B		Photographs, reproductions VV60968-VV61609	various dates
Binder 6		Photographs, enlargements	various dates
Binder 7		Photographs VV61610-VV61970	various dates
Binder 8		Photographs VV61971-VV62121	various dates
9		Photo album, "Philip Stiehl Jr. Christmas 1910 from His Mother." Approx. 33 pages of content	1910
10		Photograph, framed, "1916 Ida Stiehl Vail taken by Otto Stiehl" on verso	1916
		Photograph, framed, 3 children "Philip, Ida, Otto; Children of Philip & Ida," on verso	undated
		Photograph, daguerreotypes, tinted, framed, "Elise Ditzel Leis and Baby Charles"	undated
		Photograph, daguerreotypes, "Clara Leis Kreither, Kansas City about 1920"	c. 1920
		Photograph, mounted inside a copper pin, "Grandpa Rudolph Leis"	undated
11		Photo album, Vail house, two elders in white, 1160 Stilford Ave.	1911-1918
		Photo album, Washington, WWI photos	undated
		Photograph, framed family portrait, "Philip, Ida, and Otto"	undated
12		Photographs, Otto and Home, sepia	undated
13		Photograph of Robert Leis on horseback	undated
		Photo album, Vail family	c. 1880-1890s
		Daguerreotype, "Elise Ditzel Leis and Baby Charles" (see Series 3 image above)	undated
		Photo album, "Vail Picnic Cedar Brook Park June 1974" [photos removed to binders due to preservation issues]	1974
		Photo albums, Small black and white photo booklets	undated
		Postcard booklets, southern N.J., Germany, Europe, etc.	undated

		Postcards, duplicates of color postcards, Plainfield, Europe	undated
14		Framed Portrait, "Grandpa" [Jonah] Vail	undated
15		Framed Portrait, Rachel Pound Vail	undated
16		Framed photograph, signed photo of parade	c. 1921
17		Framed photograph, Jonah Vail Homestead	early 1880s
18		Framed photograph, "F.O.E. Degree Team Plainfield #866"	undated
Binder 9		Collection of postcards, WWI and German post cards	1909, undated
Binder 10		Collection of postcards, family and houses	various dates
19		Framed drawing, charcoal drawing of woman by Robert Leis.	undated
20		Framed drawings, women drawn by Otto Stiehl	undated
21		Framed sampler stitched by Kate Fitzrandolph	undated
22		Small sketch, color drawing of a man on a carriage with a horse	undated
		Small sketch, pencil landscape	undated
23		Sketchbook, Leis, Robert	c. 1928
		Sketchbook, Leis, Otto	undated
		Print, elderly woman, believed to be representing Death, French writing beneath "agee elle aime son Dieu" (Elderly woman loves her God)	undated
24		Photocopy of drawing, grave marker for Leis family	undated
		Map, Great Peconic Bay	undated
		Maps, property survey, site maps for house on Woodbine (1936) and Stilford Avenues, and lot at Coolidge (1455) and Sterling Streets, Plainfield	undated
49		Small map, Battle of 2nd Manassas, VA	undated
		Works on paper, Clarence Brooks Vail, matted by Howard Rowe, Plainfield. Note on verso	undated
		Works on paper, Elise, Robert, and Rudolph, graphite crayon and charcoal on canvas	undated
		Maps, reproduction of 1848 NYC map	1848 reproduction
Map Drawer 4		Maps, Survey of Plainfield Friends Burial Grounds by Abraham Hornstein and Mary L. Cadron. Notes supplied by Lee Varian, a donor of the Vail collection, whose papers may be in this collection	1986

Series 4: Realia [1772-c. 1950s (with gaps), undated]

Box	Folder	Title/Description	Date(s)
25		Artifacts, feather, sharpened quill	undated
		Artifacts, key	undated
		Artifacts, piece of lumber with one nail hole, said to have been removed from original Quaker Meeting House	undated
		Artifacts, piece of wood approx. 6" long, from original Quaker Meeting House	undated

		Artifacts, wood and metal harmonica [belonged to Vail, Roger]	1876
		Artifacts, school pin, Stiehl, Ida, P.S. 77	undated
		Artifacts, medal from Verdun, France	undated
		Artifacts, nail, "From Friends' Meeting House"	1777
26		Artifacts, wooden shoes, 2 pairs: adult and child sized	undated
27		Artifacts, woven metal handbags, one contains a small round mirror in pocket; said to have been property of Ms. Philip Stiehl [elder Ida]	undated
		Artifacts, blue leather wallet, previously contained clippings	c. 1950s
		Artifacts, Rosenbaum's box, held the woven metal handbags	undated
28		Artifacts, sewing box, wood [belonged to Elise Ditzel Leis]	undated
29		Artifacts, items removed from sewing box: 5 spools of colored thread, 10 needles, 1 fabric measuring tape, 1 silver ring with blue stones, 4 buttons, 3 plastic items, 1 piece of ribbon with "V." printed on it, and 1 plastic finger protector	undated
30		Textiles, off-white linen tablecloth, embroidered with "V2V" although no thread, just a shadow	undated
31		Textiles, buff colored linen tablecloth, embroidered with "P2V" in black and "KFE" in red thread	undated
		Textiles, white table cloth, checkerboard pattern, cotton, red embroidered "JoP 12./6."	undated
32		Textiles, "Edith's Wedding Dress" in multiple pieces	1874
33		Textiles, evening dress, black taffeta and net with glass beading throughout, as well as embroidery. Is said to have belonged to Stiehl, Ida. Also includes head/neckband made from the same material	undated
34		Textiles, bridal gown, gold silk, separate sash with rhinestone clasps, said to have belonged to Ida	undated
35		Textiles, fringed and embroidered shawl, silk	undated
36		Textiles, fabric, lace collar, buttons	undated
37		Textiles, draw-string bag, red and white gingham with cross-stitched initials	undated
		Textiles, baby dress, white cotton with pin-tucking and embroidery, open back	undated
		Textiles, baby jacket, white cotton with lace detail	undated
38		Textiles, baby dress, white silk and lace	undated
39		Textiles, linen, white hand towels, 6	undated and 1772
		Textiles, university cap; belonged to Leis, Carl Rudolph	undated
		Textiles, labeled swatches from Vail, Gertrude Adams' wedding dress	c.1874

Series 5: Scrapbooks and Ephemera [1870-2003 (with gaps), undated]

Box	Folder	Title/Description	Date(s)
40	1	Clippings, First Annual Family Reunion committee, births, deaths, anniversaries, weddings	1909-1953, with gaps; undated

	2	Clippings, birth, death, and wedding announcements	1909-1957
	3	Clippings, Vail, Mabel's Travel Diary published in Plainfield Daily Press	1912, 1962 (envelope)
	4	Clippings, mid-century clippings of weddings, obituaries and other articles; removed from the blue leather wallet	1930-1959
	5	Clippings, births, military, Vail family members	1930, 1936-1937, 1958, 2001, undated
	6	Clippings, births, deaths, weddings	1937, 1948, 1953, 1970, 1978, undated
	7	Clippings, Quaker Meetings	1948, 1969, 1973
	8	Clippings, blizzard, crime	1950, 1955, 1964, undated
	9	Clippings, <i>Plainfield Courier News</i> , "As It Was, As It Is"	1950
	10	Clippings, Vail family members	1955, 1973-1974, 1996
	11	Clippings, sale and razing of Vail home on Greenbrook Road	1972-1973
	12	Clippings, historic Plainfield sites	1972-1974, with gaps, 1994
	13	Clippings, history, general	1972-1976, with gaps
	14	Clippings, historic homes	1973
	15	Clippings, Vail, Russell, E. (photocopies)	1974
	16	Clippings, Obituaries	1976, 2003
	17	Clippings, dolls	1984
	18	Clippings, Vail, Russell A.	1953, 1978, undated
41		Clippings, clippings from 1820-1822 ledger	1888-1924, undated
42		Newspapers, full issues of the JFK assassination. <i>New York World</i> , <i>The New York Times</i> , <i>New York Herald Tribune</i> , German newspaper	11/22-26/1963
		Newspapers, headlines of significant historical events. <i>Courier News</i> , Plainfield centennial and end of WWI	1969, 1918
		Newspaper, in German language	1870
43	1	<i>The School Spirit</i> , magazine of PS77, Manhattan. Stiehl, Philip listed on front page	1912
	2	Scrapbook, World War I, Haring, Mabel	1917
	3	Scrapbook, Mrs. Phillip Stiehl [Ida], including newspaper clippings, German and English poems	undated
	4	Scrapbook, Vail, Marjorie E., genealogy	undated
	5	Scrapbook, Vail, Marjorie E., Plainfield High School	1949, 1950
	6	Ephemera, items removed from photographs (envelopes and notes)	undated
	7	Ephemera, note removed from textiles (black dress, Ida Vail's white silk baby dress)	undated
	8	Ephemera, class song, poem by Robert Louis Stevenson	undated
	9	Ephemera, Princeton commencement program 1963	1963
	10	Ephemera, European travel	1977, 1990
	11	Ephemera, materials removed from photographs	1986, undated
	12	Ephemera, materials removed from books	1973, undated
	13	Ephemera, Plainfield High School Class of 1950, 50th reunion	2000

14	Stock certificate, 3 shares in Morris and Essex Mutual Coal Company, Vail, Jonah	1867
15	Stock certificate, 2000 shares in Plainfield Mining Company, Vail, A.W.	1909
44	Scrapbook, cloth book	c.1890s
	Scrapbook, baby book, Vail, Marjorie	1932
	Scrapbook, autograph book, Vail, Marjorie	1946
49	Ephemera, sheet of paper covered with calculations and various notations	undated
	Ephemera, Tepper's Christmas bag	c. 1970s
50	Ephemera, Steinbach boxes used to hold Vail dresses	c. 1970s
51	Ephemera, Schraft's candy box	undated

Series 6: Published Material [1886-2001 (with gaps), undated]

Box	Folder	Title/Description	Date(s)
44		Framed Clipping of German poem	undated
45	1	Newsletters, historical organizations	1972-1999, with gaps
	2	Newsletters, Speedwell Village	1970-1978
	3	Pamphlets, historical sites	1998, undated
	4	Pamphlets, Historic Speedwell	2001
	5	Sheet music, various vocal and piano arrangements	1900-1939, with gaps
	6	Song books, various collections	1908, 1939-1940, undated
	7	Song books, various collections	1934-1948
	8	Song books, various collections	1935-1938
	9	Yearbooks, Plainfield High School	1913
	10	Yearbook, The Oracle, White Plains NY	1917
46	1	Yearbooks, New York High School of Commerce	1913
	2	Yearbooks, New York High School of Commerce	1914
	3	Yearbooks, Plainfield High School	1949
	4	Yearbooks, Plainfield High School	1950
	5	Yearbooks, Plainfield High School	1951
	6	Yearbooks, Plainfield High School	1952
	7	Yearbooks, Plainfield High School	1953
47		Books, Banghard, Karl, <i>Fünf Schneeballen, zwölf Jahrhunderte.</i>	1979
		Books, Biebel, Frank A., <i>Index to Marriage and Death Notices in the New-Yorker Staats-Zeitung</i>	2000
		Books, Cunningham, John T., <i>Newark</i>	1988
		Books, Ethyl Corporation, <i>What's In a Name</i>	undated
		Books, Feldkirchner, Irene E. and Langdon, Louise, <i>A History of the Township of Green Brook</i>	1976
		Books, Grady, John A. and Pollard, Dorothe M., <i>Plainfield</i>	2001
		Books, Haberstroh, Richard, <i>The German Churches of Metropolitan New York</i>	2000
		Books, Halsey, Abigail F., <i>In Old Southampton</i>	1940
		Books, Hinshaw, William W., <i>Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy</i>	1940

- Books, Hooker, Ralph M., *Plainfield New Jersey Illustrated* 1895
- Books, Lawton, Wilbur, *The Boy Aviators in Africa or an Aerial Ivory Trail* 1910
- Books, Lattimore, Ralston B., *Fort Pulaski National Monument* 1954
- Books, Lender, Mark E., *The New Jersey Soldier* 1977
- Books, McCormick, Richard P., *New Jersey from Colony to State 1609-1789* 1964
- Books, Meuly, Walter C., *History of Piscataway Township 1666-1976* 1976
- Books, *Miscellaneous Words, Prefixes and Suffixes, with Roots of Derivative Words* 1898
- Books, Nadel, Stanley, *Little Germany* 1990
- Books, *New Jersey History*, vol. 102, no. 3-4 (Fall/Winter 1984) 1984
- Books, *New Jersey in the American Revolution* 1969
- Books, Rawson, Marion N., *Under the Blue Hills, Scotch Plains, New Jersey* 1974
- Books, *Discipline of New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends* 1893
- Books, *Book of Discipline of New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends General Conference Affiliation* 1930
- Books, Richmond, Katharine F., *John Hayes of Dover, New Hampshire, A Book of His Family*, vol. 1 1936
- Books, Ryan, Dennis P., *New Jersey in the American Revolution, 1763-1783, a Chronology* 1974
- Books, Snyder, John P., *The Mapping of New Jersey* 1973
- Books, Spyri, Johanna, *Heidi* 1899
- Books, Stevenson, Robert L., *A Child's Garden of Verses* 1923
- Books, Tomblin, Barbara, *Villages at the Crossroads, a History of Warren Township* undated
- Books, Vail, Henry H., *Genealogy of Some of the Vail Family Descended from Jeremiah Vail at Salem, Mass., 1639* 1902
- Books, Wiggin, Kate D., *The Birds' Christmas Carol* 1886
- Books, Willison, George F., *Saints and Strangers* 1945
- Books, Wright, William C. (ed.), *Economic and Social History of Colonial New Jersey* 1974