

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Williams, Robert P.

Bachelor (Jay A.) family papers, Nome, Alaska, 1882-1969

MS 082

1-2.5 inch manuscript box
0.2 linear feet.

Processed By: Marilyn Kwock
August 1993

Acquisitions: The papers were part of the estate of Mr. Robert P. Williams of Florida (husband of Marian Bachelor), bequeathed to the library in early 1983.

Access: The collection is unrestricted.

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Processing: The Bachelor papers were separated from the photographs, which were numbered Photograph Collection Album 218. The papers were organized by type and family member and arranged chronologically.

Biography

Jay A. Bachelder was cashier and assistant manager, for the Nome Bank & Trust Company in June 1907. His wife Dell Reilly Bachelder and 2-3 month old daughter Marian Agnes joined him in January 1908. Life in Nome was an adventure and many of their friends were those who helped to shape Alaska: Jafet Lindeberg, Leonhard Seppala, Alaska legislator Charles D. Jones and the Lomen family.

In October 1909, Dell, Marian and other family members returned to Brainerd, Minnesota. Jay joined them in the fall of 1910. The family returned to Nome in 1911, where Mr. Bachelder was cashier for Miners & Merchants Bank and assistant secretary of the Blue Goose Mining Co. In late 1921, the family left Alaska. Jay went to work for a wholesale grocer in Minnesota. Dell later lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Robert P. Williams, on the East coast.

Scope and Content Note

The papers are comprised mainly of the personal correspondence and reminiscences of Dell Bachelder. A close correspondent was Alaska Representative and Senator Charles D. Jones; he was one of the three who cast Alaska's first electoral ballots for U.S. president in December 1960. Also included are the correspondence of Jay Bachelder and Marian Bachelder Williams, newspaper clippings and family legal documents (including Alaskan stock certificates). Miscellaneous materials include an Eskimo catechism from the Seward Peninsula, and a 1946 map of Nome showing building lots. The Bachelder photographs are located in PCA 218.

Inventory

Folder 1. Correspondence of Jay A. Bachelder, 1911-27 (24 items)

Outgoing correspondence of Jay A. Bachelder, 1921-1927 (10 items)

1. Letter from Miners & Merchants Bank (M.M.B.), Nome, to Mr. J. J. Cole, San Francisco, CA, dated February 10, 1921. Transmitting Union Construction Co. stock. Describes the effect of the Tacoma Bank failure on the bank; many accounts are tied up. (2 l. carbon copy)
2. Letter from M.M.B., Nome, to Mr. J. J. Cole, S.F., CA, dated February 21 & 24, 1921. Transmitting a resolution passed by Mr. Lomen and Mr. Bachelder. State of affairs in Nome concerning the Tacoma bank failure. (3 l. carbon copy)
3. Telegram from Nome, to Jafet Lindeberg, San Francisco, CA, dated Nov. 1, 1921. Advising Lindeberg to sell stock in order to help bank. (1 l. carbon copy)
4. Letter from Brainerd, Minnesota, to Mr. G. R. Jackson, Nome (cashier of M.M.B.), dated May 17, 1923. Business dealings and news. (2 l. carbon copy)
5. Letter from Brainerd, Minnesota, to Mr. G. R. Jackson, Nome (cashier of M.M.B.), dated August 7, 1923. Transmitting his letter to Thomas H. Breeze, San Francisco, CA, same date, statement on the J. H. Mustard note. (3 l. carbon copy)

6. Letter from Brainerd, MN, to Ira D. Orton, Seattle, Wa., dated May 26, 1924. Transmitting Lomen & Co. stock certificates. (1 l. carbon copy)
7. Letter from Brainerd, MN, to Jafet Lindeberg, San Francisco, CA, dated August 28, 1924. Notification of signing deed to claims #9 and #10 on Big Hurrah and transmittal to James Frawley, Nome. Family news. (1 l., carbon copy).
8. Letter from Brainerd, MN, to James Frawley, Nome, dated August 28, 1924. Transmitting the signed deed to claims #9 and 10, with news. (1 l. carbon copy)
9. Letter from Brainerd, MN, to G. J. Lomen, Nome, dated May 11, 1925. Seeking financial advice on reindeer stock, and a job in Alaska. (2 l. carbon copy)
10. Letter from Brainerd, MN, to Ira D. Orton, Seattle, Wa., dated May 23, 1927. Appoints Orton his agent "...in the matter of the Trusteeship of J. J. Cloe and myself of the assets of the Miners & Merchants Bank of Candle." (1 l. carbon copy)

Incoming correspondence of Jay A. Bachelder (JB), 1911 - 1927 (14 items)

11. Letter to JB, Brainerd, MN, from O. S. Larson, Seattle, dated January 18, 1911. Concerning appointment of Bachelder to cashier at Miners & Merchants Bank, Nome. (1 l. typed)
12. Letter to Daddy, Nome, from daughter Mary (Marian), dated December 15, 1914. News and pictures with envelope. (3 l.)
13. Letter to JB, Nome, from Carl J. Lomen, Secretary, Lomen & Co., Nome, dated September 11, 1919. Letter to JB, stockholders of stock to be available. (1 l. typed)
14. Telegram to Nome from G. R. Jackson, Nome, dated February 24, 1922. Concerns Lindeberg stock negotiations? (1 l.)
15. Letter to JB, Nome, from G. W. Campbell, Asst. Treasurer, Blue Goose Mining Co. (on Pioneer Mining and Ditch Co. letterhead), dated March 1, 1922. Summary of Board of Directors meeting in San Francisco. (2 l. typed)
16. Empty envelope to Jay Bachelder, Brainerd, MN, from William Ringhand, Deerwood, MN, dated January 1923.
17. Letter from L. Stevenson, Cupertino, CA, dated April 4, 1923. Nome mining news (Hammon Co., Bangor Dredge, Blue Goose and Bonanza, etc.). News of mutual friends, Nome Bank assessment. Will work for the Hammon Co. (6 p. handwritten)
18. Letter to JB, Brainerd, MN, from J. J. Cole, Bangor Dredging Co., Nome, dated June 17, 1923. Business concerning bank stock from Nome. (2 l. handwritten)
19. Letter to JB, Brainerd, MN, from G. R. Jackson, Miners & Merchants Bank, Nome, dated April 17, 1924. News of the Hammon Co. operation, James F. Halpin, A. B. (club), Nome friends, reindeer company. Question about Liberty Loan Bonds. (2 l. typed)

20. Letter to JB, Brainerd, MN, from Ira D. Orton, Lyons & Orton, Seattle, WA, dated May 31, 1924. Acknowledges receipt of Lomen & Co. stock certificates. (1 l. typed)
21. Letter to JB, Brainerd, MN, from Jafet Lindeberg, San Francisco, CA, dated August 22, 1924. Requests signature on a deed for Lindeberg's Nome claims. Transmits a copy of a letter from James Frawley, dated July 28, 1924. (2 l. typed)
22. Letter to JB, Brainerd, MN, from James Frawley, attorney, Nome, dated October 1, 1924. Acknowledges receipt of the signed deed mentioned above. News of the Hammon Co. (1 l. typed)
23. Letter to JB, Brainerd, MN from Ira D. Orton, Lyons & Orton, Seattle, WA, dated May 19, 1927. Transmits legal papers for signature. News of Mr. Cole (Bangor Dredging Co.) (2 l. typed)
24. Letter (inc.) from an unidentified correspondent, Hokkaido, Japan, dated mid-December, no year]. Recounts journey from Nome to Hokkaido by steamer (3 l., handwritten)

Folder 2. Outgoing correspondence of Dell Bachelder, 1913-1969? (12 items)

1. Letter to "Girls," dated October 13, 1913. Recounts events of a recent, violent 6-day storm which destroyed the Nome waterfront. Wedding of McGuire and Miss Brennan to be held. Marriage of Capt. Reed and Kathryn Hayden. (9 l.)
2. Letter to A. G. Sletvold, Detroit Lakes, MN, dated October 14, 1953. Accepts a reduction in inheritance from her brother, M. J. Reilly's estate (1 l.)
3. Letter to Kit (niece?), dated 1969. Personal news. (2 p.)
- 4A. Letter to Marian (daughter) and Bob, dated September 9 (no year). Answers a letter apparently inquiring about the family history in Nome, beginning in June 1907, when Marian was 7 weeks old. Talks about Nome friends, events (1913 tidal wave, the Mueller's silver wedding anniversary, Judge Lomen), etc. (12 l.)
- 4B. Incomplete typescript of same. (3 l.)
5. Letter to Marian, undated. Continuation of Nome reminiscences (apparently Marian is gathering information for articles). List of people, businesses, and events (Roald Amundsen, the Siberian governor and his wife, etc.). (4 l.)
6. Letter to Marian, undated. Continuation of Nome reminiscences about explorer Roald Amundsen's visit. (2 l.)
7. Reminiscences, undated. Tea party on board the MAUD. Amundsen's and the Governor of Siberia's visits. Nome murders. Nome women crashed a Nome men's club on New Year's

- eve. Women's baseball teams. Trip to the Sawtooth Mts. with Leonhard Seppala, etc. The Alter Society. (10 l.)
8. Letter to Marian, dated September 24. About Mr. Harrison and Scotty Evans in Nome. Mr. Harrison ran unsuccessfully for Court Commissioner. (4 p.)
 9. Letter (inc.) to Marian, no date. Mentions their friend, Scotty Evans of Nome. Personal news. (4 p.)
 - 10A. Letter (inc.) to Marian, dated October 7 (no year). Transmitting her reminiscences of Scotty (Scottie) Evans' life. (3 l.)
 - 10B. [Scotty, continued.] Scotty married Tom Evans in Washington state and came to the Kougarok where he had struck it rich, but had a hard and lonely life there. After a prolonged stay at the Kruzgamepa Hot Springs (after she was accidentally burned), her health declined. She was taken to Nome to recover, where she met Marian, the first white child she had seen in seven years. (6 l.)

**Folder 3. Incoming correspondence of Dell Reilly Bachelder (DRB), 1921-1969
(19 items)**

1. Telegram to DRB, Brainerd, MN, from Jay Bachelder, Nome, dated November 9, 1921. Travel plans to Seattle. (1 l.)
2. Envelope to DRB, Brainerd, MN, from Evergreen Cemetery Association, Brainerd, MN, dated March 1945.
3. Letter to Reilly from Scottie Evans, Puyallup, WA, dated June 2, 1947. Recently saw the Senator (Jones?), who has health problems. Tom is ill. Scottie is philosophical about her life. Nome people news. (4 l., handwritten, torn)
4. Letter to DRB, Larchmont, N.Y., from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated September 15, 1952. About the mails. (1 l., typed)
5. Letter (inc.) from Charles D. Jones, Nome?, undated (ca. spring 1953). Alaska political news; Frank Heintzleman is governor. Visited family in California, Scottie and Tom in Seattle. Is a member of the Legislative Council. (1 l., typed)
6. Letter to DRB, Larchmont, NY, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated July 8, 1953. About his trip to Juneau where he was nominated for President of the Territorial Senate, and closing of the session. Mentions a tin mine at Lost River, and family news. Written on the back of one of his election flyers. (2 l., typed)
7. Letter to DRB, Brainerd, MN, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated August 1, 1953. Discusses local news, feelings on the death of Taft (a politician), airfield construction for defense, the economy. (4 p., typed)

8. Letter to Lady from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated August 21, 1953. Reminiscences, news of his family and work in Legislative Council. (2 l., typed)
9. Letter to DRB, Brainerd, MN, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated October 11, 1953. Personal philosophy. (2 l., typed)
10. Envelope to DRB, Brainerd, MN, from A. O. Sletvold, Detroit Lakes, MN, dated October 16, 1953.
11. Letter to DRB, Brainerd, MN, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated November 20, 1953. Mason activities and philosophy. (3 l., typed)
12. Letter to DRB, Brainerd, MN, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated November 26, 1953. Personal, legislative and political news, philosophy. (4 l., typed)
13. Letter to Lady from Charles D. Jones, Zanesville, Ohio, dated January 18, 1954. Mostly personal news. (1 l., typed)
14. Letter to DRB, Brainerd, MN, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated September 5, 1957. Personal family news, letter from Scottie. Alaska roads. (2 l., typed)
15. Letter to DRB, New Canaan, CT, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated January 24, 1962. About the people he met while employed by Wien Airlines. News of Scottie and his family. (2 p., typed)
16. Letter to Lady, New Canaan, CT, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated January 2, 1963. Planning a trip to New York. (1 l., typed)
17. Letter to DRB, Sarasota, FL from Frances Ross (goddaughter), Green Bay, Wisc., dated March 16, 1966. St. Patrick's Day card and newspaper clipping of interview with Frances from the MILWAUKEE SENTINEL, March 16, 1966. Personal news. (2 p., typed)
18. Letter to DRB from Frances Ross, Seattle, Wa., dated August 11, 1969. News of "Nomeites," including Carrie Stipek McClain, and Seattle friends. (1 l., typed)
19. Letter to DRB, New Canaan, CT, from Frances Ross, Seattle, Wa., dated November 8, 1969. About Brother's death and Father Ruppert. Comments on oil development in Prudhoe Bay and refineries. (3 p., typed)

Folder 4. Incoming correspondence to Marian Bachelder Williams (MBW), 1956-1969 (6 items)

1. Letter to Marian from Frances Ross, Seattle, dated January 18, 1956. Frances left Nome in 1932, arrived in Seattle in 1954 and loves it, where she works for the Navy. (2 l., typed)
2. Letter to MBW, New York, NY, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated October 3, 1957. Personal news and oil developments in Nome area. (1 l., typed, envelope)

3. Letter to MBW, New York, NY, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated October 25, 1957. Love story from New York and personal news. (1 l., typed, envelope)
4. Letter to MBW, New York, NY, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated December 22, 1957. Family news. (1 l., typed, envelope)
5. Letter to Marion (sic) from Emily B. (Boucher?), Nome?, dated December 7, 1959. Family news and reminiscences. Charlie Jones is declining. Emily is a member of the White House Conference on Aging. (2 p., typed)
6. Letter to MBW, New Canaan, CT, from Frances Ross, Seattle, dated November 5, 1969. Marian's godson Johnnie has finally left the hospital. Personal news. (3 p., typed, envelope)

Folder 5. Other correspondence, 1910-1953 (9 items)

1. Letter of Albert Fink (?), President and A. E. Todd, Manager, Nome Bank and Trust Co., dated September 29, 1910. Letter of reference for Jay Bachelder. (1 l., typed)
2. Letter to W. G. Smith, Secretary, Territorial Banking Board, Juneau, from Vice President (JVS), dated December 28, 1920. Concerning an accounting error. (2 l., typed, carbon copy, torn)
3. Letter to C. K. McIntosh, Bank of California, from George F. Order?, President, Lincoln National Bank, Minneapolis, Minn., dated January 12, 1922. Letter of reference for Jay Bachelder. (1 l., typed)
4. Letter to stockholders of Lomen & Company, Nome, dated June 17, 1923. (3 l., mimeograph)
5. Letter to stockholders of Northwestern Livestock Corp., Seattle, WA, dated December 12, 1940. Subject: dissolution of the corporation. (1 l., typed)
6. Letter to Mr. & Mrs. T. H. Evans, Hyder, AK, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated December 28, 1944. Observing the changes occurring with increased development and transportation. Family news, war incidents. Nome news. (6 l., typed)
7. Incomplete letter to Thomas & Scottie Evans, Puyallup, WA, from Charles D. Jones, Nome, dated October 18, 1952. Incomplete results of the recent election, in which Jones has run for senator (typed on the back of his campaign flyer), and some of his recent political activities. Jones is mayor, as well as tour director for Arctic Circle Sightseeing tours. Some tungsten mining success. (1 l., typed)
8. Letter to Mr. & Mrs. T. H. Evans, Puyallup, WA, from Charles D. Jones, Juneau, dated March 12, 1953. Life in the 21st Alaska Territorial Legislature (Jones is president of the Senate), on official stationery. (1 l., typed)
9. Letter to Scottie Evans, WA, from Edith (Boucher?), Santa Barbara, CA, dated August 30, 1953. Concerning the death of Mother Bassett on August 23. Tom is in the hospital at

Tacoma. Recently saw Leonhard Seppala (aged 76), who was returning from the Alaska convention at Long Beach. Some Nome news. Edith will soon be 58 years old. (4 l., typed)

Folder 6. Miscellaneous family papers, 1919-1946 (12 items)

1. Nome Public School, Nome, Alaska, 1919-1920, report of Marian Bachelder. (2 p.)
2. "Mrs. Harmon J. Fiske called by death," COLUMBUS REPUBLICAN (Wisconsin), January 24, 1920. Obituary of Aunt Lucy (photocopy), with envelope. (1 l.)
3. "Fire razes Nome; 1,500 without food, homes..." from ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS (Minnesota), dated September 18, 1934. Photocopy (2 l.)
4. "Miss Lomen named aid high court," ca. early 1940's. Photocopy of newspaper clipping about Lucile Lomen. (1 l.)
5. Sample ballot showing the ..."final account, semi-official..." October 8, 1946, with handwritten tallies. (1 l.)
6. "Prince,' Nome's 'Honey Wagon' hero, subject of proclamation," from ALASKA WEEKLY, no date (ca. late 1940's?). Photocopy (1 l.)
7. Boucher, Bill. "Woman edits Alaska's oldest newspaper," from QUILL, May 1959, pp. 15-16. Article about Emily Polet Boucher and history of the NOME NUGGET. (2 p.)
8. "The first Alaska electoral dinner held at Juneau, Alaska, December 18, 1960, to honor the historical event of Alaska's casting its first electoral votes." Program card with biographies and autographs of Charles D. Jones, Sylvia Ringstad and M. D. Snodgrass (4 p.). Attached is a list of representatives?, possibly handwritten by Charles D. Jones. (1 l.)
9. Calling card for Prof. George H. Sverdrup, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN
10. Postcard of parody on "Alaska's Flag" poem.
11. A CATECHISM FOR THE USE OF THE ESQUIMAUX ON SEWARD PENINSULA, ALASKA, 18 p.
12. U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Co., Nome Dept. MAP OF THE CITY OF NOME, ALASKA, February 15, 1946, R-184. 38 x 21", fragile

Folder 7. Legal documents, 1882-1927 (19 items)

Real estate mortgage deeds and indentures, etc. mostly from Minnesota. Includes an indenture of lease involving the Seward Dredging Co., 1914 (#17), and stock certificates of the Blue Goose Mining Co., 1921(#18), and Lomen Reindeer Corporation, 1927 (#19A-B).

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