

J. Alden Smith
(1830-1896)

COLLECTION NO. 331

Forward

J. Alden Smith (1830-1896), a prominent geologist, was born in Kennebec County Maine. He was apprenticed at the age of 14 years to the Hallowell Gazette, in which capacity he acquired knowledge of the various details of the printing trade. He later opened his own printing shop, and for two years was owner and publisher of the Bethel Courier. An interest in geology, mineralogy, and metallurgy prompted studies of th disciplines, and in time he acquired considerable fame as a geologist.

In pursuit of that interest, Smith relocated in Colorado in 1864. He worked for a time in the office of the Central City Miner's Register before opening an assay office. He was named Colorado Territory's first geologist in 1872. From 1874 to 1879, he served as superintendent of the American Mine, in Boulder County.

In the latter year, Smith, in association with Frank Hall, opened an office in Denver as consulting geologist and mining engineer. He was active in Colorado and other states until poor health prompted him to seek relief in California. He died 17 July 1896.

J. Alden Smith Collection

FF	No. Items	Description
1	10	Correspondence, 24 April 1865-10 November 1866
2	10	Correspondence, 4 February 1867-5 May 1870
3	13	Correspondence, 7 February 1871-5 October 1871
4	23	Correspondence, 27 December 1877-23 December 1878
5	15	Correspondence, 7 January 1879-28 May 1879
6	8	Correspondence, 15 June 1879-16 September 1887
7	3	Correspondence, undated
8	7	Miscellaneous documents, 1864-1879
9	1	Biographical sketch