

# Dr. Robert and Jane Kamm (1919 - 1992 and 1918 - c2001)



The Kamms lived in Birmingham and appeared to be just another couple to their neighbors—but in reality they had important secrets to keep. They both worked with the Army Corps of Engineers' Manhattan Project, the research and development undertaking during World War II that produced the first nuclear weapons.



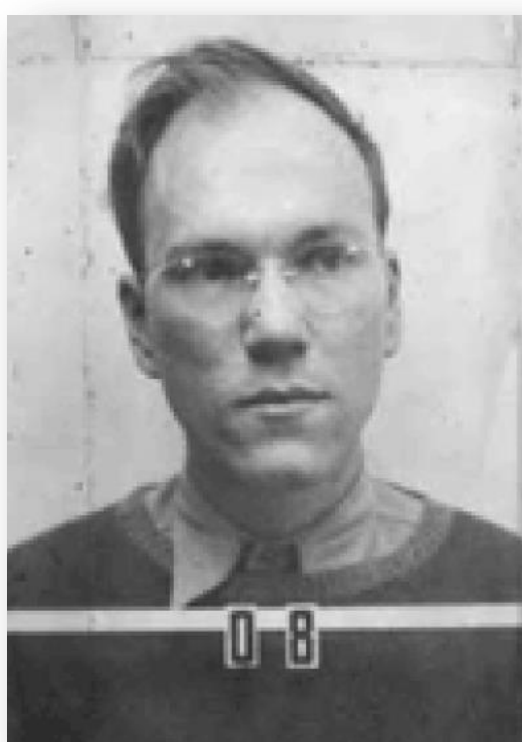
Robert was a metallurgical engineer, psychiatrist, and theologian. He worked at the Los Alamos site on the atomic bomb.

Jane, who had a lifelong struggle with polio, was the head librarian at Los Alamos and had the highest level security clearance.

*(Left) The Manhattan Project insignia*

In later life, the Kamms were under periodic surveillance due to the top secret nature of their past work. Perhaps this is why, after Robert died in 1992, Jane asked the son of neighbors Pam and Carroll DeWeese to come to her basement and shred documents for her. In addition, Jane Kamm was the niece of Alger Hiss, who was targeted by Richard Nixon as a communist double agent.

Among the famous people the Kamms met was the renowned psychoanalyst and student of Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung.



*The Kamms' photos from their security badges at Los Alamos.*

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*Why I was inspired:* I knew Jane; she had only 4 degrees of separation from Abraham Lincoln—her uncle, Alger Hiss, was an attorney who clerked for Oliver Wendell Holmes, who had himself met Abraham Lincoln. --Submitted by Susie Vestevich