

**Ide Family of St. Johnsbury  
Collection, 1864-2013  
Doc 823-825, MSB 123, Size B**

## **Introduction**

This collection contains records of the five generations of the Jacob Ide (1806-1900) and Lodoska Knights Ide (1807-1892) family of St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Mary Ide, (granddaughter of Harriett Marion Baxter Ide and gg-granddaughter of Dr. Henry Baxter), donated the collection to the Vermont Historical Society in August 2021. The collection is housed in two records center boxes, one flat box, and one oversized folder. It consumes approximately 3 linear feet of shelf space.

## **Biographical Notes**

Jacob Ide (1806-1900), operator of a grist mill founded by his father John in the village of Passumpsic in the town of Barnet, Vermont, married Lodoska Knights (1807-1892) and they had three sons: Elmore, Horace, and Henry.

Elmore Timothy Ide (1838-1923) was born in Passumpsic. He and his brother Horace Knights Ide (1842-97) took over the running of the mill from their father and named it the E.T. and H.K. Ide Company. Four more generations of Ides (seven generations total) would work as millers of grain and retailers of premium quality animal feeds, farm supplies, garden seeds and tools in St. Johnsbury with three branch stores located in Fairlee and Montpelier, Vermont and Woodsville, New Hampshire. When the company celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1988 it was the oldest family-run company in Vermont.

Elmore married Cynthia Adams and they had six children. Their eldest son George Peabody Ide (1867-1967) was a businessman in Jacksonville, Alabama, and adopted his sister-in-law's son, Knox (1902-94).

Elmore and Cynthia's second son, Henry Clay Ide II (1869-1909), was a doctor who married Harriet Baxter (1872-1957). She attended Wellesley College and later Columbia University to obtain her master's degree in education. She taught in Vermont public schools for many years. They had two sons, Robert and Paul.

Elmore's daughter Mary Ellen Ide (1871-1963) married former Vermont governor Charles Winslow Gates. His other daughter Fanny Knights Ide (1876-1942) was an illustrator who married Oliver Mitchell Wentworth Sprague (1873-1953), a professor of economics and banking at Harvard who worked on the Federal Reserve Act. They had two children.

The second Ide son, Horace Knights Ide (1842-1897), like his older brother, was born in Barnet. He enlisted as a corporal in Company F (a Windham County unit), First Vermont Cavalry on September 14, 1861, and later transferred to Company D (a Caledonia County unit). He was captured by Confederate infantry on July 16, 1862. He was paroled on September 12, left parole camp and returned to his unit, and then left his unit to return home on leave. He rejoined

the unit at the end of December 1861. He served throughout the Gettysburg and Rappahannock campaigns and was wounded at Buckland on October 19, 1863. He was at Appomattox Court House when Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865. He returned to Vermont and went into business with his brother (who had purchased a substitute for Civil War service), forming E.T. & H.K. Ide Company. He wrote a history of the Vermont Cavalry that was never published in his lifetime. Horace married Margaret Hidden Chamberlain in 1867; the couple had one son, Philip Sheridan Ide, who practiced medicine in Wayland, Massachusetts.

The third Ide son, Henry Clay Ide (1844-1921), was governor of the Philippines, a commissioner to Samoa, and the U.S. minister to Spain from 1909 to 1913. He was close with the family of Robert Louis Stevenson, and Stevenson even “gifted” Ide’s daughter Anne (1876-1945) his birthday. As a result of their father’s positions, Henry’s children were world travelers. Daughter Anne later married William Bourke Cockran (1854-1923), an Irish emigre and prominent New York City politician. Henry Ide’s other daughter Marjorie (1880-1915) married Shane Leslie (1885-1971), a baronet and first cousin to Winston Churchill.

### **Scope and Content**

This collection documents the lives of the three sons of Jacob and Lodoska (also spelled Lodoiska) Ide of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, and their descendants down to the fourth generation. The collection is organized by the three branches of the family: the descendants of Elmore Timothy (E.T.), Horace Knights (H.K.), and Henry Clay. The collection is strongest in material about the first brother, Elmore. Throughout the collection there is a particular focus on newspaper clippings – almost all the family members included in this collection appeared in a local Vermont paper at some point in their lives. The collection contains numerous photographs of Ide family members.

The first series is a catch-all series that includes information about the family as an entity, multi-generational photo albums, and photo albums not identified with a particular branch of the family. There is a family tree in Size B that maps out the family relationships.

The second series contains the only item in the collection from the first generation: a photograph of Lodoska Knights Ide, the mother of the three brothers who are the focus of the collection.

The third series follows the descendants of E.T. and Cynthia Ide. It is the largest series in the collection, consuming 57 folders of material. E.T. and Cynthia are represented by photographs and clippings. Printed booklets about the family by their daughter, Katharine, are in series 3A. There are fifteen folders of material about her brother, Henry Clay Ide II, who was a medical doctor. His wife, Harriet Baxter Ide, is also well-represented in this series and in a separate collection (MSA 918). A small amount of correspondence, clippings, a wedding announcement, and various documents are in this series. Their sons, Robert and Paul, are represented with five folders.

The third series also contains a small amount of material about the eldest daughter, Mary Ellen, and a significant amount of material about her sister, Fanny Knights, her husband, Oliver

Sprague, and their children Katharine and Theodore “Peter.” The series contains photograph albums from England and Japan, where Fanny and Oliver spent three years between 1905 and 1908. This series also includes clippings and photographs about E.T. and Cynthia’s youngest child, William, and one piece of ephemera from the life of his son, Richard.

This collection contains only two letters from the life of the second son of Jacob and Ladoska, Horace Knights Ide. The fourth series contains one folder with photocopies of two letters and transcriptions written by Horace to his father while he was a paroled prisoner during the Civil War.

The fifth series contains items from the life of the third son, Henry Clay Ide. This series is much smaller than the series for the first son, Elmore T. The twelve folders in this series contain information on Henry and three of his children (Adelaide, Anne, and Marjorie). The series also contains a published biography about one of his grandchildren, Desmond Leslie, son of an Irish aristocrat and Marjorie Ide.

There are many photographs spread throughout the collection. Most of these photographs were taken in Vermont and are of Vermont institutions such as St. Johnsbury Academy. The collection also includes albums of the family’s travels abroad.

A box of company records is part of this collection but they are closed until 2051.

### **Organizational Note**

The papers are organized following the Ide family tree. This tree shows only family members who are represented in this collection; this is not a complete family tree:

Jacob Ide (1806-1900) m. Ladoska Knights (1807-1892)

I. Elmore Timothy (1838-1923) m. Cynthia Adams (1844-1916)

a. Katharine (1863-1950) m. George Gray (1864-1925)

i. Helen (1888-1978) m. Harold Powell, had issue

b. George Peabody (1867-1967) m. Margaret Borden

i. Knox (1902-1994); adopted

c. Henry Clay (1869-1909) m. Harriet Baxter (1872-1957)

i. Robert Elmore (1901-1965) m. Virginia Royall, had issue

ii. Paul Armington (1902-1979) m. Frances Large (1915-1965), had issue

d. Mary Ellen (1871-1963) m. Charles Winslow Gates

e. Fanny Knights (1876-1942) m. Oliver M. W. Sprague (1873-1953)

i. Katharine Ide (1906-1990)

ii. Theodore Wentworth (1911-2000)

f. William Adams (1881-1957) m. Harriet Rouse

i. Richard Elmore (1913-1979) m. Margaret Pearl (1916-2008), had issue

II. Horace Knights (1842-1897) m. Margaret Hidden, had issue

III. Henry Clay (1844-1921) m. Mary Melcher (1844-1892)

a. Adelaide Melcher (1872-1898)

Harry Joseph (1875-1882)

- b. Anne Louise (1876-1945) m. William Bourke Cockran (1854-1923)
- c. Mary Marjorie (1880-1951) m. Shane Leslie (1885-1971)
  - Anne "Anita" Theodosia (1914-1985)
  - John "Jack" Norman (1916-2016)
  - i. Desmond (1921-2001)

## Related Collections

Fanny Ide Sprague's illustrations are in the VHS Museum collection.

A published history of the family company, *Millers for five generations: The story of E.T. and H.K. Ide, Inc., St. Johnsbury, Vermont, 140th anniversary, 1813-1953*, is in the VHS Library (664.72 Id2). There is a collection of photographs of the Ide mill in FB-140:01.

A small group of papers related to the Baxter family of Swanton and Highgate that came with this collection have been organized as a separate collection and can be found in MSA 918. A larger collection of Baxter family papers can be found in Doc 682-683.

Horace K. Ide's Civil War diary and history of the First Vermont Cavalry is at the Silver Special Collections Library at UVM. There is a microfilm copy (Microfilm 101), a photocopy (920 Id2d) and a published copy (973.744 VC1h 2000) at the VHS's Leahy Library.

## Inventory

The collection is organized by the three sons of Jacob and Ladoska Ide, with successive generations under each son. The three sons' sections are in bold below to help navigate within the inventory.

### I. Ide Family, general

Doc 823:01	General information
:02	Early history
:03	Photo album, with inventory of images, early 20 <sup>th</sup> century (includes photos of Harriet Baxter Ide)
:04	_____, _____, circa 1910-1930 (includes photos of Helen and Harold Powell; Katharine and Peter (Theodore) Sprague; spaniel named Dash)
:05	_____, trip to England (no identification)
:06	_____, travel abroad (no identification)
:07	[Number not used]
:08	Multi-generation photograph; E.T. and Cynthia, Katherine and George Gray, Jacob Ide and wife, William Adams and wife
:09	_____, Cynthia, Mary, Fanny, and Harriet Ide
:10	_____, Ide family, 1903
:11	Ide family trivia contest, 2013
Size B	Genealogy

II. Lodoska Knights Ide (1807-1892)

Doc 823:12    Photograph

III. Elmore Timothy (E.T.) Ide (1838-1925) (son of Jacob and Lodoska -- I)

                  :13    Photographs  
                  :14    \_\_\_\_\_, inside mill (1 photograph and copy photograph)  
MSB 123:04    \_\_\_\_\_, reading newspaper

Cynthia Adams Ide (1844-1916) (wife of Elmore)

Doc 823:15    Photographs  
                  :16    \_\_\_\_\_, "in the garden," St. Johnsbury  
                  :17    \_\_\_\_\_, William Adams (brother)  
                  :18    \_\_\_\_\_  
                  :19    Obituary  
                  :20    Photograph with grandsons Robert and Paul Ide, 1905

Elmore and Cynthia Ide Combined Material

                  :21    Biographies and clippings  
                  :22    Photographs, with Jacob Ide  
                  :23    \_\_\_\_\_, in car  
MSB 123:04    \_\_\_\_\_, on porch of house

A. Katharine Ide Gray (1863-1950) (daughter of Elmore and Cynthia – I.a)

Doc 823:24    Newspaper account of her trip across Mindanao, 1905  
                  :25    Typescript of poetry, "To Mother," 1939  
                  :26    Booklet, "William Adams, Henry Felch, John Taylor, Nicholas Ide," 1940  
                  :27    \_\_\_\_\_, "The Old Mill, The Little White House," 1944  
                  :28    \_\_\_\_\_, "Family Sketches: Our Scotch Ancestors in Ryegate and Barnet,  
                          Vermont," 1945  
                  :29    \_\_\_\_\_, "A few memories and a Group of Snapshots," 1945  
                  :30    Biography from "The Vermonter," 1927  
                  :31    Photographs, with husband George Gray and daughter Helen  
MSB 123:04    \_\_\_\_\_, 1933 and 1923  
                  \_\_\_\_\_, by Bachrach, Helen Gray Powell and son Donald, 1923

George Gray (1864-1925) (husband of Katharine)

Doc 823:32    Photographs

B. George Peabody Ide (1867-1967) (son of Elmore and Cynthia – I.b)

- :33 Biographical materials
- :34 Photograph

i. Knox Ide (1902-1994) (son of George – I.b.i)

- :35 *Memoirs of Knox Ide*

C. Henry Clay Ide II (1869-1909) (son of Elmore and Cynthia – I.c)

- :36 Letter, to mother, 1899
- :37 \_\_\_\_\_, to father
- :38 Lecture notes, 1893
- :39 \_\_\_\_\_
- :40 Photographs, St. Johnsbury Academy
- :41 \_\_\_\_\_, Dartmouth
- :42 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- :43 \_\_\_\_\_
- :44 Dartmouth calendar, 1899
- :45 Photograph
- :46 \_\_\_\_\_
- :47 Business card print and obituary clippings, 1907
- MSB 123:02 Photographs, Dartmouth
- :03 \_\_\_\_\_
- Size B Bellevue Hospital Medical School diploma, 1896
- Vermont Medical Society Certification, 1896
- Massachusetts certification to practice medicine, 1897

Harriet Baxter Ide (1872-1957) (wife of Henry)

- Doc 823:48 Letter, to Helen Gray, 1907
- :49 \_\_\_\_\_, to Katharine Ide Gray, 1902, 1938-51
- :50 Account written by granddaughter Mary Ide
- :51 Letters of reference, 1888-1924
- :52 Wellesley College record, 1916
- :53 Columbia University transcripts, 1916-1931
- :54 Wedding photograph, 1899
- :55 Responses to Wellesley College alumnae survey, 1935, 1951
- :56 Letter, about E.T. Ide's estate, 1924
- :57 \_\_\_\_\_, from Dr. Sparhawk, 1907
- :58 \_\_\_\_\_, photocopies
- :59 Photographs
- :60 Wellesley class of 1897 book, 1910
- :61 Photograph, on ship to Europe
- :62 Lyman Bridge Co. (N.H.) pass, 1907-1908

- :63 Photograph  
 MSB 123:04 Photograph, perhaps of Harriet Baxter Ide, Paris, 1904  
 Size B Wellesley College diploma, 1897  
 Columbia University diploma, two copies, 1927

Henry and Harriet Ide Combined Materials

- Doc 823:64 Correspondence and clippings, 1896-1976  
 :65 Wedding announcement, 1899  
 :66 Various documents  
 :67 Photographs, McIndoes, 1902-1907  
 MSB 123:01 \_\_\_\_\_

i. Robert Elmore Ide (1901-1965) (son of Henry and Harriet – I.c.i)

- Doc 823:68 Photograph with Paul Ide, 1910  
 :69 \_\_\_\_\_

ii. Paul Armington Ide (1902-1979) (son of Henry and Harriet – I.c.ii)

- :70 Armington family information  
 :71 Letter, Margaret Ide to Frances Ide (wife), 1943  
 :72 Letter, to mother Harriet from South America, 1922

D. Mary Ellen Ide Gates (1871-1963) (daughter of Elmore and Cynthia – I.d)

- Doc 824:01 “Letter from Japan” and wedding announcement, 1906  
 :02 Photographs  
 MSB 123:04 \_\_\_\_\_, by Bachrach, 1921  
 Doc 824:03 [number not used]  
 :04 [number not used]

E. Fanny Knights Ide Sprague (1876-1942) (daughter of Elmore and Cynthia – I.e)

- :05 Clippings and biographical notes, 1905, 1942, 1953  
 :06 Wedding invitations, wedding book, and marriage certificate, 1905  
 :07 Correspondence removed from wedding book, 1905  
 :08 *Phoebe A Souvenir of Brightlook Hospital*, 1903  
 :09 Letters from Shane Leslie and Albert Hagner, 1934, 1937  
 :10 Photographs, as a younger woman  
 :11 \_\_\_\_\_, as an older woman  
 :12 \_\_\_\_\_, with family and friends  
 :13 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
 :14 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
 :15 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
 :16 Photo album from Japan, 1905-1908

- :17 Photographs, Japan, 1905-1908
- MSB 123:05 Photographs
  - Wedding photograph, Fanny & baby, Fanny, Reginald N. Willcox to “Miss Fanny Ide”
- :06 Certificates, 1891, 1900

Oliver Mitchell Wentworth Sprague (1873-1953) (husband of Fanny)

- Doc 824:18 Correspondence, 1930-1931
- :19 \_\_\_\_\_, 1933
- :20 Letter to Katherine Ide Gray, 1945
- :21 “Relations Between Labor and Capital, and Reconstruction,” 1918
- :22 “How Germany Can Pay Most,” 1921
- :23 Photographs, as a younger man
- :24 \_\_\_\_\_, as an older man
- MSB 123:05 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- Doc 824:25 Published portraits
- :26 Federal reserve papers
- MSB 123:07 Publications, 1943
- Size B Two Harvard diplomas

i. Katharine Ide Sprague (1906-1990) (daughter of Fanny and Oliver – I.e.i)

- Doc 824:27 Obituary and notes, 1990
- :28 Passport, 1930
- :29 Letter from Theodore, 1945
- :30 Photographs, as an infant and young girl
- :31 \_\_\_\_\_, as a girl
- :32 \_\_\_\_\_, with Theodore
- MSB 123:04 \_\_\_\_\_, by Ursula Hartleben, Berlin

ii. Theodore “Peter” Wentworth Sprague (1911-2000) (son of Fanny and Oliver – I.e.ii)

- Doc 824:33 Obituary and notes, 2000
- :34 Letters, from his father, 1930-1934
- :35 \_\_\_\_\_, from Katharine
- :36 \_\_\_\_\_, from his mother from England, 1931
- :37 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- :38 \_\_\_\_\_, from his mother
- :39 Correspondence, 1926-1929
- :40 \_\_\_\_\_, 1930-1931
- :41 \_\_\_\_\_, 1932-1933
- :42 \_\_\_\_\_, 1934-1935
- :43 \_\_\_\_\_, 1953
- :44 \_\_\_\_\_, fragments
- :45 Belmont Hill School blue books from II and III form, 1925-1926

- :46 Belmont Hill School exams and typed notes, 1926-1929
- :47 Belmont Hill School papers, 1926-1929
- :48 \_\_\_\_\_
- :49 \_\_\_\_\_
- :50 \_\_\_\_\_
- :51 \_\_\_\_\_
- :52 \_\_\_\_\_
- :53 \_\_\_\_\_
- :54 \_\_\_\_\_
- :55 \_\_\_\_\_
- :56 Belmont Hill School brochure, play program, and Groton debate, 1929
- :57 Notebook tracking literary magazines from other prep schools via exchange, 1929
- :58 College entrance exam record, 1928, 1929
- :59 Invoices and printed materials from Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 1930-1933
- :60 Harvard course descriptions, 1934-1935
- :61 Receipts, checks, Atkins library card, 1933-1934
- :62 Photographs
- :63 Sprague family education profiles

F. William Adams Ide (1881-1957) (son of Elmore and Cynthia – I.f)

- :64 Clippings and telegram about marriage to Harriet Rouse
- :65 “Recollections,” 1951; includes history of “The Mill” (2 copies)
- :66 Photograph, at St. Johnsbury Academy, 1901
- :67 \_\_\_\_\_, in uniform
- :68 [number not used]

i. Richard Elmore Ide (1913-1979) (son of William – I.f.i)

- :69 Graduation invitation, St. Johnsbury Academy, 1931

**IV. Horace Knights Ide (1842-1897) (son of Jacob and Lodoska – II)**

- :70 Civil War letters, photocopies and transcriptions, 1862

**V. Henry Clay Ide (1844-1921) (son of Jacob and Lodoska – III)**

- :71 Biographies and clippings
- :72 Correspondence about him, 1921-1935
- :73 *Dictionary of American Biography*, biography
- :74 Letter to E.T. Ide, 1897 (typescript only)

A. Adelaide Melcher Ide (1872-1898) (daughter of Henry – III.a)

- :75 Photograph, 1896
- :76 Obituary, 1898

B. Anne Ide Cockran (1876-1945) (daughter of Henry – III.c)

- :77 Clippings about Robert Louis Stevenson, 1982, 2001
- :78 Photographs, 1896
- MSB 123:04 \_\_\_\_\_, William Bourke Cockran\  
Doc 824:79 Obituary, 1945

C. (Mary) Marjorie Ide Leslie (1880-1951) (daughter of Henry – III.d)

- :80 Clippings about wedding to Shane Leslie and their descendants
- :81 Photograph/drawing of children Anita, Jack, and Desmond Leslie

i. Desmond Leslie (1921-2001) (son of Marjorie – III.d.iii)

- :82 *Desmond Leslie (1921-2001): The Biography of an Irish Gentleman* by Robert O'Byrne, 2010

**VI. Miscellaneous**

- :83 Two unidentified daguerreotypes
- MSB 123:08 Misc. printed materials
- :09 \_\_\_\_\_
- :10 Misc. drawings (not by Fanny Ide)

**VII. E.T. and H.K. Ide Company**

- Doc 825 Closed until 2051.

Gretchen Mills and Paul Carnahan  
October 2021  
IdeFamily.docx