Introduction

The collection includes the papers of four generations of the Huse family of Montpelier and families related by marriage. The papers comprise correspondence (letters, post-cards and telegrams), diaries, legal papers, genealogy notes and correspondence, account books, school and college memorabilia, bills and receipts, photographs, stereopticon views, and architectural house plans. The papers are housed in 11 document boxes, two MSA boxes, and seven oversized folders; it consumes 12 linear feet of shelf space. They were a gift of Rachel England Castle, of Montpelier, great-great-granddaughter of Hiram A. Huse. A few of Hiram A. Huse’s legal papers, Worcester land case, etc. (Doc 559:29-31) were purchased at a later date. (mss. acc. No. 2006.2)

Biographical Notes

Hiram Sylvester Huse

Hiram Sylvester Huse, son of Joseph and Rosannah (Tucker) Huse, was born in Enfield, New Hampshire on October 26, 1806. His grandfather, James Huse (1744-1829), was a descendant of Abel Huse who came from England to Newbury, Mass. James settled in Enfield where his grandson, Hiram S., was born.

Huse went to Randolph in 1817 and became an apprentice in Laban Blodgett’s shoe-shop. After learning his trade he worked as a journeyman in New York and Massachusetts.

On February 26, 1835, he married Emily Morgan Blodgett, daughter of Alfred and Lucretia (Morgan) Blodgett of Randolph. They had four children, all born in Randolph: Lucretia Morgan, born March 25, 1836, died April 4, 1836; Thomas Rea, born September 4, 1837, died August 20, 1838; a son born May 15, 1838, died May 15, 1838; and Hiram Augustus, born January 17, 1843, died 1902.

Huse worked at his trade in Vermont and Massachusetts after his marriage, and carried on the shoe business for a time in Northfield and Randolph until 1844, when he went to Wisconsin, sending for his family the fall of the next year. From 1845 to 1855 he was a farmer in Lebanon, Wis. In 1855 he moved to Watertown, Wis., and remained there until 1857, when he went to Hustisford, Wis., which he made his home for twelve years. During Lincoln’s administration he was postmaster at Hustisford.

In 1869 he returned to Randolph, where he lived for twenty years, working at his trade until 1889. He and his wife lived with his son Hiram A. in Montpelier, where she died in 1890 and he died in 1895. The biographies of H. S. and H. A. Huse were adapted
Hiram Augustus Huse

Hiram Augustus Huse, son of Hiram Sylvester and Emily Morgan (Blodgett) Huse, was born at Randolph, Jan. 17, 1843.

His parents moved to Wisconsin in 1845 where he lived until 1868. He went to school at Willard Seminary in Watertown, Wis., and at Dixon, Ill., and taught district school several terms. In 1860 he went to Randolph where he studied at the Orange County grammar school, taught district school again, and in 1871-72 was Edward Conant’s assistant in the State Normal School in Randolph Center.

He entered Dartmouth College in 1861 and enlisted on August 19, 1862, at Randolph and served as a private in Co. F, 12th Vt. Vols., until the regiment was mustered out July 14, 1863. He graduated from Dartmouth in 1865, and from Albany Law School in 1867, and he was admitted to the New York bar in Albany. After a year in Wisconsin, he moved to Vermont, where he was admitted to the Vermont bar in 1869.

He moved to Montpelier in 1872, beginning the practice of law, and for ten years served as editorial writer on the Green Mountain Freeman. He was State Librarian from 1873 until his death and Vermont Historical Society Librarian from 1873-74 and 1881-90. He represented Montpelier in the Legislature of 1878 and was elected State’s Attorney in 1882.

In 1883 Huse formed a law partnership with Clarence H. Pitkin under the firm name of Pitkin & Huse, which continued seven years. At the close of William P. Dillingham’s term as Governor in October, 1890, the partnership of Dillingham & Huse was formed, and by the admission of Fred A. Howland in 1892, the firm became Dillingham, Huse & Howland.


Although her given name was Harriet, Olivia Woodbury Huse always used her middle name. Woodbury family members who are included in the papers are: Olivia’s father, Melzar, and his brother Lyman G., who died in the Civil War; her brother Frank; and her step-sister Fida, who married Dr. George E. May.

Smith family members include: Olivia’s mother, Eunice Smith Woodbury, and her grandfather, Lemuel Smith.
Hiram A. and Olivia Huse’s two children Ray Woodbury (b. Aug. 22 1875) and Harriet (b. June 5, 1873) were born in Montpelier. Ray graduated from the University of Vermont in 1899 and was employed in the Actuarial Department of the National Life Insurance Company from 1900 until his retirement in 1947. He married Ruth Swasey Brooks on October 7, 1911 in Montpelier, Vermont and they had no children. Ray W. Huse died on January 21, 1959 in Neptune Beach, Florida.

Individuals from Ruth Swasey Brooks' family represented in the collection are her parents, John Vail Brooks (1849-1923) and Mary Blanche Swasey Brooks (1851-1933); her grandparents Nathaniel M. Swasey (1815-1893) and Mary Angier Swasey (1817-1897); Joel N. Angier (1822-1891), Nathaniel Swasey's brother-in-law, and her grandfather, Joshua Youngs Vail (1784-1854), as well as other Vail family members.

Harriet Huse married Carlos C. Bancroft (June 19, 1899). They had three children, Rachel (Sept 1, 1901-Dec. 1993), Margaret (b. July 16, 1903) and Carlos C. who was born May 8, 1906 soon after his father’s death in April of that year.

Carlos the elder’s father, Arthur, and Frederick W. Bancroft were brothers. Frederick was a musician who lived his later years in Boston.


Family Names and Places

The Huses are associated with several Vermont towns as well as Canaan and Enfield, N.H. Hiram S. Huse and his wife, Emily Blodgett lived in Randolph, Vt., and Hustisford, Wis. Hiram A. Huse and his wife Olivia Woodbury and their progeny are associated with Montpelier.

Vermont families related to the Huses by marriages are: Blodgett, Smith and Woodbury (Randolph); and Vail, Brooks and Bancroft (Montpelier). New Hampshire families include the Angiers and Swaseys of North Haverhill.

Scope and Content

The papers of four generations of the Huse family and families related by marriage include: correspondence (letters, postcards, telegrams), diaries, legal papers, genealogy notes and correspondence, account books, school and college memorabilia, bills and receipts, photographs, stereopticon views, and architectural house plans.

Although the collection spans the period from the early nineteenth century until the 1920s, the focus of the collection is Hiram A. Huse (1843-1902) of Montpelier, who had a distinguished career as an attorney, served thirty years as Vermont State Librarian, and was elected to a term in the legislature. His papers consist largely of letters to his family from 1860 to his death.
The papers of the spouse and his/her family in each Huse generation are included with the appropriate generation. Among the oldest papers in the collection are those of Lemuel Smith of Randolph, who was related to Hiram A. Huse by his marriage to Olivia Woodbury. The family papers of Ray Huse’s wife Ruth Brooks, encompass several generations. They include the letters of her parents, John Vail and Blanche Swasey Brooks, as well as letters and papers from her grandfather Nathaniel Swasey, and the Angier Family.

The Huse family and their relatives were prolific letter writers and letter savers. In addition to the family letters there are several groups of Civil War letters; for their location and description, see Addendum No. 1 following the inventory. Other letters of special interest include Joel N. Angier’s letters to his family in North Haverhill, New Hampshire from California (Doc 564: 37-38). Written between 1849 and 1852, Angier describes his journey west and his success in the gold fields.

Series I. Genealogy

Both Hiram A. Huse and John Vail Brooks, whose daughter Ruth married Ray Huse, shared an interest in genealogy. Huse researched his mother’s families, the Blodgetts and Morgans, by correspondence and made extensive notes. Brooks carried on a lively correspondence concerning the Brooks, Vail, Tuthill and Swasey families during the 1890s.

In addition, background family information used in preparing the collection is included Folders 0-0.5. These folders include photocopies from genealogies, the census, town histories, and biographical dictionaries.

Series II and III. First and Second Generations

An 1816 deed of land in Canaan, N.H., to John Huse witnessed by James and William Huse is one of the oldest documents in the collection. It is the sole document from the first generation of the Huse family.

Hiram S. Huse’s letters to his son begin in 1860 and continue with increasing frequency after he returned to Randolph and Hiram A. was established in Montpelier. Emily Huse wrote frequently to her family in New Hampshire and Vermont during the 1850s and 1860s from Wisconsin. Only one letter is extant that she sent to her son (Feb. 17, 1863) during his Civil War service. She advised him to “drink tea” as she had “doubts about the whiskey ration going down.” In a letter in the summer of 1863 to her husband in Wisconsin she informed him that their son had decided to return to Dartmouth. In her later letters from Randolph to H.A. Huse and his family, Emily signs herself “Grandma Huse.”

Series IV. Third Generation
The focus of the Huse Family Papers is Hiram A. Huse and his wife, Olivia Woodbury. These papers largely consist of letters that H.A. Huse wrote to his family from 1854 until his death in 1902. Huse’s professional papers are incomplete and provide only a brief glimpse into some of his professional activities: practicing attorney, State Librarian, Vermont Historical Society librarian, and legislator.

A. H.A. Huse — Letters

H. A. Huse began the habit of penning careful literate letters to his family at an early age. During the school year 1857-58, Huse lived with his father and attended school in Dixon, Illinois. His mother in Hustisford, Wisconsin, received frequent newsy letters from her young son. After Huse and his mother moved to Randolph, Vt., in 1860, he wrote to his father in Hustisford. In 1861 when Huse entered Dartmouth, he wrote to both parents about college life and his decision to enlist in 1862. (A description of his Civil War letters is included in the Addenda following the inventory.) He continued writing from Dartmouth until his graduation in 1865.

Huse continued to write frequent letters to his parents as his professional career developed and after he became established in Montpelier. When the Huses’ children, Harriet and Ray, went to camp, attended private school or went to college, their father communicated regularly with them. Although he often used black ink on his law firm’s letterhead stationary, the formal appearance of these letters belied his affectionate tone and their informal content.

Olivia Woodbury and Hiram A. Huse enjoyed a long friendship before they married in 1872. Olivia Huse’s 1860 Catalogue of the Orange County Grammar School (Randolph Center, Vt.) lists them both as students. In his earliest letter to her in 1863 Huse indicated he had encouragement to write, and by 1869 their courtship was in full flower. After they married and lived in Montpelier, he wrote to her frequently when she visited her parents in Randolph, or when he was away on infrequent business trips.

H. A. Huse — Miscellaneous letters

This series includes, for the most part, letters that represent aspects of his professional life: State Librarian and librarian of the Vermont Historical Society. Many of these letters are requests for state publications or replies to publishers. The 1885 proposed addition to the State House for the State Library and Supreme Court generated both the architect’s specifications as well as correspondence about the project.

Several groups of personal letters from individuals are included in this series as well. Huse saved a series of witty, light-hearted letters from Hugh Henry McIntyre (b. 1844), a distant cousin from Randolph. These letters span the period when both young men were finishing their education and embarking on their careers. Josephine A. Hustis, a Wisconsin cousin of Hiram S. Huse, began her correspondence with Hiram A. when his father died in 1895. Her frequent letters from Milwaukee continue until Hiram A.’s death in 1902.
H. A. Huse — Legal Papers

In addition to legal cases and writs during the period Huse was a practicing attorney in Montpelier, the collection also includes the “Daniel Baldwin Railroad Papers.” Baldwin of Montpelier, President of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, was a director of the Vermont Central Railroad in the 1840s during a controversy over the proposed location of a new railroad line from White River Junction to Burlington. In spite of opposition (Baldwin included), ex-Governor Charles Paine’s plan to route the railroad through his hometown of Northfield prevailed. The papers include letters from Paine as well as those of other players in the controversy. It is unclear how the Baldwin papers came into H.A. Huse’s possession.

H. A. Huse — Montpelier, Vt., and death

The Huses lived in Montpelier during their married life. Their letters and his miscellaneous papers are a source of Montpelier history at the end of the nineteenth century. H.A. Huse’s professional papers are incomplete; there are only scattered records from his law practice and from his position as State Librarian and from his association with the Vermont Historical Society.

A group of papers collected by his widow following H.A. Huse’s death in 1902 includes his funeral arrangements and obituary; an auction catalogue for his private library; and considerable correspondence concerning his bronze bust sculpted in 1904.

B. Olivia Woodbury Huse

This series consists largely of her letters from Randolph, Vt., to Hiram A. both before and after their marriage in 1872 and to her children whenever they were away from Montpelier. Her earliest letter, December 21, 1862, was written to Hiram when he was stationed in Washington, D.C., during the Civil War while she was in school in Randolph. Their relationship flourished and by 1869 they were engaged; Hiram’s letters to Olivia during this period are located in Doc. 558:5.

Olivia wrote frequent letters to both her daughter, Harriet, and her son, Ray, when they were away at school and/or college and after their marriages. Her letters are newsy but affectionate.

1. Smith Family

Eunice Harriet Smith daughter of Lemuel (Dec. 13, 1769 - July 5, 1854) and Eunice Orcott Smith (Feb. 12, 1776 - Aug. 17, 1824) married Melzar Woodbury. Eunice and Melzar’s daughter, Olivia, married Hiram A. Huse.

Papers relating to the Smith family include miscellaneous letters (1880s) from Smith cousins of Hiram A. Huse, an 1863 letter to Clara Smith describing the death of
her brother (see addendum Civil War letters) and the “Lemuel Smith Papers.” The latter, an aggregate of miscellaneous legal documents in which both Lemuel Smith (ca 1780 - 1850) and Melzar Woodbury figure prominently, relates largely to Randolph, Vt. from 1815 - 1845.

2. Woodbury Family

Melzar and Eunice Smith Woodbury had three surviving children: Dudley Chase, Olivia, who married Hiram A. Huse, and Frank S.(1858-1877). From his third marriage, to Aseneth Smith, he had three step-daughters; Mary Jane Smith, Sarah E. Smith, and Fida H. (also known as Sophia) Smith (b. 1861), who married George May. Melzar farmed in Randolph and raised hops among other enterprises. Olivia Huse alludes to “hoppicking” in an undated letter to Hiram (561:42) and among Melzar’s papers there is a December 8, 1882 receipt from a New York agent for the sale of five bales of hops. An undated stereopticon view of Melzar’s hops field is in VHS stereopticon collection S-Ag, Crops. Further information on Vermont hops raising and photocopies of the above are in Folder 0.5.

Only a few letters that Melzar and Eunice wrote to their children between 1880 and 1902 are extant. Letters to Melzar include several Civil War letters from Eliston Waterman and Lyman Woodbury, Melzar’s brother; these are described in the Addendum, Civil War letters.

Frank Woodbury’s letters to his sister Olivia begin after her marriage to H. A. Huse when he was living with his parents in Randolph. In 1882 he moved to National City, California where he worked in a nursery “budding, grafting and planting orange trees.” By 1905, he was a clerk for the Santa Fe Railroad and wrote of the disastrous impact of a five-year drought on the region.

Most of Fida Smith’s letters were written to her mother, Asenath Smith Woodbury, in Randolph when she was teaching school in Massachusetts between 1885 and 1890. In 1891 she married Dr. George May. They settled in Newton Center, Mass., where both Ray and Harriet Huse spent time with them.

V. Fourth Generation

A. Ray Woodbury Huse

Most of Ray W. Huse’s letters were written to his family between 1894 and his graduation from the University of Vermont in 1899. He spent a school year in Newton Center, Massachusetts, with his aunt and uncle (the George Mays) where he continued his music studies. In frequent letters from University of Vermont after his September 1895 matriculation and throughout his college years, Ray wrote to his parents and sister Harriet about his busy social life that included Sigma Phi fraternity and his occasional academic difficulties.
1. Ruth Brooks Huse — Brooks, Swasey, Angier Families

Evidence suggests that Ruth Brooks Huse (1883-1974), wife of Ray W. Huse, became the repository for several generations of her family letters. Although few of her own letters survive, there are many letters in the collection from Ruth's parents, John Vail Brooks (1849-1923) and Mary Blanche Swasey Brooks (1851-1933); her grand-parents Nathaniel Swasey (1815-1893) and Mary Angier Swasey (1817-1897); her great-uncle, Joel Needham Angier (1822-1891); and her grandfather, Joshua Youngs Vail (1784-1854).

John Vail Brooks wrote frequent letters from Montpelier, where he was in the hardware business, to Blanche Swasey in North Haverhill, N.H., both before and after their marriage. Their letters reveal how difficult separation was for the couple: immediately preceding their marriage in 1877, as well as in later years when she visited in North Haverhill either because her parents were ill or because of her own health. There are several folders of Brooks’ letters to Blanche in the spring of 1907 when she was confined to the Lake View Sanitarium in Burlington with tuberculosis.

Mary Angier Swasey’s frequent letters from 1879 to 1883 to her married daughter (Blanche) in Montpelier are gossipy and affectionate. In contrast, few of her husband’s personal letters are extant. Nathaniel Swasey saved miscellaneous letters connected with his business and professional concerns in North Haverhill; he was an agent for the Farmers and Mechanics Co. in the 1840s and by 1859 he became postmaster. Several letters he received from two New Hampshire soldiers who served in the Civil War are described in the addendum of Civil War letters.

In 1849 and 1850, Joel M. Angier, who married Nathaniel Swasey’s sister Sarah, wrote a series of letters to the Swaseys describing his journey to the California gold fields by the Isthmus of Panama and his success on arrival. His letters are long, detailed and literate. A copy of an annotated chronological inventory of the letters by Kevin Graffagnino is included with these letters and also is in Folder 0.

Mary Angier Swasey’s brothers J. Dorsey and George W. Angier, as well as Joel D. Angier, were pioneers in the petroleum industry. A few letters from Angier family members to Nathaniel Swasey from Titusville, Pennsylvania during the 1860s are included in the collection.

Additional Brooks family members whose letters are in the collection are Ruth Brooks Huse’s siblings, Edith and John Louis Brooks (b. 1879). Most of the letters in this generation were written by J. Louis Brooks to his family in Montpelier while he attended Amherst College between 1898 and 1901.

John Vail Brooks, father of Ruth, Edith, and J. Louis Brooks, was the son of Mary Elizabeth Vail (1817-1867) and Nathaniel Prentiss Brooks (1813-1884). Mary Elizabeth was the daughter of Joshua Youngs Vail (1784-1854) and Mary Maria Tuthill (1787-1876).
Vail family members whose letters are in the collection include Joshua Youngs Vail and his sons Oscar and Jackson. Vail family letters are sparse and scattered. Joshua Y. Vail’s 1807 love letter to Mary Tuthill is among the oldest letters in the Huse family papers.

Mary Maria Tuthill Vail’s brother, Abraham G. Tuthill (1776-1843), was a successful portrait painter. In an 1825 letter from Fredonia, NY to Mary Maria Vail, Elizabeth, wife of the painter, writes that “AGT…has just finished a picture of children…and says it surpasses any work he ever painted.” Tuthill, then in Detroit, planned to meet his wife in Cleveland. A list of Tuthill’s paintings is in folder 0.3.

B. Harriet Huse Bancroft

The letters of Hiram A. and Olivia Huse’s daughter Harriet are divided into four sections: her letters to her family between 1892 and 1910; letters of condolence she received after the death of her father in 1902; letters of condolence after the death of her husband, Carlos Bancroft in 1906; and, letters she received when she was confined with a prolonged illness in 1907.

Harriet’s letters date the times she was away from her family: as a student at Ashley Hall in Montvale, Mass., and later as a guest in the home of her aunt and uncle, George and Frida Mays, in Newton Center, Mass. During the time her brother Ray was a student at the University of Vermont she wrote him frequent gossipy letters from Montpelier. Following her marriage in 1899, her letters to her family date only from the infrequent periods when one or the other was away from Montpelier.

In the spring and summer of 1907 Harriet was hospitalized in Montpelier’s Heaton Hospital. During this period, Carlos’ uncle, Frederick W. Bancroft, wrote to her almost daily from his home in Boston.

1. Carlos C. Bancroft and other Bancroft family members

Bancroft family papers are few and miscellaneous. Carlos Bancroft, husband of Harriet Huse, was the postmaster in Montpelier at the time of his death in 1906. Although he left two diaries, the entries are short or non-existent with the exception of the entry for his wedding in June 1899 and the couple’s subsequent trip to Montreal.

Frederick W. Bancroft wrote a number of affectionate letters to his nephew, Carlos, between 1884-1900 and a series of letters from Montpelier between January and April 1881 to his brother Arthur, in Merrillville, N.Y. He assured Arthur that his family in Montpelier was being well looked after. (Arthur died at age 37 from “consumption”; he being treated for this illness at the Leon Lake House in Merrillville, New York at this time).

VI. Photographs
Many of the photographs in the collection are unidentified. There are, however, a number of photographs of Hiram A. Huse, as well as photographs of his children, Ray and Harriet, and Vail, Brooks, and Bancroft family members.

Photographs of individuals mentioned in the collection and their location:

- Hiram S. Huse—photocopy Doc: 566:0
- Hiram A. Huse—Doc 566:1, Size D F- PO-Huse
- Ray and Harriet Huse—Doc 566:2
- Harriet Huse and Carlos Bancroft (ca. 1890)—photocopy Doc 556:0.2
- John Vail Brooks and Blanche Swasey Brooks—Doc 566:3
- Carlos Bancroft (ca 1872)—Doc 566:3; (ca. 1880 and 1905)—photocopies Doc 556:0.2
- Frederick W. Bancroft (ca. 1876 and 1879)—photocopies Doc 556:0.2, Tintype F.P Bancroft
- Mary Elizabeth Vail and Anna M. Vail (ca. 1840) and photocopy of Tuthill portraits—Doc 556:0.3
- Hugh Henry McIntyre, friend of H. A. Huse (ca. 1870)—photocopy Doc: 0.1

VII. Miscellaneous

The Civil War correspondence of Thomas Rea from Malone, New York, 98th Regiment, Co. C, New York Volunteers, with Albert Broughton and W. A. Wheeler from April 1862 to August 1864, located in Doc 566:16-18. In his lengthy, literate letters Rea is often philosophical and descriptive in his discussion of slavery, politics, and the geographical characteristics of Virginia. In the last letter, August 1, 1864, during the siege of Petersburg, he writes of low troop morale. In a January 1864 letter to his father Hiram A. Huse refers to “Uncle Thomas (Rea) in Norfolk, Virginia.” These are the only letters in the Huse papers from this branch of the family. Inventory of letters:

- 1 letter, W. A. Wheeler, Malone, Nov. 7, 1863, to Thos. Rea
- 6 letters, Albert Broughton to Rea, Oct. 24, 1862 – Aug. 2, 1864
- 1 letter, W. A. Wheeler to Rea, Nov. 7, 1863
- 21 letters, Rea to Broughton, Feb. 7, 1862 – Aug. 1, 1864
- 3 incomplete letters, Broughton to Rea
- 1 incomplete letter, Rea to Broughton

Also in this series are three unidentified diaries. The writer mentions farm work and central Vermont communities, suggesting that these diaries came from a central Vermont farm(s). The author of the three diaries, 1839-40, 1841, and 1863 may not be the same. Reference to “Frank” and “hop roots” suggests that the 1863 diary may have been kept by a member of the Woodbury family in Randolph.

The oldest item in the collection is an index to an account book, inscribed “Gad Corse, his alphabet, Northfield, January 3, 1772. This may have belonged to Gad Corse.
(1750-1813) who lived in Northfield, Mass. How it came to be with the Huse family papers is not known.

The papers include architectural house plans and drawings that are associated with these family members. A plan of the south elevation and a detail of the living room’s bay window for a house at 1 Hopkins Street in Montpelier are in Ms Size A. Boston architect Royal Barry Wills’ 1939 and 1940 drawings and house plans, and a 1945 house plan for Heber G. England are located in Ms Size A.

Related Collections

- Four photographs have been moved to special locations within the VHS picture collection:
  - Size D F-PO-Huse H.A. Huse, Harley Fiske and Senator Dillingham 1901
  - Size C F-NA-Personnel National Life group, ca. 1900 (C.C. Bancroft?)
  - Size C F-PO-Montpelier Post office, ca. 1900
  - Tintype F-PO Fred W. Bancroft

- An additional photograph of Hiram Huse is in the VHS picture file at F-PO-Huse.

- A bust of Hiram A. Huse, sculpted by Charles A. Lopez in 1904, is in the Vermont Department of Libraries at 109 State Street, Montpelier. A photograph of the bust is in the VHS photograph collection, F-PO Huse. A photocopy is in Folder 0 of this collection; inscription correspondence is in Doc 561:1-2.


- Tuthill works in Vermont Historical Society Museum
  1. A cherub painting attributed to Tuthill was a gift by the donor of the Huse Family Papers.
  2. Two portraits, 1815: General and Mrs. Ezekiel Walton

- For works about Frederick W. Bancroft, Hiram A. Huse, and Joshua Y. Vail, see the Vermont Historical Society Library main catalog; see the Brigham Manuscript Index for Hiram A. Huse and Joshua Y. Vail.

Organization

I. Genealogy
II. First generation
   A. John (1773-1851), James (1769-1834), and William (1775-1821) Huse (uncles to Hiram Sylvester Huse)
III. Second generation
   A. Hiram Sylvester Huse (1806-1895)
      1. Emily Morgan Blodgett Huse (1811-1890) (wife of Hiram S.)
IV. Third generation and families related to this generation by marriage
   A. Hiram Augustus Huse (1843-1902)
      1. (Harriet) Olivia W. Huse (1844-1913) (wife of Hiram A.)
a. Smith Family (Randolph, Vt.)
b. Woodbury Family (Melzar (1814-1907), Frank S. (1858-1877), and Fida (b. 1861) (Randolph, Vt.)

V. Fourth Generation of the Huse family and families related to this generation by marriage

A. Ray Huse (1875-1959)
      a. John Vail Brooks (1849-1923)
      b. (Mary) Blanche Swasey Brooks (1851-1933) (wife of John Brooks)
      c. Nathaniel Merrill Swasey (1815-1893)
      d. Mary Angier Swasey (1817-1897) (wife of Nathaniel Swasey)
      e. Joel N. Angier (1822-1891) (brother of Mary Angier)
      f. Other family members related to Ruth Brooks Huse

B. Harriet Huse Bancroft (1873-1953)
   1. Carlos C. Bancroft (1871-1906) (husband of Harriet)
      a. Carlos Camp Bancroft (1906-1977)
      b. Other Bancroft family members

VI. Photographs

VII. Miscellaneous

The collection is organized in seven series, five sub-series and several sub-sub series. Four of the seven series represent a generation of the Huse family. The five sub series represent each direct descendent of the Huse family. Several sub-sub series represent the spouse and his/her family; these are arranged chronologically with the oldest member of that family listed first.

Inventory

I. Genealogy

Doc 556:1 Blodgett family, Hiram A. Huse notes and correspondence, 1890s
2 Brooks and Vail families, John Vail Brooks, notes 1890s
3 Brooks, Vail and Tuthill families, John Vail Brooks correspondence, 1896
4 _____, _____, 1897
5 _____, _____, 1898
6 _____, _____, 1899-1902
7 England, Huse, Smith, Swasey families, miscellaneous, 1890s

II. First generation

Doc 556:8 John Huse deed, witnessed by James and William Huse, 1816

III. Second generation

A. Hiram Sylvester Huse (1806-1895)

Doc 556: 9 Letters, to his son, 1860-1885
10 _____, _____, 1887-1894
11 Receipt for leather (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), 1860

Vermont Historical Society • Barre 05641-4209
1. Emily Morgan Blodgett Huse (1811-1890)
   12 Letters, to family, 1850-1890
   13 _____, fragments/undated and envelopes

IV. Third generation and families related to this generation by marriage
   A. Hiram Augustus Huse (1843-1902)

Doc 556: 14 Diaries, 1864, 1865 (some entries for 1869)
   15 _____, 1896
   16 Letters, to his family, 1854-1857
   17 _____, 1858
   18 _____, 1860-Aug. 1861
   19 _____, Sept.-Oct. 1861
   20 _____, Nov.-Dec. 1861
   21 _____, Jan.-April 1862
   21A _____, June 1862
   22 _____, Aug. 1862
   23 _____, Sept. 1862
   24 _____, Oct. 1862
   25 _____, Nov. 1862
   26 _____, Dec. 1862-Jan. 1863
   27 _____, Feb. 1863
   28 _____, March 1863
   29 _____, April-May 1863

Doc 557: 1 Mementos enclosed with letters, 1862-1863
   2 Letters, to his family (except Olivia), July-Aug. 1863
   3 _____, Oct.-Nov. 1863
   5 _____, Feb.-June 1864
   6 _____, July-Sept. 1864
   7 _____, Feb.-April 1865
   8 _____, June-Aug. 1865
   9 _____, Sept.-Nov. 1865
   10 _____, Sept.-Dec. 1866
   11 _____, Jan.-Feb. 1867
   12 _____, Mar.-May 1867
   13 _____, 1868-1869
   14 _____, 1870-1878
   15 _____, 1879-1886
   16 _____, 1888-1891
   17 _____, Feb.-July 1892
   18 _____, Sept.-Dec. 1892
   19 _____, Jan.-Feb. 1893
   20 _____, Mar.-Apr 1893
   21 _____, May-Sept. 1893
   22 _____, 1894
23 _____, Jan-Feb. 1895
24 _____, April-May 1895
25 _____, June 1895
26 _____, Sept.-Oct. 1895
27 _____, Nov.-Dec. 1895
28 _____, Feb.-March 1896
29 _____, April-May 1896

Doc 558:1 _____, June-Sept. 1896

2 _____, 1897
3 _____, 1898-1899
4 _____, 1900

4A ______, fragments and undated

5 Letters, to (Harriet) Olivia Woodbury Huse, 1863-1871
6 _____, May-July 1872
7 _____, Aug.-Nov. 1872
8 _____, Feb.-Mar. 1873
9 _____, April-Aug. 1873
10 _____, Sept.-Nov. 1873
11 _____, 1874-1876
12 _____, 1877-1880
13 _____, 1881
14 _____, 1882-1892
15 _____, Jan.-Mar. 1895
16 _____, April-Oct. 1895
17 _____, 1897-1899
18 _____, 1900-1901
19 _____, undated
20 _________

21 Postcards, to Olivia Huse, undated

22 Letters, from miscellaneous, 1866-1879
23 _____, from Gilman Tucker, Boston book agent, 1870
24 _____, from miscellaneous, 1873-1876
25 _____, 1877-1879
26 _____, 1880
27 _____, 1881-1882
28 _____, 1883-1884
29 _____, Jan.-April 1885
30 _____, May-July 1885
31 _____, Aug.-Dec. 1885

Doc 559:1 _____, Jan.-April 1886
2 _____, May-Dec. 1886
3 _____, 1887-1889
4 _____, 1890
5 _____, 1892
6 _____, 1893-1894
7 _____, Reunion of 12th Vt. Regiment, of acceptance, 1894
8 _____, of refusal, 1894
9 _____, _____
10 _____, 1895-1899
11 _____, 1900
12 _____, 1901
13 _____, 1902
14 _____, from Hugh Henry McIntyre (b. 1844), 1866
15 _____, 1867
16 _____, 1868-1873
17 _____, from Josephine Hustis, 1895-1902
18 _____, undated
19 Legal, Daniel Baldwin railroad papers, 1844
20 _____, June 1845
21 _____, Dec. 1845
22 _____, 1846
23 _____, undated
24 _____, Articles of agreement, 1845
25 Legal, Bailey v. Woodbury, 1878
26 _____, George W. Brown’s estate, notes, 1873
27 _____, Compton v. Hall, 1879
28 _____, Gilman, Grannis and Farwell, papers, 1868
28.1 _____, Jackson v. Bassett, 1882
29 _____, Langdon v. Templeton (Worcester, Vt. Land), 1891(?)
30 _____, _____
31 _____, Worcester lots, 1800
32 _____, William H. Lord residence (Montpelier, Vt.) purchase and other papers, 1850-1882
33 _____, 1850-1860s
34 _____, water controversy, 1857
35 _____, Pitkin and Huse, accounts, 1889
36 _____, Francis B. Thurber, et. al. deposition, Jan. 7, 1875

Doc 560:1 _____, miscellaneous, 1838 and 1854
2 _____, 1850s-1860
3 _____, 1871-1875
4 _____, 1876
5 _____, 1877-1878
6 _____, 1879
7 _____, 1880-1900

MSA 429 _____, writs, nos. 4-282
MSA 430 _____, writs, nos. 283-551

Doc 560:8 Account book, 1900-1902
9 _____, miscellaneous notes, 1900-1902
10 Address book, undated
11 Advertisements, publishers, 1881-1892
12 _____, miscellaneous, 1880s-1890s
13 Author presentation copy of *Hamlet Revamped*, Charles C. Soule, 1880
14 Bills, Dartmouth College, 1862 and 1865
MS Size C Dartmouth College, *Aegis*, Sept. 1861, v. 4, no. 1, and Diploma, 1865
15 Bills and receipts, 1869-1894
16 _____, groceries, 1878-1893
17 Certificates of legal appointments, 1869-1900
MS Size C University of Albany, Dept. of Law, Diploma 1867 and State of Vt., testimonial for Civil War service, 1871
18 Dillingham, Huse and Howland, partnership and business cards, 1902
18.1 Dillingham, Paul, Eulogy, July 1891
19 Discharge, Vermont Volunteers, 1863
19.1 Grant Memorial Service, speech, Aug. 8, 1885
20 Insurance, fire and life, 1860s - 1970s
21 Invitations. 1890s
22 Memberships 1878-1892
MS Size D Miscellaneous professional diplomas, awards, etc.
23 “Brick Church” (Montpelier, Vermont) papers, 1856-1858
24 Montpelier, miscellaneous, 1826, 1880s
25 Newspapers clippings, 1873 and undated
26 Notebook, 1857
27 Notes on his mother’s illness, 1890 (?)
28 Papers relating to Ullery’s *Men of Vermont*, 1892-1894
29 School papers, drafts of letters, 1850s-1860s
30 _____, undated
31 Songs, poetry, etc., undated
32 Vermont Historical Society, bills, etc., 1873-1885
33 Vermont House election, 1878
34 Vermont State Normal School *Catalogue* (Randolph Center, Vt.), 1871-1872
35 Vermont State Library, invoices, 1873-1875
36 _____, _____, 1876-1886
36.1 _____, building specifications, 1885
36.2 _____, _____, receipts, correspondence, etc., 1885
37 _____, appropriation, 1898
38 _____, miscellaneous, undated
39 Death, funeral announcement, and address by W. P. Dillingham, 1902
40 _____, condolence letters, 1902-1904
Doc 561:1 Bust, correspondence, 1903
2 _____, _____, 1904 and 1913
3 Auction catalogue for his private library, 1908
4 Miscellaneous, Rep. W. W. Grout speeches (*Congressional Record*), 1883
5. _____, 1870s-1902
6. _____, fragments, undated
7. _____, envelopes, addressed to him, 1880s
8. _____, _____, addressed to other individuals, 1880-1900

(I. (Harriet) Olivia W. Huse (1844-1913)

9. Letters, 1862-1866
10. _____, 1869-1879
11. _____, 1880-1884
12. _____, 1885-1886
13. _____, 1890-1892
14. _____, 1893
15. _____, Jan.-April 1895
16. _____, May-Dec., 1895
17. _____, 1896
18. _____, 1898-1899
19. _____, 1900-1905
20. _____, undated
21. _____, to her parents, undated
22. _____, to her children, undated
23. _____, from miscellaneous, 1873-1907
24. _____, _____, 1908-1913
25. _____, _____, undated
26. Orange County Grammar School, Randolph, Vermont, Catalogues 1858-1859 and 1860
27. Envelopes, 1895 and others

(a. Smith Family (Randolph, Vt.)

27A “Lemuel Smith’s Papers,” Randolph, Vt., miscellaneous, 1815-1845
28. Letter to Clara E. Smith, (East Bethel, Vt.) re: death of her brother, Pvt. Lucius B. Smith, April 18, 1863
29. Miscellaneous letters, many to Hiram A. Huse, 1865 and 1882-1888

(b. Woodbury Family (Randolph, Vt.)

30. Melzar Woodbury, letters, 1875-1902
31. _____, _____, undated
32. _____, _____, from Pvt. Eliston (Elliston?) Waterman, Dec. 1862 and May 1864
33. _____, _____, from Pvt. Lyman G. Woodbury, May 1864
34. _____, letters from miscellaneous, 1866-1894
35. _____, account books, 1886-1892
36. _____, receipts and notebook, 1840s-1900
37. _____, legal, miscellaneous, 1842-1892
38. _____, settlement of debt with Hiram A. Huse, 1898
39 _____, Woodbury family baptism certificates and genealogy, 1856
40 _____, envelopes, 1905 and undated
41 _____, miscellaneous, 1883 and undated
42 Frank S. Woodbury, letters, 1873-1875
43 _____, _____, 1876-1878
44 _____, _____, 1879
45 _____, _____, 1881-1888
46 _____, _____, 1900-1905
47 _____, _____, undated
48 Fida Smith, letters, 1882-1895
49 _____, _____, fragments and undated

V. Fourth Generation
A. Ray Huse (1875-1959)
Doc 562:1 Letters, 1884-1891
2 _____, July-Sept. 1892
3 _____, Oct.-Dec. 1892
4 _____, Jan.-Feb. 1893
5 _____, Mar.-April 1893
6 _____, Jan.-March 1895
7 _____, April 1895
8 _____, May 1895
9 _____, June 1895
10 _____, Sept.-Oct. 1895
11 _____, Nov.-Dec. 1895
12 _____, Jan-Feb. 1896
13 _____, March-April 1896
14 _____, May-June 1896
15 _____, Sept.-Dec. 1896
16 _____, Jan.-Feb. 1897
17 _____, March-April 1897
18 _____, May-July 1897
19 _____, Oct.-Nov. 1897
20 _____, Dec. 1897
21 _____, Jan. 1898
22 _____, Feb. 1898
23 _____, March 1898
24 _____, April-May 1898
25 _____, June 1898
26 _____, Aug.-Dec. 1898
27 _____, Jan.-April 1899
28 _____, May-Aug. 1899
29 _____, Sept. 1899
30 _____, Oct.-Dec. 1899
Doc 563:1 _____, 1900-1902
2 _____, 1909-1910
3 _____, undated
4 _____, from miscellaneous, 1881-1894
5 _____, _____, 1895
6 _____, _____, 1896-1921
7 _____, undated
8 University of Vermont, miscellaneous, 1890s
9 Invitations, programs, etc., 1892-1899

MS Folder D Howard Opera House, Burlington, Vt. Program, March 26, 1897
10 Receipts and account book, 1898 and 1930s
11 School papers, 1884 and undated
12 Envelopes, 1890s-1920s

1. Ruth Brooks Huse (1883-1974)
13 Letters, to her mother, March-May 1907
14 _____, _____, May-Aug. 1928
15 _____, from miscellaneous, 1905-1937
16 _____, _____, August 1908
17 _____, _____, _____
18 _____, _____, 1941-1957
19 Miscellaneous, 1930-1958

a. John Vail Brooks (1849-1923)
20 Letters, to Blanche Swasey, 1873-1874
21 _____, _____, 1876
22 _____, _____, Jan. 1877
23 _____, _____, Feb. 1877
24 _____, _____, March 1877
25 _____, _____, April 1877
26 _____, to Blanche Swasey Brooks, Mar.-April 1879
27 _____, _____, Oct. 1879
28 _____, _____, 1880
29 _____, _____, 1881
30 _____, _____, July-August 1882
31 _____, _____, Sept.-Nov. 1882
31A _____, _____, 1883
32 _____, _____, March-April 1907
33 _____, _____, May 1907
34 _____, _____, June-July 1907

Doc 564:1 Letters, to miscellaneous, 1881-1883, 1910
2 Receipts, 1869 and 1887
MS Size D Accounts, 1892-94
3 Miscellaneous, 1871 and undated

b. Blanche Swasey Brooks (1851-1933)
4 Letters, to John Vail Brooks, 1879
5 _____, _____, 1880
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<td>_____, from miscellaneous, 1882 and 1907</td>
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c. Nathaniel M. Swasey (1815-1893) |
|13 | Letters, to miscellaneous, 1855 and 1863 |
|14 | _____, from miscellaneous, 1842-1844 |
|15 | _____, _____, 1845-1848 |
|16 | _____, _____, 1851-1859 |
|17 | _____, _____, 1860-1869 |
|18 | Telegrams, 1863-1864 |
|20 | Miscellaneous bills and receipts, 1848-1865 |
|21 | Envelopes and undated letter |
|21A | Ezekiel B. Hibbard, legal papers, (Haverhill, N.H.), 1839-41 |

d. Mary Angier Swasey (1817-1897) |
|22 | Letters, to her husband, 1861-1864 and undated school paper |
|23 | Letters, to Blanche Brooks, 1879 |
|24 | _____, _____, 1880 |
|25 | _____, _____, Jan.-Oct. 1881 |
|26 | _____, _____, Nov.-Dec. 1881 |
|27 | _____, _____, Jan.-March 1882 |
|28 | _____, _____, April-June 1882 |
|29 | _____, _____, July-Dec. 1882 |
|30 | _____, _____, Jan.-March 1883 |
|31 | _____, _____, April 1883 |
|32 | _____, _____, May 1883 |
|33 | _____, _____, June-Sept. 1883 |
|34 | _____, from miscellaneous, 1847-1865 |

e. Joel N. Angier (1822-1891) |
|35 | Letters, to Mary Swasey, 1849 |
|36 | _____, _____, 1850-1852 |
|37 | Angier family letters to the Swasey family, 1858-1865 |

f. Other family members related to Ruth Brooks Huse |
|38 | J. Louis Brooks, (b. 1879) letters to family, 1882-1926 |
|39 | _____, _____, _____, undated |
|40 | _____, notebook, ca 1902 |
|41 | Edith Brooks, letters from miscellaneous, 1898-1900 |
42 Joshua Youngs and Mary Vail (1784-1854), miscellaneous, 1807-1839
43 Elizabeth Tuthill, letter to Mary Vail, 1825
44 Jackson Abraham Vail (1815-1871), letter from his sister Mary Vail Brooks, 1858
45 Oscar Tuthill Vail, contract, 1862

B. Harriet Huse Bancroft (1873-1953)
Doc 565:1 Letters, 1892-1893
2 _____, Jan.-April 1895
3 _____, May-Nov. 1895
4 _____, 1896
5 _____, 1897
6 _____, 1898-1913
7 Letters, from miscellaneous, 1881-1900
8 _____, _____, 1901-1902
9 _____, _____, 1903-1906
10 _____, condolence, April-May 1906
11 _____, _____, _____
12 _____, _____, _____
13 _____, _____, _____
14 Letters, from miscellaneous, May 1907
15 _____, _____, June 8-14, 1907
16 _____, _____, June 16-30, 1907
17 _____, _____, July 1-13, 1907
18 _____, _____, July 14-30, 1907
18A Postcards, _____, summer 1907
19 Letters, _____, Aug. 1907-1922
20 _____, _____, undated
21 Miscellaneous, 1897-1910
22 Envelopes, 1920s
23 Harriet and Ray Huse, letters to their grandparents, H. S. and E. B. Huse, 1882-1889

1. Carlos C. Bancroft (1871-1906)
24 Letters, to family, 1880-1881
25 _____, to miscellaneous, undated
26 _____, from miscellaneous, 1880-1901
27 _____, _____, undated
28 Diaries, 1899 and 1904
29 Nelson Club notebook, 1885-1886, used by family for accounts 1950s-60s
30 Obituary, 1906

a. Carlos Camp Bancroft (1906-1977)
31 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1913-1923
32 Miscellaneous, 1921

b. Other Bancroft family members
33 Miscellaneous letters, 1881 and undated
34 Frederick W. Bancroft (1855-1914), letters to his brother Arthur, 1881-1905
35 _____, _____, fragments and undated

VI. Photographs
Doc 566:1 Hiram A. Huse, ca 1865, 1901 and ca 1902
2 Ray Huse and Harriet Huse, 1891, ca 1920, 1894
3 Vail, Brooks, and Bancroft family members, undated
4 Men, non-family, undated
5 Sigma Phi (University of Vt.) members, 1899-1902
6 Women, non-family, undated
7 Men, portraits, unidentified, undated
8 Group of hunters unidentified, 1890(?)
9 Women and children, portraits unidentified, undated
10 Snapshots, unidentified, 1930s
11 Snapshots and negatives, by Ray Huse, 1930s
12 Snapshots, by Ray Huse (?), miscellaneous, 1930s
13 Stereopticon views, Montpelier, 1870s
14 _____, New Hampshire, 1870s
15 _____, U.S. and foreign, 1870s

VII. Miscellaneous
16 Thomas Rea/Albert Broughton, correspondence, 1862
17 _____, _____, 1863-1864
18 _____, _____, fragments, undated
19 Letters, miscellaneous, non-family, 1855-1900
20 _____, _____, fragments, undated
21 Diaries, unidentified, 1839-1840, 1841, 1863-1864
22 Account book index, Gad Corse (1750-1813), Northfield, (Mass.?) Jan. 3, 1772(?)
23 Notebooks, unidentified, 1860s and 1890s
24 Poetry and miscellaneous newspaper clippings, undated and 1920s
25 Programs, tickets, etc. (Vermont), 1827-1961
26 _____, _____, (not Vermont), undated
26.1 Specifications for house and garage for Heber England by Royal Barry Wills, Boston, 1939-40
27 Miscellaneous, undated

MS Size B
1 of 4 Heber England house, Montpelier, Royal Barry Wills architect, blueprints, 1939
2 of 4 _____, _____, _____, _____, 1940
3 of 4 _____, _____, _____, drawings, 1940
Addendum #1 Civil War Letters in the Huse Family Papers


Huse left Dartmouth College in 1862 for a nine month enlistment. His letters to his parents were frequent and literate. Huse was first stationed near Washington, D.C. where he had a chance to sightsee in spite of the War. He was later transferred to northern Virginia.

On October 20, Huse wrote that he thought that “we won’t see many battles before spring” and he spent the winter doing guard duty and fighting boredom. He assured his parents that he was healthy but by April 1863, he was hospitalized with an illness so severe that his father felt compelled to visit him. By late spring he had recovered and anticipated his return to Vermont and to college.


- From his brother Lyman G. Woodbury, 10th Vermont Regiment in Brandy Station (Virginia) May (?) 22, 1864. Woodbury asked his brother to send him “some tools for shoe making.” His detailed request for tools is an inventory of the contents of a shoe maker’s shop. Woodbury was taken prisoner in July and died in November 1864. 1 letter Doc 561:33
- From Eliston (Elliston?) Waterman, 2d Vermont Regiment from Randolph. Dec. 5, 1862 and May 2, 1864. The tone of Waterman’s letters suggests that he had worked for Woodbury. He asked the older man to help him with his finances. In 1862 Waterman wrote of high prices and bad food. He was optimistic in 1864 prior to the regiment’s march to Spottsylvania where he was wounded a few days later. 2 letters Doc 561:32.

3. Letter to Clara E. Smith in E. Bethel, Vermont, informing her of the death of her brother Pvt. Lucius B. Smith, April 18, 1863. Smith enlisted in the 11th Regiment of N.H. Volunteers in 1862 and died in a Hampton, Virginia hospital. He is buried in Randolph Center, VT. (Doc 361:28) (Olivia Huse’s mother was Eunice Smith Woodbury.)

- From 2d Lt. George L. Batchelder, 12 Regiment N.H. Infantry of Concord, October 1862. (Doc 564:19)
- From James W. Samson of N. Haverhill, 11th N.H. Volunteers where he was a band member; written in the autumn of 1862. (3 letters Doc 564:19.)


**Addendum # 2 Montpelier homes associated with the Huse Family**

**3 Baldwin Street**
Melzar Woodbury purchased the property in 1882 from Harriet Lord, widow of William Hayes Lord, former pastor of Bethany Church. Woodbury conveyed the property to his daughter Olivia Woodbury Huse, the wife of Hiram A. Huse. The property would stay in the Huse family for three generations, until the heirs conveyed it to the State of Vermont in 1974. The house was demolished in 1975 to provide more parking space. See information and photograph in Folder 0.

**1 Hopkins Street**
In a 1903 letter to her daughter Harriet, Olivia Huse writes: “I will give you a building lot in the garden the length, breadth, and thickness which shall be satisfactorily decided by you and Carl and Ray.” (Doc 561:19) Architectural plans for the end elevation and detail of the living room bay window are located in MS Size A. In the 1905 Montpelier census, Harriet and her two children were living at this address and the house remained in the family until 2000.