

Edward Dana Densmore was born on September 1, 1871, in Somerville, Massachusetts. He was a son of Charles D. Densmore and his wife Ellen Brennan Densmore. The family lived at 44 Porter Street in Somerville. Ned attended local schools and was graduated from Somerville high school in 1889 and from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1893. In 1894 he received a Bachelor of Science degree from Harvard. Ned was the second of six children: Caroline, EDD., George Ellis, Albert, John Hopkins, and Elizabeth.

Caroline (born 1869, Charlestown) married Dr. Hampton Pierson Howell, a prominent physician in New York City, specializing in ear, nose, and throat. In addition to his regular practice, he ran a free clinic. Caroline had the Densmore music gift and studied voice.. She also had a temper, and on occasion would call on Ned for help after an argument with her husband. She died in 1919.

Ellis (born 1873, Somerville) married a wealthy woman named Florence, and according to HPH Jr, he never really worked. They had three children: Chauncey, Jean, and Dana.

Albert (born 1875) worked at times for EDD, and was an inventor and tinker, He also had a fine singing voice. He was married at least briefly to a Canadian woman. He died in 1945.

John was a composer, having majored in music at Harvard, from which he graduated in 1904. He was charming and sociable. There is a nice letter about him in the family files. He married a friend, but the marriage ended in hours. He died in 1943.

Bess (Elizabeth), born 1882, attended Radcliffe College, class of 1904. She inherited the house at 25 Evans Road after her father's death in 1916. In 1925, she became the second wife of H. P. Howell.

But let's go back to Ned Densmore. As seen, he was part of a large, well-educated family. There is a photograph album of family scenes taken at the house at 44 Porter Street in Somerville. Following his schooling at MIT and Harvard, he took a shop course with the General Electric Company at Lynn and Schenectady. He was with the Siemens & Halske Electric Co until January 1896, and then with Hollis French Consulting Engineer in Boston. In 1897 he formed the partnership of Densmore and LeClear, Engineers. Gifford LeClear was a Harvard classmate. The practice included the design of industrial buildings and power plants. The firm later became Densmore , Le Clear and Robbins. The firm practiced general architecture, making a specialty of business and industrial buildings. During World War I they did miscellaneous engineering work for the government, including work at the Portsmouth Navy Yard. The firm put up such structures as the Paine Furniture Building, at 75-81 Arlington Street, the Salada Tea Company building, at 330 Stuart Street, Carter's Ink Company building in

Cambridge, Industrial School for Boys, Shirley Mass, administration and miscellaneous buildings, Vermont State Library, Montpelier, Vermont. See MIT information, c.1925.

It was through his office that the Summer of 1919 book was printed and bound. He also had a small paper book of 7- year-old Elizabeth's poems typed and put together by a staff member.

In 1905 he married Annie Louise Walley, the daughter of Edward and Mary Walley, granddaughter of Thomas H. Russell. Annie L Walley was a classmate of Bess Densmore at Radcliffe. The Walley family lived with Annie's grandfather Russell at 3 St. James Avenue in Boston. The four daughters remembered sharing a room on the top floor of the brownstone. Also living in the house, as well as the Walley parents and son Sam, were Mr. Russell's two nephews, Thomas H. Russell (Cousin Tom) and John Russell (Cousin John). Annie's sister Miriam took a course in landscape gardening, Theresa trained to be a librarian at Simmons(?), and Mary also graduated from Radcliffe. The Walleys and Russells spent much time in Princeton. Nannie took classmates out to the family place; there are photos of them sitting on the porch roof at the Yellow house.

Three children did not survive, (Mary 1908, Miriam 1913, Abigail 1918) but Ted, (1909) Carol, (1910) Anne, (1912) Elizabeth, (1915) and Bill (1924) did. The couple lived first at 27 Everett St in Cambridge (1908), 52 River Street in Boston, and c.1910

moved to a house of Ned's design at 26 Downing Road, Brookline. Charles and Ellen Densmore moved to a nearby house at 25 Evans Road.

He was short in stature, 5' 6" according to his passport of 1925, which also records that he had blue eyes, white hair, a straight nose, and a ruddy complexion.

He loved children. He bought a pony named Brownie for the children to have in Princeton. An iconic photograph is of Ned playing with the children in the farm pond, tipping the wash tub boats with a long stick. He constructed the croquet court and reconstructed the tennis court behind the Yellow House.

He traveled to England in 1925. A visa stamp indicates he was in Liverpool on January 25, 1925.

He was a member of the Harvard Club of Boston, Harvard Club of New York, the Technology Club, Engineers' Club, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Society of Colonial Wars.