01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Old Grand-Dad

A family tribute. A whiskey with a stubborn streak.

Old Grand-Dad connects a Hayden family tribute with Kentucky industrial history and the modern Beam portfolio. A high-rye identity runs through the range, while proof, age and selection still distinguish one expression from another. [1,2,18]

At a glance
First bottled: 1882
Beam acquisition: 1987
Identity: high-rye Kentucky bourbon
Portfolio: James B. Beam Distilling Co. [1,2,18]



A grandfather becomes a name

The producer credits Colonel R.B. Hayden with naming the whiskey for his grandfather, Basil Hayden Sr. Its account qualifies the older man’s rye preference and the inheritance of his methods. Those are family traditions, not a surviving numeric recipe. [1]

A different family carries it forward

Fred Noe and Freddie Noe represent the seventh and eighth Beam-family distilling generations. The modern portfolio organization is distinct from the Hayden namesake story. A 2021 Frankfort workforce profile also documents the people behind bottling operations. [14,15]

Original watercolor interpretations are symbolic. They are not photographs, confirmed likenesses or exact architectural reconstructions.

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

The name travels. The story grows.



1882 / 1885 / 1899 Official first bottling, a later Hobbs Station plant and Wathen ownership precede a 1900 fire and 1920 closure. Brand and site dates remain separate. [1,9]

1960 / 1987 A Smithsonian decanter preserves packaging history; the brand later joins Beam. [2,10]

2014 / 2021 Suntory acquires Beam. A later workforce article documents the Old Grand Dad Plant as a Frankfort bottling center. [12,14]

2024 The parent becomes Suntory Global Spirits; a one-time 16-year expression follows late in the year. [8,13,17]

2025 / by October 2026 An annual seven-year bonded series and a separately listed seven-year 114 single barrel expand the range. [6,7]

A facility name is only the beginning

Historic Hobbs Station, today’s Clermont visitor connection and the documented Frankfort bottling center have different roles. A plant called Old Grand Dad is not proof that every bottle under the brand was distilled there. An Ohio-made decanter records another kind of manufacture. [9,10,14,16]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Read the whole product name.

High rye is the producer’s verified description; an exact percentage is not established here. Standard 114 is reduced to 114 proof. The separate seven-year single barrel adds both age and individual-barrel selection, despite the matching proof. [2,4,7]



Bonded is 100 proof, at least four years old, from one season and distiller. The seven-year annual series adds its own age claim; the current 2026 edition identifies Fall 2018. Neither specification supplies an age for standard 114. [5,6]

Linked research sources

Checked October 20, 2026. Detailed qualifications accompany the website.

1. Brand history and the Hayden naming story
2. Current brand and portfolio
3. Classic 80 proof
4. Standard 114 proof
5. Bottled-in-Bond
6. Seven-year bonded
7. Seven-year 114 single barrel
8. Sixteen-year limited release
9. Historic Old Grand Dad distillery record
10. Old Grand-Dad decanter, Smithsonian
11. Old Grand-Dad packaging archive
12. Suntory acquisition financial record
13. Parent-company rename, US announcement
14. Frankfort bottling workforce, March 2021
15. Beam family distillers
16. Beam visitor experiences
17. Suntory rename, Tokyo announcement
18. Current JBBDCo portfolio confirmation