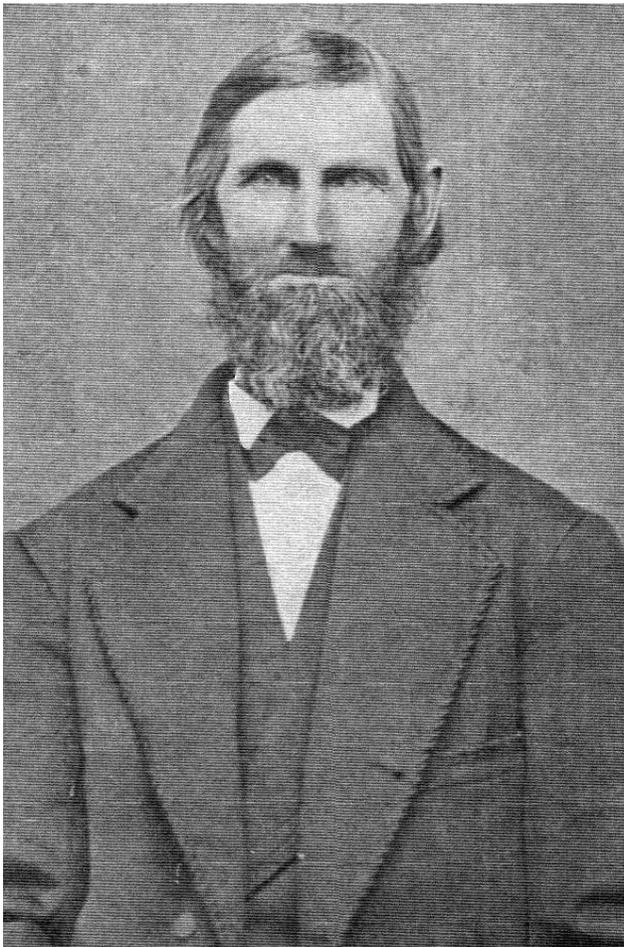




## John and Jemima Wasson in Iowa

*In 1854, John and Jemima Wasson sold their farm in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York and headed west to Iowa with their then-six children. We are direct descendants of John and Jemima Wasson.*



*John Wasson (left) and Jemima Russell Wasson (right)*

After living in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York for 12 years, John and Jemima Wasson moved west with their children, leaving his parents and his brother Hugh behind. They headed to Iowa, initially settling in the village of Canton on the Jackson County side. After working as tenant farmers in both Jackson and Jones Counties, John and Jemima bought a farm in Madison Township, Jones County, west of present-day Onslow, where they lived the rest of their lives.

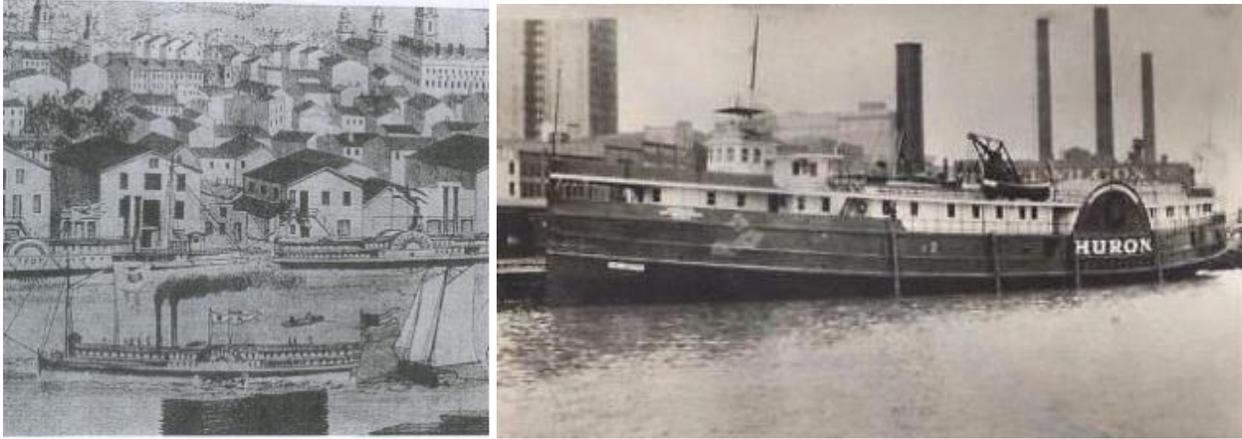
There had been Lambie families from Galston, Ayrshire, where Jane Lambie was from, living around Amboy Township when John and Jane Wasson and their sons John and Hugh first settled there in the 1830s, and of course some Wassons living in Amboy Township when John returned there from Scotland with wife Jemima and their son in 1842. But while there was the family of William and Charlotte Wasson and a handful of Russell families living in the part of Iowa where they settled, none of these were related to John and Jemima. So why Iowa? Probably because it was just the next western state opening up to pioneer settlement.

### **The Wassons Head West**

The best albeit limited account of their move west can be found in the obituary of their daughter, Mary Elizabeth Wasson Gridley, in the Wyoming Journal, January 13, 1927. I'll note that her obituary puts the trip west in 1853. Sources vary on whether it was 1853 or 1854, but real estate transaction records in the Oswego County, New York Deed Index show that John and Jemima sold their property on Foil Road, Amboy Township to Jeremy B. Dudley in 1854, and the earliest concrete evidence that John and Jemima were living in Iowa was also from 1854. I use 1854 for those reasons.

The Wassons took a freight boat across the Great Lakes to Chicago. They likely started in Buffalo, New York on Lake Erie. How they got from Amboy Township to Buffalo is not known – they lived fairly close to the Erie Canal and perhaps travelled to Buffalo that way, but that is only speculation.

From Buffalo, John, Jemima and their then-six children, the oldest only 12 at the time, took a freight boat to Chicago, traveling across Lake Erie, Lake Huron and finally Lake Michigan. But there was an accident during the journey, and the Wassons lost most of their household effects. The Wassons arrived in Chicago with little more than what they were wearing and what they had with them in their quarters aboard the freight boat.



*Buffalo Harbor, about 1845 (left); we do not know which ship the Wassons traveled on, but the Huron is an example of an 1800s Great Lakes freighter (right)*

Once in Chicago, they continued west. This segment of their journey was via stagecoach. But the stage line at the time only took them as far as Dubuque.

It is about 30 miles from Dubuque to Canton as the crow flies – today’s paved route is about 36 miles, but paved roads didn’t exist in the area back then. They may have walked this, carrying what few possessions they had left, or perhaps they purchased transportation or hired a ride from one of the Canton-based teamsters who regularly brought Canton-made goods to Dubuque.

### **The Wasson in Canton, Jackson County, Iowa**

When the Wassons arrived in Canton, several of the locals gave them some of their own limited possessions to help the new family in town get established. The Wassons were immediately befriended by E.M. Franks, beginning a friendship between the Wasson and Franks families that continued at least through Mary Gridley’s death almost 75 years later.

At the time the Wassons arrived, Canton had about 150 residents. Its location on the Maquoketa River provided it with a good source of water power. Franks operated the largest general mercantile store in town. He also operated a packing plant, and his stockyards routinely held several hundred head of cattle and hogs. Canton also had a saw mill and a grist mill. Its two mills employed about 60 men. At least 160 men from the surrounding area were employed in the manufacturing of furniture, coffins, and barrels needed to serve those other industries. Several teamsters were needed to haul its products to Dubuque. The grist mill burned down in 1854, so it had to be rebuilt.



View looking west across the Maquoketa River in Canton, Iowa, in 2016

Between his friend E.M. Franks, the other industries in town, and the need to rebuild the mill, John had several potential job opportunities in Canton when he arrived. Although we don't know what he did for work the year he arrived, the 1854 Iowa Territory Census shows that John, Jemima and their family were living in the village itself in Jackson County.

**C E N S U S   O F   1 8 5 4 .**

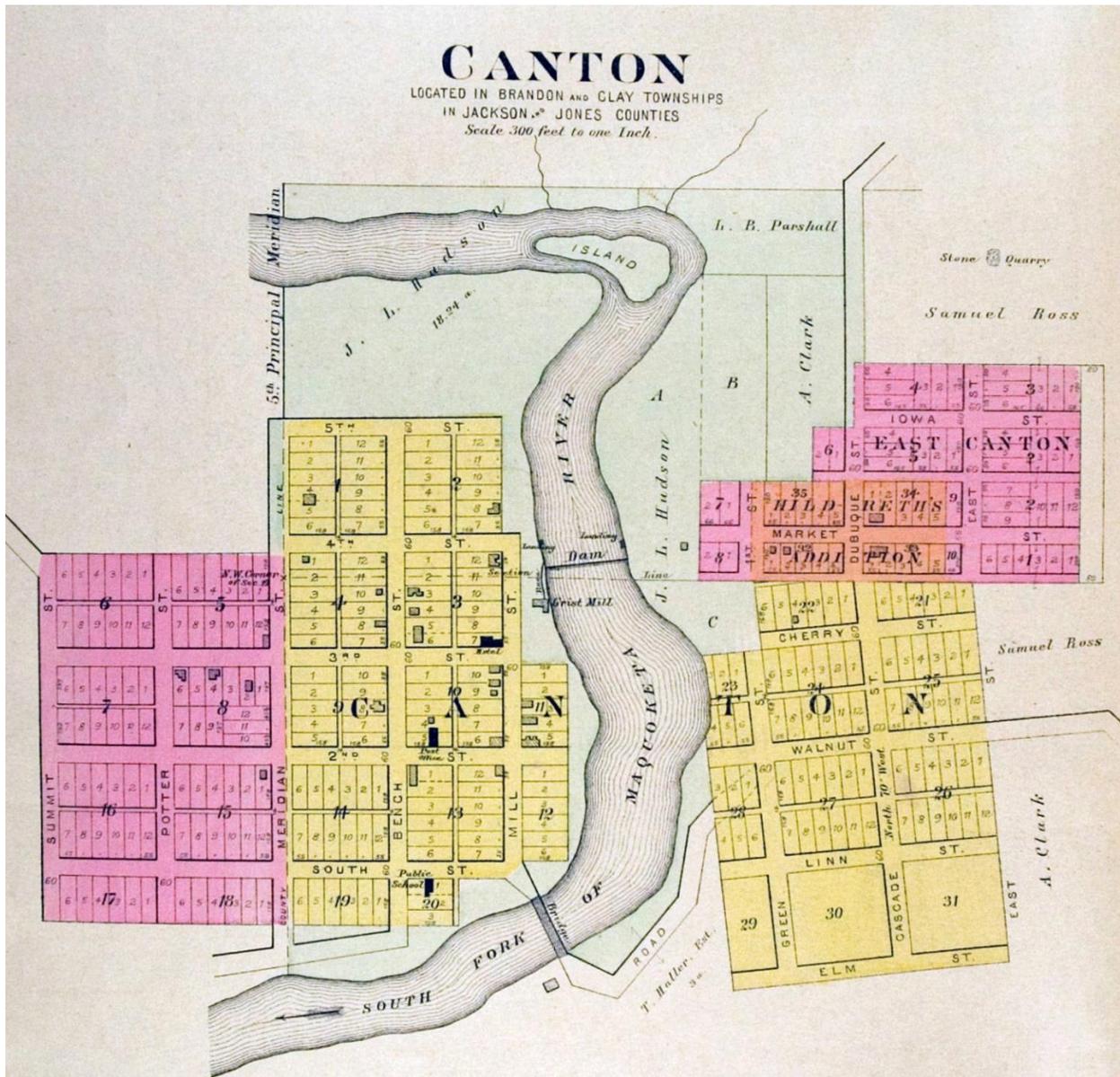
TOWNSHIP OF *Brandon* COUNTY OF *Jackson* IOWA

NAME OF HEAD OF FAMILY.	MALES.	FEMALES.	COLD MALES.	COLD FEMLS.	VOTERS	MILITIA	ALIENS.	TOTAL.
<i>John Wasson</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>150</i>			<i>67</i>	<i>61</i>		<i>312</i>
<i>John Wasson</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>			<i>1</i>			<i>8</i>
<i>R. W. ...</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>			<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>7</i>

John Wasson and his family of eight, including wife Jemima and their six children, are recorded in the 1854 Iowa Territory Census for the village of Canton, Brandon Township, Jackson County.

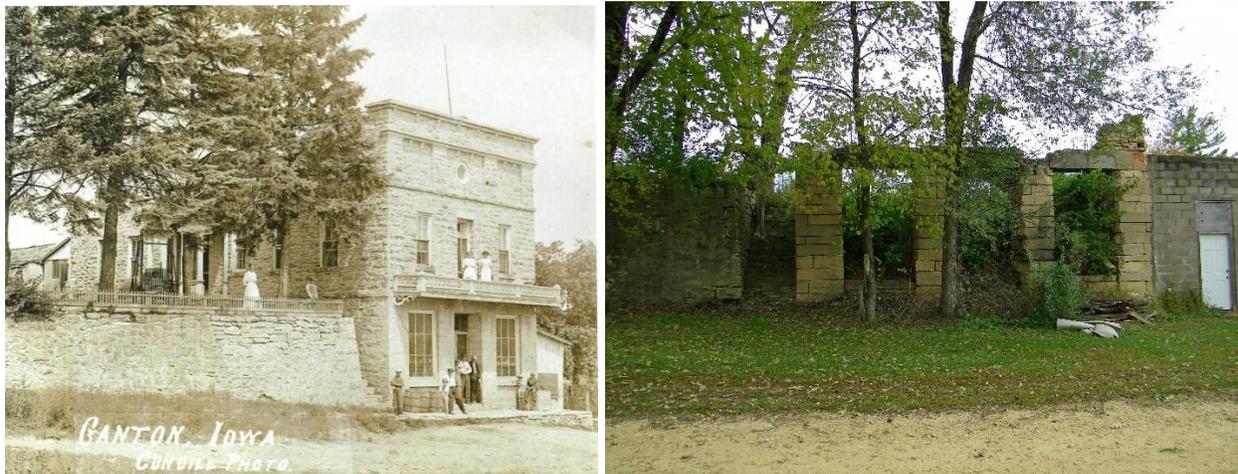
## Notes on the History of Canton

Around 1866, the Midland Railroad was in the works, and Canton businessmen started looking for new opportunities along its route. E.M. Franks bought several hundred acres of land about seven miles west of Canton along the proposed line. This included the present site of Onslow. He moved to his new location, and then in 1871 he went on to found Onslow.



1893 Canton map. The part of Canton to the east of the principal meridian is in Jackson County. The small area to the west of the principal meridian (pink) is in Jones County.

Canton would grow to about 800 people, but this was about 20 years after the Wassons moved to Jones County. At its peak, Canton had seven carpentry shops, a millworks, three hotels, a couple saloons, a dance hall, two grocery stores, a pharmacy and two doctors. But the railroad bypassed Canton, the forests that provided the lumber that its carpentry businesses relied on were steadily being depleted, and floods damaged its water power-driven businesses. Canton survives, but only a few dozen people call it home today.



*The dance hall in Canton's heyday (left); the dance hall ruins in 2014 (right)*

### **The Wassons as Tenant Farmers**

By 1856, John, Jemima and their children no longer lived in Canton. They had started their lives as an Iowa farm family in nearby Monmouth Township, Jackson County. Little is known about their time on this farm, but it was likely that they were living there when their seventh child, son Joseph, was born in 1857.

- For more about John and Jemima Wasson's Monmouth Township farm, see [The Monmouth Township Farm, Jackson County, Iowa.](#)

It is not known if the Wassons moved to any other Jackson County farms after 1856. By the 1860 U.S. Census, however, John, Jemima and their now seven children were living on a farm in Clay Township, just to the west in Jones County. Information that they provided for the 1860 Federal Census Non-Population Schedule for farm production suggests that they were living on that farm by 1859. The schedule provides some insight into their farming operation. The census and schedule also provide the earliest documented evidence of the Wassons living in Jones County.

- For more about John and Jemima Wasson's Clay Township farm, see [The Clay Township Farm, Jones County, Iowa.](#)

I believe that there was at least one more farm before they bought their Madison Township farm in 1864 for two reasons, both taking place in 1863:

- When John and Jemima's son George died, he was buried at Wyoming Cemetery in Madison Township. Had the family still been living at the Clay Township Farm, there were at least five cemeteries that would have been more logical choices.
- When their son John registered for the draft for the Civil War, he reported his residence as Scotch Grove, a reference to a post office in Scotch Grove Township. People living in parts of both Scotch Grove and Madison Townships reported that post office as their address at that time.

The 1867 plat map also shows a "Wasson" farm located in the northwest part of Madison Township, not far from the Scotch Grove post office, but it doesn't provide a first name or initial.

- For more about other possible farms, see [The Missing Wasson Iowa Farms\(?\)](#).

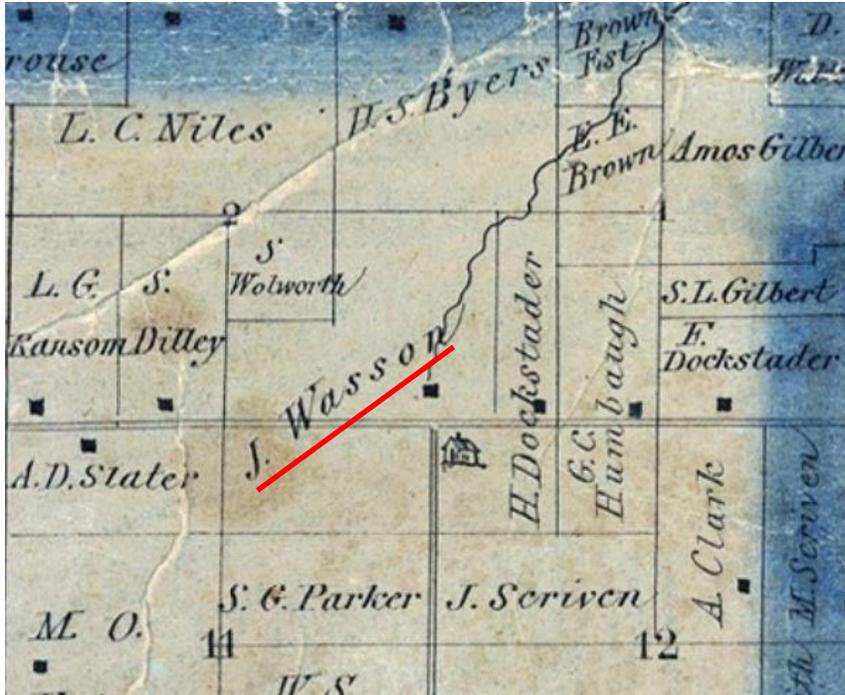
### **The John Wasson Farm in Madison Township**

In 1864, John and Jemima Wasson bought a farm in Jones County's Madison Township. This is the farm where they would finish raising their family and live out the rest of their lives. Although limited evidence suggests that they bought this farm in 1863, information from both John's and Jemima's obituaries puts the purchase in 1864. This farm was located about a mile west of present-day Onslow on today's County Road E29.

Twenty-two years after they came to the United States, and ten years after arriving in Iowa, John and Jemima finally owned their own substantial farm. John was 50 years old.

The 1867 plat map shows this as a 240-acre farm. Their son James over the years bought 100 acres of their farm for his own farm, 40 of which were eventually re-acquired by John Wasson after James died.

- For more about this farm, see [The John Wasson Farm, Madison Township, Jones County, Iowa](#).



*The 1867 plat map for Madison Township, Jones County. The John Wasson Farm effectively included section 2, E ½ SE ¼, approx. 80 acres, section 2, SW ¼ SE ¼, approx. 40 acres, section 11, N ½ NE ¼, approx. 80 acres, and section 1, W ½ W ½ SW ¼, approx. 40 acres. Approximately 60 acres from section 2 and 40 acres from section 11 were later sold to son James for his farm. John Wasson re-acquired the section 11 land after James died.*



*The Jansen Farm, shown in 2007, was the John Wasson Farm from 1864 to 1906. The red barn to the right was originally built in 1878.*

## **John and Jemima's Children**

By the time John and Jemima bought the John Wasson Farm in 1864, they had seven children living with them, with their oldest, son John, turning 22, and having lost their youngest, son George, in 1863.

For more about their children, see

- [John C. Wasson \(1842-1885\)](#)
- [Jane E. Wasson \(1843-1903\)](#)
- [Mary Elizabeth Wasson \(1845-1927\)](#)
- [Jeannette M. Wasson \(1847-1914\)](#)
- [William Henry Wasson \(1849-1920\)](#)
- [James M. Wasson \(1852-1884\)](#)
- [Joe and Carrie Wasson](#)
- [George L. Wasson \(1861-1863\)](#)

Over the next several years, most of their seven surviving children married and moved off the farm. Their youngest, son Joe, married Carrie Sawyer in 1879, but Joe and Carrie stayed on the family farm. John and Jemima soon retired, and started renting most of the farm to Joe, an arrangement that lasted until early 1906 when the farm was sold to settle Jemima's estate.

As part of this rental arrangement, a second residence was built close to the road to provide a separate home for John and Jemima. Enough land was set aside for this residence so that John and Jemima had their own garden space and a small orchard.

All of John and Jemima's children remained in Jones County for the rest of their lives except for son William, who moved to Kansas with his family in 1883.

## **A John and Jemima Timeline**

A number of newspapers were published in Jones County in the late 1800s, and many of these are now available online. Although the mix of stories changed over time, there were a number of articles that provided some insight into the everyday lives of John and Jemima. A sampling of stories based on news articles and other sources follows:

- John was appointed to help appraise the impact of road construction on a nearby farm. (1867)
- John averaged a cash return per cow of \$25.19 selling milk to the Wyoming Valley Cheese Factory in 1872. (1873)

- John was awarded damages for the impact of road construction on his farm. (1883)
- John visited his son William in Kansas. (1884)
- Jemima celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday by hosting an old-fashioned quilting bee. (1886)

John died in 1888.

- Jemima, her daughter Jane and granddaughter Daisy visited her son William in Kansas. (1891)
- Jemima, her daughter Jane and Jane's family traveled to Chicago to attend the World's Columbian Exposition, a.k.a. the Chicago World's Fair. (1893)
- Jemima hosted a family reunion that all of her surviving children and most of her grandchildren attended. (1896)
- Now in her 80s, Jemima was having more difficulties living on her own in the separate residence. She first moved in with daughter Mary, but they did not get along. So, after a few months, Jemima moved back to the John Wasson Farm, moving in with Joe and Carrie. (1897) (Carrie moved out some months later, and she and Joe were divorced in 1899.)
- Joe and Jemima hired a housekeeper. (1901)

Jemima died in 1902. The John Wasson Farm was sold in 1906 to Andreas Jansen.

FARM FOR SALE--The **Wasson** Estate farm situated one mile west of Onslow. 177 acres good land, two fair houses, frame barn 36x50, 18-foot posts and basement, hog house, corn crib, cattle sheds, etc. Living water on place. Well and windmill at house. For price and terms enquire of Joseph Wasson, executor, on farm, or address at Onslow, Iowa.

*This notice offering the Wasson Farm for sale appeared several times in the Wyoming Journal in 1905.*



*Andreas Jansen stands in front of the John Wasson Farm that he bought in 1906. In 1907, he built an addition onto the house and added a barn. This photo was likely taken between 1907 and 1915 when Jansen retired.*

## The Wassons and Church

John, Jemima and family members united with the Scotch Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Grove in 1854, the year that they arrived in Canton (according to one version of John Wasson's obituary; a second version said 1861; the current church building was completed in 1861, which may have created a point of confusion about the year that they originally joined the church).



*The current Scotch Grove Presbyterian Church was built in 1861.*



*Inside the Scotch Grove Presbyterian Church*

Subsequent moves brought them physically closer to the Scotch Grove Presbyterian Church over the years. In November 1871, a seed group of a dozen charter members mostly from the Scotch Grove church established the Onslow Presbyterian Church. In 1873, John, Jemima and several of their family members transferred their membership to the new church, with son William joining the Methodist church after he married Maggie Ransom.

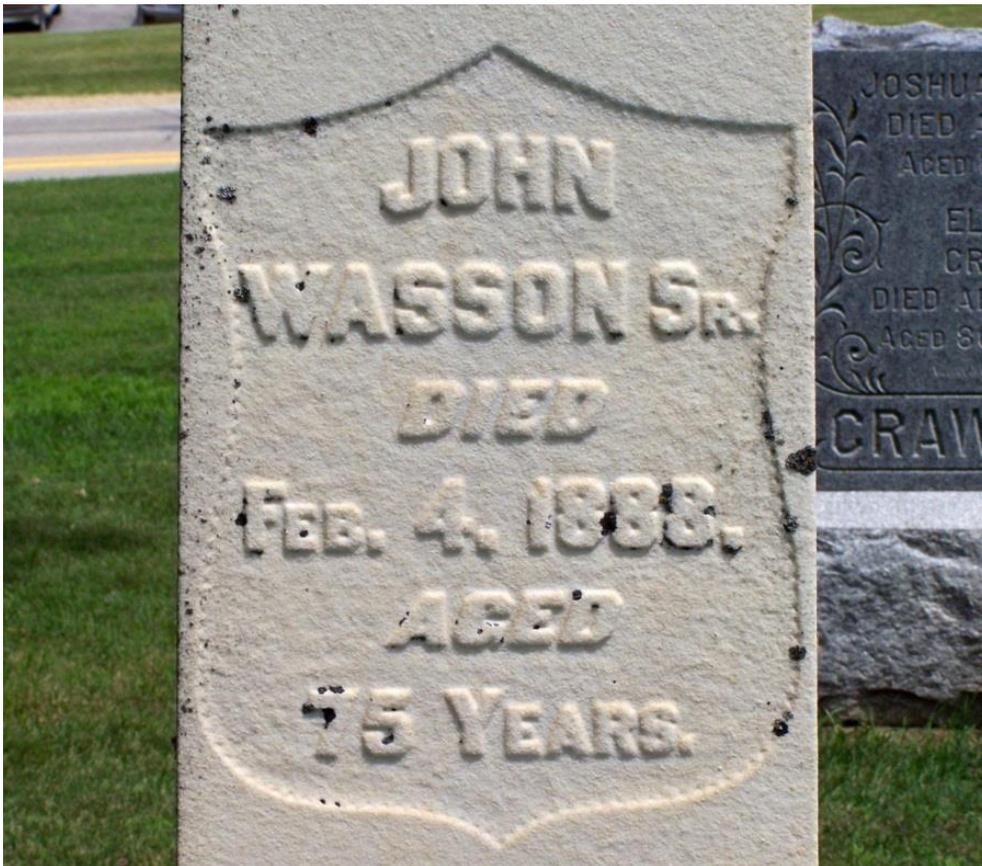


*The Onslow Presbyterian Church. Its steeple was replaced by a cupola after the steeple was struck by lightning in 1921. Later, the church was given a more modern roof line.*

John was actively involved in securing a building for the new Onslow church. He was also a trustee of the new church in its early years, joining with others in assuming financial responsibilities for the church. Jemima worked at the church when she could, and continued to provide financial support after she became too infirm to attend services. Their daughter Jeannette taught the primary class for the church's Sunday School class for more than 40 years, and Jeannette's husband David Sim was repeatedly elected as one of the church elders, serving for more than 25 years. Even in small ways, the Wassons were involved with the church. For example, in 1896, Joe and Carrie Wasson hosted an ice cream social for the benefit of the Onslow Presbyterian Church. "Of the many present, none seemed to enjoy the evening in all its fullness more than Grandma (Jemima) Wasson." (Anamosa Eureka, August 20, 1896)

### The Death of John Wasson

John died from typhoid pneumonia at age 74 on February 4, 1888. According to his obituary, quite often during the night before he died, he raised his hands and said, "I am ready." He was buried in the Wasson family plot in the Wyoming Cemetery. He was likely the last of his family – his brother William was 10 years older, but he disappeared from the available records in the 1840s, so his death date is unknown.



*Marker for John Wasson, Wyoming Cemetery, Wyoming, Iowa*

In his will, John made some cash bequests to his daughters, and Jemima inherited the farm and the bulk of the estate. He did not make bequests to his sons, noting advancements that he had already made to them, which I assume involved helping them to establish their own farming operations.

I. John Wasson of Ouslow, Jones  
County, and State of Iowa, being of  
sound and disposing mind and  
memory - and being of lawful age  
do hereby make, publish and  
declare this to be my last Will and  
Testament. hereby revoking and  
making void all former Wills  
by me at any time heretofore  
made.

First ~~will~~ I hereby order  
and direct my Executors as  
soon after my decease as practicable  
to pay off and discharge all the  
just debts that may exist against  
me at the time of my decease.

Second ~~will~~ I hereby give,  
devise and bequeath to my daugh-  
ter, Jane Kessner the sum of One  
Thousand Dollars, in full of her  
share of my Estate.

Third ~~will~~ I hereby give, devise  
and bequeath to my daughter Mary  
E. Gridley the sum of One Thousand  
Dollars, in full of her share of my  
Estate.

Fourth ~~will~~ I hereby give.

John Wasson's last will and testament, first page, dated February 14, 1884

devise and bequest to my daughter  
Jannette Series, the sum of One  
Thousand Dollars - in full of her  
share of my Estate.

Fifth - I having already  
provided for my sons John, Wm. A.  
James and Joseph Wasson by ad-  
-vances heretofore made to them of  
their equitable share of my Estate.  
I therefore make no further provision  
for them.

Sixth - I hereby give, devise  
and bequest to my beloved wife  
Jemima Wasson, all the rest, residue  
and remainder of my property both  
real and personal, in whatever  
it may consist, or whenever situated  
at the time of my death, to be by  
her used, owned, and disposed of  
during her natural life, precisely  
the same as I myself might do  
were I personally present. And giving  
my said wife full power to sell,  
exchange, convey and re-convey  
the same as I could if living, and  
to distribute the same by gift or  
otherwise as she may think  
right and proper.

*John Wasson's last will and testament, second page, dated February 14, 1884*

Seventh - In case ~~Jamnia~~ <sup>David</sup> ~~David~~ <sup>Ellison</sup> be dead at the time of my death, that that portion which would have gone to her, shall go to David Ellison her husband, and in case of his death the same shall revert to my sons and daughter share and share.

I hereby authorize and appoint ~~F. O. Ellison~~ <sup>Jamnia Wasson</sup> and F. O. Ellison as the Executors of this my last Will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February A.D. 1884.

John Wasson Sr

The foregoing instrument was at the date hereof subscribed by John Wasson in our presence, and he, at the same time, declared the same to be his last Will and Testament; and by his request we signed our names thereto, as witnesses, both in his presence, and in the presence of each other -

R. W. McBready of Jones County - done  
B. Argon " " "  
F. O. Ellison " " "

John Wasson's last will and testament, third page, dated February 14, 1884

The probate inventory of John's belongings to be set apart for his widow Jemima included the following:

- heating stove
- bureau
- clock
- milk safe
- 4 beds and bedding
- cooking stove and furniture
- dulcimer
- 3 stands
- rocking chair
- lounge
- 6 dining chairs
- 4 kitchen chairs
- 2 looking glasses
- 1 kitchen table
- 1 gray mare
- 1 cow
- 1 cutter
- 1 buggy
- 1 set of single harness
- 1 platform scales
- 100 bushels oats
- 100 bushels corn

In addition, John was owed more than \$2,250.

Mr. John Wasson at his residence near Onslow, on Saturday, Feb. 4th, 1888, aged 75 years, 1 month and 26 days.

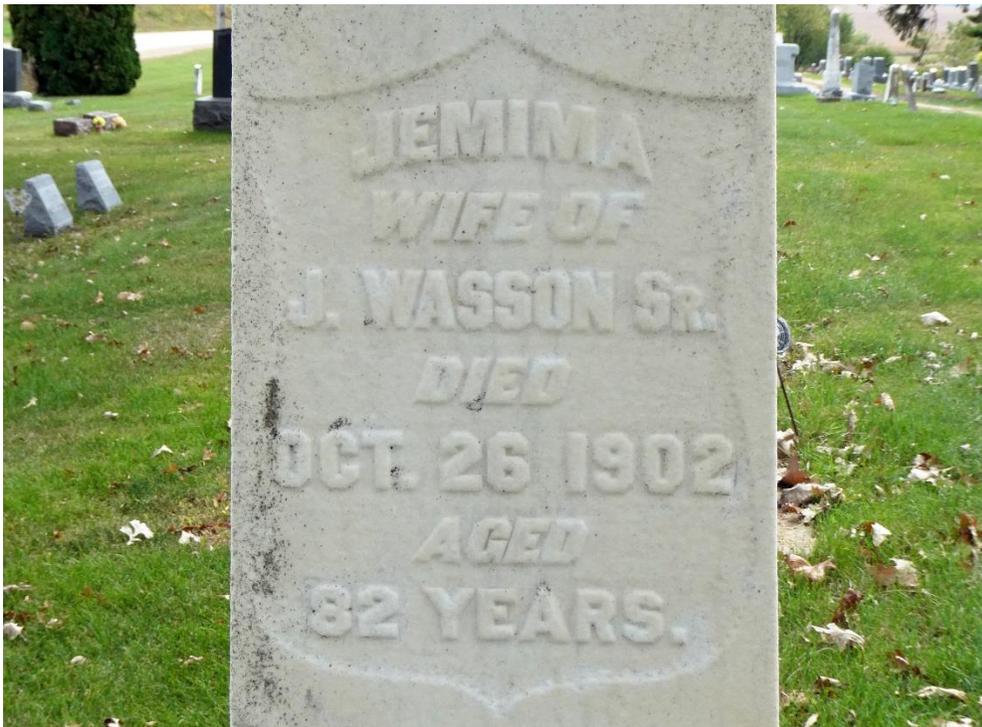
The deceased was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, Dec. 9th, 1812. He came to America with his parents when quite a young man, and lived with them some years in the state of New York. Returning home in 1841, he married Miss Jemima Russell, daughter of Mr. Alex. Russell, a farmer of Avondale, Lanarkshire. He came back to America in 1842, when he and his wife resolutely set to work to carve out a home and competence in this land of plenty. Their experience was similar to many others—hardship and toil that always accompany the subduing of a heavy timber land like some parts of New York. Hoping to better himself, the fertile plains of the west offered an opportunity and he gathered his all together and moved to Iowa in 1854. Again did he and his family have to brave the privations of a new country, and with a special keenness, having lost all their goods on the journey. But God abundantly blessed his toil and 24 years ago he purchased the present home farm. He and several of his family united with the Presbyterian church of Scotch Grove in 1851, but transferred his membership to Onslow when the Presbyterian church was organized there. He always manifested a deep interest in the welfare of the church, and much credit is due him in the effort to secure a building for the newly organized body. Being one of the trustees he joined with the others in assuming the financial responsibilities. Personally he gave liberally and interested others in the enterprise. As a church we will miss him, as a community we shall miss him, and in the family circle he will be missed. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn his loss, two sons, Joseph and William, the latter in Kansas, and three daughters, Mrs. D. Sim, Mrs. C. Gridley and Mrs. J. G. Krouse. His death, while not unexpected, was sooner than we imagined, he being sick about a week. We all knew that he had grown feeble lately, but while his physical strength failed his mental powers were undimmed and his faith unclouded. Quite often the night before his death he would raise his hands and say, "I am ready." His Savior hearkened unto him and came and took him home.

C.

*John Wasson's obituary, Anamosa Eureka, February 16, 1888*

### **The Death of Jemima Russell Wasson**

Jemima survived her husband for 14 years. She died of an apparent heart attack at age 86 on October 26, 1902. Her daughter Jane had spent a good day with Jemima. Shortly after Jane left to return home, Jemima complained of pain in her chest and went to lie down. She died minutes later. She was buried in the Wasson family plot in the Wyoming Cemetery. She was the last of her family.



*Marker for Jemima Russell Wasson, Wyoming Cemetery, Wyoming, Iowa. Jemima was actually 86 years old when she died.*

In her will, Jemima made \$500 bequests to her six surviving grandchildren through deceased sons John and James, and left the John Wasson Farm and the remainder of her estate to her five surviving children.

There were some complications with the settling of her estate. Joe had just signed a three-year lease renewal for the farm, and the other siblings agreed to honor that before selling the farm. Then sister Jane died, and her husband tried to force the sale of the farm. Joe bought out Jane's share, so the lease was honored, and the farm was sold in early 1906.

Joe also made a claim against the estate for nearly \$6000 for care and board for Jemima for the years she lived with him, and for several improvements on the farm. He and his siblings settled for \$3000.

I Jemima Wasson of Madison Township,  
in Jones County State of Iowa, do hereby  
make public and declare this to be my last  
will and testament

1<sup>st</sup> I will that - all my just debts and funeral  
expenses be paid

2 I give and bequeath to my grand son Albert  
Wasson the sum of Five Hundred Dollars.

3. I give and bequeath to my grand daughter  
Bertha, Wasson Wilson the sum of Five Hundred  
Dollars

4 I give and bequeath to my grand son Arthur  
Wasson the sum of Five Hundred Dollars

5 I give and bequeath to my grand son John  
Wasson the sum of Five Hundred Dollars

6. I give and bequeath to Sadie Wasson my  
grand daughter the sum of Five Hundred  
Dollars. the five foregoing legates being  
children of my son John Wasson, late of Jones  
County, Iowa, deceased

7<sup>th</sup> I give and bequeath unto my grand daughter  
Minnie & Belle Wasson, daughter of James  
Wasson decd. the sum of Five Hundred  
Dollars

8 I give and devise all the rest, residue and  
remainder of my estate both real and personal  
and of every name and nature whatsoever to my  
daughters Jane Krouse, Mary Smalley and

Jemima Wasson's last will and testament, first page, dated October 9, 1900

Janette Sim and Sons William Wasson  
and Joseph Wasson to be divided equally  
between them share and share alike to each  
of said children

I hereby appoint my son Joseph Wasson  
sole executor of this my last will and testament  
and ask the Court to require the bonds of him  
upon his appointment as such executor

In witness whereof I the said Jemima Wasson  
have hereunto set my hand, this 9th day of October  
1900  
Jemima <sup>her</sup> Wasson  
mark

Signed and declared by the said Jemima  
Wasson, as and for her last Will and  
Testament, in the presence of us, both being  
present at the same time, who, at her request  
in her presence, and in the presence of each  
other, have hereunto subscribed our names  
as witnesses

Edward H. Knittel  
Naaman B. Hayes

Onslow Ia.  
Ousler Jr

Jemima Wasson's last will and testament, second page, dated October 9, 1900

## DEATH OF MRS. WASSON.

Loving Words for a Most Estimable Lady  
by Mrs. J. G. Krouse.

Mrs. Jemima Wasson died at her home near Onslow, Iowa, October 24th, 1902, at five o'clock in the evening at the age of 86 years, 4 months and 14 days. She was the daughter of Alexander Russell, a farmer of Avondale, Lanarkshire, Scotland, at which place she was born June 12th, 1816. She was married to Mr. John Wasson, of Ayrshire, Scotland, in the year 1841, and came with her husband to America in 1842. They first settled in the state of New York where they lived 12 years. They came to Iowa in 1854 where they remained until death called them hence. Mr. Wasson died on the 4th day of February, 1888. Three sons have preceded her to the better land: George, James and John. She leaves three daughters and two sons, Mrs. J. G. Krouse, Mrs. C. B. Gridley and Mrs. David Sim and Joseph and William Wasson, the latter now residing in Kansas. There are 17 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. These are left to feel the pain of parting and mourn their loss.

"We loved her, yes, we loved her,  
But the angels loved her more;  
And they have sweetly called her  
To yonder shining shore.

"The golden gates were opened,  
A gentle voice said, "Come,"  
And with furrows unspoken  
She softly entered home.

"The old arm-chair is empty now,  
Where many a weary day  
In pensive thought our mother sat  
And stilled her time away.

"Her life was one of toil and care,  
As many such there be,  
But among the best she's at rest,  
From care and sorrow free.

"Safe in the arms of Jesus now  
She will rest until the end  
To intercede for those she left,  
Her children and her friends."

In addition to the above we have the following from another friend of the family:

Mrs. Wasson united with the Presbyterian church of Onslow in 1873, and was a faithful worker in the same until age and physical infirmity disqualified her. But after her ability to attend public service her interest in the church continued and she regularly contributed to the support of the same.

Mrs. Wasson was a very kind hearted woman. She was fond of her children and, in return, was very much loved by them.

The funeral service was held in the Presbyterian church at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning. The address was delivered by the pastor, J. R. McQuown, based on the 14th chapter of John's gospel, which was a favorite chapter with the deceased. Four beautiful gospel selections were sung by Mr. Wanichak, Mrs. S. Graham and Miss Ethel Chase, Mrs. M. Franks presiding at the organ. The pall-bearers were Messrs. M. Spencer, M. Franks, E. Jeffrey, W. C. Paul, O. C. Johnston and O. McDaniel. The house was well filled with sympathizing friends of the family. Mr. and Mrs. William Wasson arrived from Kansas just in time to join in the sad service. Just six weeks before they had buried a son of about twenty-five years of age, cut off in the midst of life. Thus death comes to the young as well as to the aged.

*Jemima Wasson's obituary, Anamosa Eureka, November 6, 1902*



*Graves of John, Jemima and their son George, Wyoming Cemetery, Wyoming, Iowa*

Prepared by Mark David Wasson  
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