



Douglas Verne Wasson (1924-1930)

Douglas was the second of four children born to Duncan and Esther Wasson.

Duncan and Esther Wasson's son Douglas was born August 11, 1924. He lived his entire life on the family farm just east of Onslow, Iowa, having died in early 1930 at the age of five. Because he died so young, there are few known details about his life. Surviving family photos and news articles suggest a typical childhood.

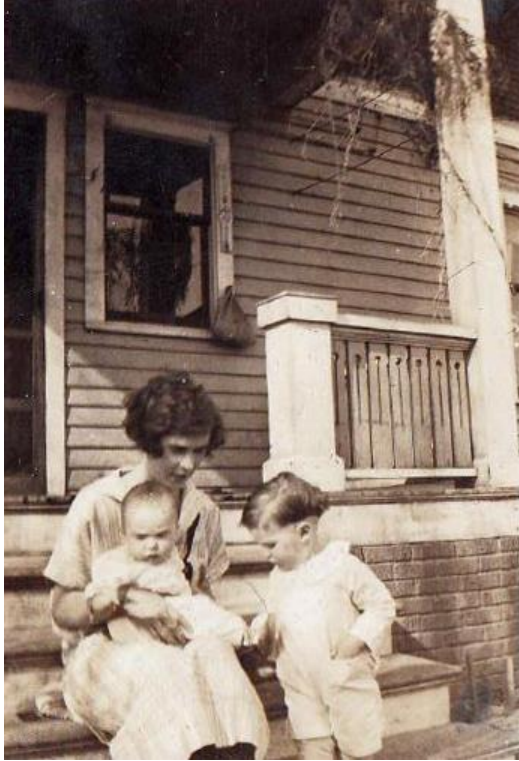
A son, weighing 11 pounds, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Wasson Monday. This is the second little boy in this family.

At 11 pounds, Douglas was a rather large baby when he was born, Anamosa Eureka, August 14, 1924

Douglas joined his parents, Duncan and Esther, and brother Walter, who was born in 1923. Douglas was joined by another brother, Glenn, in 1927. His brother Boyd was born in 1936, six years after Douglas died.



Douglas at the original house on the farm where he was raised, about 1925



Douglas on Esther's lap and Walter, about 1924 at his grandparents' house on 23rd (Wilson) Avenue



Douglas on Esther's lap, about 1924



Walter and Douglas, about 1925



Walter and Douglas, about 1925



Douglas, Esther and Walter, about 1926



Douglas, about 1926 at his grandparents' house on 23rd (Wilson) Avenue

Douglas the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan **Wasson**, had the misfortune to catch his little finger in the wringer Monday, when his mother was washing. The end of the finger was badly cut requiring the care of a physician.

At 1 ½ years old, Douglas caught a finger in the washer wringer, Anamosa Eureka, January 28, 1926



Douglas, about 1926 at his grandparents' house on 23rd (Wilson) Avenue

FROM ONSLOW.
Mrs. Duncan Wasson and her sons, Walter and Douglas, of Onslow, are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Gensicke, Fairfax road. They will remain until after the marriage of Miss Carolyn Gensicke to Frank Long which will occur June 17. Mr. Wasson will join them for the wedding.

Esther, Walter and Douglas visited Cedar Rapids in advance of the wedding there between Frank Lang and Esther's sister Carrie, Cedar Rapids Gazette, June 10, 1926



Walter (2nd) and Douglas (3rd) with cousins Edith (left) and Hugo (right), children of Henry and Lillian Gensicke, at Sunnydale Farm, about 1927



Walter (2nd) and Douglas (3rd) with playmate/distant cousin James Egly (left), about 1928



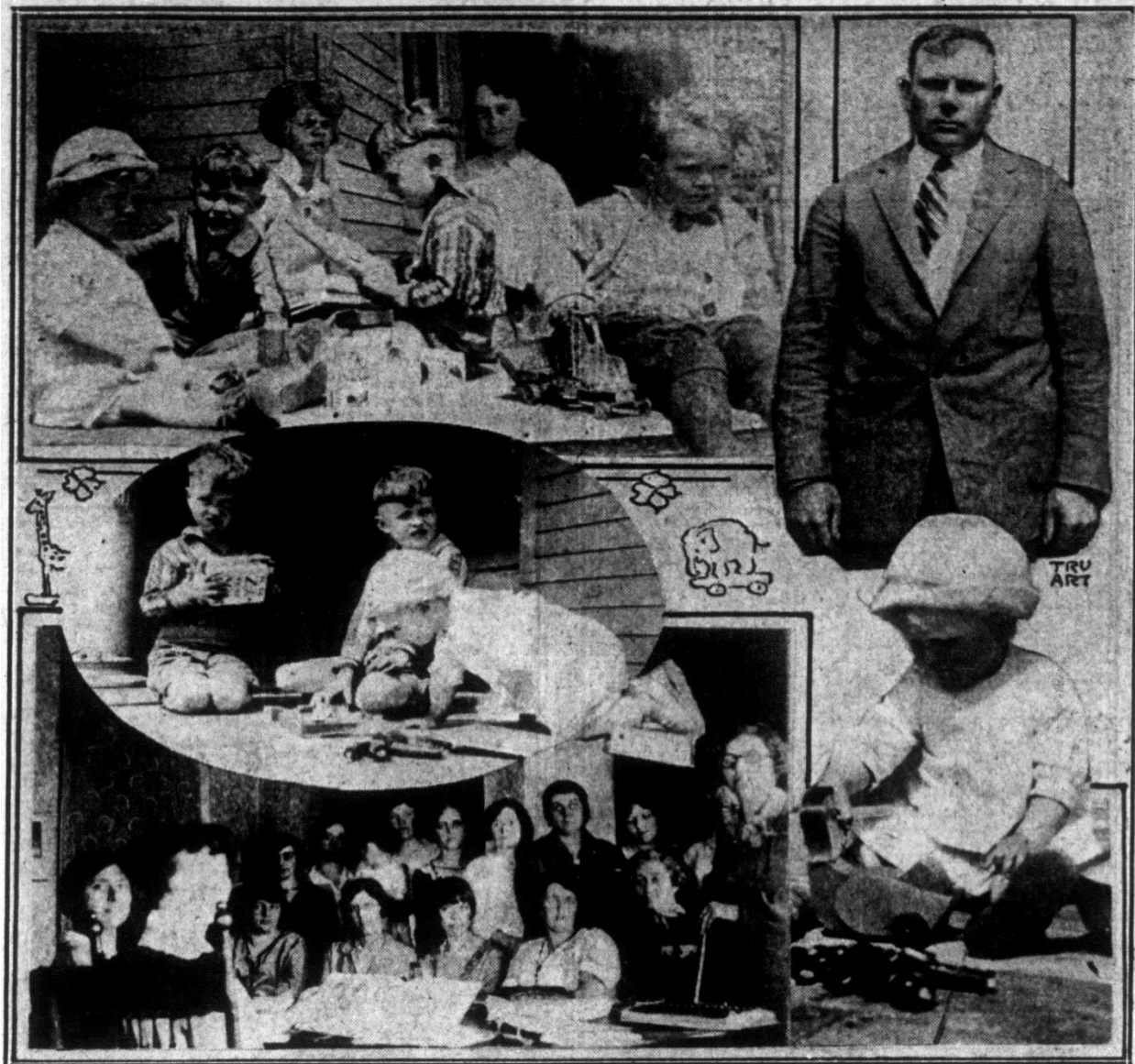
Esther, Glenn, Douglas, Walter and Duncan at the 23rd (Wilson) Avenue home of Esther's parents and the boys' grandparents, F.H. and Hannah Gensicke, probably 1927



Douglas, Glenn and Walter

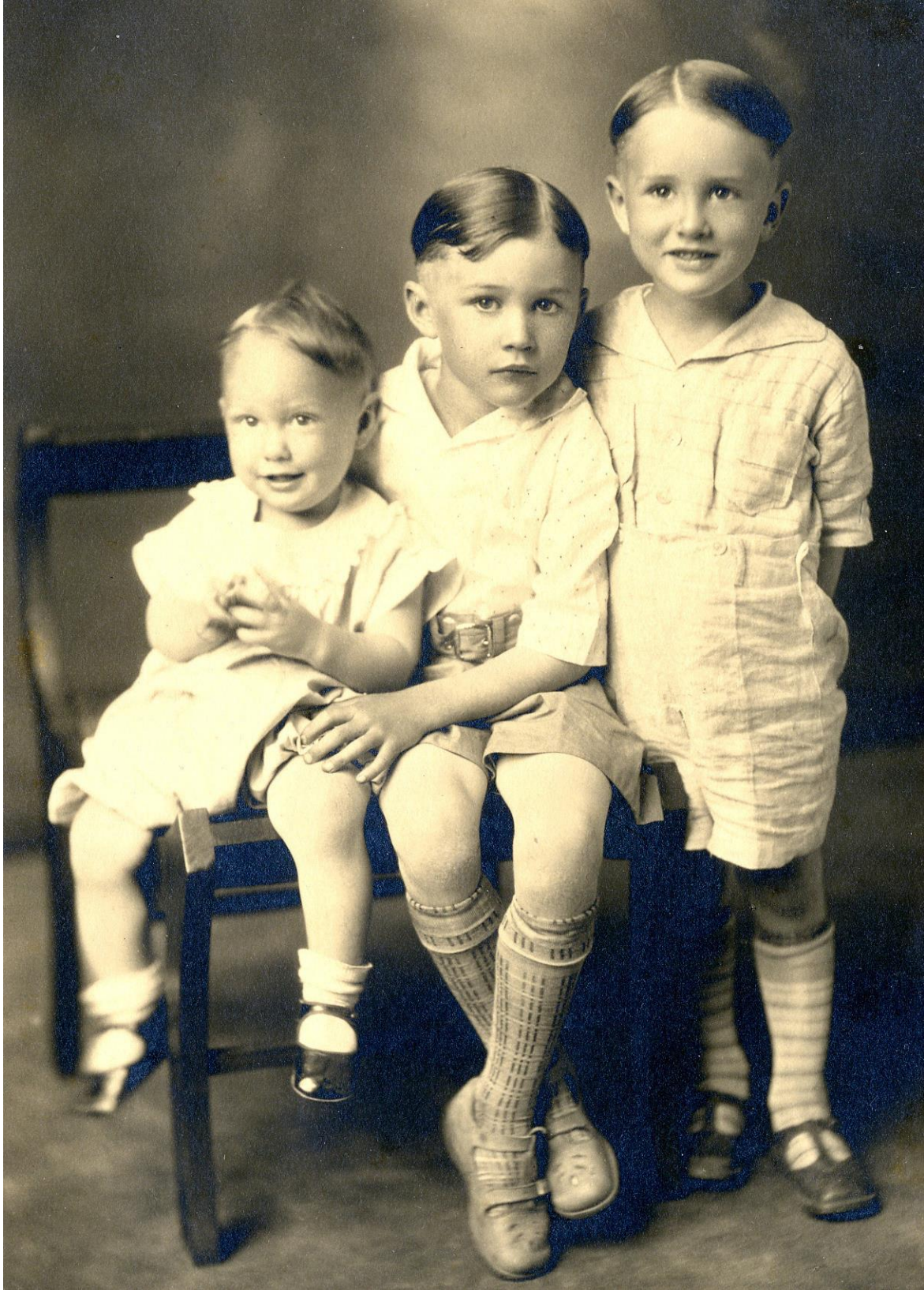
In May 1928, the Jones County Farm Bureau conducted a set of courses focused on child care and training. One of the courses was tied to a study of the reactions of children to books and playthings. For this session, a group of ten nursery school children were used as study subjects. These children included Walter and Douglas.

Jones County Women Study Reaction Of Children To Various Toys In Farm Bureau Child Training Course



Upper left: children and toys used Thursday at project leaders' school conducted by Alma H. Jones at the Ernest Rohwedder farm north of Wyoming. The children are, left to right: "Jackie" Smith, Walter Norman Wasson, Johanna Petersen, Douglas Wasson, Ivetta Bramer, and Floyd Strooper. Upper right: Max A. Wortman, county agent at Anamosa. Center left: the boys select the toys that appeal to them; lower left a study group Wednesday at the John Fry farm south of Morley. The women in the picture are: Mrs. A. R. Embree, Morley; Miss Ethel Brutzman, Lisbon; Mrs. Lester Mitchell, Olin; Mrs. Vanetta Engelking, Olin; Miss Viola Dehmann, Clarence; Mrs. Frank Phillips, Oxford Junction; Mrs. E. C. Gotch, Martelle; Mrs. William Luedemann, Mechanicsville; Mrs. Nina L. Willison, Anamosa; Mrs. Harlan Bickertaff, Morley; Mrs. Andrew Baird, Lisbon; Mrs. Merle Murfield, Martelle; Mrs. F. A. Ballow, Oxford Junction; Mrs. W. B. Meeks, Martelle; Mrs. F. J. Shotwell, Martelle; Mrs. J. E. Fry, Mechanicsville; Mrs. Victor Miller, Martelle; Alma H. Jones, Ames. The youngster in the lower right is "Jackie," son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul N. Smith of Center Junction. Jackie shows a preference for a wooden duck.

Nursery school children including Walter and Douglas Wasson were observed for how they interacted with a variety of toys, Cedar Rapids Gazette, May 27, 1928



Glenn, Walter and Douglas Wasson, 1928



Douglas, Esther, Walter, Glenn and Duncan after the formal photo session; the boys are wearing the same clothes as in the formal photo session, 1928



Douglas, lower left, visiting his grandparents at the Bear Farm, with his mother, brothers and other relatives, 1928



Douglas, rightmost of the four children, with his grandfather at the Bear Farm, with his mother, brothers and other relatives, 1928



Hannah Gensicke, and Douglas and Esther Wasson at Bear Farm, 1928

Mr. and Mrs. Harb Orr of Cedar Rapids, spent the week-end with Mrs. Orr's brother, and Duncan Wasson and family. Douglas Wasson, second son returned with Mr. and Mrs. Orr after spending a month with them and his grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jensic of Cedar Rapids.

In early 1929, Douglas spent a month in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, spending time with his grandparents, F.H. and Hannah Gensicke, and his aunt and uncle, Harb and Jessie Orr; the Orrs returned him to Onslow in mid-February, Anamosa Eureka, February 14, 1929

In August 1929, Esther Wasson and her sons Walter, Douglas and Glenn travelled to Cedar Rapids to visit her parents and the boys' grandparents, F.H. and Hannah Gensicke. While they were in Cedar Rapids, Douglas went to the hospital to have his tonsils removed. Duncan joined them in Cedar Rapids the following Sunday, when the whole family attended a Gensicke family reunion at Ellis Park before returning to Onslow.

Mrs. Duncan Wasson and three little sons, Walter, Douglas, and Glenn went to Cedar Rapids, Saturday to spend a week with Mrs. Wasson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Jensicke. Douglas will have his tonsils removed at Mercy Hospital, today.

Esther and sons Walter, Douglas and Glenn visit Cedar Rapids, Anamosa Journal, August 15, 1929

Mrs. Duncan Wasson and her three sons spent last week-end in Cedar Rapids as a guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Gensicke. While there she attended the funeral of Mrs. J. C. Armstrong, a pioneer of Benton county

In October 1929, Esther, Walter, Douglas and Glenn returned to Cedar Rapids for a weekend stay with her parents; while they were in Cedar Rapids, Esther attended the funeral of Mrs. Otilie Armstrong, mother to Esther's sister-in-law Lillian Armstrong Gensicke, who was married to Esther's brother Henry, Anamosa Eureka, October 24, 1929

Shortly after Douglas turned five, he began first grade at Onslow Public School. In November 1929, the students in the first six grades put on a school program.

The pupils in the first six grades under Miss McCune, Miss Mildred Streeper and Miss Mabel Streeper put on a program Wednesday afternoon which was much enjoyed by all who listened to it. The program was as follows: "Welcome Spook," Doris Mann and Dale Orr; "A Halloween Mistake," Dale Edwards; "See-Saw Song," Betty Mae Babcock and Douglas Wasson; "A Darling Bicycle," five boys; "Jack-o-lantern Twins," Dale Orr; "Jack-o-lantern Valse," ten girls; "Halloween," Irvin Gress; "Coon Concert," three boys and girls; "Witches' Prank," four boys and three girls; "Little Shoemaker's Song," primary; recitation, Floyd Streeper; "Dance of Greeting," second and third grades; recitation, George Allamand; "Pussy Drill," twelve boys; "I See You," little folks; "Jack Frost Song," third and fourth grades; "Safety Law Court," first, second and third grades; "When Dreams Come True," Maxine Orr; "Health-o Circus," fifth and sixth grades; talk, Mrs. Phillips,

Douglas sang the See-Saw Song with classmate Betty Mae Babcock, and joined classmates on at least one more song in an Onslow school program, Monticello Express, November 14, 1929

Over the holidays, Douglas, Walter and eventually Glenn all caught the measles. In Douglas' case, the measles progressed to pneumonia with possible heart complications. Pneumonia had a relatively high mortality rate in those days as sulfapyridine and penicillin were not yet available to treat it. Douglas died the morning of Sunday January 5, 1930.

Master Douglas Wasson

Douglas, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Wasson, passed away Sunday morning, after an illness, with measles, pneumonia and heart complications. Douglas was a winning little fellow, five years old who always had a smile for every one. He leaves his parents and two brothers Walter and Glen who will miss him they have the sympathy of the entire community in the loss of this sweet little fellow. Douglas started to school this fall. Walter the oldest son is ill with measles now the funeral will be at the church Tuesday at one o'clock.

Douglas' death was reported in the Wyoming Journal, January 9, 1930

Douglas, the five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Wasson, passed away on Sunday morning from pneumonia which followed an attack of measles. His funeral is to be held from the Presbyterian church on Tuesday afternoon. Little Douglas is survived by his parents, Duncan and Esther Gensicke Wasson, and two little brothers, Walter and Glenn. He was a bright and beautiful little boy, a pupil in the first grade of the Onslow school and in the Presbyterian Sunday school. The sympathy of the community is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Wasson in their bereavement.

Douglas Wasson five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Wasson died at the home one mile east of town, Sunday morning, following an illness of measles and pneumonia. Although everything was done that doctors, nurses, and parents could do, the little fellow was not strong enough to battle the combined disease.

He is survived by his parents, two brothers, Walter and Glenn, and grandparents, Mrs. F. H. Gensicke and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wasson. His grandfather, F. H. Gensicke died four weeks ago. Funeral services will be held at the Onslow Presbyterian church, Tuesday afternoon with burial in the Wyoming cemetery.

It was also reported on in the Anamosa Eureka (left) and Anamosa Journal (right), both January 9, 1930

Douglas' funeral was held Tuesday January 14 at the Onslow Presbyterian Church. There were a number of attendees including Duncan and Esther's families who had come from Cedar Rapids, as well as Douglas' first grade class. Douglas was buried in the Wasson family plot in Wyoming Cemetery, Wyoming, Iowa.

ONSLOW

Tuesday, January 14, 1930

The funeral of Douglas Wasson, five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Wasson, was held Tuesday afternoon at the Presbyterian church. It was in charge of Rev. G. C. Flett pastor of the church. A mixed quartette, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Koon, Mrs. Howard Willison and James McNeilly sang three selections. The pallbearers were: Kenneth Kennedy, Howard Willison, George Paulsen and George Sears. Interment was made in the Wyoming cemetery. Among those attending from a distance were: Mrs. Wassons' mother, Mrs. F. H. Gensicke, her sons and daughters and Mr. and Mrs. Harb Orr all of Cedar Rapids; Mrs. R. J. Bone and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Wherry of Wyoming. All of the seats and many chairs in the church were filled by friends from Onslow and vicinity and the nearby places who came to show sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Wasson in their bereavement. The primary class in the Onslow school with the teacher, Miss Estelle McCune, was also in attendance little Douglas having been one of their number. The flowers given by sympathising friends were many and beautiful. Douglas had passed away on Sunday morning after a week of illness from pneumonia following an attack of the measles. Aside from his parents he leaves two little brothers, his grandmother Gensicke and grandfather Wasson with several uncles and aunts.

Douglas' funeral, Anamosa Eureka, January 16, 1930



Douglas Wasson's marker, Wyoming Cemetery, Wyoming, Iowa

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
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