



## **Introduction to the Wasson Family History**

### **The Ancestry of Duncan J. Wasson**

### **Places Associated with the Family**

*A family history is more than a collection of the names, dates, places and cemeteries found in typical family trees. Here is additional information about some of the farms and other places associated with our family.*

The earliest of our known Watson ancestors were blacksmiths. For at least one hundred years, our Watson ancestors lived and worked at the Smithy in the village now known as Old Dailly, in Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland.

For the next sixty years, our Watson ancestors lived at a succession of at least nine farms and villages in Dailly and Riccarton Parishes in Ayrshire, Oswego County in New York, and Jackson and Jones Counties in Iowa. In the early years, these ancestors worked as laborers and farm servants on other people's farms, or as tenant farmers on land that they rented.

It wasn't until 1864, when John was 50 years old, that John and Jemima Wasson finally owned their own substantial family farm. This farm, about a mile west of present-day Onslow, Iowa, was in the family for 38 years.

John and Jemima's daughter Jeannette married David Sim and moved on to the farm that his family had established to the east of present-day Onslow. That farm eventually went to Jeannette's nephew Duncan, who with his wife raised their family there. When they sold the farm in 1958, that ended more than 100 years of Sim-Wasson ownership of that farm.

It is the people – not where they lived – that are at the center of a family history. But learning something about these farms and villages and their context in time and location can provide some insight into the lives and activities of the people who lived there. If you get a chance to

visit these places, you can see something about what their world looked like and walk in their footsteps.

These articles focus on a number of places associated with the family. I have included maps and photos, and where possible some of the history of these places and our family's ties to them.

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