



Mary Elizabeth Wasson (1845-1927)

Mary Wasson was the third of eight children born to John and Jemima Wasson.

John and Jemima Wasson's daughter Mary was born on June 25, 1845 in Amboy, Oswego County, New York. She moved to Jackson County, Iowa with her family in 1854, and then to Jones County, Iowa by 1860.

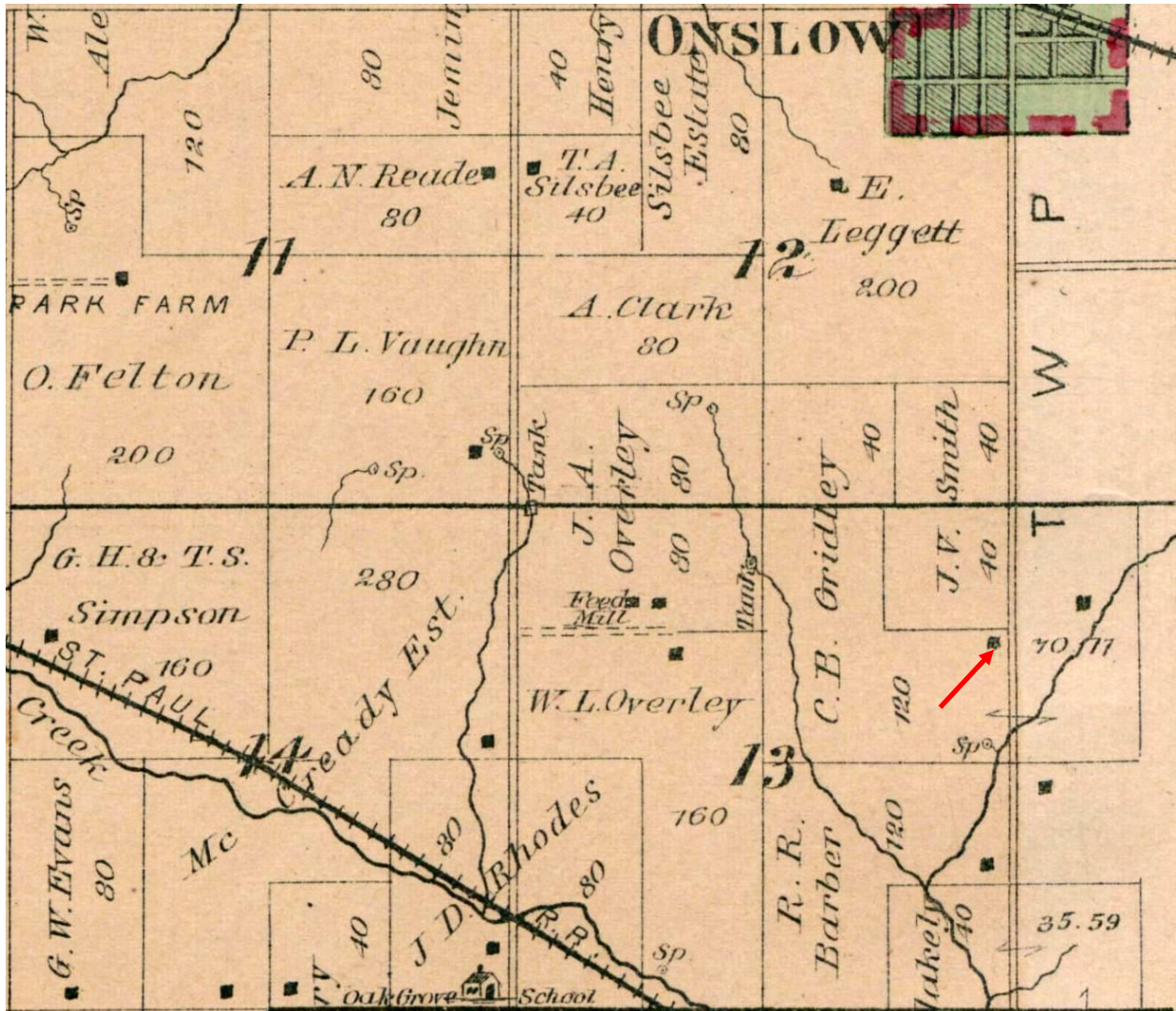
Like the rest of her family, Jane attended the Scotch Grove Presbyterian Church when the family moved to the area in 1854. She remained a Presbyterian the rest of her life.



Mary Wasson Gridley (left) and Charles Gridley (right)

Mary married Civil War veteran Charles B. Gridley on December 7, 1865 at her parents' home. Charles was orphaned in Indiana. After living with an older brother for a while, he joined the household of Lyman G. and Hannah Ransom, who had been family friends back in Indiana, and headed west to Iowa with them.

After three years in Scotch Grove Township, Mary and Charles bought the Lovett Farm in Madison Township, 160 acres along the road between Onslow and Wyoming. They eventually expanded their farm, adding another 80 acres across the road in Wyoming Township.



This 1893 plat map shows the Charles Gridley Farm two years before the Gridleys retired.



Former site of the Charles Gridley Farm along Highway 136, south of Onslow

Charles and Mary had four children. These included the following:

- Leona Jeanne Gridley, born October 22, 1867, in Scotch Grove Township, Jones County, Iowa (different sources provide different dates)
- Mary Jeanette Gridley, possibly born in 1869 (different sources provide different dates), in Jones County, Iowa
- Jemima F. Gridley, born in 1872, in Jones County, Iowa
- George B. Gridley, born in 1876, in Jones County, Iowa

Their children Jemima and George both died in infancy.

Mary had some claim to fame when it came to making butter. In the fall of 1884, she took first premium for her dairy butter at the county fair in Monticello. She then repeated that accomplishment in early 1885 at the New Orleans Exposition, a.k.a. the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition.

The Red Ribbon People.
 Among those from Wyoming and vicinity who were awarded first premiums on entries at the Jones County Agricultural Society's Fair this year we note the following:
 Butter and cheese: Graft & Lee, creamery butter, first premium; two boxes cheese made before July 1, first premium, two boxes cheese, made before Aug. 1, first premium. Mrs. Chas. Gridley, tub dairy butter, first premium.
 Mrs. Chas. Gridley also took first premiums on carrots and plums.

place, which finds ready sale.
 Mrs. Charles Gridley, it seems, takes 1st premium on dairy butter at New Orleans. It will be remembered that she took 1st premium at Monticello last fall. It is often a question about the awards being just, but at a place like the exposition it must be conceded that it is the quality of the article, as there can be no chance for one in a remote part of the country to be favored. Mrs. Gridley has a perfect right to feel proud of her achievements in butter making, and no doubt she does. **QUINTUS.**

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

Mary Gridley takes first premium for her butter, carrots and plums at the Jones County Fair, Wyoming Journal, September 25, 1884 (left); Mary Gridley takes first premium for her butter at the 1885 World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition in New Orleans, Anamosa Eureka, February 12, 1885 (right)

Mary was also active in the Wyoming Women's Relief Corps for more than 40 years; Charles was active in Civil War veterans' groups.

Charles and Mary sold their farm in February 1895 when they retired to a home on North Washington Street in nearby Wyoming. While living in Wyoming, the Gridley's regularly provided housing for teachers from out of town as well as for rural students who attended the local high school.



The Gridley home was on Washington Street, Wyoming, about one block north from where this 1908 postcard was photographed.



When the Gridley's moved to Wyoming, they joined the Wyoming Presbyterian Church, shown here in this 1908 postcard.

Mr. and Mrs. Gridley Celebrate Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Gridley celebrated their sixtieth Wedding Anniversary Saturday, December fifth by keeping open house Saturday afternoon and evening.

This worthy couple have lived in our midst all these years. They were married at the home of the brides parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Wasson in the vicinity of Onalow. They immediately established themselves on a farm. From the day their modest little first home was opened on thru the years the door has always been ajar. Countless numbers have been heartened and helped by the inspiration and cheer radiating from the Gridley home.

Mr. Gridley served his Country thru the Civil War being with the 24th. Iowa Regiment.

Mr. and Mrs. Gridley have two daughters, Mrs. R. M. Elwood of Everett, Washington; and Mrs. C. E. Wherry of Wyoming. Four grandsons and one granddaughter. Mrs. Elwood while unable to be here Saturday, visited her parents during the autumn.

The house thronged with friends Saturday afternoon and evening. All were merry as the proverbial wedding guests should be.

The living rooms were tastefully decorated with amethyst chrysanthemums, the dining room festooned with smilax, great bowls of orange marigolds, and orange candles.

The bride, wore a cream canton crepe, lace trimmed gown and never looked better than on her sixtieth wedding day.

Mrs. Harriet Deikman presided over the dining table, friends helped serve refreshments to the guests, Mrs. Deikman performed this service also at the golden wedding.

The severe storm of Saturday prevented many out of town guests from coming but congratulation and good wishes from relatives and friends poured in by mail, wire and telephone.

A quartet composed of Mesdames J. T. Wherry, E. N. Stoffel, Messrs. Beckwith and Vaughn sang a group

of old time folk melodies and patriotic songs so dear to the veterans.

Little Ivetta Bramer, accompanied by her sisters, Bernice on the saxophone and Glatha, the violin, sang a solo.

The guests departed feeling that as so beautifully expressed by a bit of verse composed for the occasion by their life long friend, Mrs. B. D. Smith surely.

"Life's afternoon is the best"
The pleasantest part of living
Is the hour at the end of the day;
When the hardest part of the work is done

And cares are put away;
There is time for meeting and greeting
And time for a well-earned rest
The sunrise is full of promise
But the sunset time is the best.

For toil goes with the morning
The working part of the day
With scarce a bit of leisure
And never an hour for play.
But it makes the resting sweeter
As the sun dips toward the west,
Whether we count by days or years
Life's afternoon the best.

What if the morn was showery,
And clouds come rolling by
What matters it when beauty
Lights up the sunset sky
The hard things are forgotten
They pass away so soon
The tender memories linger
About life's afternoon.

So be glad if the work accomplished
And the duties passed away
Be glad of the years together
And the friendships of today
May all good things attend you
As the sun dips toward the west
For though we count by days or years
Life's afternoon is the best.

BEN PAUL POST G. A. R. ELECTS OFFICERS

At meeting of Ben Paul Post G. A. R. last Saturday the following officers were elected for ensuing year:

Commander.....	W S Garrison
Senior Vice Commander.....	D. G. Lebo
Junior Vice Commander.....	G. W. James
Adjutant.....	A P Moats
Quartermaster.....	M H Morse
Surgeon.....	Walter James
Chaplain.....	G W Bottomstone
Officer of the Day.....	C B Gridley
Officer of the Guard.....	Joe Shedek
S. M.....	Simeon S Haur
Q. M. S.....	W S Garrison

The Gridley's celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary, Wyoming Journal, December 10, 1925

Mary died in Wyoming January 7, 1927 due to complications following a stroke. Her funeral was held at her home. She was buried in Wyoming Cemetery, Wyoming, Iowa.

MARY ELIZABETH GRIDLEY

Mary Elizabeth Wasson, long a resident of Wyoming, died Friday afternoon, having been ill only a week. She was born in Oswego county, New York, and came to Madison township when a child. In 1865 she was united in marriage to Charles B. Gridley who had come home from the war on a furlough. The home was established after the war, on a farm near Onslow. In 1895 they moved to Wyoming, where she was a mother to the many out-of-town teachers who made their home at Gridley's, also to the many rural students of the high school who roomed there. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, Leona Elwood of Everett, Wash., and Nettie Wherry of Wyoming, five grand children and one great grandchild. Mrs. Gridley was a member of the W. R. C. and the Presbyterian church. Early in December she and Mr. Gridley quietly celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Funeral services were held from the home Sunday afternoon, Rev. Nicholas officiating with burial in the Wyoming cemetery.

Mary Wasson Gridley's obituary, Anamosa Journal, January 13, 1927



Marker for Mary Wasson Gridley, Wyoming Cemetery

Charles died a year to the day after his wife died while he was staying with his daughter in Everett, Washington. He was also buried in Wyoming Cemetery.

Life Sketch of Charles B. Gridley
Soldier, Patriot, Honored Citizen

Charles B. Gridley was born in Union Mills, LaGrange county, Indiana, Feb. 18, 1842, and died in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Robert M. Elwood, Everett, Washington, January 7th, 1928.

Mr. Gridley was left an orphan at the tender age of seven years. He lived in the home of an older brother, until in his early teens he came west making his home with friends from Indiana, who had settled near Scotch Grove. In the spring of sixty-one, Mr. Gridley came to the vicinity of Onslow, in August of the same year he enlisted in Co. D 9th Iowa Infantry and served his country faithfully during the four years of the civil war.

On December 7, 1865, he married Miss Mary Wasson. Together for sixty-two years they shared life's sorrows and joys, adversities and prosperities. To them were born four children, a son and daughter dying in infancy. Two daughters, Mrs. Robert M. Elwood of Everett, Washington, and Mrs. Cecil Wherry of Wyoming, Iowa, survive him.

A year ago his loved wife was called, Mrs. Elwood prevailed upon her father to leave the empty home, for a time, and return with her to her home on the Pacific coast, which he did, enjoying and taking much interest in this section or his country, so different from his Iowa home. Too, the companionship of his grand children from whom he had been separated many years, was a great joy.

Just one year from the day of his wife's death he slipped away. In the evening he bid the family good night and retired in his usual health and awakened on the other shore.

Left to mourn are his two daughters, five grand children, two great grand children. He was a faithful and consistent member of the First Presbyterian church for over sixty years.

Funeral services were from the home at two o'clock Sunday, Jan. 29 conducted by his pastor, Rev. W. P. Nicholas, and very ably assisted by Rev. David S. deBest of Springville. The text was taken from the 25th chapter of Matthew 23d verse: "Well done thy good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." A quartette composed of Misses Eloise Inglis and Helen Roehik, Mr. A. A. Vaughn, Mr. W. L. Beckwith, sang "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" and "Soldier Rest."

He died at a ripe old age, yet his mind was young and alert. He was interested in everybody and everything. As part of the love and devotion we could give to him, his casket was tenderly carried by the Legion Boys from his home, through the doorway over which hung his beloved Flag. Passing out for the last time under the Flag he loved so well.

The last march of life is finished. He has answered the bugle call. The last taps have been sounded. Just at the dawn of a beautiful day he laid down to rest. The rest that comes to one who has filled his life with willing service for all.

Out-of-town relatives and friends attending: Mrs. W. G. Krouse and daughter Iola, Mr. and Mrs. Reid Watson, Miss Henrietta Franks, Mr. Ed. Jurgesen of Cedar Rapids; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wasson, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Wasson, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Streeper and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Wherry, Mrs. Lydia Lyons, Mrs. Harriet Lamey, Mrs. Geo. Lyons, Mrs. Jennie Smith, Mr. A. N. Reade of Onslow; Mr. and Mrs. John Rhodes of Baldwin; Mr. Emil Levesen of Maquoketa; Mrs. David S. deBest of Springville; Sim E. Wherry and Chas. D. Wherry Des Moines.

John Bedford Post No. 89, Department of Washington and Alaska Grand Army of the Republic Veteran's Hall, the Armory. Jan. 14th, 1928. The following resolution was adopted by a rising vote:

Resolved, That we desire to express our sympathy to the relatives and friends of Comrade Charles B. Gridley, who recently answered the last call. We deeply deplore his passing, but loyally submit to the decree of the Great Commander. For the past few months Comrade Gridley had been a regular attendant at our meetings. We will miss his pleasant greetings, but fully realize that our loss is his gain.

Respectfully submitted,
J. R. Lupton, Commander.
E. C. Ackey, Adjutant.

Charles Gridley's obituary, Wyoming Journal, February 2, 1928



Marker for Charles Gridley, Wyoming Cemetery



Sisters Jeanette (left) and Leona (right) Gridley

Leona Jeanne Gridley (Charles and Mary Gridley’s daughter)

Daughter Leona Jeanne married Robert Elwood, who worked in construction. They had three children. The family moved to Everett, Washington. A number of their descendants remained in Washington. Leona died June 3, 1955. She and her husband Robert were buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Everett.



Marker for Robert Elwood and Leona Gridley Elwood, Evergreen Cemetery, Everett, Washington

Mary Jeanette “Nettie” Gridley (Charles and Mary Gridley’s daughter)

Daughter Mary Jeanette “Nettie” received her teacher’s certificate at Northern Illinois Normal School, and taught in rural Jones County schools for several years. She married Cecil Wherry on March 17, 1897. He worked as the Wyoming, Iowa postmaster. They had two children. They remained in Jones County, where Nettie died September 16, 1957. She and her husband Cecil were buried in Wyoming Cemetery.



Marker for Mary Gridley Wherry, Wyoming Cemetery, Wyoming, Iowa

Jemima F. Gridley (Charles and Mary Gridley's daughter)

Daughter Jemima F. died January 15, 1874. She was buried in Wyoming Cemetery.



Marker for Jemima Gridley, Wyoming Cemetery

George B. Gridley (Charles and Mary Gridley's son)

Son George died February 22, 1877. He was buried in Wyoming Cemetery.



Marker for George Gridley, Wyoming Cemetery



The Charles and Mary Gridley family plot, Wyoming Cemetery

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
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