



## The Foil Road Farms, Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York

*The Wassons at one time owned two properties on Foil Road in Amboy Township. One was the farm that John Wasson and Jane Lambie acquired in 1839 and that Hugh Wasson later owned until his 1887 death. The second was a small farm that John and Jemima Wasson acquired in 1847 and sold in 1854. We are direct descendants of John and Jane Wasson and John and Jemima Wasson.*

In John (Jane) Wasson's 1844 will, he noted that the farm where he, his wife Jane, and their sons John and Hugh lived was on Mexico Road. At the time, Mexico Road connected the town of Camden, Oneida County, to the east with the town of Mexico, Oswego County, to the west. Today, County Highway 69 makes the same connection, but only the part of the highway in Oneida County is still called Mexico Road.

County Highway 69 cuts across Amboy Township today. But highways did not exist back then. Roads were little more than horse and wagon routes. With that in mind, today's Turk Road and Foil Road connect with County Highway 69, but they would have provided a reasonable alternative to the County Highway 69 route across the township in the mid-1800s.

A check of names and their order in the 1840 and 1850 U.S. Census records combined with a comparison of names and their order on early plat maps suggests that what John (Jane) Wasson called Mexico Road generally followed the route of today's Turk Road and Foil Road.

John Wasson and Jane Lambie acquired their 50-acre farm in 1839. John's will divided the farm between his sons John and Hugh. Son John sold his share to Hugh in 1846, but he and his wife Jemima bought another property further down the road in 1847 from Andrew and Betsey Lester.

I was able to identify the Wasson properties on Foil Road in Amboy Township in 1850 by comparing the order of names on the 1850 U.S. Census with names on two plat maps, and then by comparing those plat maps to a recent Google Satellite image of the area.

**SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in the Town of Amboy, in the County of Oswego State of New York** enumerated by me, on the 14th day of Sept. 1850. *Albert Moore* Ass't Marshal.

Dwelling-house numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
			Age.	Sex.	White, (Black, or Indian.)							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
84	87	Robert Hall	44	M		Farmer	3,000	Scotland				
		Jane "	44	F				" "				
		Stephen "	12	M				New York	1			
85	88	Banjamin Woodbards	45	M		Farmer	850	England				
		Lisan "	34	F				" "				
		Rachael "	12	F				New York	1			
		Joseph "	8	M				" "	1			
		Walter "	5	M				" "	1			
		Sarah "	3	F				" "				
86		John Wasson	40	M		Laborer	500	Scotland				
		Jemima "	34	F				" "				
		John "	8	M				" "				
		Jane "	6	F				New York	1			
		Mary "	5	F				" "	1			
		Janet "	3	F				" "	1			
		William "	2	M				" "				
87	90	George Whaley	50	M		Farmer	1,500	" "				
		Lydian "	48	F				" "				
		John "	25	M		" "		" "	1			
		Nichols M.	23	M		" "		" "				
		Bibbie "	19	F				" "				
		Andrew J.	16	M		" "		" "	1			
		Louisa "	14	F				" "	1			
		Washington "	11	M				" "	1			
		Mary "	8	F				" "	1			
		Jane "	4	M				" "	1			
88	91	Jane Brown	48	M		Farmer	2,300	Scotland				
		Catherine "	46	F				" "				
		Margaret "	16	F				New York	1			
		Elizabeth "	13	F				" "	1			
		Robert "	9	M				" "	1			
		John "	6	M				" "	1			
		Mary "	3	F				" "				
89	92	Hugh C. Wasson	26	M		Farmer	1,000	Scotland				
		Jane "	61	F				" "				
90	93	Samuel Whaley	46	M		Farmer	1,000	New York				
		Julia "	46	F				" "				
		Marion "	22	M		" "		" "				
		William "	20	M		" "		" "	1			
		Marianne "	16	F				" "	1			
		George "	13	M				" "	1			
		Ruth C.	8	F				" "	1			

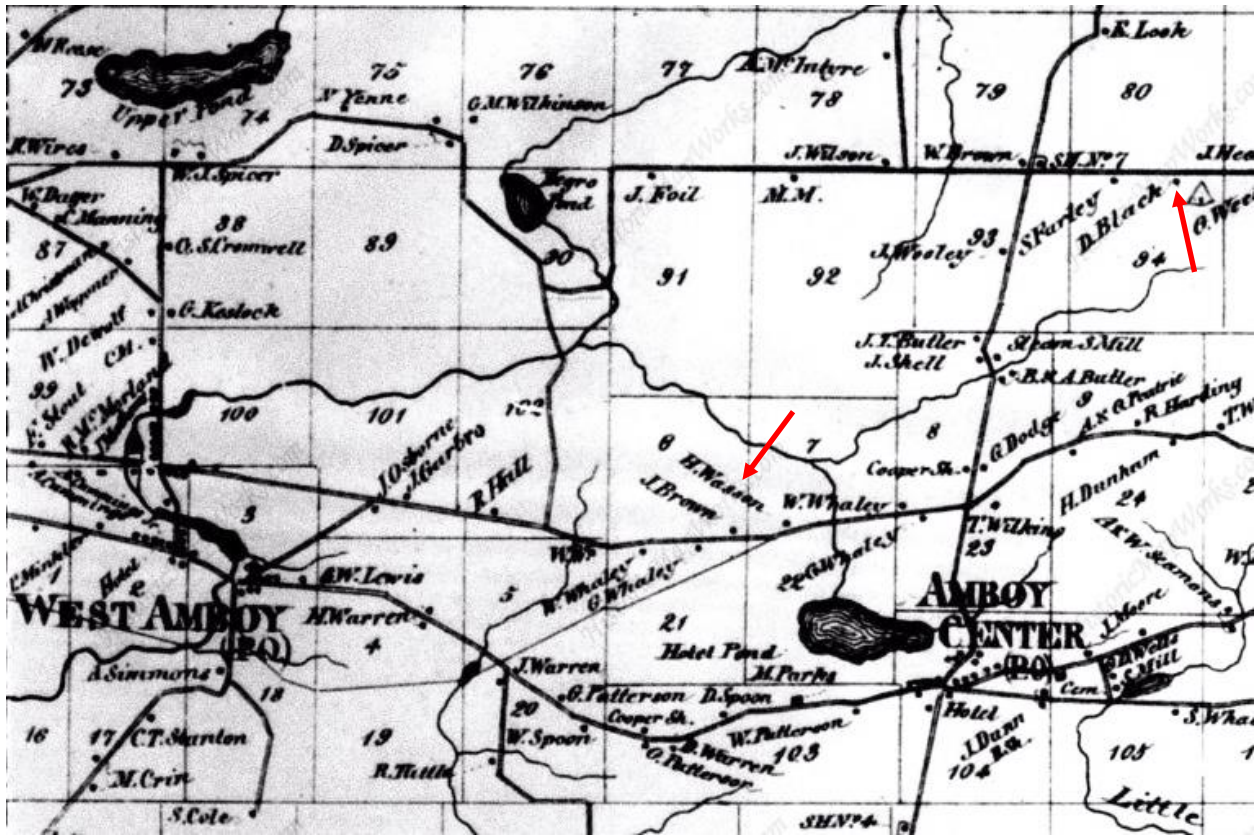
The 1850 U.S. Census from west to east along Foil Road, Amboy Township. The census included two Wasson households on this page: son John Wasson, his wife Jemima, and their five children, and son Hugh Wasson and his mother Jane.

Note the order of the family names in the census record: Hall, Woodlands, J. Wasson, G. Whaley, Brown, H.C. Wasson, and S. Whaley.



*Undated Plat Map of Amboy Township*

Today's Foil Road runs across the center-left of this map from West Amboy and north of Hotel Pond to an intersection north of the hamlet of Amboy (Center).



1867 Plat Map of Amboy Township (excerpt), with the Hugh Wasson and David and Janet Wasson Black farms marked

This 1867 plat map is easier to read. Again, note the order of the names heading from west to east along Foil Road, starting with R. Hall: Hall, WW (likely W. Whaley), W. Whaley, G. Whaley, J. Brown, H. Wasson, W. Whaley, G. Whaley. Several of the names line up in the same order with those listed in the 1850 U.S. Census. J. Wasson of course is missing from the 1867 map because John and Jemima Wasson sold their property in 1854 and moved to Iowa that year.

In the 1850 U.S. Census, S. (Sam) Whaley had sons Warner, William and George who would have been old enough to have their own farms by 1867.

Now compare this map to a recent Google satellite image:



*Google Satellite image of Amboy Center, Hotel Pond and Foil Road*

Because the area has undergone little further development since 1867, many roads and farms shown on the 1867 plat map also appear where we would expect them to on the Google Satellite image.

The property marked (A) was a G. Whaley farm in 1867, and where John and Jemima Wasson lived with their family in 1850. The property marked (B) was the site of John and Jane Wasson's farm that they purchased in 1839, and son Hugh Wasson's farm in 1850, 1867, and up until his death in 1887.

(C) marks the village of Amboy Center. (D) shows the location of the Amboy Cemetery where John and Jane Wasson were likely buried, as were two of Hugh Wasson's children.

## Photos of the Foil Road Farms



*Foil Road in 2012*



*Site of John and Jemima Wasson's farm in 1850. The house in the photo dates back to about 1900. It has since been torn down and replaced. John and Jemima sold their farm to Jeremy Dudley in 1854 when they left for Iowa.*



*Site of John and Jemima Wasson's farm in 1850*

John and Jemima's farm was more of an acreage than a full farm. According to the 1850 U.S. Census, the value of the real estate they owned was generally much lower than that of most of their neighbors. This suggests John and Jemima's farm was quite a bit smaller than neighboring farms on Foil Road. It may have been big enough to grow food for the family and graze some livestock, but not much bigger than that. Also, according to that census, most of John's neighbors were employed as farmers. John, however, was employed as a "Laborer", working for others.



*This was the site of the farm that John and Jane Wasson first acquired in 1839. It later became Hugh Wasson's farm.*

Hugh and his wife Margaret raised their family here. After Hugh's father John died, his wife Jane lived here with Hugh and his family for the rest of her life. About six years after Hugh died, his widow sold the farm and moved to a home in nearby Camden, Oneida County.

Towards the upper right corner of the 1867 plat map is a farm labeled “D. Black”. That farm is where John and Jane’s daughter Janet, her husband David Black and several of their children settled when they arrived in Amboy Township in 1859.



*Site of David and Janet Black’s farm when they settled in Amboy Township in 1859*

I used the same techniques to identify the location of David and Janet Black’s farm on Harry Bryant Road as I did to identify the Wasson properties on Foil Road.

Prepared by Mark David Wasson  
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