



William Henry Wasson (1849-1920)

William Wasson was the fifth of eight children born to John and Jemima Wasson.

John and Jemima Wasson's son William was born on October 9, 1849 in Amboy, Oswego County, New York. He moved to Jackson County, Iowa with his family in 1854, and then to Jones County, Iowa by 1860.

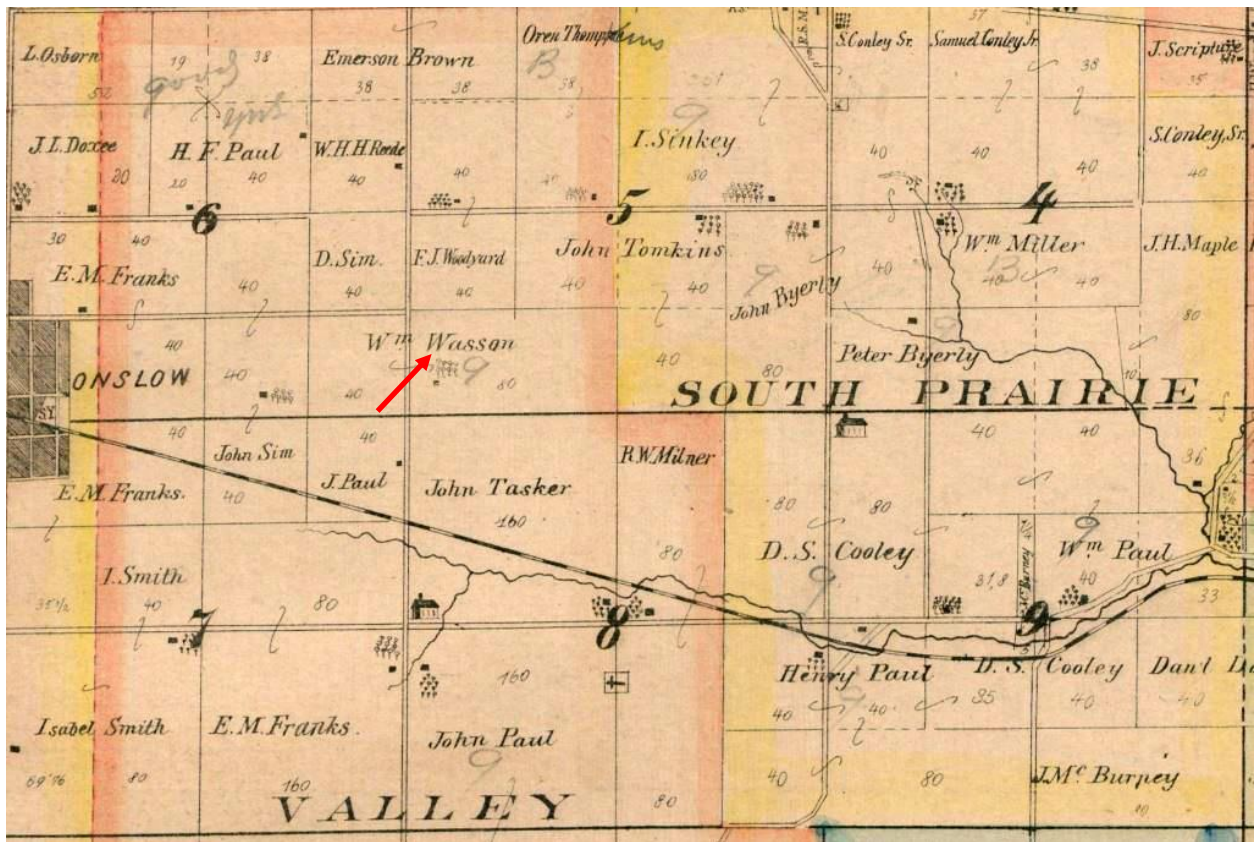
Like the rest of his family, William attended the Scotch Grove Presbyterian Church when the family moved to the area in 1854. He transferred to the Onslow Presbyterian Church after it opened in the early 1870s. He united with the Methodist church shortly after he married.

William married Margaret "Maggie" Ransom October 13, 1875. She was orphaned soon after the Civil War began, and was adopted by Lyman G. and Hannah Ransom, who had moved to Jones County from Indiana in the early 1850s.



William Wasson (left) and Maggie Ransom Wasson (right)

After they married, William and Maggie settled on a farm east of Onslow that was adjacent to the Sim-Wasson Farm where his sister Jeannette and her husband David lived at the time.



This 1877 plat map shows William Wasson's farm in sections 5 and 6 of Wyoming Township.



Former site of the William Wasson Farm, along 60th Avenue, Wyoming Township



Former site of the William Wasson Farm

William and Maggie had five children, including the following:

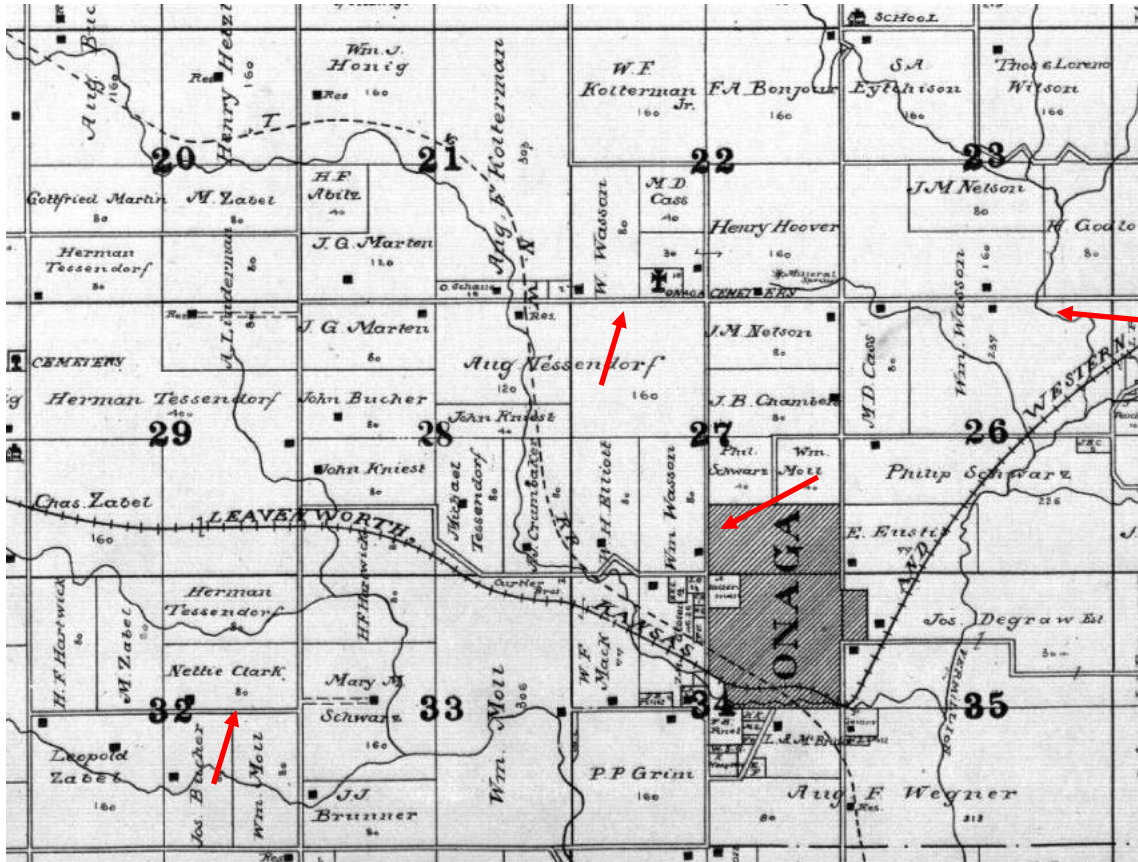
- Charles William Wasson, born, August 3, 1876, in Wyoming Township, Jones County, Iowa
- Lyman George Wasson, born August 22, 1878, in Wyoming Township, Jones County, Iowa
- James Wilber “Will” Wasson, born June 21, 1883, in Mill Creek Township, Pottawatomie County, Kansas
- Jeanette “Netta” Wasson, born in July 1885, in Mill Creek Township, Pottawatomie County, Kansas
- Margaret Grace “Gracie” Wasson, born June 18, 1889, in Mill Creek Township, Pottawatomie County, Kansas



William Wasson (left), son James Wilber “Will”, daughter Jeanette, wife Maggie (right)

Two of their children were born on the Wyoming Township farm. In 1883, William became the only one of John and Jemima’s children to move away from Jones County when he and Maggie moved to a farm northeast of Onaga in Mill Creek Township, Pottawatomie County, Kansas, where Maggie’s family had recently moved. William and Maggie visited their Jones County family numerous times over the next several years.

William and Maggie had three more children while they were living in Kansas. William was quite successful. He eventually owned about 600 acres around Onaga, and in 1903 he was elected president of a new bank in Onaga.



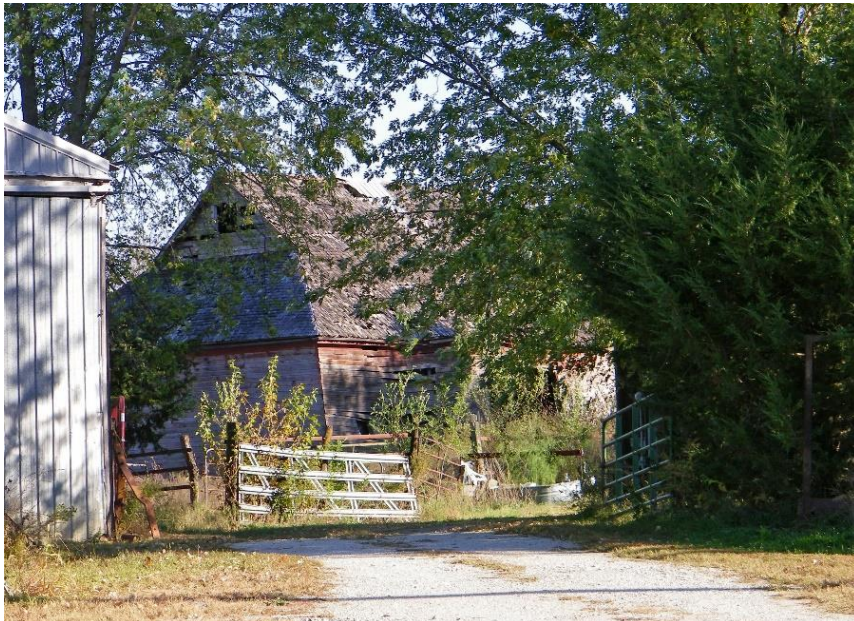
This 1905 plat map shows William Wasson's farms in sections 23, 26 and 27 of Mill Creek Township, Pottawatomie County. His son Will owned a farm in section 22, and his daughter Jeanette "Nettie" Clark owned a farm in section 32.



The road that passes through the William Wasson Farm near Onaga was later renamed Wasson Road.



Wasson Road leads through the site of the original William Wasson Farm near Onaga, Kansas in sections 23 and 26 of Mill Creek Township.



The old Wasson barn in 2010

For health reasons, in 1911 William and Margaret moved to a farm in the Denver, Colorado area, near where their daughter Jeanette and her husband Will Clark had moved earlier. William lived on that farm the rest of his life. Son Lyman George took over the Mill Creek Township farm.

William died January 13, 1920 after a few years of poor health. William's funeral was held at the Methodist Church in Onaga. He was buried in Onaga Cemetery, Onaga, Kansas.

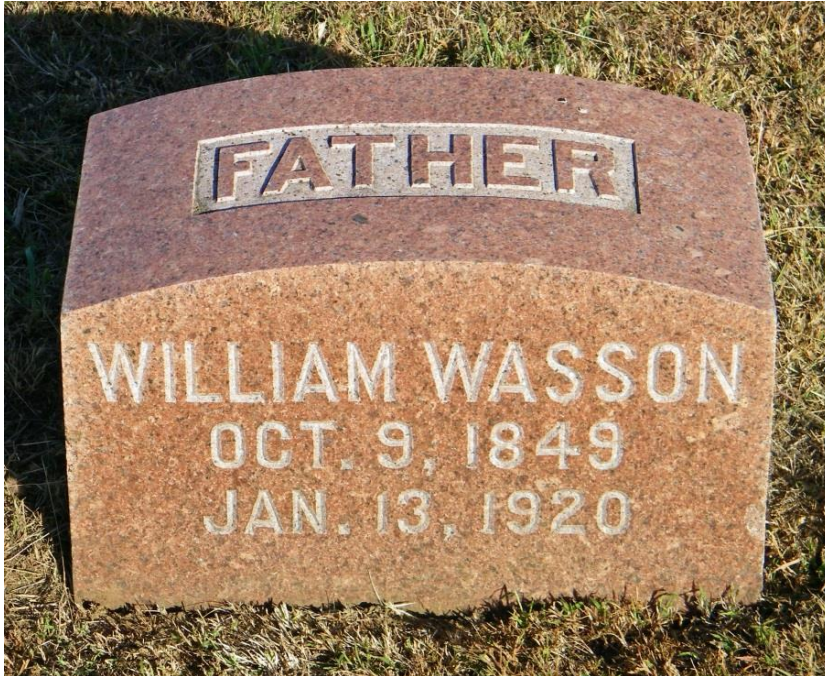
William Wasson was born in the state of New York on October 9, 1849, and passed away at his home in Denver, Colo., on January 13th, 1920, age 71 years, 3 months, and 4 days.

At the age of four years he, together with his parents, moved to the state of Iowa where he grew to young manhood. While living there he was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Ransom on October 13th, 1875. To this union were born five children, as follows: Charles William, James Wilbur, Margaret Grace, L. George, of this city, and Mrs. Nettie Clark of Denver. The first three children have preceded the father to the Better World. Besides the wife and two children the deceased is survived by one brother, Joseph Wasson of Onslow, Ia., and one sister, Mrs. Mary Gridley of Wyoming, Iowa, and four grandchildren.

In February, 1882, Mr. and Mrs. Wasson moved to Kansas and settled on the old farm now occupied by the son George. He was a hard working man, frugal in his dealings, strictly honest with all, and in time became well fixed in this world's goods. Soon after his marriage he became converted and united with the Methodist Episcopal church and remained a faithful member until called to his reward. He was a kind hearted and devoted husband and father, and his sterling character made him well liked by all with whom he came in contact. On account of ill health of both himself and Mrs. Wasson, they moved to Colorado in 1911, where he purchased a nice farm and continued his profession of a tiller of the soil. He had been in very poor health for the past few years but he never complained and always stated that he was ready to take the step into The Great Beyond when his Master willed.

The remains, accompanied by the bereft wife and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Clark and little daughter, reached Onaga last Thursday evening and were taken to the farm home. The funeral services were held at the M. E. church Friday afternoon, and were conducted by Rev. D. F. Honsted of Langford, Kans., assisted by Rev. Good of the Congregational church. A large congregation was present to pay their last tribute of respect to one whom they held in high esteem. Interment was given in the family lot in the Onaga cemetery. The bereft family have the sincere sympathy of their wide circle of friends.

William Wasson's obituary, Onaga Herald, January 22, 1920



Marker for William Wasson, Onaga Cemetery

Maggie remarried and spent her final years in San Diego, California. She was buried with William and a number of their children in Onaga Cemetery.



Marker for Maggie Ransom Wasson Lake, Onaga Cemetery, Onaga, Kansas

Margaret Ransom was born at Onslow, Iowa, on December 31, 1858. She passed from this life at her home in San Diego, California on February 19, 1929, aged 70 years, 1 month and 19 days.

On October 4, 1874 she was united in marriage to William Wasson at, Onslow, Iowa. Some time later they moved to Onaga, Kansas, where the greater part of her married life was spent. Five children were born to this union, three of whom, Margaret Grace, Chas. William, and James Wilbur, preceded her in death. The others are Mrs. Nettie Clark, of Denver, Colorado, and George Wasson, of Onaga. Mr. Wasson passed to the other world a number of years in advance of his wife.

She was married a second time in November, 1921, to Mr. William Lake, and in recent years they have made their home in San Diego, where death came upon her and very suddenly she was taken from among us. She leaves to mourn her going her husband, Mr. Lake, one daughter, Mrs. Nettie Clark, one son, George Wasson, and four grandchildren, besides a host of friends.

Mrs. Lake has been a member of the church since childhood, when she united with the Methodist church. On moving to San Diego she united with the Congregational church. She will be remembered by many of the older residents of our community for her faithfulness in all matters pertaining to the work of the Kingdom an interest she maintained as a life purpose.

The remains arrived in Onaga, Monday and funeral services were held at the Methodist church Tuesday afternoon, conducted by the pastor, Rev. Horton, and interment was given, in the Onaga cemetery.

Margaret Ransom Wasson Lake's obituary, Onaga Herald, February 28, 1929

Charles William Wasson (William and Maggie Wasson's son)

Son Charles William was a farmer. He died on October 7, 1902 at the age of 26 due to complications following a farm injury. He never married and had no children. He was buried in Onaga Cemetery.



Marker for Charles Wasson, Onaga Cemetery

Lyman George Wasson (William and Maggie Wasson's son)

Son Lyman George married Hattie Carl on March 16, 1903 in Pottawatomie County, Kansas. They had two sons, one of whom died at six months. George took over his parents' farm in 1911 when his parents moved to Denver. He died March 24, 1933, a casualty of the Great Depression. He was buried in Onaga Cemetery. His wife and surviving son ended up in Orange County, California, where they lived the rest of their lives.



Lyman George Wasson



Marker for Lyman George Wasson, Onaga Cemetery

James Wilber “Will” Wasson (William and Maggie Wasson’s son)

Son James Wilber “Will” married Anna Young on November 16, 1904 in Havensville, Kansas. They had a daughter Nadine. Will was a farmer. He moved to the Denver area in 1911 along with other members of his family. It was there on October 10, 1912 when Will was killed in a farm accident at age 29. He was buried in Onaga Cemetery. His widow remarried, and she and their daughter moved to the Los Angeles area.



James Wilber “Will” Wasson’s daughter Nadine Grace Wasson



Marker for James Wilber “Will” Wasson, Onaga Cemetery

Jeanette May “Netta” Wasson (William and Maggie Wasson’s daughter)

Daughter Jeanette May “Netta” married Will Clark on May 6, 1902 in Pottawatomie County, Kansas. They moved to the Denver area by 1910, where they lived the rest of their lives. They had two children. Jeanette died in 1965 and was buried in Denver’s Fairmount Cemetery.



Sisters Margaret Grace and Jeanette Wasson



Marker for Will Clark and Jeanette Wasson Clark, Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, Colorado. The “Deffenbaugh” under Jeanette’s name has puzzled me. It suggests that Jeanette may have remarried after her husband died, but to date I have not found any evidence of that.

Margaret Grace "Gracie" Wasson (William and Maggie Wasson's daughter)

Daughter Margaret Grace "Gracie" died from diabetes on October 20, 1895 at the age of six. She was buried in Onaga Cemetery.



Marker for Margaret Grace "Gracie" Wasson, Onaga Cemetery



The William and Maggie Wasson family plot in Onaga Cemetery

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
Last updated October 31, 2021