



Daniel Baird Wesson (1825-1906)



Daniel & Cynthia Wesson

At the age of 18 Daniel Wesson apprenticed himself to his brother Edwin (a leading manufacturer of target rifles and pistols in the 1840's) in Northborough, Massachusetts. There he met his future wife Cynthia Hawes. Since her father objected to the marriage fearing that Daniel was a "mere gunsmith" with no future, they eloped in 1847. Little did her father know the success he would have in later years. His salary in 1865 was over \$160,000!

In 1856 Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson began to produce a small revolver (Model 1) designed to fire the a cartridge they had patented. This was the start of their very successful firearms business. Mr. Wesson's sons Joseph and Walter assumed management positions by 1885. Joseph was also an innovative firearms designer while Walter was a skilled administrator.

The White Cliffs mansion was not completed until 1886 when Mr. Wesson was 61 years old. It pales in comparison to his Springfield home built some 10 years later.

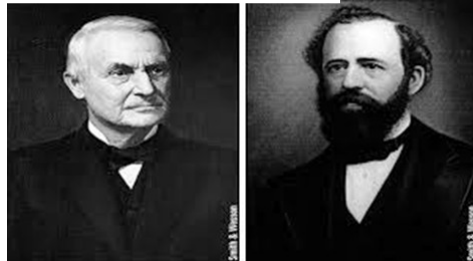
As a philanthropist, Daniel Wesson founded the Hampden Homeopathic Hospital in Springfield with a donation of \$100,000. This was later... wife died 3 weeks



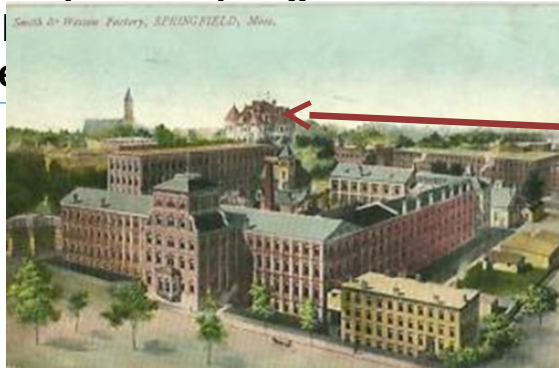
Model #1



Walter, Joseph and Daniel



Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson



Smith & Wesson Factory 1890's

Hospit



Springfield Home Completed: 1898 Burned Down: 1966