



History of Hoisington

The story of Hoisington is the story of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad in Central Kansas. Land-hungry settlers from Illinois, Iowa and other eastern states were eager to press forward and settle in this new country. The War with Mexico had bequeathed to the United States an immense new Western Empire. America was now a two-ocean nation. California had been admitted as a state, and later, railroad survey parties were surveying land through Kansas for possible rail route to the Pacific.

At the time Barton County was organized in 1872, the area was one of the finest grazing lands for the buffalo on the American continent. It was truly a hunter's paradise. Buffalo and antelope roamed this area by the millions. Deer and elk were in the timbered stream valleys.

The pioneers of Homestead Township in the 1870's had preceded the establishment of the town of Hoisington and had contributed to the laying of the railroad by voting bond issues. The original railroad was built as The Kansas and Colorado Railroad Company. Some of the main line grading was done through this part of the state in 1885, but it was not until the fall of 1886 that the first work-train arrived.

In the beginning, Monon, meaning "Lady of the Lake," was the railroad station. It became the division point because Chivington, Colorado failed to yield the required water. Lake Barton was constructed to provide water for the trains and shops. When the changeover from steam to diesel occurred, Lake Barton was converted to a recreational area.

Monon was established about 1888. Meanwhile, a post office had been established a mile and a half south of Monon at Buena Vista in 1879. The name of the post office was changed to Hoisington, in honor of Andrew Jackson Hoisington, in April 1887. By 1889, the station at Monon was moved to a new rail line, which went through Hoisington.

The first rail laid through Hoisington was 56-pound rail, just about half the weight of present rails. Through the level part of the country the track was laid on the prairie without grading, later being ditched and the track raised on a grade by filling under it.

Trains were not rated as to tonnage for a number of years. The first westbound trains out of Hoisington consisted of not more than 14 cars while an eastbound train handled not more than 16 cars. They were from 20,000 to 40,000 pound capacity.

In early July 1901, the first depot, located east of the present depot, was destroyed by fire. Among the volunteers who struggled to save a lot of equipment and freight from the depot and freight house was Rev. Cornelius. He worked heroically to save a barrel of something that later was found to contain whiskey.

In addition to its ticket-buying passengers, the Missouri-Pacific brought Hoisington many interesting characters that rode the "side-door pullmans." In the days of the header-barge and threshers, harvest transient laborers came both with and without tickets. During and after the First World War were the "weary willies" or I.W.W.'s.

In the depression days the railroad was host to multitudes of unemployed. Among those who were removed from the train in Hoisington yards was a man booked as William H. Dempsey.

The largest buildings in central Kansas, until the Air Bases of World War II, were the huge Missouri-Pacific shops and roundhouse. They were built between 1910 & 1911 at a cost of approximately \$1-million to house maintenance of the rolling stock.

The city of Hoisington and the Missouri-Pacific Railroad were linked in growth and economics for the better part of the century until the rail mergers of the 1980's began. The rail line then became part of the Southern Pacific and finally the Union Pacific. The merger of the Southern and Union Pacific in 1997 ended what had been the "central" transcontinental rail route across America. Today the line is leased to Central Kansas Railroad and operated as a short-line railroad.

Many of the families who now live in the Hoisington area are descendants of those who came at the instigation of the railroad, either to farm along its route or to work its right of ways, its shops or on its train.

ANDREW JACKSON HOISINGTON

Andrew J. Hoisington was born July 12, 1848, in Adams County, Illinois. His paternal great grandfather emigrated from England about the middle of the 18th century, and settled in Vermont. He served as a soldier in the Revolutionary and also in the War of 1812.

A.J. Hoisington, who was the second in a family of eight children, was born near Quincy, Illinois. He was educated in the common schools of Greene and Madison Counties, Iowa, and at the age of 17, entered Winterset Academy, which he attended two years. He then began to read law in the office of McPherson & Murray in Winterset, Iowa. After six months, he suspended his studies to teach school for one year.

He then entered the office of the Iowa State Register, and was employed in printing. After one year he purchased a half interest in the Winterset Sun but sold his interest after six months due to ill health.

A.J. Hoisington came to Kansas in 1874 and first located in Newton where he taught school. He then moved to Great Bend and taught school northeast of town for only a few weeks when he was asked to take charge of the Great Bend Register, which had just been established and was the official paper of Barton County.

He quickly made a reputation for his writing and vigorous work as editor. He was postmaster of Great Bend in 1876 and 1877 and became owner of 1,000 acres of cultivated farmland.

In 1883, he was appointed receiver of the U.S. land office in Garden City, at which time he sold the Great Bend Register to E.L. Chapman. Shortly after entering the land office, he organized and became president of the Finney County Bank. During the next few years he organized a string of banks throughout southwestern Kansas.

In 1890 A.J. Hoisington sold his interests in Garden City and moved to Kansas City where he organized the Hoisington Loan & Trust Company and the Hoisington Publishing Company, which he managed for several years.

On December 31, 1874, A.J. Hoisington married Mary Smith, daughter of Jackson and Mary (Kimball) Smith of Madison County, Iowa. They were the parents of three children: Morris Earl, Roy Albert, and Arthur Frank.

Mary Hoisington died in Kansas City on November 1, 1890. A.J. Hoisington died February 1896, at Winterset Iowa.

HOISINGTON, KANSAS

Gateway to Cheyenne Bottoms

Founded: **1886**

Zip Code: **67544**

Area Code: **620**

School District: **431**

Elevation: **1845** feet

Latitude: **38° 31' 5" N**

Longitude: **98° 46' 40" W**

Hoisington, Kansas, the "Gateway to Cheyenne Bottoms", combines a rich history as a railroad town, oil town, and farming community with today's mix of agricultural production and manufacturing. Hoisington is also home twice a year to the endangered Whooping Cranes as they migrate.

The Whooping Cranes along with thousands of other bird species spend time at the Cheyenne Bottoms wetlands area whose borders come almost to the edge of Hoisington.

Hoisington is central to all you desire. Near the center of the continental United States, Hoisington has access to interstate highways in both directions. Hoisington is in the center of regional medical complexes within an hour in both directions.

Hoisington is in the center of a low-cost rural grown labor pool with the mid-west work ethic. Two and four year colleges all within an hour's drive surround Hoisington. And Hoisington is the center of a vast hunting and fishing paradise.

Whether you are looking for a great place to live, work or play; or just stopping by Cheyenne Bottoms to look at Whooping Cranes and other birds, Hoisington has it.





EARLY HOISINGTON LIFE

A petition was presented to the Board of County Commissioner of Barton County asking that Hoisington be made a city of the Third Class. The commissioners approved the petition and set the election for December 6, 1887. The first election was held in the offices of the Central Kansas Town Company.

The first council consisted of Alex Dennis, George A. Orr, S. Boxwell and John Barreiras. The police judge elected was A.H. Baker. The vote for mayor resulted in a tie between E.M. Carr and P. Johnson. Both received 76 votes. The winner by lot was E.M. Carr.

One of the early accomplishments of the city was the building of a YMCA, which was constructed between 1902 and 1903. The new Y was dedicated on March 17, 1903 with prominent railroad and YMCA people present. A three-piece band consisting of a trombone, bass drum and tuba lead a parade.

Helen Miller Gould of the railroad contributed an Aeolian or player piano and a library for the YMCA. A contest to recruit members was held with C.B. Jewell, chief dispatcher for the railroad, and J.H. Hartman, representing non-railroaders acting as chairman. More than 500 members paid an annual membership of \$5.00.

Located at Main and Railroad Streets, the Y, with its library, player piano and bathtubs with hot and cold water was the city's most popular spot for years.

J.E. Sponseller constructed Hoisington's first light plant in 1903. Arc lights were first used. Arc lights consisted of two sticks of carbon set perpendicular under a reflector. When current was turned on, the two carbons glowed where they touched and after jumping back and forth for several moments held their position and produced a glaring white light. These replaced oil-burning lampposts.

In 1904 the council called for a water works bond election. It passed by a 127 to 83 margin resulting in the issuance of \$25,000 of bonds bearing 5% interest. This built the first water system and standpipe.

Hoisington, like most towns, had dirt streets, board sidewalks and flagstone crossings, which were later changed to concrete crossings. C.T. Hoagland, a retired Missouri-Pacific water service man, mostly constructed them. During wet times, Main Street became a mud-bog cut up by horses, buggies, carts and wagons. The first paving consisted of brick on a concrete base and was laid on West Third Street in 1917. It was a controversial move with opponents claiming it put widows in the poor house and the town in bankruptcy.

Hoisington was hit by a tornado on October 10, 1919. The tornado came out of the southwest shortly after 4:00 on that afternoon. The tornado killed Ellen Cravens, her baby and H.B. McCurdy. John Rearick was injured and later died as well. The tornado damaged the YMCA, destroyed many of the buildings on lower Main Street, then moved on to the northeast part of town damaging many homes. It also damaged some homes in the country northeast of town.

Early political fights were over orders to remove high racks from in front of stores, location of the post office, cutting down shade trees on Main Street, wet and dry issues, and school construction.

Charles Hall of Wheatland Township, John Beightle of Great Bend, and Ira Russell of Hoisington purchased the first cars in Barton County. Harry Mitchell, rural carrier on route 2, Hoisington, bought a Sears-Roebuck, high wheel, solid tire, chain drive and used it on his route for several years.

Hoisington residents organized a "town herd" during the early days. Boys were hired to round up all the cattle of the town each morning and take them to the Hennessey pasture northeast of the city and back each evening. As the herd entered the city each animal would branch off and head for her respective home. Town Herd Milk was 5 cents per quart or 25 quarts for a \$1.00. You furnished your own receptacle.

Jess Almond operated an early day hotel and equipped it with the first bath tub available to the public. Otherwise, citizens took weekly baths in a wash tub, behind a curtain.

The first school building within the city limits was a square 2-story building on the present site of the Roosevelt school. It was replaced with a 3-story brick building in 1902. Roy Rankin was principal in about 1907 when the building caught on fire. The school's janitor, Aunt Jane Hall, sounded the fire alarm by beating the steel triangle and all the children were outside the school before they even knew there was a fire. Before the fire department put the fire out, the building's roof was destroyed and was later replaced with a new style roof.

J.J. Caldwell organized a three-year high school with its first graduation in 1904. With an enrollment of 292 students, teachers had particular trouble with some of the older students. To solve the problem, the school board hired a young and stout instructor, D.J. Lewis, who was ordered to "run the school or lose the job." Order was quickly brought to the school.

Entertainment during the city's early years was much different than today. No movie theaters, no cars, no radio or television; but instead there were one night shows and weekly stands at the opera house. The visiting medicine men would drive up the streets with a flourish and soon have a crowd around his carriage, dealing out cure-all herbs at \$1.00 per bottle.

George Valerius operated a drug store on the corner of Second and Main and would gather a crowd by providing free music with his phonograph in the evenings. Soon Hoisington got its first movie theater with local girls hired to sing and play piano during the movie.

Meeting passenger trains was also popular entertainment. Train number 3 arrived in the evening and as many as 100 people would be at the depot to greet it.

Many of the top entertainers of the day performed at the opera house. Hypnotism shows were also popular. Hoisington being a railroad town, Brotherhood dances were popular and were presented regularly by the different rail worker organizations.

A balloon ascension was a popular event during outdoor celebrations. It called for assistance of about 15 people to dig a hole, in which the fire was kindled, over which willing hands held the gasbag. Coal oil was thrown on the fire to fill the balloon with hot air. The aeronaut would sit on a trapeze bar and when the balloon was released both he and the balloon would shoot into the air.

One of the last jumps made in Hoisington was from the corner of Second and Main by Dave Else. Dave cut loose when about 2,000 feet in the air. He knew he was a little heavy for the parachute and as he landed several blocks east on First Street, he raised his legs, but instead landed on one hip, which was broken.

One bank robbery occurred in Hoisington. The First National Bank was the oldest bank in Barton County. Pretty Boy Floyd and his gang robbed the bank of more than \$2,500 in bonds and money. C.P. Munns and M.W. Bennett were operating the bank at the time and were made to lie on the floor, face down, as the gang made their get-a-way.

ANDREW JACKSON HOISINGTON

The first of the Hoisington family in America was John, who came from England to the Massachusetts Colony in 1650. The English spelling of his name was Horsington, but owing to a clerical error in executing an official document soon after his arrival in America the name was changed to Hoisington, and it is easy by means of this spelling to trace all his descendants to their common American ancestor. To him was born a son, also John, and to this John a son, also John, who settled at Southington, Farmington Parish, Connecticut, where was born to him, November 5, 1713, a son whom he named John. To this John (and Sarah Temple) was born a son, Joab, September 19, 1736. He became Major of the Vermont Rangers during the Revolutionary War, and died February 20, 1777, in camp at Newberry, Vermont. He was the original proprietor of Windsor, Vermont, and first Town Clerk of Woodstock. He married Mary Boardman, and became the father of Verlina. To this son (and Hannah Green) was born Joab, second, in 1792, who married Hulda Boomer and became the father of Albert J., born at Ellisburg, Jefferson County, New York, September 12, 1816. Albert J. Hoisington married Elizabeth Limb, a native of Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, England. They were the parents of the subject of this sketch, who was born July 12, 1848, eight miles northeast of Quincy, Illinois and soon after the family moved to Madison County, Iowa. His early life was passed on his father's farm, where he alternately worked and attended the country schools. At the age of sixteen years he entered the academy at Winterset, Iowa, where he graduated. He learned the printer's trade in the office of the State Register, at Des Moines, Iowa. For eight years the young man worked on a farm in Madison County, Iowa, taught country school, and labored at his trade. During 1869 he was the owner of a half interest in the Winterset Semi-weekly Sun. In 1874 he came to Kansas, arriving at Great Bend, Barton County, April 1. May 6 he established the Great Bend Register, which he published very successfully until 1883, when he sold the paper and moved to Garden City, Kansas. In 1895 he returned to Great Bend and purchased the Register, publishing in until October 1, 1899, when he again sold it. Mr. Hoisington has been active in Republican political circles during his residence in Kansas, and his forceful writings have contributed greatly to the success of his party. He has held various positions of public trust. For two years from January 1, 1876, he was Postmaster of Great Bend. In 1879 he was appointed Regent of the Kansas State Agricultural College, serving for three years. He was the first Receiver of the United States Land Office at Garden City. He opened this office October 1, 1883; resigned his position upon President Cleveland's inauguration in 1885, and was relieved six months later. Mr. Hoisington has made valuable additions to Kansas literature in the shape of a volume entitled "Story of Barton County," and other writings. The town of Hoisington in Barton County was named for him. December 31, 1874, he was married to Mary, daughter of Jackson and Mary (Powell) Smith, of Madison County, Iowa. Mrs. Hoisington died November 1, 1890, leaving three sons: Earl M., born January 20, 1876; Roy A., November 27, 1880; and Frank A., November 21, 1886.

---Wilson, Hill P., comp., A Biographical History of Eminent Men of the State of Kansas ... Topeka, The Hall Lithographing Company, 1901. p. 571-573.

The Hoisington Family is TRULY AMERICAN

Frank A. Hoisington

John Horsington, born in 1675 and residing in Farmington, Connecticut, son of the legendary immigrant from England, stands as the progenitor of all the Hoisington's in the world. This because in the early records the name appears as "Horsington," "Hasseton," "Hoisington" as it probably sounded to the scribe and the children seem to have standardized on "Hoisington."

There was a second migration of "Horsington" from Sommersetshire, England in 1864. Relationship to the Hoisington family is probably but distant.

From its earliest history the family has produced outstanding men and women—teachers, engineers, writers, soldiers and preachers... but no politicians of the notorious type. There is not a snob in the aggregate. The family has never failed the United States. In every war, from the earliest Indian fighting days, through the Revolutionary War, when many names of Hoisington may be found, until the last World War, the name of Hoisington is found. Several died in the Civil War, on the field of battle, from illness and in southern prisons. They are worthy of a well-written record to be placed in the great genealogical libraries where it will be preserved for all time.

The writer's father, Andrew Jackson Hoisington, began accumulating data on the family in the latter '80's, working at it from time to time over a period of years. He found the work tedious, slow and at times disappointing. The failure of, or the neglect of those, with whom he corresponded, to answer letters, even when importuned many times, proves discouraging to anyone.

However, the data he accumulated amounts to considerable. The data accumulated ends at his death at Winterset, Iowa on February 25, 1907, although all papers connected with this important work are in the hands of Earl M. Hoisington, his son, who now resides at 526 Belford Avenue, Grand Junction, Colorado.

The writer has re-written a part of this data in order that there may be copies in existence, and in correspondence with Harry Hoisington, son of Norman Henry Hoisington, now at 450 South Benton Way, Los Angeles, California, has a part of his copious accumulation of names and data on file at Grand Junction, Colorado. Harry Hoisington became interested in the compilation of the Hoisington history while on duty as an officer of the United States Army at Davenport, Iowa. In December, 1930, Harry Hoisington published a list of names of the family, which he had accumulated. Though admittedly incomplete, the list includes nearly 1,000 names and addresses, mainly in the east-central part of the United States. It is well known that the family now is scattered in every part of the United States and Canada. Hardly a northern state checked at all, but what has several names. Later

Harry Hoisington published a much more comprehensive booklet containing names, birth and death dates and names of children, much in the same order, in many cases identical in form to the data form as written by Andrew J. Hoisington. In this may be found almost a complete record of the early-day members of the family, including such regarding soldiers in the Revolutionary War. We find the name of Hoisington in the Philippine fighting and the Boxer Rebellion in China, as well, of course, as in the Spanish-American War. Naturally, as Harry Hoisington is retired, he has much more time to accumulate data than anyone else who has ever attempted such work. He also laments the fact that those bearing the name Hoisington should be backward in writing details of the family history; that the work at times becomes discouraging. It seems strange that anyone written to should not be able to, or should not take the time to answer a courteous letter and give such names and dates as their memory indicates. Women, of course, are always the best "rememberers" and should be consulted about such matter. Consultation of old family Bibles are a never-failing source of information and it takes but a few moments to copy the matter contained in these Bibles and thus get a permanent record of the details. As life becomes more complex, the tracing of anyone's history or genealogy becomes more important.

Anyone who is a direct descent of the original Hoisington, can of course, join the Sons of the American Revolution, or the Daughters of the American Revolution. It is in similar matters that the History of the Family becomes more important.

The data included in this little booklet is wholly compiled from the records of Andrew Jackson Hoisington (deceased) now in the hands of Earl M. Hoisington, 526 Belford Avenue, Grand Junction, Colorado and from the data compiled by Harry Hoisington, 450 South Benton Way, Los Angeles, California.

The writer would like to add a plea: That if you know of any error in the attached, or if you can add any information to that carried herein, please writ it down, (and you don't need to use a typewriter), and send it to either party, and thus get it where such data can be set up in chronological order.

And thanks a lot.

Frank A. Hoisington
625 North Seventh St.
Grand Junction, Colorado

JOHN HORSINGTON (or HOSSINGTON)

Born about 1650-55 in England.

Alleged to have been kidnapped in England and brought, when a boy of about 15 years of age, to America, where he was sold on Long Island, to pay for his passage.

The Horsingtons of England have as much right to claim descent from the Gods as have any of the Royalty of Europe, who base their "Divine Rights" on descent from Woden, legendary God of War.

After the Romans abandoned Britain, the harassed British people induced a powerful tribe from East Anglia to come over and protect them from the Picts and the Scots. In 449-50 A.D., Hengist and Horsa, brothers and great, great grandchildren of Woden (See Appendix 1), brought about 1,000 men in boats of skins across the North Sea.

It is admittedly impossible to trace the entire chain of descent of the Horsingtons from Horsa but the syllables "-ing-ton" really signify "sons of" and allusions to men by name of Horsington are found in the very earliest English records. There was a Gilbert de Horsington in Lincolnshire in A.D. 1273 (Bardsley's Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames, 1901); a Gerald de Horsington in the time of Edward I, King (1292), and we find in the English Parish Registers Horsingtons of 1589, 1625, 1648, 1655, etc., down to 1873.

In 1864 three brothers came over from Somersetshire and their descendants still use the name of Horsington and reside in the vicinity of Syracuse, New York.

Mr. Almon Kidder of Monmouth, Ill., who has made considerable study of the family, believed that the John Horsington, sergeant in Captain Samuel Wadsworth's company of Massachusetts Militia in the War with the Indian Metacom or "King Philip", 1675-76, and the John Horsington or Hossington of Long Island were identical.

John Hossington held local office in Suffolk county, Long Island, and married Mary (Stanborough) Edwards, widow of John Edwards, as proven by a Surrogate's Decree in the matter of the Will of John Edwards (died 23 January 1688), which will was filed 10 November 1693. It is the belief, however, that he had been married before while in Connecticut and that his only son of record, John II, was by his former wife, for in the probate records of Early Connecticut (Mainwering) appears the statement that about Michaelmas, 1692, one William Hills of Hocanum (Weatherfield) is proved to have willed that: "the boy Hossington be at the dispose of his (Hill's) dau Phyllis (24 years old) until he come of full age".

In arranging this family tree, we have no occasion to set down any untruth and have made such available tests to information set forth, as to insure probable credulity of all statements.

The work is incomplete, not for want of persistence or intent, but because of the lack of statistics, traceable statistics, vital information, or records which were not kept in order, or were lost through fire or flood, or descendants burned; in some instances we have evidence that home fires have burned collections of data which were well nigh invaluable to the Hoisington posterity. It is said that one man spent the latter part of his lifetime collecting data on the family name; he died, and the following year, or soon thereafter, the old home burned, and everything was lost.

--F.A. Hoisington

**From the HOISINGTON DISPATCH, Thursday, March 9, 1939
Hoisington, Barton County, Kansas**

NAMING OF HOISINGTON

Some of the History of the Man for whom the Town was christened

“Any reference to the early history of Hoisington would not be complete without some mention of the man for whom this city was named, and who in the formative period of the county was a strong and colorful character.

A.J. Hoisington was perhaps the most widely known man in Barton County during the most active years of his life, which was from 1872 to 1889. He came to this county in 1871 from Winterset, Iowa, as a young man. It was not many months after his arrival that he became interested in the publication of a newspaper in Great Bend, called the Register, which was the first newspaper in the county and was established in 1872. He was a natural public man--made friends easily--and his loyalty to friends and his ability to organize, together with the foresight to be able to correctly judge what the result of certain conditions would be, made him a valued adviser. This was particularly true in matters political in which he took a most active part. I feel safe in saying that at one time he possessed more power, politically, at Washington and Topeka than any other man in the west half of Kansas. He never at any time sought a political office for himself, save the position of receiver of the U.S. land office at Garden City, which was a presidential appointive office. At the time he took this office, he relinquished his Great Bend newspaper to his friend, Senator E.L. Chapman.

During the boom days of the middle 80's, Mr. Hoisington's scope of influence was greatly enlarged. While in the Garden City land office he was president of the leading bank in that city and he and his friends owned a half dozen banks throughout southwest Kansas. He also owned or controlled a number of newspapers in the booming county seat towns or towns that aspired to the county seats. In addition he had very large land interests in the southwest as well as in Barton County.

When the Missouri Pacific Railway concluded its arrangement to build its Pueblo line and traverse Barton county from east to west through near the center, it became obvious that at some point near the center of Barton county a good town would be built on the Mo. Pacific. Mr. Hoisington and a number of his friends were partially responsible for the location and were interested in the Town

Company that owned a good deal of city property. In deciding on a name, it was but natural that a pioneer in this locality and the editor of the first newspaper in the county would come in for some consideration. So it was suggested and decided that the name should be Hoisington.

The first bank in town—The Hoisington State Bank—was organized with A.J. Hoisington as president. Mr. Hoisington was proud of the honor of having the town named for him and he always held a kindly interest in its welfare.

Fate was not kind to Mr. Hoisington in his later years. He had expanded his holdings to such an extent in the big boom of the late 80's that when the crash came; it carried him down with it. Along with this catastrophe, he lost his wife on whom he relied so much. He gathered what he could together and went to Kansas City and there ran a printing office from, which was issued the bank publications known as The Hoisington Bank Reporter and The Hoisington Bank Directory. This did not pay out well. In 1897 when Joe Borders, who was then running the Great Bend Register, concluded to move the printing plant to Independence, MO., Mr. Hoisington bought the good will and subscription list of the paper and he and his sons secured enough printing material with which to get out the Register, having the press work done at another office. In 1899 the writer bought the paper from Mr. Hoisington.

The sons—Earl, Roy and Frank—are now engaged in the printing business at Grand Junction, Colorado. Mr. Hoisington was private secretary to Senator E.L. Chapman at Topeka during the latter's last term in office, going from there to his own home in Iowa, and died shortly thereafter, about thirty years ago."

Earl, Roy and Frank are all deceased, Hoisington Family Information is with Robert Keith Hoisington, (son of Roy Hoisington) born 1/09/30, 12419 Farnam, Omaha, Nebraska 68154.

Hoisington Dispatch
May 14, 1964

City Was Named After A Pioneer, A.J. Hoisington

Andrew J. Hoisington was born July 12, 1848 in Adams County, Ill. His paternal great grandfather emigrated from England about the middle of the 18th century and settled in Vermont, served as a soldier of the Revolution and also in the War of 1812; settled in Jefferson County, New York, in 1816; settled in Adams County, Ill, in 1843; moved to Montgomery County and to Greene County, Iowa in 1855; in 1859 he moved to Madison, Iowa.

He has always been a farmer. His mother, who was originally Elizabeth Limb, was born in Lincolnshire, England, immigrated with her parents in 1835 and settled in Adams County, Ill.

A.J. Hoisington, who was the second of a family of eight children, was born near Quincy, Ill.

He was educated in the common schools of Greene and Madison Counties, Iowa, and at the age of 17, he entered Winterset Academy, which he attended two years.

At the close of his academic course, he began to read law in the office of McPherson & Murray in Winterset, Iowa.

At the end of six months, he suspended his studies and taught one year. He then entered the office of the Iowa State Register, and was employed in printing for one year, at the close of which time he purchased a half interest in the Winterset Sun.

At the end of six months, due to ill health, he sold his interest in the "Sun".

He came to Kansas in 1874 and first located at Newton where he taught school for a short time after which he came to Great Bend and followed the same occupation. After teaching school northeast of Great Bend for a few weeks, he was asked to take charge of the Great Bend Register which had just been established, and which was the official paper of the county.

He was not slow to make a reputation as a terse writer and vigorous editor, and the circulation of his paper steadily increased until it became a welcome visitor in the families of Barton and adjoining counties.

He was postmaster in Great Bend in 1876 and 1877. During this time, he also engaged in farming, being the owner of 1000 acres, all under cultivation.

In 1883 he was appointed receiver of the U.S. land office at Garden City, at which time he sold the Great Bend Register to E.L. Chapman. Shortly after entering the land office at Garden City, he organized and became president of the Finny County Bank. During the next few years he organized a string of banks throughout Southwestern Kansas, these establishments being located at Santa Fe, Ulysses, Arkalon and Hugoton.

In 1890 he sold his interests in Garden City and moved to Kansas City where he organized the Hoisington Loan and Trust Company and the Hoisington Publishing Company, which he managed for several years.

On December 31, 1874, he was married to Miss Mary Smith, daughter of Jackson and Mary (Kimball) Smith, of Madison County, Iowa. They were the parents of three children: Morris Earl, Roy Albert and Arthur Frank.

Mrs. Hoisington died in Kansas City November 1, 1890, followed by her husband six years later, February 1896, whose death occurred at Winterset, Iowa.

He was a man of strong convictions, a forcible writer, a clear thinker and persistent worker, making his journal a map of busy life, its fluctuations and its vast concerns.

He was social in disposition, generous and benevolent, and was popular with all classes.

Morris Earl Hoisington was born in Great Bend, Jan. 29, 1876. In 1890 he became associated with his father and brother in the publication of the Great Bend Register.

In 1895 and 1896 he published the Clarion at Claflin, where he also served as postmaster. He was a linotype operator at Grand Junction, Colorado employed by the Sentinel of that city.

He was married Aug 28, 1905 to Miss Bessie Henderson of Grand Junction, to which union was born one son Robert Morris Hoisington.

Roy A. Hoisington was born in Great Bend, Nov 21, 1880, and began his newspaper career with the Register in the latter 90's.

He purchased the Standard at Leoti, Kansas, in 1901, and continued as owner and publisher until 1911. He was postmaster at Leoti six years.

He married Miss Margaret Riley of Leoti and they are the parents of four children. *(It was discovered that Roy Hoisington actually had seven children: Albert James, Verne Eugene, Duane Wesley, Clyde Riley, Mildred Irene, Roy Alvin and Robert Keith. The family history is currently in the hands of Robert Keith Hoisington, 12419 Farnam, Omaha, Nebraska, 68154)*

Frank A. Hoisington was born in Garden City, Kansas, Nov 27, 1886. He was associated with his brother Roy, in the publication of the Leoti Standard for several years.

He is now foreman of the Daily Sentinel of Grand Junction, Colorado.

He was married in 1910 to Miss Pearl Greenawalt at Leoti, KS and they are the parents of one son, Carl.

In 1895 A.J. Hoisington returned to Great Bend, where he again got possession of the Register and had for partners in the business his sons, Earl and Roy.

As a Republican, he was active in promoting his party's interests, having served as delegate in different state and congressional conventions.

He was recognized in Barton and adjoining counties as a man of great political influence.

Though a member of no religious society, he was a believer in the Christian religion and favored the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the chapter.