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#40 Hobson Family Collection, 1842-2006
2.5 linear feet

INTRODUCTION

Records of the family of George and Mary Lane Hobson, natives of Iowa, who settled in Crawford County in 1865 and operated the first post office, school, store, saloon, and dance hall in the area that later became Pittsburg, Kansas.

DONOR INFORMATION

The bulk of the Hobson Family Collection records were deposited in the Leonard H. Axe Library Special Collections through Carder Hobson, great-grandson of George and Mary Hobson, October 16, 2006. Other materials were donated by a Hobson family descendant, Corene Stroup, and purchased from Mostly Books of Pittsburg, Kansas, on November 21, 2001.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

George and Mary Hobson came to southeast Kansas from Hillsboro, Iowa, in 1865 and founded the settlement of Iowa City on the present-day site of Pittsburg, Kansas. The Hobsons started the first post office, the first school, the first store, and the first saloon and dance hall in the area.

George Hobson served in Company G of the 4th Iowa Cavalry during the Civil War. Following his discharge in 1865, the Hobsons, with many friends and relatives, drove more than a dozen wagons and herded cattle on the 700 mile, six week trip from Iowa to Kansas. The Hobsons homesteaded 160 acres in the area of Pittsburg now called Random Acres.

Iowa City, Kansas, was established in the fall of 1866 on the banks of Cow Creek. A log cabin served as the family home and business shops until 1870. A two-story house was built in 1870 that doubled as a grocery store, post office, blacksmith shop, and a meeting house. Other buildings on the site included a school and the saloon and dance hall. In early 1876 George Hobson proposed that a new town being platted in the center of the southeast Kansas coal field be named for the existing post office of Iowa City. The founders of the new community preferred to take the name New Pittsburg since they hoped to duplicate the industrial success of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. By August 1876 it was reported that the Iowa City post office was to be discontinued. Several of Hobson's business interests were soon discontinued and for all practical purposes, Iowa City was gone. The Hobson family continued to be active in the political and business affairs of Crawford County. Several descendants were employees of the Pittsburg post office.

George Hobson was stricken with paralysis in 1887 and died in April 1891. George and other members of the family were buried in a corner of his land. The Hobson family cemetery later became a public burial ground and is now part of the Highland Park cemetery.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains Hobson family and business papers dating from 1842, with an emphasis on family history and the early development of Pittsburg, Kansas. The collection includes photographs, correspondence, and business and legal records primarily relating to the Hobson family from the late 19th century through the 1930s. The records are arranged into six series: **Family History, Civil War, Business and Legal Records, Photographs, Local History,** and **Artifacts.**

The **Family History** series is comprised of two subseries: Genealogy and Family History. The Genealogy subseries includes a family Bible, genealogical correspondence, and family trees. The Family History subseries includes news clippings from 1922 through the 1980s which describe the Hobson family's contribution to the settlement of Crawford County; correspondence between and referring to family members from 1862 through 1891; a transcript of George Hobson's travel diary describing the family's 1865 journey from Iowa to Kansas; and records of Quaker meetings that mention Hobson family members.

The **Civil War** series includes George Hobson's diaries as well as correspondence and Union Army memoranda. The diaries (1863-1865) describe troop movements of the 4th Iowa Cavalry from Iowa through Arkansas, Tennessee, and Georgia; the Siege of Vicksburg (May to July 1863); the battle of Columbus, Georgia (April 1865); Lincoln's re-election and assassination; several mentions of General Grant; and the fall of Richmond (April 1865). It also includes poems written to George Hobson from his aunt Dinah Hobson upon his enlistment in 1861. The memoranda briefly describe troop movements and skirmishes from February 1862 until the unit reached Vicksburg in May of 1863. The correspondence includes a letter to George Hobson from his father in 1862, and letters regarding an 1880s reunion of the 4th Iowa Cavalry.

The **Business and Legal Records** series is comprised of two subseries: Business and Financial Records, and Legal Records. The Business and Financial Records subseries includes records of the Iowa City Post Office and the store run by George Hobson. The Legal Records subseries contains records regarding transfers of land, including a copy of George Hobson's Kansas land grant certificate, as well as deeds from the early 20th century for Kansas land passing between members of the Hobson family.

The **Photographs** series largely concentrates on the early 20th century families of George Edwin Hobson and son George Donald Hobson. It also contains photographs of early and mid-20th century Pittsburg Post Office personnel and equipment as well as images of early 20th century students at Abel School in Crawford County and mid-century Pittsburg development.

The **Local History** series is divided into six subseries: Early Settlement, Crawford County School District #15, Pittsburg High School Annuals, Pittsburg High School Class Reunions, Advertisements and City Boosters, and Retrospectives. The Early Settlement subseries consists of a history of Iowa City, Kansas, written by George Edwin Hobson, as well as a map of the Cherokee strip and a constitution of Baker Township dating from the 1860s. The Crawford County School District #15 subseries consists of school records and a textbook. The Pittsburg High School Annuals subseries consists of three annuals containing photographs and notations of Hobson family members. The Pittsburg High School Class Reunions subseries consists of three reunion kits belonging to George Donald Hobson (Class of 1930). The Advertisements and City Boosters subseries includes promotional items for the City of Pittsburg belonging to George Edwin Hobson published through 1915. The Retrospectives subseries includes historical publications by local newspapers.

The **Artifacts** series includes George Hobson's Civil War rifle and revolver, an early 20th century mail pouch, and other Hobson family belongings.

FOLDER LIST

Family History Series

Genealogy

- f. 1 CD: "Hobson History, 1800s-1900s," compiled by Carder Hobson
- f. 2 Hobson Family Bible
- f. 3 Earl H. Davis, Hobson: Descendents of George and Elizabeth Hobson
- f. 4 George Edwin Hobson – history and genealogy
- f. 5 Hobson Family Tree, 1955
- f. 6 Woodard Family Tree
- f. 7 William G. Sample and Dinah Hobson family genealogy
- f. 8 Genealogy by Jay W. Hobson
- f. 9 Genealogical correspondence
- f. 10 Genealogical notes and miscellaneous

Family History

- f. 11 Travel Diary, 1865
- f. 12 Correspondence, 1898-1912
- f. 13 Bessie Woodard Hobson records
- f. 14 George Edwin Hobson records
- f. 15 Clippings
- f. 16 Quaker records
- f. 17 Hobson Coat of Arms
- f. 18 Stationary

Civil War Series

- f. 19 Diaries, 1862-65
- f. 20 Notations and Memorandum, 1862-63
- f. 21 Discharge and pension papers, 1865-92
- f. 22 Correspondence, 1863-91

Business and Legal Records Series

Business and Financial Records

- f. 23 Notebook of financial records, 1867
- f. 24 Notebook of nursery and post office records, 1872-73
- f. 25 Receipts, 1870-1904
- f. 26 Invoices and statements of account, 1877-80
- f. 27 Correspondence, 1877-87

Legal Records

- f. 28 Promissory note, 1842
- f. 29 Property division record, 1845

Legal Records, continued

- f. 30 Land records, 1879-1922

Photographs Series

- f. 31 Lane family
- f. 32 George Hobson
- f. 33 Mary Amanda Lane Hobson and family
- f. 34 George Edwin Hobson and Bessie Woodard Hobson
- f. 35 Bessie Hobson and children
- f. 36 George Donald Hobson
- f. 37 Walter Randolph Hobson
- f. 38 Carder Hobson
- f. 39 Hobson homes
- f. 40 Hobson family and Post Office
- f. 41 School pictures
- f. 42 Pittsburg development

Local History Series

Early Settlement

- f. 43 Iowa City history
- f. 44 Constitution of Baker Township, undated
- f. 45 Map of Cherokee Neutral Lands, 1867

Crawford County School District #15

- f. 46 Record book, 1898-1915
- f. 47 Daily register, 1922-26
- f. 48 *Kansas Edition Student's Series Speller*, 1897

Pittsburg High School Annuals

- f. 49 1901
- f. 50 1928
- f. 51 1930

Pittsburg High School Class of 1930 Reunions

- f. 52 1965
- f. 53 1980
- f. 54 1990

Advertisements and City Boosters

- f. 55 Pittsburg, Kansas: Its Business and Its Beauties As Seen Through the Camera, 1902
- f. 56 Random Acres Addition map and price list
- f. 57 Highland Park Cemetery prospectus

Advertisements and City Boosters, continued

- f. 58 Prosperous Pittsburg Pictorially Portrayed, 1915
- f. 59 The Pittsburg Commercial Club, Yearbook, 1909
- f. 60 Pittsburg Promotional brochure
- f. 61 Pittsburg Business College tuition coupon

Retrospectives

- f. 62 Historical Album of Kansas, 1961
- f. 63 Pittsburg Headlight/Sun editions, 1961 & 1976
- f. 64 Autumn Lifestyles, July 1987

Artifacts Series

- f. 65 Civil War-era rifle and revolver, early 20th-century mail pouch, other Hobson family belongings

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