
John J. Rexroad

The First Rexroad in Reno County

By Wm. D. Rexroad

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During the last part of the nineteenth century and for most of the twentieth century there was a significant population of people named Rexroad living in Reno County, Kansas. It all began when John J. Rexroad came to Kansas in 1873. He was a younger brother of my gg-grandfather Henry A. Rexrode. Their parents were John and Phebe Rexrode, of Virginia.

John J. Rexroad was born in 1826 in Pendleton County, Virginia (now West Virginia). His family moved to Lewis County, (West) Virginia in 1845. It was there that he married Sarah Campbell in 1853. The couple moved to Wood County on the western border of the state and started their family. By 1869 they had eight children, all boys. In 1873 they moved to Kansas, settling in Lincoln Township, Reno County. John J. acquired 160 acres of land there and homesteaded it. He lived his entire life on that land near Darlow. It was all those sons that John J. and Sarah brought to Reno County that accounted for there being so many Rexroads in the area.

John J. died 9 January 1895. His wife Sarah died in April 1904. The announcement in the Hutchinson News of the death of John J. refers to him as one of the oldest settlers of Lincoln Township. His obituary said that he "left a character fragrant with sterling qualities." John J. and Sarah Rexroad are buried in Pleasantview Cemetery (formerly Dunkard Cemetery) near Darlow.