

ISAAC MARION RISLEY

First Store in Herington (Risley & Lincoln), First Police Judge, Postmaster

Born: August 9, 1845 in Flora, IL

Died: November 6, 1926 in Philomath, OR

Isaac M. Risley was born on August 9, 1845 in Flora, Clay Co., Illinois to parents John Mathis Risley and Olive Toliver Risley. Isaac Risley enlisted in the Union Army on December 1st, 1861 at Olney, Illinois and served as as Private in Company E, 63rd Illinois Regiment, Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. He was married to Mary Antoinette Dyas (born: 1848 in Bellevue, Jackson Co., Iowa) and they had at least 5 children; Robert Clyde Risley (b: May 1875 in KS), John Leslie Risley (b: April 1877 in KS), Dwight Marion Risley (b: Feb 1879 in KS), Grace M. Risley (b: Dec 1881 in KS), and Bruce A. Risley (b: Mar 1887 in KS). Robert became a farmer and Leslie, Dwight, and Grace became school teachers. The family lived around Hillsboro, Liberty, Marion Co., KS before coming to Herington, KS. In 1872, Isaac was teaching in a school in a Mennonite settlement near



Hillsboro, KS. The Mennonite village of Gnadenau (2 mi SE of Hillsboro) was established near Risley's residence in 1874. Later, Isaac M. Risley served as postmaster in Hillsboro, but lost that position to Mr. Christian Ramseir in the year 1881. Sometime in the fall of 1883, Risley moved from Hillsboro to Herington. Around October of 1883, Risley began building a hardware/general merchandise store in the new town of Herington, completing it around March of 1884. The store was located in the area of 109 North Broadway. Risley partnered with Allen S. Lincoln in the general merchandise business under the name "Risley and Lincoln." The Herington Post Office was also established in the Risley and Lincoln Store the week ending March 8th 1884 with Mr. Risley as the postmaster. According to "Herington: A

Century of Pride”, Mr. Risley lived (built a home) at 306 N. Broadway. The house burned at Herington’s first fire in early January, 1887.

The Risley’s seem to have moved around a lot with indications that his family lived in Marion, Dickinson, Finney, and Sumner counties in Kansas. The Risley family was in Viola, KS by February of 1908 when real estate records show that Mr. Risley purchased 4 lots of property in Viola for \$1600 and another 2 lots of land in March 1908 for \$75. Mr. Risley’s wife, Mary, died in 1914 and is buried in the cemetery in Viola, KS. The Headstone reads (Isaac M. Risley, b:1845-d:not_filled_in, wife: Mary b:1848-d:1914 bur: Viola Cemetery, Viola, KS?). Why was the death date was not filled in for Mr. Risley in the Viola cemetery? It seems that after his wife died, Mr. Risley went to live with his son Robert Clyde Risley in Sparta, MO. His health must have been failing at that time because Isaac Risley was in and out of the Veteran’s home in Leavenworth in later years (twice in 1920). In 1925 he was moved to a Veteran’s Home in California, presumably to be nearer his son Dwight Risley. He died on or around November 6, 1926 in Philomath, Benton Co., Oregon and is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Albany, Linn Co., Oregon.



Riverside Cemetery, Albany, Linn Co., Oregon