**Eva May Davis Hoisington**

**Born:** 1877 – Lennox, Lincoln County, South Dakota  
**Died:** 1958  
**Wife of Albert Lincoln Hoisington – Mother of Mildred**

Eva May Davis holds a unique and meaningful place in South Dakota history. According to family tradition and her gravestone in the Lennox Cemetery, she is recognized as **the first white child born in Lennox, South Dakota**, a remarkable legacy that connects her story to the early days of settlement in the region.

Eva was born in **1877** in Lennox, Lincoln County, South Dakota. Her father, **John Davis**, was a Civil War veteran with service records indicating that he fought for Illinois during the conflict. A photograph of him, proudly wearing numerous medals, has been preserved in family collections.

**Marriage to Albert Hoisington**

On **September 30, 1908**, Eva married **Albert Lincoln Hoisington**, a man who had previously been married to Edith May Hamilton and had four daughters from that union. After his 1903 divorce, Albert moved to Lennox with his daughters. Following his marriage to Eva, the couple had one daughter together—**Mildred Hoisington**.

Unfortunately, Eva's marriage to Albert was marked by hardship. At some point, Albert became embroiled in a local scandal and left town, effectively abandoning Eva and his five daughters—including Mildred—to be raised by Eva alone. By the **1920 census**, Eva was listed as married but living with her father; by **1930**, records show she was officially divorced. No known record of the divorce decree has yet been found.

**Raising a Family Alone**

Despite the difficult circumstances, Eva raised all five girls, her own daughter and Albert’s daughters from his first marriage. Hazel and Elizabeth, two of the girls, remained in Lennox for the rest of their lives. Eva’s daughter, **Mildred**, had a particularly colorful life. She married three times; one of her husbands operated a traveling carnival, while another served jail time after a shooting incident. Mildred had two sons with her first husband and moved frequently throughout her life.

Family accounts passed down through the generations recall visits to Eva's grave and memories of Mildred from cousins who knew her personally. These memories, along with photographs of Eva and the Davis family.