**John Horsington (ca. 1650–1703)**

John Horsington—also recorded as Hossington and later spelled Hoisington—was born sometime between 1640 and 1655, most likely in England or Wales. While his exact place of birth remains uncertain, one possibility is the village of **Horsington in Somerset, England**, which may have inspired the family's surname.

John came to the American colonies during the mid-17th century, part of a wave of English immigrants seeking opportunity and a new life in New England. By the 1670s, he had settled in the **Massachusetts Bay Colony**, where he served as a **sergeant** in **Captain Samuel Wadsworth’s company** during **King Philip’s War**, a pivotal conflict between English colonists and Native American tribes. His name appears on the rolls from **February 29 to March 24, 1676**. Just two years later, on **February 8, 1678**, he took the **Oath of Allegiance** in **Hadley, Massachusetts**, before **Major John Pynchon**, further affirming his place in the colonial community.

Not long after, John relocated to **Wethersfield, Connecticut**, where he married his first wife, **Elizabeth** (believed to have been born around 1654 in England). Together, they had one known son, **John Hoisington II**, who would carry the family name forward. Probate records from 1692 mention a boy named "Hossington" placed with **Phyllis Hills** in Wethersfield, likely referring to this son—an intriguing glimpse into the challenges colonial families sometimes faced.

By the turn of the 18th century, John had moved again, this time to **Suffolk County, Long Island, New York**. There, he became active in civic life and was appointed **constable of East Hampton** in 1702, according to the town’s records. He also remarried, taking as his second wife **Mary Stanborough Edwards**, the widow of Thomas Edwards.

John passed away on **December 20, 1703**, in **East Hampton**, a fact noted in the East Hampton town records and cited by genealogist **Fred Q. Bowman**. His surname would continue to evolve through his descendants, eventually becoming **Hoisington**, the form most recognized today.

John Horsington's life tells a story of migration, service, and resilience—crossing the Atlantic, surviving conflict, and helping to build communities that would endure for generations.