

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTED

Rail Roads



In 1885, a railroad was built through this area from east to west. For local perspective, this came through El Dorado and on to McPherson and points beyond. Stations and depots were quite evenly spaced along the road, commonly 6-8 miles apart, and towns were encouraged at these places. Between El Dorado and Newton, the towns were Hopkins, Potwin, Brainerd, Annelly, and McLain.

In 1887, another railroad was proposed from north to south. It was built from Herington to Peabody and was to continue in a south/southwest direction. The proposal was to take the train to Brainerd and Towanda and then on to Wichita.

George Nieman went to the railroad company with a question about where they would get the water they needed. A steam engine at that time, on level terrain, needed to take on water every twenty miles or so. There was water in Peabody, there was water in Towanda but that was too far. Brainerd had no river water to offer and wells were always questionable. George's 160 acres had a river running through and it was close to the twenty mile mark.

The railroad changed their plan and turned toward George's land. The point where two railroads intersected had significant attraction.