

Museum Musings Article- Krum News
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Early Krum Families

John & Louise (Sauer) Monschke

Arrival in Krum Area-around 1888

By Paul Monschke

The John Monschke family and three generations of direct ancestors lived in East Prussia in the county of Gerdauen in the villages of Assaunen, Henriettenfeld, and Louisenwerth for nearly 150 years. These three villages were all within one mile of each other. East Prussia was on the Baltic Sea, south of Lithuania, and east of Poland. East Prussia no longer exists because it was divided between Poland and Russia at the end of WWII.

The Lutheran church that the Monschke families attended was in the village of Assaunen. From the Lutheran parish records which begin in 1660, we know the first Monschke family appeared in East Prussia in 1734 when a daughter named Anna Dorothea was born to Christoph Monschke and Maria Regina Dietsch. However, at this time, the Monschke name was spelled Monsque which is a French spelling. Later, when the children of this family married, the name was changed to Monschke which is the German spelling. It is possible that the Monsque/Monschke family were originally French Huguenots because of the spelling of their name, but we do not know.

The Monschke families were mostly farm laborers who worked for the large landowners in the area. The Monschke families seemed to be happy with their lives until about 1881 when a German Baptist minister by the name of Hinski started preaching in the area. John Monschke and his wife and some of John's brothers joined the Baptist church in East Prussia. We know this from the obituaries of the above people in a German Baptist newspaper called the Sendbote.

The Lutherans did not like the Baptist message at all and said it was heathen. The Lutherans persecuted and harassed the Baptists by breaking up their services whenever they found them and preached that they should not be allowed to work for the Lutheran church or anything related to it.

All of this religious harassment and the thought of economic freedom in the USA caused the John Monschke family to consider emigrating to the USA. They had to apply and go through a written process. It was decided that Will Monschke, the youngest brother who was 19 in 1883 and not married and had fewer responsibilities at home would be the first to go to check out this new country and write back to his brothers and parents about what he found. Will arrived in Galveston on December 10, 1883 on the ship Weser. He went to Dallas and found employment as a blacksmith apprentice. William wrote to the John Monschke family and let them know that he liked the area and encouraged them to come.

So approximately one year later, John Monschke (age 35) and his wife Louise Sauer (age 33) and their young children Fred (age 6), Gus (age 4), Hannah (age 2) and Elizabeth (age 1) came along with John's parents, Frederick (age 69) and Wilhelmina (age 57) and arrived in America on the ship Ohio in Galveston, Texas on October 26, 1884. They came from the tiny village of Louisenwerth in the county of Gerdauen in East Prussia via the German port of Bremen.

The Monschke family took the train from Galveston north and the first place they stayed was several miles southwest of Ennis where they farmed for four years. They then moved to Denton County in 1888 and farmed a farm near the Barthold farm for several years. The likely reasons that they moved to Denton County was that a German Baptist church with 64 members was founded in Denton in 1886 and the Monschke family knew

several people in Denton who were from the same county in East Prussia and went to the same church as they did. They joined this church and attended it for many years.

In 1895, John Monschke bought the farm which was to become the Monschke home place. It was less than one mile east of Krum on the south side of a dirt or gravel road which would become highway 1173. The John Monschke family was growing and by 1910 when John Monschke retired and moved to Denton, they had eight living children. These were:

1. Fred Monschke was born in 1877 and became a German Baptist minister who served German Baptist churches in several states. He married Lillian May Miller in 1903. He died in 1967.

2. Gus Monschke was born in 1880 and married Josephine Lards in 1910. Gus Monschke was the only son of John Monschke who lived to later adulthood who decided to stay in the Krum area and make a living from farming. He farmed the Monschke home place from about 1910 until about 1955. Gus and Jo had two sons who were Alfred Monschke and John Monschke. John Monschke married Bennie Hicks and went to work for Southwestern Bell in Fort Worth. John Monschke died in 2007. Alfred Monschke married Ruth Preston in 1940 and bought a 125 acre farm just north of Krum. Alfred and Ruth farmed their 125 acre farm and the Gus Monschke farm with the help of their children David, Paul, Charles, Larry and Harold, until Alfred died in 1967 from cancer. Ruth Monschke taught fourth grade at Krum from 1968 through 1982 and then was a teachers aid from 1983 through 1986.

3. Hannah Monschke was born in 1882 and married Adolph Bannert in 1903. Adolph died and she married George Schoenewolf in 1919. Hannah died in 1972.

4. Elizabeth Monschke was born in 1883 and married August Klein in 1906. They lived on the big hill east of Krum until 1930 when the family moved to California. Elizabeth died in 1977.

5. Anna Monschke was born in 1888 and married Edward Roberts in 1928. They lived in Denton and Dallas. Anna died in 1978.

6. John Luke Monschke was born in 1891 and married Alma Belle Whitehead. John Luke Monschke died in 1922 from an infected appendix which burst.

7. Minnie Monschke was born in 1893 and married Albert Koch. Minnie died in 1924.

8. Lydia Monschke as born in 1895 and married Lawrence Hoeffner. Lydia died in 1961.

The only Monschke descendents still alive who have lived in the Krum area for all their lives are Charles Monschke and Harold Monschke who are the sons of Alfred Monschke and Ruth Preston and Jeffrey Monschke who is the son of Harold Monschke.



L to R: Charles, Harold, Larry, Alfred, Ruth, Paul, Annie B. Parker (Ruth's Mother) , & David Monschke



Back: L to R: 1. Fred Monschke 2. Gus Monschke 3. Anna Monschke

Front: 4. John Luke Monschke 5. Elizabeth Monschke 6. Louise Sauer Monschke 7. John Monschke 8. Lydia Monschke 9. Hannah Monschke 10. Minnie Monschke

We have now added Birth & Marriage Records for Krum to our ever growing research library. Visit the museum on line at www.krumheritagemuseum.com

The Krum Heritage Museum has planned some special activities for the upcoming Celebrate Krum event on Sept 15, 2012. These activities will include Coach Bennie Enis speaking at 9:30 and 11:00 and a silent auction. Please plan to visit your home town museum on this special day.