Krum-Pioneers

Krum has been blessed with families of ability, assertiveness, and high moral and cultural standards. They are well read and they have good business acumen. They have worked well together in making a prosperous, family oriented community. The old families are still represented in Krum today and new families are now arriving in large numbers to live in the Krum environment while working in Denton, or elsewhere in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The focus of this pioneer topic is on the early families of Krum who have modeled and shaped Krum into what it is today.

William Young “W.Y.” and Parolee (Moreman) Barnett moved to Denton County before 1888 and settled in the north west corner of the county near Krum. Mr. Barnett worked consistently toward higher standards of animal husbandry. Mr. Barnett helped establish the Continental Bank at Krum and was a vice president and director.
Herman & Mary (Sipple) Barthold came to this country from Germany and came to Texas in 1877. They purchased their first land in Denton County in what would be the Krum area in 1878. The family’s first home was called a “tent” home on maps of Denton County.

Christopher Columbus “C. C.” Cofer was born in Tennessee and in 1873 was baptized by Jesse Derrick. He was well prepared to teach in public schools but he desired to finish his education in higher branches. In 1874 he began to study the dead languages and continued to apply himself until he was able to read the Bible in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. In 1892 he married Sylvester Jones of Krum. The following year he built a home in Krum. In November 1909 he founded the Cofer Correspondence Bible College of Krum Texas that granted bachelor degrees in Bible study. As an ordained minister, he helped organize Krum’s Church of Christ church and became its first pastor. He preached there for 25 years. He also served as postmaster from 1899 to 1904.
Jacob and Margaret (Miller) Cole moved to Denton County in 1882 and purchased land west of what is now the town of Krum. The Coles lived on this farm while their children grew up and married. Pictured are Jacob & Margaret Cole with their children R.L., Emily, Ethie Mae and Ida.

Ralph L. Cole came to Texas from Illinois with his parents in 1882. R. L. worked at various jobs until he finished the Krum School and then took a commercial course at Toby’s Business College in Waco. He returned to Krum in 1905 and established his own grain and cotton business. Mr. Cole was involved in many business ventures in Krum including Cole-Barnett Oil Company and Cole Feed and Elevator Company. Mr. Cole also served as president of the Lions Club, president of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, and was an active member of the Texas Grain Dealers Association.
Lewis L. (L.L.)and Gabrilla Finley arrived in the Krum area just in time to put Krum on the map. In the spring of 1886, they bought and moved to a farm then described as being seven miles northwest of Denton. In the fall of that year, Mr. Finely sold 200 acres off the south end of his land to the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad for a Krum town site. He became the first merchant in Krum and the post office was opened in his general merchandise store in 1886. His son Hal shown above became a pharmacist and operated the Finley Drug store in Krum for many years.

Pet, C.R. & Pin Fowler
Clarence R. (C.R.) Fowler came from Denton in 1912 and opened the Fowler Implement Company in a new brick building on the south side of the street. In 1914 he married Pet Miller daughter of John H. Miller another Krum Pioneer. C.R. operated the hardware store for 60 years until his death in 1972. His son Pin then operated the store. Pin was elected as Krum’s first mayor in 1954 and served for many years. .
Dr. J.C. & Annie Lee (Chance) Gose

Dr. J.C. and Annie Gose moved to the Krum area in 1898. Dr. Gose practiced medicine for 47 years and it is estimated that he delivered between five and six thousand babies in his years of practice. Pictured are Dr. and Annie Gose and son S.P. Gose.

Dr. Albert Henry “A.H.” & Bertha (Killian) Knox

Dr. A.H. Knox established a bank and gin in Krum in 1909. He served as President of Farmers and Merchants State Bank from 1937-1947. Dr. Knox was also a farmer and worked with the Experiment Station on improving strains of seed; worked with farmers on soil conservation; experimented with early maturing to foil the boll weevil. He was also a charter member of the Texas Cotton Ginners.
Harve & Velma Lamm & Family - Ed & Homer Lamm

Harve Lamm came to the Krum area in 1903 and formed a partnership with J.O. McClister in the General Merchandise Store. After the McClister store burned in 1906, Mr. Lamm bought the grocery end of the business and moved it down the street. He built a brick store on the south side of the street and was in business until 1969. Harve died in 1938 and his sons Ed and Homer continued the business until their deaths; Homer in 1964 and Ed in 1969. At that time it was the oldest family-owned grocery store in Denton County.

J.O. - Mattie- Walter McClister

J.O. McClister Sr. was another of Krum’s outstanding businessmen. Bringing his family to Krum in 1900, he joined his brother Andrew in establishing a general merchandise store. After a fire in 1906 destroyed the store McClister erected a brick store and continued in the dry goods business while selling his grocery business to Harve Lamm. In 1940, McClister’s son Walter opened a garage and successful Chrysler-Plymouth in the Muncy building.
John & Augusta (Barthold) Miller

John Miller came to this country from Switzerland in 1869. John came to Denton County in 1876 starting what was probably the first dairy in Denton County on University Drive in Denton. In 1879 John married Augusta Barthold the daughter of another Krum pioneer family. In 1886 John and Augusta with children John H. and Pet moved to a farm one mile east of Krum.

John & Louise (Sauer) Monschke

In 1884 John Monschke and his wife Louise (Sauer) and four of their children came to America from East Prussia. They arrived in America on the ship Ohio in Galveston, Texas. They moved to Denton County in 1888 and farmed a farm near the Barthold farm for several years. In 1895 John and Louise bought land one mile east of Krum.
Hugh & Bessie (Wilson) Park & family

Hugh Park came to the Krum area with his parents H.W. & Martha Park in 1890. They bought the house that the Santa Fe Railroad had built for its agent. Hugh worked on a farm south of town owned by Doss Wilson and later married his daughter Bessie Mr. Park worked as a carpenter and helped build many houses in Krum; was public weigher for many years; served as postmaster from 1917 to 1923, and was acting in that post (while Morris Ferrell was on military leave) at the time of his death.

E.M. & Mollie (Batis) Rucker

Edmund McWilliam “E.M.” and Mollie (Batis) Rucker bought land north of Krum in 1888. Mr. Rucker was instrumental in establishing the Continental Bank and Trust Company in Krum and he remained on the Board of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank when the two banks merged in 1910.