

By Kathryn Dodd

We continue this series with another murder in the outskirts of Krum. This story continues the Story saga with the murder of Fred Crane, a Krum farmer, gunned down on January 29, 1925 by Nathan Story the brother of Yancy Story. This murder trial lingers for two years with two trials and a change of venue from Denton County to Cooke County. As the murder trial is going on Nathan Story has another encounter with the law. Also to add to the intrigue George Crane, Fred's father, a merchant in Barton Texas, was murdered Feb 26, 1926. A statement in the newspaper article from the Port Arthur News hints it may have been a revenge killing as it said *"A possible angle of murder for revenge was injected into the killing when it was recalled that Crane's son Fred Crane, was killed in a similar manner at, Denton, Texas, a year ago."* The newspaper articles below recount the events of this murderous saga.

Denton Record Chronicle-January 30, 1925**Denton County Farmer Shot To Death; One Arrest
Special To The News**

Denton, Texas Jan 29—Fred Crane, farmer, 24 years old died Thursday afternoon from wounds received in a difficulty in front of his home, six miles northwest of Krum. N.A. Story surrendered to officers here immediately following the shooting, but did not make a statement.

Crane was shot five times with a pistol. A gun fully loaded but without any of the shells discharged was found on the ground beside him after the shooting. Story was a tenant on the same farm with Crane. The cause of the difficulty is not known to county officials Thursday night, who are still working on the case.

Denton Record Chronicle-Jan 31, 1925**\$6500 Bail Agreed On For N.A. Story**

Bail for N.A. Story, farmer of the western part of the county who surrendered following the fatal shooting of Fred Crane Thursday about noon and against whom complaint charging murder was filed following the death of Crane Thursday afternoon was set at \$6500 Friday afternoon by agreement of counsel for Story and County Attorney E.O. Hooper. The defendant waived examining trial on condition the amount of the bail bond could be agreed on.

Funeral Held Friday

Funeral for Fred Crane, 25 years of age, was held Friday afternoon. He is survived by his wife and several step-children. Crane was struck with five bullets from a .38 Smith & Wesson pistol fired at close range according to officers. They struck him in the right breast, the left breast, the top of the right shoulder blade, the thigh and right side near the belt.

Denton Record Chronicle-April 6, 1925**N.A. Story Case Is Transferred to Cooke For Trial**

The case of N.A. Story, charged with the murder of Fred Crain near Krum in January was transferred to Cooke County for trial by Judge C.R. Pearman on his own motion Monday afternoon. The announcement by the court came as a surprise to most of those connected with the case and to the big crowd that packed the court room for the opening of the trial.

Three Witness Attached

Three witnesses for the state were present Monday morning under attachments issued for them and executed during Sunday. Mrs. Fred Crane, widow of the deceased, was brought here Monday morning from Trinity County. Her two children, Molly and Joe Morris, were brought here Sunday afternoon from Henderson County.

County Attorney Hooper had started investigations last Thursday and Friday to check up on the witnesses for the state and finding Mrs. Crane and her two children were not at home he continued the search until he located them and secured attachments for them.

Denton Record Chronicle-July 13, 1925

6 or 7 Shots Fired In Pistol Battle No One Is Injured

According to statements made by witnesses to the officers, some six or seven shots were exchanged between John Morris and N.A. Story in a pistol battle on Frame Street Saturday evening about 6:30 o'clock. No one was injured. John Morris has been charged with assault with intent to murder in connection with the shooting. A charge of unlawfully carrying a pistol has been filed against N.A. Story.

According to the story told officers by witnesses of the shooting Morris was at the home of Mrs. Fred Crane, his former wife, when Story drove up in front of the house in an automobile. The shooting followed soon afterwards.

Mrs. Crane was divorced from Morris soon after he was sentenced to the penitentiary about a year ago for violating the liquor laws. Story is under indictment for murder in connection with the killing of Crane earlier this year. Morris completed his sentence some two months ago.

NOTE: So after two years, two trials and a change of venue from Denton County to Cooke County the verdict is finally in.

Denton Record Chronicle-October 8, 1927

Nathan Story Now On Way To Prison

Deputy Sheriff Ed Powell Friday took Nathan Story to Fort Worth where he was to be delivered to Penitentiary Agent Bud Russell Saturday morning to be taken to Huntsville Penitentiary to start serving his 25 year sentence for the slaying of Fred Crane Northwest of Krum in 1925.

Story entered a plea of guilty to the charge of murder lodged against him in connection with the killing, at Gainesville about two weeks ago when he went on trial a second time for the Crane shooting. His first sentence of 99 years in the penitentiary was reversed by the court of Criminal Appeals and when his second trial was called he entered a plea of guilty and accepted a sentence of from 2 to 25 years in prison.

The trials were transferred to Cooke County from Denton County on a change of venue motion.