

**Krum Downtown Fires**  
**By Kathryn Dodd**

**Feb 2017**

Throughout Krum's history the businesses around the downtown area have been ravaged by fires and often times totally destroyed. Considering that most of the earlier fires were fought with bucket brigades it is no wonder there was destruction. These newspaper accounts describe some of these fire events.

**The Houston Daily Post-Houston Texas**  
**August 15, 1899**

**Gin & Other Property Burned**

Denton, Texas, August 14- W.E. Smith's gin at Krum, eight miles west of here, was burned yesterday, the fire catching from some unknown cause. A boy named Opitz barely escaped in his night clothes. The loss amounted to about \$5000 on which there is \$2000 insurance. Two hundred cords of wood, some harness and a set of threshing machine attachments were also destroyed.

**Fort Worth Star Telegram**  
**March 29, 1906**

**Fire At Krum, Tex**

Loss from Flames is Estimated at \$20,000

Special To The Telegram.

Krum, Texas, March 20- A disastrous fire visited the business section of the town last night, causing a loss that is estimated at \$20,000. For a time the whole business section was threatened, but by the heroic work on the part of citizens the fire was at last placed under control.

The flames originated in the general merchandise store of R.C. Scripture and rapidly spread to the adjoining buildings entirely consuming the Scripture store and the drug store of S.F. Thames. The telephone exchange was threatened and preparations were made to move, but the fire was checked before the building was reached. R.C. Scripture sustained a loss of \$16,000 and the Thames loss on drug stock is \$4,000. The insurance is much less than the loss. Krum has no organized fire department.

**Dallas Morning News**  
**December 25, 1906**

**SIX STORES BURN AT KRUM.**

Business Houses in Heart of Town Are Destroyed—Loss Between Eight and Nine Thousand.

Special To The news.

Krum, Tex., --Fire breaking out at 10:30 o'clock tonight destroyed five frame structures and one business house of brick, all in the heart of town. The flames started in the two-story frame owned by the Odd Fellows, the lower story being used for a restaurant by Henry Hawkins. No one is known to have been in the building at the time. The upper story is used for lodge purposes. It is a total loss. A one story brick store of McClurken & Co., on the west, was burned but most of the goods were saved.

On the east side of the Odd Fellows' Building, the one-story general merchandise house of McClister and Lamm was burned, but most of the contents saved. The frame barber shop of J.E. Padgitt, east of this, was burned. Two other unoccupied frame storehouses, owned by J.O. McCleary, were a total loss. With these the fire exhausted itself. The total loss is place from \$5,000 to \$9,000.

**Machine Shop Burns**  
**Dallas Morning News**  
**March 7, 1907**

Special To The News

Krum, Tex., March 5- The machine and blacksmith shop owned by C.C. Hornsby was destroyed by fire tonight. Loss is estimated at \$5,000 partly covered by insurance.

**December 19, 1908**

**Hotel at Krum**

Special To The News

Denton, Tex.,--The Chadwell Hotel owned by M.D. Chadwell, was burned at Krum at midnight last night, catching fire from an unknown cause. The loss is about \$1,000 with \$2,500 insurance, \$1000 of which was on the contents. A small part which was saved.

**Dallas Morning News**

**May 12, 1910**

**\$10,000 Fire at Krum**

Destroys Double Brick and Three Frame Buildings--Stopped by Bucket Brigade

Special To The News

Denton, Tex., May 11—Fire at Krum, a small town on the Santa Fe, eight miles west of here, last night, did damage of about \$10,000, destroying one double brick business building and three frame stores.

The fire started in the grocery store of Corbett Wilson at about 10 o'clock and from there spread, burning every building in the block except the Bale Hotel and the Continental Bank, a brick structure which stopped the spread.

The losers are Corbett Wilson, loss about \$5,000 with amount of insurance not known; Marshall's furniture store loss about \$1,000 with \$300 insurance; Dunham's restaurant, loss \$500, no insurance; Dr. Gose's drug store and office, loss about \$1200 with \$600 insurance; G. W. Wilkerson's grocery store, loss about \$2500 with no insurance.

The flames were finally controlled by the bucket brigade after several other stores and houses had caught fire.

**Dallas Morning News**

**July 12, 1910**

**Fire Loss At Krum**

Heavy Rain Helps Citizens Put Out the Blaze

Special To The News.

Krum, Denton Co, Tex., July 11—A fire originating in the Gaskin drug stores at about 1 o'clock this morning destroyed the following buildings, all being wooden structures:

W.H. Gaskin drug store, loss on contents, estimated \$3000; building owned by P. Harvey, loss estimated \$1,000, insurance \$400.

Dr. W.G. Kimbrough, office, contents partly saved; loss on building estimated \$600, insurance unknown.

Padgett & Koiner, barber shop, contents saved; loss on building estimated \$800, no insurance.

Small store of J.L. Hornsby; loss on stock about \$400.

The fire started during an electric storm and is supposed to have been caused by lightning.

The Wright grocery store and post office was only saved by hard work of the bucket brigade, aided by the most terrific downpour of rain that has fallen here in two years.

**Dallas Morning News**

**January 12, 1915**

**Elevator Burns at Krum**

Special To The News

Krum, Denton Co., Tex., Jan 11.—The elevator plant located in this city owned by the Bewley Mills of Fort Worth, was destroyed by fire Saturday night. The plant had a capacity of 10,000 barrels and there were 10,000 bushels of wheat stored in the building when it was destroyed, but it was not all consumed, but is probably damaged. The total loss is estimated at \$20,000, with partial insurance. s

**Fort Worth Star Telegram**

**August 1, 1915**

**Krum Mill is Burned; Loss \$50,000**

Special to the Star Telegram

Krum, Texas, July 31.- The Krum Mill & Elevator Company was destroyed by fire here tonight, entailing a loss of more than \$50,000, which was partially covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown, although it is said to have started in the elevator, which contained 25,000 bushels of wheat.

The fire was not discovered until it was too late to check it.

The mill recently completed an order for several thousand barrels of flour to be shipped to the allied armies in France.

Jack Hewitt is the manager of the mill. He and his father, who lives at Denton, were the principal stockholders.



**Krum Mill & Elevator**