

Early Krum Families

June B. & Amanda Belle (Cope) Benton

Arrival in Krum around 1899

By Kathryn Dodd, Della Davis & grandchild of June & Belle Benton

June Benton was born 1861 in Kentucky to Eli Benton and Sally Ann Kelly. On August 28, 1898 he married Amanda Belle Cope daughter of Mason and Amanda C. (Keathley) Cope.

June and Belle had three children all born at Krum:

1. **Leta Nadine Benton** born 10 September 1899 and married 1918 to Adilia Stenens Meinecke. They had two sons Charles and Steve. Leta Nadine Benton Meinecke passed away on 25 Dec 1966 in Lubbock, Texas.

2. **Zella Benton** born 1904 and died 1995 buried in Osage County Oklahoma.

3. **June Evelyn Benton** born 10 Jan 1912, married to Arthur Clifton Berry. Both are buried at Cenizio Hill Cemetery in Mathis, San Patricio County, Texas.

From Denton Record Chronicle-August 1912

Double-Team & Buggy Disappear

“June Benton of Krum was here Tuesday and made complaint to the Sheriff’s office of having lost a double team and buggy. On August 1st he rented this team to a man who said he was going to Stony and drove from the barn on west of Krum. The last heard of him, he was seen northwest of Stony. The Sheriff’s office has warned Sheriffs over North Texas to be on the lookout for the team.”

Remainder of story written by grandchild of June & Belle (Cope) Benton:

By 1899 June Benton had a livery stable in Krum renting buggies and teams. The Bentons were charter members of the Presbyterian Church. It was built in 1901 and the building was sold in 1935. In 1912 June added an auto repair business to the livery stable. I know that this livery stable burned but have not found a date for this. It may have burned in 1906. After the fire June was sort of a fix-it man around town. He drove to Denton at least one time a day and picked up the copies of the Denton paper to bring to Krum. Sometimes he took folks to Denton for a small fee. I heard this called a jitney service. I know that he rented the pasture back of the house to some of the nearby folks to graze horses and cows. My brother Charles says that June was the janitor at the school the year that he went to school there in Krum. In the summer of 1930 my father stayed with his sister Lillie and her husband Gus. He had made application to go to Carlsbad TB sanitarium. He waited about four months for an opening. Charles lived with the Bentons in Krum and started the third grade that September at the Krum School. Mother and I stayed with the Meinecke grandparents until Dad’s stay at the Sanitarium was finished.

I remember one happening while we were living there. A stray cat was living at the barn and Grandmother Benton discovered that the cat was breaking and eating some of the hen eggs. She told June that he had to get rid of the cat. So June put out some food in the screened in back porch and left the door open. He was waiting and when the cat went in to get the food June closed the screen door. He had a burlap sack and was wearing heavy gloves. He got the cat in the sack and took it almost all the way to Denton before letting it out. He went on to Denton and came back to Krum in a short time to discover that the cat had beaten him home. I remember that Grandmother said “Well if the cat likes it here that much, I guess it can stay.”

Charles says that June and Belle were about five foot nine inches tall. I do not remember that he had much hair or what color but a photo taken when he was younger showed he had dark hair, either a dark brown or black.

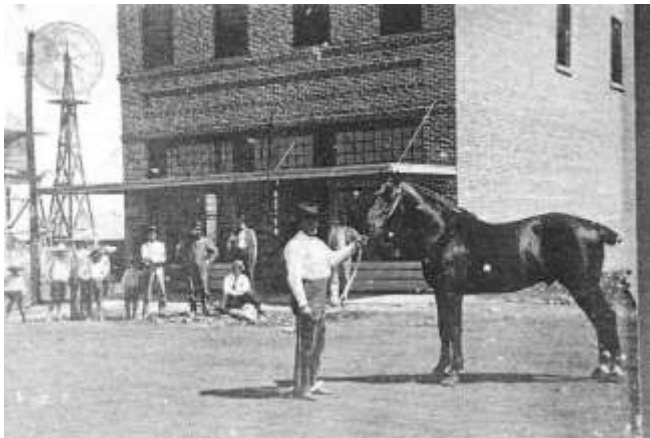
Just three years later in 1933 both Amanda Belle and June died there in Krum, both of them from heart attacks. I was seven years old and remember, after grandmother died the 4th of June 1933, grandfather came and stayed with us for a short time. My brother Charles says June would go down to the court house square and sit in the shade of the old elm trees with the other older men and talk. My only memory of that time is seeing him stand inside our house on 26th Street looking out of the front door. June went back home to Krum and the 18th of November 1933 he also died at his home in Krum, Texas. With many of the other settlers, both June Benton and Amanda Belle Cope Benton are buried in the Jackson Cemetery at Krum, Texas.



Benton_1: June B. Benton



Benton_2: Amanda Belle Cope Benton



Benton_3: June Benton & horse

Notice bank (now museum) in background & Krum water supply to the left of the building



Benton_4: Zella Benton