

**Museum Musings Article- Krum News**  
**February 2013**

**Early Krum Families**

**O.J. & Sydda (Jones) Chism**

**Arrival in Krum area- prior to 1890**

**By Sharon Chism Brazeal, Weldon Chism Dodgen, Dorothy Rudd Teague, Joe Chism, Kathryn Dodd & Della Davis**

Oscar Johnson "O.J." Chism, was born in 1863 in Texas and was the son of Jehu McPherson "John" Chism and Sarah Ann Hackworth who wed on August 4, 1850 in Tippah County, Mississippi. O.J. Chism arrived in Krum prior to 1890 and married Albert Sydney Johnston Jones on December 25, 1890. Sydda (\*see note) was the eighth of ten children born to John Jones and Silvester "Ves" Wimberly. Sydda was born at Tobacco Port, Stewart County, Tennessee in 1866, just after the War for Southern Independence which began in 1861 and ended in 1865. When Sydda was born in 1866, they apparently grew tired of waiting for a boy to name after the hero General Johnston and so named Sydda in honor of him. She once said, "*Wasn't that a name to give a girl!*" When Sydda was about 8 years of age the John Jones family left Tennessee and set out for Texas, staying for a while first at Cooper, Texas and finally in 1876 ending up at a farm north of Krum, where John and Ves lived for the remainder of their lives.

\* Note: Albert Sydney Johnston Jones' name has been spelled by family members and friends in a number of different ways: Siddy, Siddie, Sydda, Siddie, and Sidda. Her mother spelled her name Siddy and her father spelled it Sidie. For purposes of this article it is spelled like it is on the tombstone as Sydda.

Oscar "O.J." Chism was a rural letter carrier. In the winter it was often very cold and rainy, so he went to the blacksmith shop and had the blacksmith build him a cab on a buggy frame to keep him drier and warmer. The cab had an opening in front where he could drive the horses and an inner tube across the opening to keep the rain out. It was a forerunner of current jeeps which carry mail. As he was a carpenter, he built his house in Krum himself with Jake's help. The Chism house was the first house in Krum to have sheet rock in it and also it was the first house in Krum to have an electric cook stove.

O.J. Chism died in 1940 and Sydda in 1939. They are buried at Bolivar Cemetery along with his father John Chism and son Sylvester Jones Chism. Oscar Johnson "O.J." Chism and Sydda Jones Chism had seven children who are shown below:

**Sylvester Jones Chism born** in 1891 and died of tuberculosis in 1916 before his 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sylvester was an inventor and designed a device to keep gas pressure down in street lights preventing an explosion. This was an early day regulator. Sylvester is buried at Bolivar Cemetery.

**Jehu McPherson "Jake" Chism** was born in Krum in 1893 where he resided all his life. He attended school through the grades offered at the time. His father was postmaster and a mail carrier and Jake followed in his footsteps and was a mail carrier for many years. He learned carpentry, painting and wall paper hanging which employed him from the late 1930's on until a stroke forced him to retire around late 1970. He was a motorcycle rider when young and a very good tennis player. He and Hal Knox regularly played and defeated double teams from what is now North Texas. Jake was also a veteran of World War I serving in France. Jake did not marry until he was 37 years old. On April 4, 1931 he married Reba Mae Page Koiner. Reba was the widow of David Koiner and the daughter of Joseph G. Page and Nancy Lee Rucker. Jake and Reba had seven children Charles Hugh, Oscar Olin, Joe Allen, Donald Ray, Ronald Lee, Sharon, and Stephen James "Jimmy" Chism.

Jake Chism was involved in some of the more exciting things that happened in Krum. On January 7 1949, he was painting the F & M bank and was shot in the back by Joe Goforth who had gone on a shooting spree in downtown Krum. During this spree Joe Goforth also shot Denton County Sheriff Hodges which blinded him for life. On March 19, 1959 Charles Roy McCrory robbed the Farmers and Merchants State Bank and Mayor Pin

Flower and Jake Chism gave chase in a vehicle but lost his trail. Jake Chism died in 1966 and Reba in 1987 and both are buried at Krum Jackson Cemetery.

**Oscar Olin Chism** was born in 1895. He grew up at Krum and married Lois Bellah in January of 1918. Oscar and Lois moved to California with her family. From May 22, 1918 to December 13, 1918 Oscar served in the Navy. Oscar and Lois had no children and were divorced. In 1935 he married Helen Augsburger. Oscar was a pharmacist and he enjoyed playing golf. Oscar died in 1969 in Los Angeles California and is buried at Green Hills Memorial Park, Rancho Palos Verdes Los Angeles County California.

**Katie Belle Chism** was born in 1898. She was married in September 1915 to Clarence Emmett Dodgen. When Katie died in 1929 at the age of 30 from tuberculosis she left five small children under the age of 12: Weldon, 11; Katherine, 8; James, 6; Cal, 4; and John 10 months. Katie Belle Chism Dodgen is buried at Krum Jackson Cemetery.

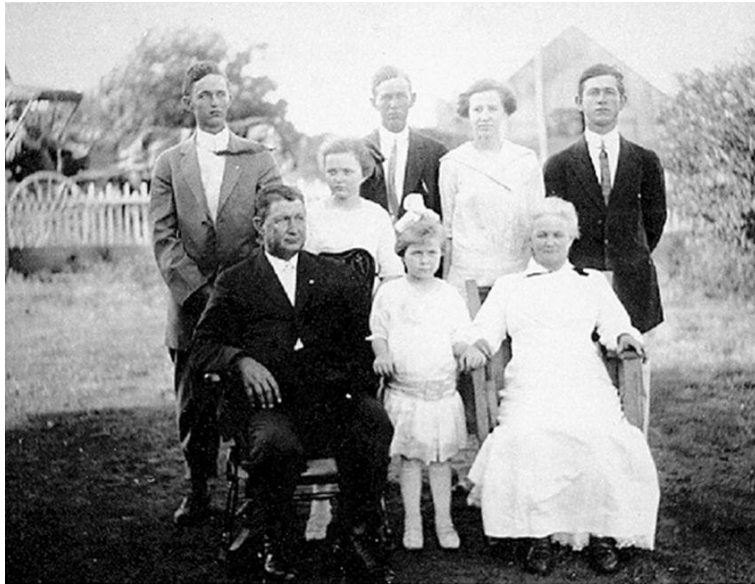
**Annie Laura Chism** was born in March 1900 and died in 1904.

**Lorena Leila Chism was** born in 1901. She was married first to Every Holliman who died in 1947 and then to Joe B. Marchant on May 15, 1970. She was a first grade school teacher having taught in Garden Valley, and Kirkland schools. Later she moved to Cottle County, where she taught at Swearingen. In 1942 she returned to Kirkland and in 1966 she began teaching in Childress. After the death of her mother in 1939, Lorena and her husband E.E. Holliman brought her sister's (Katie Belle) son John into their home to live. He remained in Childress throughout his life. Lorena died in 1988 and is buried at Childress Cemetery, Childress Texas.

**Sydda Mabel Chism** was born in 1906 and died in 1998. The youngest of the Chism children she was born and lived most of her life in Krum with brief stays in Ponder and Slidell. After graduating from high school at Krum she attended North Texas Normal School for a year and a summer and beginning as a teacher for two years at ages 19 and 20. On January 8, 1927 she married David McKelvey Rudd and they had one daughter Dorothy. Sydda was acting post mistress at Krum during World War II; then worked for a while in Denton peeling potatoes in a potato plant. Sydda also helped run various businesses she had with her husband including the Krum Telephone Co. David and Sydda Rudd bought the Krum telephone system in 1940. At the time, there were only 21 customers and some of the few farmers who had a connection had strung their own lines on barbwire fence posts. The Rudds built new lines, some of those to farms were underground, and made other improvements. Soon they were servicing 125 customers. Central Telephone Company of Decatur bought the business from the Rudds in 1956, and served Krum and other neighboring towns with a well-equipped, direct dialing system. Sydda also worked at UNT in the student union for several years before retiring in about 1978 or 1979. Sydda died in 1998 and David in 1966 and are buried at Krum Jackson Cemetery.

Many of the Chism descendants still reside in and around Krum and other parts of Denton County to this day.

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**Chism\_1**

**O.J. & Sydda Chism Family-Circa 1911-1913**

**Back Row:** Jake Chism, Lorena Chism (Marchant), Oscar Olin Chism, Katie Belle Chism (Dodgen), Sylvester Jones Chism

**Front Row:** Oscar Johnson Chism, Sydda Mabel Chism (Rudd), Albert Sidney Jones Chism "Sydda"



**Chism\_2**

**Jake & Reba Chism Family**

**L to R:** Jake-Reba-Donald-Jimmy-Sharon-Olin-Ronald



**Chism\_3: Dorothy & Sydda (Chism) Rudd**



**Chism\_4: David & Sydda (Chism) Rudd in front of the telephone exchange house**