

## **Krum Grew From Railway Station Town Now Has Educational Opportunities Nearby**

**Mar 2017**

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SPECIAL TO THE RECORD-CHRONICLE

Sept 26, 1971

Part 1.

**KRUM** - Situated amidst rolling hills and wooded sites is West of Denton the town of Krum.

Located two miles north of Hwy. 24 and only eight miles west of Denton, the town has the educational opportunities offered by two universities, North Texas State and Texas Woman's.

The story of how the town got its name is familiar to old timers. In the fall of 1886 Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway Company completed construction of a line of track across the prairies of western Denton County, which seemed an ideal location for a station.

Because the company established a station there, it followed that they should have the pleasure of selecting a name for it. They called it "Krum," after the vice president of Santa Fe Railroad A.R. Krum.

The town actually got its start in 1858 when a 2,000 acre tract of land was granted to the heirs of Charles Despallier, a Texas hero who died defending the Alamo. After the railroad was built, townships were located along the line.

In 1889 Finlay moved to Krum and became the first merchant well as the first postmaster. He built a small merchandise store and the post office was located nearby.

The first house was built by a German, Hentzell and two years later Arthur Jackson put in the first lumber yard.

Dr. W. G. Kimbrough Sr opened a drug store in 1891 and began to practice medicine. In 1898 Dr. Gose along with his wife and son, Paul moved to the area, and also opened a drug store and set up practice.

In 1900 wheat was king in Krum. This was the greatest inland grain market in the world. It has been told that Chicago called even' morning asking the price, quality and quantity of wheat.

At that time Krum raised the highest grade of wheat in the world. In 1900, 519 carloads of wheat were shipped from Krum alone. About 3,800 bales of cotton were also being shipped and flour took numerous gold medals at various world fairs. A gigantic flour mill operated by steam was located in Krum.

J. O. McClister and his family moved to Krum from Kentucky but stayed only a short time. When McClister moved back to Kentucky he persuaded his brother-in-law, Piner Harvey, to move with him to Texas and make Krum his home.

McClister became the second president of the Farmers & Merchants State Bank and his son Walter, became the fourth president.

In 1901 Harvey put in a store and J.O. McClister built a store on the north side of Main Street and continued in business for years even while connected with the bank.

About this time Dr. Kimbrough's two sons, Wallace and Walter graduated from Vanderbilt University and moved to Krum. When Kimbrough retired, his two sons took over his practice and drug store. Both doctors later moved to Denton.

C.C. Cofer moved to Krum in 1893 and became post master as well as minister of the Church of Christ. He died in 1944 and his two sons still live in Krum.

C.H. Jackson moved from South Carolina and bought a tract of land south of Krum in 1858. His son Arthur operated the first lumber yard in Krum and helped build the city.

In 1901 Krum could boast of the Chadwell Hotel, which occupied three stores on the south side of Main St., a livery stable, telephone and telegraph facilities, dealers in lumber, grain, produce and cotton, several stores, a system of water works, a good weekly newspaper, one of the best schools and excellent teachers.

It also had a cotton gin, barber shop, blacksmith, restaurant, two grain elevators, and the finest flour mill in North Texas.

Early in the 1900's several disastrous fires occurred in the town. After a Christmas tree celebration in 1906 several friends gathered at J.O. McClister's store to listen to him play his fiddle. Someone looked out and

yelled “The towns on fire!” With the help of several men, all the merchandise was carried from the stores to vacant lots. The whole north side of Main Street burned.

The next day was very confusing as each merchant tried to identify his own merchandise. McClister and other merchants rebuilt, using brick material.

In 1906 the livery stable burned and in 1909 lightning struck and burned the south side of Main Street including the Chadwell Hotel. It was reported that it was raining so hard that men took buckets and literally scooped water out of the street to throw on the fire, fearing all the time that they might be struck by lightning.

In 1909 Dr. Knox and his family moved to Krum from Grayson County. Knox was chief executor and stock holder for Farmers and Merchants State Bank for several years before becoming president. Knox started the bank in the same location that it occupies today and the Knox family represented the bank for many years.

In 1910 the old three-room school that had served Krum since 1900 was torn down and a large two-room school was built. It has been in constant use since that time and houses a kitchen, cafeteria, the first through fourth grades, and the home economics department.

In 1910 the firm of Egan and Chandler sold 245 acres of land north of Krum to E.H. Singleton of Denton for \$35 an acre.



Santa Fe Depot Krum - 1906