

Museum Musings Article- Krum News
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The History of the Traveling Flour Pillow Top
By Kathryn Dodd

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It's not often that you get a glimpse of a point in time- a year in the history of Krum. And this point in time for Krum from the year 1912 comes to us from an old trunk located in Portales, New Mexico. The item is a bright red handkerchief size item probably made from a flour sack and probably to be used as a pillow top. It has the names of all the merchants, churches, doctors etc in Krum and shows it is a Souvenir of Krum from 1912. The story of how it ended up in a trunk in Portales New Mexico goes something like this.

Flora Love Greer Kinsolving born in 1882 and died in 1981, was the daughter of John M. Greer and Cynthia Henrietta Angelea. After John Greer died Henrietta married Elijah Edwin Dean. Elijah (died in 1935) and Henrietta (died in 1947) lived in Denton, Texas and are both buried at the I.O.O. F Cemetery in Denton. They lived in Denton for many years and helped to organize the Plainview Baptist Church.

Their daughter Flora Love Greer married Bushrod Washington Kinsolving who was born in Texas. In 1900 the Kinsolving family was in Alvord, Texas and by 1910 in Elida, New Mexico. Flora and Bushrod's daughter Flora B. Kinsolving married Clarence S. Greathouse in 1917 in Roosevelt, New Mexico. Clarence was one of the children of Issac B. Greathouse who came from Ohio to New Mexico in 1906. The family located about 25 miles from Portales on a mesa which came to be known as the Greathouse Mesa which was more than 19,000 acres. Clarence and Flora's son Jack Greathouse farmed and ranched with his father for a time. Jack died in 2010 and his wife Betty continues to lives in Portales New Mexico.

The trunk where the pillow top was found belonged to Bushrod & Flora Greer Kinsolving. When the trunk was opened, all folded up for nearly 100 years was this 1912 Souvenir from Krum. So here are some of the possibilities of how this Krum Souvenir ended up in a trunk in New Mexico: Perhaps Elijah and Henrietta Dean on their way from their home in Denton to Plainview Baptist Church got the souvenir in Krum and gave it to their daughter and son-in-law in New Mexico. Or perhaps daughter Flora found it in her parent's belongings and put it away in the trunk. The truth is we will never really know who got the souvenir to begin with.

But we do know how it found its way from Portales New Mexico to Krum. Betty Greathouse taught with Pat Watson in Portales New Mexico. Pat's husband Ed Watson lived at Krum for many years and his daughters Kay Dodd and Connie Read still live in Krum. Ed is known for always carrying a red shop rag. When Betty found the red Krum pillow top she decided to give it to Ed for his 85th birthday as she knew he had lived in Krum. Ed and Pat then gave it to Kathryn Dodd for the Krum Heritage Museum-so that is the story of the traveling flour pillow top.

Krum was a thriving little town in 1912. This pillow top has advertisements for the following businesses, churches, doctors etc.:

Churches & Church Affiliations:

M.E. Church South
Presbyterian Church
Baptist Church
Christian Church
Baptist Missionary Aid
M.E. Mission Society
Methodist Sunday School
Presbyterian Missionary Home & Foreign Society
Presbyterian Sunday School

Doctors & Drugstores:

Dr. E.O. Hayes
W.G. Kimbrough
Gaskin Drug store
Drug Store-Dr. J.C. Gose Proprietor

Gins:

Rainbow Flour
Knox Bros Gin
R.L. Cole & Co.
Fleming-Huffhines

Grocery Stores & General Merchandise:

J.O. McClister
H.F. Lamm & Co.
P. Harvey & Son
J.I. Hornsby
J.H. Wilson
Krum Cash Store-A.P. Balthrop

Lumber & Building:

Waples-Painter Co
Lyon-Gray Lumber Co
Gose & Lindley-Contractors & Builders
W.T. Lybarger-Cement & Plastering
Fox Hardware Co.

Blacksmiths & Livery Stables:

Jones & Jones
Benton's Livery Stable
B.P. Moore-Shoe & harness repair
Hardware & Farm Implements
J.J. Eagan-Drayman

Misc:

Krum High School
F & M State Bank
A.P. Cherry-Restaurant
R.H. Rhine-Real Estate & Insurance
The Krum Optimist Newspaper
City Barbershop
Water Works-K. Sprouse
Krum Hotel-Mrs. Butterworth Proprietor

Now you have the history of the traveling flour pillow top. In order to see it in its full red glory visits the Krum Heritage Museum. It is located in the business room at the museum. It is an interesting one of a kind piece of Krum history.

Please visit the Krum Heritage Museum online at www.krumheritagemuseum.com