

**By Kathryn Dodd**

We continue the January 2019 story with the shooting in 1918 of Otis Myers by Yancy Story in the Krum post office. Otis Myers, age about 45 years and single was shot eight times and instantly died in the lobby of the post office at Krum shortly before noon Friday. Following the shooting, Yancy Story, also single and living about seven miles northwest of Krum, came to Denton and gave himself up to the officers.

**Denton Record Chronicle-June 10, 1918 –Part 2****Preliminary Trial of Yancey Story Is Begun Here Monday**

The preliminary hearing of the State versus Yancey Story, charged with the murder of Otis Myers at Krum last Friday was begun Monday morning in the District Court room before Justice of the Peace J.G. Boyd and at noon three witnesses had been examined. There was considerable interest manifested in the case and a large crowd attended the hearing composed principally of people from Krum and the adjacent community. There were a number of witnesses to be examined when the court adjourned at noon until 1 o'clock.

The state was represented by County Attorney B.H. Hopkins and the defendant by the firms of Sullivan and W.C. Owsley & Acorn and the hearing was begun promptly at 10 o'clock Monday morning.

**Eye Witnesses Testify**

All three witnesses examined saw the shooting being present in the Krum post office where the shooting took place. The first called was E.L. Worley who stated his home was in Krum, that he knew both the dead man and the defendant, and that he was in the post office at Krum when the shooting took place. He said he did not see shots fired, that he was squatting down by the boxes near Fred Barnett who was sitting on a box when the first shot was fired. He said he saw Myers standing near the boxes about 6 or 8 feet from him before the shooting but did not see come in that his attention was attracted first by the shots when he looked around and saw Myers falling backward, his head back and one foot drawn up. He did not hear any talking before the shooting occurred. Witness remembered hearing two shots while in the post office and immediately going to Collier's drug store and hearing other shots while on his way. Witness saw defendant crossing the street and going northeast to Sewell's hardware store after the shooting carrying a pistol in each hand, down by his side.

Witness had known deceased since January 1, had had frequent conversations with him and had never heard his say anything to anybody about defendant. He had had conversation with Myers in the morning of the killing about 8 o'clock and Myers said he was going fishing.

**Fred Barnett on Stand**

Fred Barnett was called to the stand and testified as to the circumstances before and at the time of the killing. He said the shooting occurred at about 10 o'clock Friday morning with the gun in Story's hand. He was sitting under a window on a box, but did not see Myers before the shooting. He saw Story enter a few seconds before the shooting. When the first shot was fired, his attention was ? and when he looked up Myers was facing backward with his face to the south and Story was facing southwest. Three shots were fired with an intermission between the second and third, he said. Witness ran outside. Story came outside, and went back in the building and witness heard more shots fired. Witness did not hear any talking before the shooting.

Witness went back to body of dead man with the sheriff and saw sheriff pull right hand out of dead man's pocket. The hand was gripping a medium sized pocket knife. The knife was not open.

Witness went to the Knox bank where defendant came later from Sewell's hardware store and asked for Dr. Knox. Witness noticed only one pistol in defendant's hand at the time.

Before the shooting witness said he was sitting on a box under the general delivery window and talking to E.B. Worley, Homer Sprouse, Ed Sewell and several little girls were in the post office at the time, but none remained in the office after the shooting until the sheriff came, he said. He did not know whether the post office employees were in the building as the blind was down in the delivery window.

Witness had seen Myers in front of Collier's drug store at 9:30 in the morning in his shirt-sleeves, dressed the same as at the time of the killing. The dead man was 42 or 43 years old, single and lived with his parents in Krum, witness said, and he had no regular business but worked at times. He was afflicted with "fits". The defendant is a farmer and lives eight miles away from Krum, witness said.

### **Third Witness Testifies**

The third and last witness to testify in the morning was Homer Sprouse, who testified that Story killed Myers with a 45 caliber pistol. Witness did not see Myers before the shooting but was standing against a desk at the east end of the post office, facing the wall and reading a paper. Story came in and stood at the north end of the desk and asked where witness' father was. Witness did not see Story get his pistols and when first shot was fired he looked around and saw Story shooting. Myers had fallen to the floor. There was an intermission in the shooting between the first and second shots and after the third; it seemed to witness Story emptied his gun. Witness ran outside when shots were fired and saw Story come out and go back into the building when more shots were heard. Story came out of the building with a pistol in each hand and said to the crowd that gathered: "If any of you fellows don't want to get hurt, keep out of my way." Defendant seemed excited, he said.

After the shooting, defendant went in Sewell's hardware store and from there in the Knox bank, after which he got in his car in which, witness understood he was going to Denton to surrender to officers.

At this point the hearing was adjourned until 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon when it resumed.

Stay tuned for the third and final part of this Krum saga in the March 2019 Museum Musings. Will Yancy Story be found guilty or not guilty? What's your verdict based on the facts presented so far?



**Fred Barnett**