

Harvey & Edward P. Lamm
Arrival in Krum around 1901-1903
By Kathryn Dodd & Della Davis

William Calvert Lamm was born 1836 in Kentucky and died 1894 in Weatherford, Parker County, Texas. His wife Charlotte Jane Fulgham was born in 1840 and died in 1873. They had four children two of which **Edward F. Lamm** and **Harvey F. Lamm** ended up in Krum and had a tremendous effect on the economic development of the town.

In the spring of 1901, **Mr. Edward F. Lamm**, brother of Harve Lamm, came to Krum and persuaded the farmers in the area to organize a stock company for the purpose of establishing a flourmill “where your wheat is grown.” The Krum Mill and Elevator Company was formed; Mr. Ed F. Lamm subscribed fifty percent of the stock and the rest was sold to local farmers and businessmen. Charlie A. Davis, who had been farming north of Krum since 1892, was elected president, Mr. Lamm became manager, and D.E. Baker came in as bookkeeper. The company was fortunate in securing an expert miller, William H. Hobbs, a Canadian, who had learned this trade in his native country. He came to Krum to take that position. A gigantic steam mill was bought in Winnewood, Indian Territory, dismantled and rebuilt in Krum. The capacity was 150 barrels of flour per day, later increased to 200 barrels, and other products were meal, chops, and bran. The capacity of the elevators was first 30,000 bushels, later increased to 65,000. In addition to wheat, the company also handled other grains, feed stuffs, coal and wood.

The mill was in operation in August 1901, and was an immediate success. A salesman was on the road and soon 10 carloads of “Rainbow,” “Red Ribbon,” and “Lily” flour were being shipped every week by wagon to nearby towns. At harvest time as many as 50 wagons would be lined up waiting to be unloaded. The farmer was given a receipt for as many bushels of what he figured he would need for his family’s consumption and he could call for his flour on demand. The ration was figured 42 pounds of flour from one bushel of wheat. The mill got a percentage of the by-products in payment.

Mr. Lamm built a beautiful home in the north part of town in about 1902. Ownership has changed hands many times through the years. Today it is owned by the Padgets. Mr. Lamm sold out and moved from Krum in the fall of 1908, and Mr. S.A. Blewett bought Lamm’s stock and took over as manager.

Harvey F. “Harve” Lamm, a native of Kentucky, son of William & Charlotte Lamm, brother to Edward Lamm, arrived in Parker County Texas in 1895. He first started a grocery business in Peaster, Texas and later in Brock. His brother Ed, who was managing the Krum Mill and Elevator, advised him that J. O. McClister need a partner in his General Merchandise Store. Harve came to investigate; the partnership was formed and the Lamm family including wife Mary Lou Ballard Lamm and children Velma, Homer David, Edward William “Ed” and Erma moved to Krum in February 1903.

After the McClister store burned in 1906, Mr. Lamm bought the grocery end of the business and moved it down the street. In 1907 C.C. Gibbins, father of Virgil, came to Krum from Vineyard, where he had been in the grocery business, and he became a partner in the H.F. Lamm store. The company built the brick store on the south side of the street (Now Krum Diner) where

it continued to operate until it was sold in 1969. Mr. Gibbins sold out to Mr. Lamm in 1916 and moved to a farm west of Krum. Ed Lamm joined his father in operating the family store. His brother, Homer, remembered his after school chores to be hauling the freight from the depot in a mule-drawn dray and delivering grocery orders house to house in a light wagon drawn by ponies.

Homer married Frances Louise Brumley and they had one daughter Martha Louise Lamm. Homer and his family lived in the home built by Harve in 1904 and was the oldest house in Krum to be continuously occupied by members of the same family. It was restored by Homer's widow, Frances Brumley Lamm, who modernized the kitchen, baths and utility room. Frances Brumley Lamm died in 1999. Daughter Martha married Bobby Dickey in 1965. Ed Lamm never married.

Mary Ballard Lamm died in 1910 and Harve Lamm died in 1936. Both are buried at Krum Jackson Cemetery. Sons Ed and Homer continued in the grocery business until their deaths; Homer in 1964 and Ed in 1969. At that time it was the oldest family-owned grocery store in Denton County.

In July 2006 the downtown site of the old Lamm Grocery store received a Krum Society of Historical Preservation Historical marker. Stories were shared about the Lamm grocery by Rod Barthold who said "his family probably wouldn't have starved to death without Ed Lamm's credit, but "I'll tell you times would have gotten real lean had it not been his allowing my family to charge his groceries until harvest came in. When we'd pay off the bill, we started a new year and within a month or two we were charging groceries again." Rod went on to recall "There was no bubblegum, but there was chocolate at Ed's grocery during the war. During WW II you couldn't get chocolate candy because all the chocolate went to the servicemen in their rations. Somehow Ed always had chocolate candy It was upstairs, back behind some things and only a few people probably knew where it was."

Martha Lamm Dickey, daughter of Homer & Francis Lamm said "I was always told that Uncle Ed was in the store forever. Because that's where I would see him. He was in the store. I'm told that from the time he was about 14 that was his whole life." Martha went on to say that her father Homer "didn't want to be connected with that store... So they would fight a lot, "My father would just make it a causal connection with the store late in the evening because he didn't want to make it his life." She went on to say "I know Uncle Ed's dream was that I would graduate from the University Of Texas Pharmacy School and come back and we would open up a pharmacy right here, but she said her grades in chemistry classes short-circuited the family's ambition." Instead she earned a law degree and for many years the Krum native has been a defense attorney practicing criminal law in one of the nation's toughest cities, Washington D.C.

Barthold recalled one time when Ed Lamm was away from the store a few days probably in the hospital and Homer came in to operate the business. "He decided he was going to clean this place out" Barthold recalled. When the brother's clean-up campaign reached the cooler, Barthold continued, "he found some rounds of cheese that just had mold all over it. Homer decided he had to get that out of there and he threw it all in the trash. When Ed came back he let Homer know he'd thrown away several hundred dollars' worth of cheese. People came from Dallas and Fort

Worth to get his aged cheese. I guess Homer didn't realize that cheese always developed some mold on the outside when it aged."

Then came the stories of the tricks and pranks kids used to play on Ed Lamm. Cecilia Knox Hudgens recalled the time she "looked in the meat counter and there was a snake. And I said "Ed, Ed , there's a snake in here." Another story is about one family of kids that played tricks on Ed to their own advantage. "Ed had a chicken coup in in the back of the store with live chickens.-I mean-we had fresh here-somehow they learned to go to the rear of the store back there in the alley, get a live chicken, run in the front door and tell Ed that their mother had sent them to sell this chicken. So he would pay them whatever per pound it was, the going rate at that time, walk out the back door and throw it in the chicken coup. "Later that day or the next, the same scenario happened until Ed figured out what was happening.

Former County Judge R.L. "Buddy" Cole admitted to a trick he and his pals would play on Ed. "During the watermelon season, Ed would stack up the watermelons right along in front of the store, there on the sidewalk. At night he never took them in, because there would be 50 or more stacked up there. So one night, us kids were hanging around and we decided it would be real fun to take every one of the watermelons, carry them to the grocery store across the street and stack them up there and leave them. We got nearly every watermelon carried over there and one of the boys came over and said, "I looked in the back of the store and there's a little light and W.R. Givens is sitting back there with a shotgun across his lap. We had a conference and then we moved every watermelon back and we left."



**Lamm_1:1905- Harve,Velma,Homer, Mary,
Back: Ed & Eurma**



Homer Lamm



Francis & Martha Lamm



Ed Lamm



Lamm Grocery