

Saloons, Stores of Krum In Former Years Recalled
Denton Record Chronicle
By Mrs. Omalie Phillips
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Quite a bit more of very interesting history of Krum was received lately in a letter from Mrs. Eunice Barnett, the former Eunice McGee who lived in Krum for many years. Mrs. Barnett writes that she enjoys the Krum page "very much."

Mrs. Barnett writes: "our house which stood where Hattie Dyer now lives was the third house in Krum. We moved there in the fall when I was six years old. The house where Knight had his chicken and bee farm was built at the time and the Parks family lived there-and stayed for many years.

Then there was a house next door to the house Cattie McClister (Mrs. Cliff Wilkins) built that we called the Hencheel house. It had a rock chimney on the west end of it and an old bachelor lived there.

"The one-room school house was there and the Finleys had a grocery-saloon where the Piner Harvey Grocery used to be. There was another saloon on up the street about where the post office now is, run by Rowleys. Then John Boyd came from Gainesville and built a barbershop between our (McGee) store and the lumber office.

"It had a shed room that served as his bed room, until he married Miss Jackson and they moved into the Jackson home (where Mrs. South now lives), later building the house across the street from Hal Knox.

"A year or so later, Walter Kimbrough graduated from medical college and his father built a small drug store on the south side of main street where that fenced-in lot now is across the street from Coles; it stood there for years.

"My father, the late Rubin McGee, had built a general merchandise or grocery, hardware and feed store on the south side, just east of where the Fowler Hardware now is located. The next business was the lumber yard put in by Arthur Jackson. The office building was on the lot just across the alley from the long north-south shed, on Main street facing north.

"There was a hotel called 'Chadwell Hotel' and run by that family for years where Ed Lamm Grocery now is located. Later sold to the Boles family who ran it for years. A man by the name of Ginn built the hotel, known now as the Chitwood House, and now owned by Mr. Erickson. He also built a large house back of where the Bilyeus now live. He also built a gin, the first gin burned.

"Arthur Jackson built the house where Mrs. South lives and it has not been changed any except a bath added on the west side. Two rooms of the Chism home, where Mrs. Hornsby now lives, is the oldest house standing there now. The Rowleys built on the Baxter Wilson Hill and also across the railroad to the east—that house was there 20 years ago when we left—John Bowery lived there.

"The town began to grow later. It had been held back for years by the fact that the railroad could not give clear titles to the lots, and we paid and paid more to clear the title than the original cost of the land. The first deep well was also dug back of the Bilyeu place. Everyone had a dug well, walled with rock, in addition to a cyclone cellar.

"The well back of my father's store was used to water the horses and mules that hauled the grain to town. I have seen the Main street solid with wagons and teams from the railroad to above the schoolhouse many times.

"There was a house called the Kimbrough house that Dr. Walter Kimbrough's father gave him when he married. It was on the site of the present John Morris building. Later when Wallace Kimbrough married, his father built him the house where Coles now live, only they have enlarged it considerably.

Some of the early history of Krum was reviewed in a letter from Mrs. Eunice Barnett, the former Eunice McGee, who lived in Krum for many years. This is the concluding installment of her letter, the first portion of which was printed on the preceding Krum Community page.

By MRS. OMALIE PHILLIPS

Record-Chronicle Correspondent

"The Methodist Church was the first church built and was on the opposite corner from where it now stands. A brick Presbyterian church was built back of the Walter Kimbrough home (later torn down).

"The Baptist Church was moved there from south of town and on a corner of the school ground. The Church of Christ members who first started meeting in the school house (also the Methodists) built the building on the lot where it is now. It burned in the late 1920s and was rebuilt on the same lot.

"Another old home is where your music teacher now lives (Mrs. M. F. Thrift), always known as the Harry Batis house; he put those sycamore trees out 50 years ago or more.

"The McClisters built their old home and the Jones built the two story house known as the Harvey home, and recently bought by Lee Koiner (What old timer doesn't remember Malcolm Jones?)

"The house where Weldon Cole lives was built by Mr. Lamm about 1904, sold to Blewetts and then to Tom Eubanks, before Weldon Cole acquired it.

"There are any number of houses over 50 years old, one is my mother's, where Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Dyer now live, built in 1913. It burned down the following year and the oak tree there came up after it was burned.

"A Mr. Taylor, a teacher, gave 50 children oak seed to plant and that is the only known one to grow and survive. It was planted by Jimmie McGee, now Mrs. Walter E. Lamm of George West Tex.

"Dr. Gose came to Krum in 1897 and had his office for years just west of the first bank building. The first bank was run by Kelly Roack and Benjamin Paul Wilbank. It was later sold to the Knox family-and has been in the same place ever since.

"June Benton had a livery stable where the McClister Building now stands before the day of the automobile. They did a rushing business."

Mrs. Barnett, who is still a subscriber to the Record-Chronicle, closes her letter by saying: "I lived in Krum when the cowboys made a regular Saturday night raid, when anvils were shot on the fourth of July and Christmas, when Halloween pranks put buggies on top of buildings; I went through the typhoid epidemic and a prairie fire, and saw Krum grow and grow. It always was a good place to live and still is."

"One of the first businesses that had lasted through the years was Dick Turner's blacksmith shop. It is the oldest continuous business in town. Mr. Watt Jones now owns and operates it. The Turners home was the first house on the corner where Lee Koiner now lives. It burned when Greenleas lived there."

"Some of the oldest families who have remained are the Rickers, Koiners, Chisms, Evans, Fairmans, Cofers, McGee, Nails and Black, Parks and Wilsons."



House- School- Baptist Church