

**Museum Musings Article- Krum News**  
**July 2012**

**Some Early Krum Families**  
**John & Augusta (Barthold) Miller**  
**Arrival in Krum area-Around-1886**

*The information for this article was based on taped interview with Pet Miller Fowler done on March 17, 1977, obituary for John Henry Miller from Krum Banner April 13, 1916, family research done on the family in Switzerland and from the Della Davis book.*

John Henry Miller (birth name: Johannes Mueller) was born in Boltigen at Eschiegg, Switzerland on November 15, 1846. He was the ninth of ten children born to Bartholome and Margaritha Mueller. John grew up on the family farm where he helped milk the cows and make cheese.

At the age of sixteen he left his family home and traveled to France where he worked in big hotels. During this time he served Mikado of Japan and other crowned heads of Europe who were present to pay respect to the Japanese ruler.

In 1869 John sailed to America on the Westphalia, landing at Castle Garden, New York. It was after his arrival in the United States that he changed his name to John Henry Miller. In 1870 to 1871, John headed south to Arkansas, where he lived a couple of years, before coming to Texas in the spring of 1872.

John is believed to have been the first of the German-American immigrants to reach Denton County. He came to Denton in 1876, starting what was probably the first dairy in Denton County. John bought seven acres where the Sockwell Gas Station was later built on University Drive. His home was located north of the gas station. He remained in the dairy business for ten and a half years.

On January 6, 1880, John married Augusta Barthold, daughter of another pioneer German family, Herman and Mary Sipple Barthold. He was about 15 years older than his bride. While living in Denton, the couple had three children: Anna Lena, John Henry and Hannah Marie "Pet".

John and Augusta moved their family to Krum in 1886. They bought about 117 acres for \$450 one mile east of Krum. John and Augusta were very hard working individuals and improved their farm. While he ran the farm, she raised chickens and sold eggs and butter.

John Henry Miller died on April 8, 1916. Augusta passed away on January 4, 1944. They are buried at IOOF Cemetery in Denton. Daughter Anna Lena Miller was born October 18, 1880 and died on August 22, 1893. She is buried beside her parents.

John Henry and Augusta's son, John H. Miller, married Ava Barnett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.Y. Barnett, pioneer settlers in the Plainview community. John and Ava spent their lives in that community and raised eight children, two of whom lived there until their deaths Ralph Miller and Mary Ruth Miller Briscoe. Ralph married Mildred Stokes and they had two children, Jimmy and Betty. Mary Ruth married C.L. Briscoe and they had three daughters Linda, Donna and Charlene. The other Miller children were Joe Thomas, Harry Weldon, John Henry, Young Jack, Barnett, and Dorothy Neil.

John and Augusta's daughter, Hannah Marie "Pet" Miller, married Clarence R. "C.R." Fowler in 1914. Clarence had come from Denton in 1912 and opened the Fowler Implement Company in a new brick building on the south side of the street in Krum. Wagons, buggies, and harnesses were in great demand in those days; and, in addition so were plows, cultivators and other implements. Their two children, Frances W. "Pin" and

Lucille Fowler Bynum were reared on the family home place. Francis W. “Pin” Fowler, who started working in the store when he was 17 bought the business from his parents in 1969, and “C.R.” retired.

In addition to running the hardware store “Pin” was engaged in many community activities; he was mayor of Krum since it incorporated in 1954; was a director in the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, a charter member of the Krum Lions Club; was Chairman of the Board of the Methodist Church and the developer of the Fowler Addition to the town site. Pin and Martha (Dedmon) Fowler had two children Jimmy and Pam Fowler. C.R. Fowler passed away in 1972 in the sixtieth year of his Hardware store business. Pet died in 1982 and Pin in 1992.



**John & Augusta Miller**



**Hannah “Pet” Miller**



**Annie & John Henry Miller**

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