

Museum Musings Article- Krum News
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Museum Musings

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In The Beginning... 1850-1886

Historically, the story began on March 13, 1857. The community of Krum lies within a 1920-acre Bounty Grant of state land issued by Governor E.M. Pease, to the heirs of Charles Despallier, an aide to Lt. Com. William B. Travis who died with Travis at the Alamo. The Despallier Grant, out of which the town site of Krum would be carved, was only a small part of the thousands of acres of State land which was available to homesteaders after Texas entered the Union in 1845.

In December 1857, the administrator of the Despallier Estate sold the grant at public auction from the courthouse steps in Houston, Texas. William R. Baker bought the entire tract for \$40.00. It proved a good investment for Baker, as less than a year later he sold the land to Amelia Stearns of New York City for \$4,800. In January 1859 Mrs. Stearns turned a neat profit by selling to her fellow citizen William T. Coleman for \$9600. In 1868 the land speculation shifted to St. Louis Missouri, when John Morrison of that city bought the tract. Mr. Morrison sold the land in 1872 to A.W. Mead of St Louis for \$2,000. Mead broke up the tract and sold it in smaller parcels.

In the 1850's land, which was to become Krum's trade territory, was being settled. Geographically, the community was located in the heart of the Grand Prairie region of North Texas. By 1876, a little settlement, known as the Jackson Community, sprung up on the hills across Hickory Creek east of the present site of the Krum Cemetery. The pioneer families felt the need of a school and a place of worship. In that year, Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Barrett deeded to the community two and one half acres on which to build a house to serve both purposes. C.H. Jackson paid for and donated the rest of the land. It was subsequently agreed that the north end of the plot should be used as a burial ground.

The rich prairie soil of the region produced bountiful wheat harvest for which the community became famous. Drawn by the need of the landowners to market their wheat, the Santa Fe Railroad came to the west side of Denton County to establish a shipping point. At one time, Krum felt justified in being advertised (on letterhead at city hall) as the "Garden Spot of Denton County."

Krum appeared on the map of Denton County in 1886 when the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad created the town site as a depot. It was named for one of its officials.

In 1976, Krum celebrated the 100th anniversary. Three of its important organizations: the school, the Methodist Church (both of which were moved to the town site when it was created), and the Krum Jackson Cemetery, which remains in the same location.

It was the needs of farm families that brought the Post Office; built the school, churches, and businesses. The descendants of some of these pioneers are still participating in all phases of community life today.

The Krum Heritage Museum is planning a grand opening on Saturday May 1 and Sunday May 2, 2010. On display will be old photos, old maps and school, business and church memorabilia as well as a military wall of honor. Please plan to join us at our open house so that you can learn more about Krum and its rich history.