

## **Krum Robberies, Murder, Mayhem and Mischief**

**Dec 2019**

By Kathryn Dodd

On June 1, 1930 a farmer at Krum killed his wife then committed suicide. Also during 1930 there were several robberies at Krum. The newspaper articles below chronicle these Krum events.

### **Denton Record Chronicle-June 2, 1930**

#### **Farmer Slays Wife, Suicides West of Here**

His mind believed to have been temporarily unbalanced, Sam Ward, 32, a farmer living on the Dr. A.H. Knox place about one and one-half miles from Krum, shot and killed his wife shortly before noon Sunday. Friends said Ward had been in a mental hospital for treatment about five years ago.

A four year old son carried news of the tragedy from the farm home. He ran to the highway following the shooting and told a passing motorist that "Papa killed mamma and shot himself."

#### **Wife Killed Instantly**

Mrs. Ward, 28 years old, had been shot while she was emptying milk from a churn in her kitchen, an investigation showed. A charge from a single barrel shotgun entered the back of her head and death evidently was instantaneous.

Ward walked from the kitchen, according to the boy, and into a bedroom where he fired a charge into his right temple. When investigators reached the home he was in a dying condition. He died about 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

Earl Street, county attorney, and W.A. Matthews, justice of the peace, here, conducted an investigation and Mathews Sunday afternoon returned an inquest verdict of murder and suicide.

#### **18 Months In Community**

The Wards had lived in the Krum community for about 18 months and no cause for the shooting, other than insanity, could be given. Dr. Knox Sunday morning called at the Ward home to take two of the dead couple's children to Sunday School. At that time Ward seemed to be normal, Knox told officers.

The bodies of both Ward and his wife were brought to the Schmitz funeral home here and late Sunday were taken to Gainesville. Five children survive.

### **Funerals in Cooke County-Gainesville June 2**

Graves in far apart communities of Cooke County today received bodies of the victims of a double tragedy yesterday at Krum, Denton County in which Sam Ward killed himself after slaying Mrs. Ward.

Services for Mrs. Ward, 31, were conducted at the home of her father, George W. Burch, county commissioner, east of Valley View. The funeral for Ward was held at the home of his sister, Mrs. J.R. Dresser, in the Fish Creek community 15 miles northwest of Gainesville.

Five small children survive. Ward had been confined in a hospital for mental diseases for a time about five years ago.

### **Denton Record Chronicle-Jan 29, 1934**

#### **Krum Dry Goods Store Is Robbed**

Burglars who bored holes through the back door until they could force the lock entered the McClister dry goods store at Krum early Monday morning and got merchandise valued at about \$750. A large quantity of both women's and men's clothing was taken.

The robbery occurred after 4 o'clock Monday morning local officers said, since the door had been inspected by a man making his rounds at that hour. Deputy Sheriff Dallas Curtsinger went from here to conduct an investigation.

### **Denton Record Chronicle-Jan 31, 1934**

#### **Third Charged With Burglary**

A third man, brought here from Gainesville Tuesday night by Sheriff G.C. Cockrell was charged with burglary in connection with the Monday morning robbing of a Krum Dry Goods store. He was charged as Clarence Reynolds. Bond had not been set early Wednesday.

Two others were also in the county jail, facing charges in connection with burglary, in which \$750 worth of merchandise was taken.

### **Denton Record Chronicle-April 2, 1934**

#### **Guilty Pleas Open Week For District Court**

Examining prospective jurors to hear the trial of W.C. Price of Gainesville charged here with receiving and concealing stolen property in connection with a Krum dry goods store burglary was under way at noon in Judge Ben W. Boyd's District Court.

### **Denton Record Chronicle-May 2, 1935**

#### **Another Charged in Krum Gin Burglary**

Clurman Thomas, recently taken into custody by Deputy Sheriff W.H. Holbrook and held pending investigation of a Krum gin burglary, was the second of two men to face burglary and theft over \$50 charges here when the charges were filed late Wednesday. Holbrook made a trip to Fort Worth Wednesday afternoon and recovered the belts reported stolen. Bonds had not been set early Thursday.