

Museum Musings Article- Krum News

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Some Early Krum Families

Christopher Columbus “C. C.” and Bessie Jones Cofer

Arrival in Krum-around 1893

By Jack Hayes Cofer, Bessie Cofer Enis, Kathryn Dodd & Della Davis

Christopher Columbus C.C. Cofer was born near Emery Gap, Roane County, Tennessee on October 30, 1854. He was 14 years old when the Civil War ended. He used to tell tales of hiding the livestock in caves in the mountains as a boy to keep the armies passing through the area from butchering them. At least one brother served in the forces of the North. A discharge from these forces is still in the possession of C.C.'s grandchildren.

Early in his life, C.C. was of the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian persuasion. After hearing several preachers, including Jesse Derrick, he was baptized and became a member of the Church of Christ. He married Minerva Derrick, daughter of Jesse Derrick. They had two children Mary Isabell and Alphus Cofer. C.C. was encouraged to become a preacher because of his training as an educator. He furthered his education by learning to read the classical languages of Greek, Hebrew, and Latin. He also studied higher mathematics. He rode over twelve states preaching and establishing churches. By the time C.C. Cofer arrived in Krum in 1892, he had traveled and preached over one-fourth of the United States. He helped organize the Krum Church of Christ and became its first pastor, and at different intervals preached for that congregation for over 25 years.

In 1892 C.C. Cofer married Sylvestus Signora “Bessie” Jones. Bessie was the daughter of John Jones and Silvester “Ves” Wimberly who came to Texas from Tennessee. They bought a farm north of Krum in 1876 and had three daughters Sidney Jones who married O.J. Chism, Jennie Jones who married Reuben “Pony” McGee and Bessie who married C.C. Cofer.

C.C. Cofer and Bessie Jones had these children:

Virginia “Jennie” Cofer born 1894 died 1916 buried at Bolivar Cemetery.

Johnnie Cofer was born December 12, 1894 and died in November 1976. Johnnie was married to John William Bowery. Their children were John, Clyde, Bennie, Peggy and Doris. Both Johnnie and John Bowery are buried at Bolivar Cemetery.

Savannah Cofer born 1897, died in 1900 buried at Bolivar Cemetery.

Fannie Cofer born December 11, 1900, died February 1979 married to Mr. Shinn. Fannie is buried at Bolivar Cemetery.

Christopher C. “Lum” Cofer Jr. born January 27, 1909 and died in October 1986. Lum married Ruth Lenore Park in August 1931 and they had two sons Milton and Billie. Ruth died in 1934 when Milton was only a few days old.

Jack Hayes Cofer was born in February 22, 1912 and died in June 1991. Jack Hayes married Ethel Mae Inmon on August 17, 1935 at Plainview. Ethel Mae was the daughter of Homer Edward and Eva (Walker) Inmon. Jack and Ethel had these children: Bessie, Wanda, Jack Hayes Jr., Chris, and Carol. Jack Hayes served on the board of the Jackson Cemetery Association and on the Krum School Board. Ethel Mae Cofer died in April 2011 and both she and Jack Hayes are buried at Krum Jackson Cemetery.

C.C. was appointed postmaster in Krum in 1898. The original certificate designating him to the position of postmaster is still in possession of his grandchildren and loaned to the Krum Heritage Museum for display. C.C. Cofer and O.J. Chism were the first elders of the Church of Christ in Krum. The congregation was established when the members of the Bolivar Church of Christ that lived south of Clear Creek started meeting in Krum circa 1893.

In 1906 C.C. began Cofer Bible College, a correspondence course. The School was chartered by the state in 1912. His grandchildren remember stories of his being a visiting preacher. After morning services and “dinner on the ground” on Sunday in Krum, he would travel in his buggy to one of the outlying communities to preach for small congregations that could not afford a full time preacher. His pay would consist of home grown vegetables or eggs or some fryers, etc. C.C. also preached many gospel meetings and one of his sons would occasionally accompany him and lead the singing.

C.C. Cofer built a house in Krum in 1906 on a lot he bought from the Santa Fe railroad in 1903. The house still stands at 518 West McCart. The house has been occupied continually by a member of the Cofer family.

C.C. Cofer died on February 19, 1944 and Bessie on April 21, 1923. Both are buried at Bolivar Cemetery. Many of their descendants still reside in and around Krum and other parts of Denton County.



Cofer_1 C.C. & Bessie (Jones) Cofer



Cofer_2 Christopher C. Cofer



Cofer_3: Johnny Cofer Bowery, C.C. & Lum Cofer, Fanny Cofer Shinn, Jack Hayes Cofer



Cofer_4: Jack Hayes Sr.- Ethel holding Carol-
Jack Hayes Jr.- Bessie- Wanda- Chris