

Museum Musings Article- Krum News
Apr 2011

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Names of Our Neighboring Towns
Where Did They Come From?
By Kathryn Dodd

An article from the Galveston Daily News from December 22, 1886 gives us this information about the depot towns created by the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railway which was headquartered in Galveston:

Texas Express Company

Office of Superintendent, Houston, Tex. December 22, 1886—*The Texas Express Company will on January 1st, 1887, open offices on the Kansas City extension from Fort Worth to Gainesville, and on the Paris extension from Farmersville to Honey Grove of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railway. Following is a list of offices:*

Kylie, Haslet, Justin, Gerald, Krum, Sanger, Valley View, Gainesville, Merit, Celeste, Wolfe City, Ladonia, Honey Grove. C.F. Campbell Superintendent

In looking at this list it makes me wonder where the names of some of these towns came from. Historically it has been said, that the name of Krum came from the Vice President of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railroad Mr. A.R. Krum. We now know the town was named for Charles K. Krum a railroad official. Research continues to find out more about Mr. Charles K. Krum.

Saginaw: “Founded in 1833, Jarvis J. Green hoped to name his small plot of land "Pontiac", after his hometown in Michigan. Rejected by the postal service, he finally decided on another Michigan town - Saginaw.”

Haslet: The area was settled around 1880, but it is likely that no distinct community formed until 1883, when the tracks of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway were extended through the area. A post office opened there in 1887. The community was named for the Michigan hometown of the railroad's contractor Joel C. Hammond.

Justin : Contrary to popular belief, the town is not named after or related to the Justin Boot Company. In January 1887 the community petitioned postal authorities for a post office to be named Justin, in honor of Walter Justin Sherman, who at the time the town was founded, was chief engineer of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad.

Ponder: The railroad called the community Gerald, and in 1887 the first passenger train arrived in town. In 1889, when it was discovered that another Texas town was called Gerald, the town was renamed Ponder, in honor of W. A. Ponder, a prosperous landowner and Denton banker.

Sanger : Sanger was founded in 1886 as a stop on the Santa Fe Railroad. Cattle from the ranches of north Denton County were driven up the old cattle trails through the site of Sanger and were shipped to northern markets. Sanger was originally called both New Bolivar and Huling until the Santa Fe named it Sanger for a prominent Texas dry goods firm.

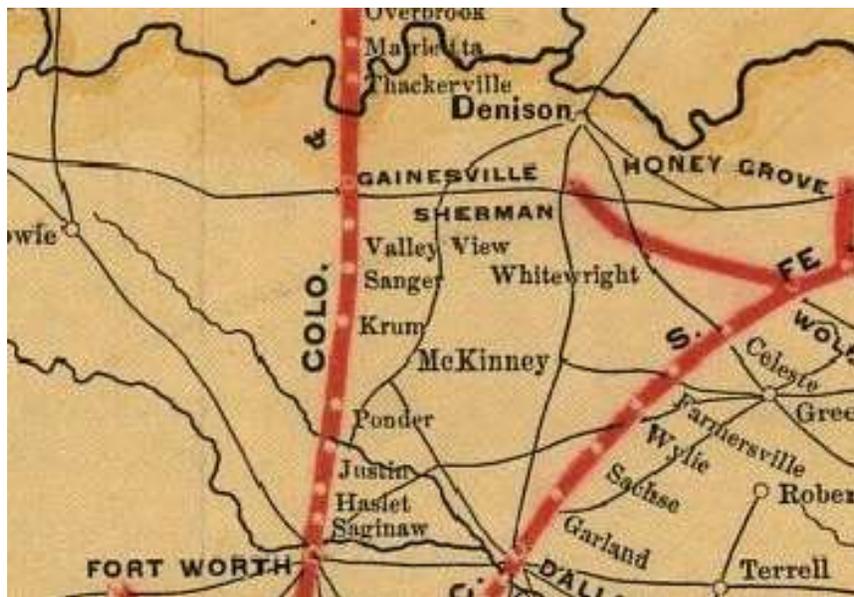
Valley View: (Cooke County). Valley View is on Spring Creek at the intersection of Interstate Highway 35, Farm Road 922, and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway ten miles south of Gainesville in southern Cooke County. The site of the community was first settled in 1870 by the Lee family. L. W. Lee plotted a town on his land in 1872,. Mrs. L.W. Lee named it Valley View for the beautiful view of the Spring Creek Valley.

Gainesville: (Cooke County)In the 1840s the first settlers arrived in the area, attracted by the promises of the newly created Peters colony, which offered 640 acres to each head of family and 320 to each single man, plus

land for a church in each settlement. In 1850 Gainesville was established on a 40-acre tract donated by Mary E. Clark. At the suggestion of Col. William F. Fitzhugh, commander of a stockade 3½ miles southeast, the town was named in honor of Gen. Edmund Pendleton Gaines. Gaines, hero of Fort Erie, who had charge of the Southern Division of the U.S.A. at New Orleans in 1836 at the time of the Texas Revolution for Independence.

In a letter dated November 28, 1941, from the Valuation Engineer System of the Santa Fe railroad to Mr. G.M. Green from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who was inquiring about the origin of the name of Purcell, Oklahoma. The Valuation Engineer writes:

“The plain fact is that officers of the company have, for me, a very embarrassing habit of changing names without first consulting me. A case in point is their recent action of changing the perfectly good name of a town from Berwyn, who was a member of the firm that furnished the money for building the railroad from Red River to Purcell, to the name of Gene Autry, a Hollywood celebrity. Isn’t that enough to make a “horse-and-buggy” man swear?”



1899 railway map

Information for this article from these sources: Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe document titled “Origin of Names of Towns along the Lines of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway Company,” web site www.haslet.org, Texas State Historical Association and City of Saginaw web site.

The book **Images of America KRUM** is now available. Please support your home town museum by buying your copy at the Krum Heritage Museum.

Please visit the Krum Heritage Museum online at www.krumheritagemuseum.com