

Museum Musings Article- Krum News
Jul 2011

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Krum Texas-125 years old

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In August 2011 Krum will celebrate its Quasquicentennial which is a really big word for 125 years. If you have been reading the Museum Musing articles and have read some of the books on Krum, you know some of Krum's history. You probably remember that the Finley's sold 200 acres of land to the GCSF in August 1886 for \$2,000 to build the town of Krum. You may remember that Farmers and Merchants State Bank was robbed four times. You may even remember what a jitney is. But did you know these interesting facts about Krum?

1. Did you know that the railroad tracks running through Krum were built from 1882 to 1883 by a Welshman? The railroad through what would eventually become the town of Krum was built from 1882 to 1883 by Colonel Morgan Jones, a Welshman. Colonel Jones, born on a Welsh farm in 1839 and died in Abilene in 1926, had the contract for building what was known as the Indian Territory part of the extension from Saginaw to the Red River. Colonel Jones was offered a \$100,000 bonus if he completed the work by a certain deadline. He did finish the work on time, but due to conflicts about some of the masonry and rock work that was done and after arbitration, he was paid only \$60,000. Colonel Jones said after the dispute was settled "*I never would quarrel with those who worked for me, nor with those with whom I had dealings. Life is too short for quarrels.*"

For more about this interesting man read "**Colonel Morgan Jones Grand Old Man of Texas Railroading**," written in 1971 by Vernon Spence.

2. Did you know that in 1897 Krum had a community baseball team called the Krum Crocodiles? They were evidently quite good as on May 8, 1897 they beat the Justin Farmers 29 to 1 and in at another game on May 11, 1897 beat the Bolivar ball boys 41 to 4. The headline from the Dallas Morning News from the May 13, 1897 game with Bolivar read "**Crocodiles Ate 'Em.**"

3. Did you know how much it cost to ride the railroad from Krum to Gainesville or to Galveston? In December 1886 it cost \$1.10 to go from Krum to Gainesville on the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad and in 1898 it costs \$5.80 for a round trip ticket to Galveston.

4. Did you know that in 1887 Krum was touted in the newspaper as a good place to live for the prevention of malaria? An article from the Fort Worth Daily Gazette from June 29, 1887 described the little town as a half way point between Fort Worth and Gainesville. The article went on to say that "*The country is very pretty to look at and unsurpassed for health; the never ceasing breeze drives away all malaria.*"

5. Did you know that in September 1905 Krum had a typhoid epidemic? Forty cases of typhoid were reported in Krum in six weeks with six deaths. In September 28, 1905 it was discovered by the State chemist that the public well was teeming with typhoid bacilli. The County Health Officials ordered that the town and well be fumigated.

6. Did you know that in 1903 large cabbages were grown near Krum? In July 1903, Henry Blankemeyer, brought to town some cabbages he had grown on his farm near Krum. He raised over 1,200 pounds of cabbages weighing between 9 ½ and 10 ½ pounds. Wow, my puny tomatoes are saying "*please let us move to that patch of land.*"

Celebrate the heritage of Krum by visiting the Krum Heritage Museum during the **August 6, 2011 Quasquicentennial Celebration**. There will be special presentations and movies at the times shown below on this day. All the Krum books will be for sale as well as DVDs on Krum, Krum note cards, hand made note cards and for this special Quasquicentennial Celebration the museum will have Train Whistles on sale in honor of Krum's railroad heritage.

9:30: "***Krum Before Krum***"- From Buffalo to the Barnett Shale- Presentation by Max Marrs

10:30: "***Then & Now, Krum, Texas***"- Movie by Kathryn Dodd on the history of Krum through pictures –what it looked like then and how it looks now.

11:30: "***Farmers & Merchants State Bank Robberies***"- Movie by Kathryn Dodd

If you have a collection you would like displayed at the museum please let us know. Whether it be arrowheads, knives or something else we would love to showcase your collection for a few months.

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