

Museum Musings Article- Krum News
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Some Early Krum Families

Edmund McWilliam. & Mollie (Batis) Rucker

Arrival in Krum around 1899

From the book Forth Worth And The Texas Northwest-By Capt B.B. Paddock-1922

“Edmund McWilliam Rucker has been a progressive and enterprising factor in the region about Krum in Denton County for over thirty years. As one of the men who have gained prosperity there and likewise contributed to the community prosperity his career is worthy of historical record, and his experience also reflects some phases of development in that locality.

Mr. Rucker is a native Texan, born near Paris in Lamar County, April 1, 1867. His ancestors were English, three Rucker brothers coming to America in Colonial times. One of them reared his family in the South. A descendant was Samuel B. Rucker, father of the Krum citizen. He was born in Mississippi, was reared an orphan in that state and in Alabama, and in 1858 came to Texas by wagon, settling eight miles south of Paris. For a time he was a stock farmer, but the greater part of his life was spent in the county seat. He invested in the cheap lands of that county and accumulated several hundred acres during his lifetime, much of it improved under his direction. He was a democrat and a member of the Baptist Church, and he died at Paris having survived his wife whose maiden name was Martha McGaughey.

Edmund M. Rucker acquired his early education at Paris and left that section of Northeastern Texas about the time he attained his majority, reaching Denton County in the fall of 1888. He settled on North Hickory Creek, and with determination and energy entered upon his task of making a farm from the grass roots, his business interests were solely those of an agriculturist until he moved into the village of Krum.

He was a bachelor, when he came to Denton County, and he lived alone in a two-room box house for two years, and after his marriage this humble home sheltered his wife and family for ten years. Along with other improvements that were in the fruit of his labor his house expanded to meet the needs of its occupants, other buildings were erected from time to time, and his farm property now contains three sets of building improvements. He paid ten dollars an acre for his first quarter section, and successive purchases enlarged this to more than a section. In rounding out this domain he paid, in 1900, about twenty dollars an acre for land, then considered a high price. His enterprise is chiefly grain and stock raising. He passed through lean as well as prosperous years, but in a dozen years the greenbugs took his crop only once. As a stock man he concentrated in interest in mules. There was a time in his experience when a pair of three-year olds sold with difficulty at a hundred and twenty five dollars. Later the same grade sold for five hundred dollar's a pair. The price of small mules was stimulated by the Spanish American war, so that altogether this industry when continued over a period of years was profitable to the man who conducted it with energy and good judgment.

Mr. Rucker has always been a citizen with the welfare of his community as well as his own household at heart. He has contributed something to every church in his part of the county, concluding those in Krum. When he moved to Krum he was made a member of the School Board, and was on the board when the new good schoolhouse was erected. He took stock when the second bank organized, the First State Bank, and when that was merged with the Continental Bank, resulting in the Farmers and Merchants Bank, he continued as a stockholder and director. ...

After coming to Denton County Mr. Rucker married Miss Mollie Batis, a native of Saline County , Missouri, who came to Texas when three years of age. Her father, Charles Morgan Batis was born in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1828. His father, Charles Batis, was a native of Ireland... Charles Morgan Batis married in 1850 to Miss Susan Coffman, who was born in Augusta County Virginia, November 13, 1828. In 1875, he and his family started for Texas and reached his permanent settlement on Hickory Creek in Denton County in the spring

of that year. He was one of the honored pioneers of this section and his memory is treasured as that of a useful and influential citizen.”

Ed and Mollie Rucker had three children :

Reuben B. Rucker born in 1892 and died in 1953. Reuben married Rita Wilkerson and had three children Frances, Mary Alice and Neta. Reuben was a farmer and also worked at the Krum bank as a cashier.

Lena Mae Rucker born in 1893 and on December 18, 1910, married Joseph M. Barnett, son of W.Y. and Parolee (Moreman) Barnett. Joe and Mae had two sons Ray Rucker Barnett who died in 1935 and Billy Joe “Buddy” Barnett. Mae and Joe settled on a part of the Barnett land. After their deaths, their son Billy Joe “Buddy” and his wife Billie, lived in the home and operated the farm where he was reared. Buddy died in 2007 and Billie continues to live in the home. Buddy and Billie’s son Joe E. “Skip” Barnett continues to farm the land.

Bonnie L Rucker was born in 1898. She graduated from Krum Schools and married J.D. Spencer shortly after WW I. They moved to Ft. Worth and he was employed by Citizens Hardware for years before he and Bonnie bought the business and changed the name to Spencer Hardware. The store was located on N. Main where the Cattleman’s Restaurant stands today. Spence, as he was known, died in 1952. Bonnie continued to operate the store until her retirement in 1954. She died in 1983 and she and Spence are buried in Jackson Cemetery in Krum.



E.M.-Mollie- son Reuben & his daughter



Lena Rucker Barnett