

Museum Musings Article- Krum News
June 2012

Early Krum Families

Louis L. & Gabriella (Cook) Finley

Arrival In Krum Area-Around 1886

By Kathryn Dodd & Della Davis & Kim Mock

Louis Link Finley was born Feb 13, 1832 in Illinois to Thomas and Charlotte Finley. Gabriella Cook Finley was born March 13, 1836 in Illinois to John Cook and Rebecca Finley. L.L. and Gabriella were married September 6, 1854 in Collin County Texas. On the 1860 census the Finleys were living with Louis' widowed mother Charlotte Finley in Precinct 10, Collin County and had had two children John H. Finley born 1855 and William Finley born 1857. On the 1870 census, still residing in Collin County, three more children had been born, Lucetta born 1864, Louis born 1866 and Walter born 1870. By 1880, the family still in Collin County, had another daughter Minnie who was born in 1875.

Louis L. and Gabriella Finley arrived in the Denton county area in time to put Krum on the map. In the spring of 1886, they bought and moved to a farm then described as being "*seven miles northwest of Denton.*" In the fall of that year, Mr. Finley sold 200 acres off the south end of his land to the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad for a town site. Mr. Finley became the first merchant in Krum by opening a general merchandise store in the new town on the lots once owned by Harpool Seed Company. The Santa Fe moved in a box car to serve as a depot. The post office came in 1888 and was first housed in the Finley Store with Mr. Finley handling the mail. S.D. Chadwell was the postmaster for about three months, when Mr. Finley was appointed to the office where he served until 1890.

Children of Louis & Gabriella Finley:

John H. Finley married Missouri I. Stevens in 1886 in Denton. John died before 1896.

William H. Finley married Nancy Elizabeth Betterton in 1876 in Collin County. William died in 1912.

Lucetta Finley married Joseph Minnerly and died in 1940.

Louis Finley married Lena B. Taylor in 1896 in Denton and died in 1898.

Walter Thomas Finley married in 1893 to Ida Cole, daughter of Krum pioneer, Jacob and Emily Miller Cole. Ida Corinne died in 1957 and Walter Thomas in 1919. Walter and Ida had three children. The eldest, **Roy**, married Geneva and became a CPA outside of Oklahoma City where they eventually retired. Their children were Roy Jr. who died in 1983 and a daughter. Walter and Ida's daughter **Fay** married Gordon Dyer and they lived in Ft Worth. Gordon died in 1951. They had two sons, one died at 4 years old in 1921 and they had another son named Wayne. Fay retired from J.C. Penney after 25 years and then moved to Austin to be with her son and began a new career with Bealls, where she spent another 20 years. Fay died in 1989. Walter and Ida's youngest son, **Hal**, became a pharmacist and operated the Finley Drug store in Krum for many years. He sold his business to Paul Herman Muncy and moved to Whitesboro where he owned and operated another drug store. Hal and his wife Georgia Sentell, lived on a portion of the pioneer L.L. Finley farm, adjoining the town site on the north.

Minnie Finley married Dolphus Burrow in 1894 and died in 1964 in Oklahoma.

Louis Link Finley died Feb 14, 1896 and his wife Gabriella died March 27, 1915. Both are buried at Jackson Cemetery in Krum along with children Walter Thomas Finley, Lucetta Finley Minnerly and Louis Finley.

In the “olden days” when husbands and wives were selling property, before the transaction could be completed the wife had to attest to the fact that she was not coerced into selling the property by her husband. Below is the amendment to the Finley sale of the 200 acres from Sept 1886, where Gabrilla is attesting to the fact she had willingly agreed to the sale.

The State of Texas County of Denton: BEFORE ME John L. Ruddell Notary Public in and for the County of Denton on this day personally appeared L.L. Finley and G.M. Finley to me well known to be the person whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed and delivered the same for the purposes and consideration therein stated. And the said G.M. Finley wife of said L.L. Finley who having been examined by me separated and apart from her said husband and having the same fully explained to her the said G.M. Finley acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed and that she had willingly signed the same for the purposes and considerations therein expressed and that she did not wish to retract it. In Testimony WHEREOF I hereinto sign and affix the impress of my official seal, at my office in Denton this thirteenth day of August A.D. 1886.

John L. Ruddell Notary Public Denton

Filed Sept 13 1886 at 11 am

J.D. Parks, Clerk



Walter & Ida Cole Finley



Hal & Georgia Finley

We have added Krum census Records from 1880 to 1940 to our growing research library. And if you don't have time to sit and look at the records we also have them for sale in CD format.

Visit the museum on line at www.krumheritagemuseum.com