

KING FAMILY REUNION
KINGS VALLEY SCHOOL
June 21, 1997

Charlotte Wirfs presided over the meeting. Just before meeting day, she had received notice that the school gym was being sprayed and the water was contaminated. Charlotte solved these problems by bringing several gallons of bottled water for coffee, et cetera, and some disposable tissues for the cleansing of hands. We couldn't use the gym but managed to squeeze in the entrance/kitchen area.

Florence Gross came with an idea. She had copied a number of small sheets so each person could show their descent from Nahum King. We wore these during the day and could easily be identified with our King ancestor. She will take these sheets and type them for reference. Florence brought her booklet of her first 25 years which anyone can purchase for \$10.00.

Charlotte explained that our dues of \$10.00 is divided into two parts: \$4.00 will go toward tombstone repair and \$6.00 for printing and mailing the *King Folk* newsletter. There is now \$400 in the Cemetery Fund.

Joan Larson gave a short report on cemetery repair.

The Baby (King) tombstone will be returned to the Locke (sp ?) Cemetery. Charlotte has a list of stones to be prepared. Anyone knowing of tombstones needing repair can sent information to her.

The youngest member of King clan was recognized: Edward Joseph _____, born this year, grandson of Carol Nelson.

Audrey Theurer gave a report on the Fort Hoskins Historic Park. Benton County purchased the land in 1992. Restoration will take a few more years. It is on the National Historical Record. A grant was received to begin the work but more funds will be needed to continue the effort. The original hand-dug well is not up to standards and will have to be replaced. Our group will be on their mailing list.

New members were welcomed: Frances King Ramsey, and her neice, desc. of Luther King, also Naoma Jones and her daughter, _____ Jones. David Trask introduced his wife, Libia.

Jim King agreed to be the new Vice-President replacing Carole Putman. Charlotte Wirfs will remain President, as will Secretary Pat Bearden and Historian David Trask.

Carol Nelson volunteered to help with new ideas for the reunion, cemetery clean up, continue the King T-shirts, stories of our ancestors. She mentioned that Aunt Dort had called and said hello to all.

Glenva (King) Chotard reported that Wren has started an Historical Society. Contact Dorothy Brown of Wren for information.

Earle Greig has pictures to identify which he will show after the meeting. His mother, Retha Greig, sent her greeting to all.

It has been a tradition for many years to have the King Reunion on the first Saturday after Father's Day. It will continue to be held then.

Florence Gross related a story about her brothers and sisters. Mary and Walt were mischievous pals. They enjoyed experimenting with matches out by the wood pile. They would see who could hold a match the longest before dropping it. One time a sister saw a fire develop in the wood chips. Their story was that the sun was so hot it started a fire!

Joan Larson tells of a strange kettle she has. It was found at the old Watson homestead where the Prices lived. It came from the old smoke house and was a big black cast iron kettle with handles, a large domed lid with a spout at the top. Someone said it was used for clam bakes. Then the secret came out--it was a still in which moonshine was made!

Anyone with stories of the family is invited to send them to Charlotte and she will publish them in the newsletter.

Audrey Theurer said the WPA interviews by Mark Phinney will be in the reference library in the Philomath Museum.

About 35 people attended including three children.

Charlotte closed the meeting.

Submitted by Carole Putman in place of Pat Bearden who was absent.