

KING FAMILY REUNION  
Kings Valley School Gym  
Kings Valley, OR  
June 22, 2002

About 53 people attended the reunion this year, same as last year. President Mimi Stang presided at the business meeting.

We added something new this year, door prizes. Six winning names were drawn: Bob Carlson, Joan Larsen, Frances Ramsey, Bill Dixon, Ken Roberts and Mary Lou Long.

Mimi announced that a new grandson was born this morning to her daughter, at 3:15 A.M. in Portland.

A big thank you to Earle Greig for making arrangements for us to use the school today and for picking up the family wall charts and other materials from former president Charlotte Wirfs, who was unable to be here today. Also a big thank you to Rick Trussell, who helped Earle set up the room.

We all agreed that we need to try to find a descendant of Lydia King to attend this reunion. She is the only King child who has never yet been represented at a reunion.

Mimi made some fliers about this reunion and distributed them not only to those on the mailing list, but also to nearby genealogical societies, because many potentially-interested people still do not know about the reunions.

Mimi requested a correction on the minutes of last year's reunion. It is her grandson's grandfather who is the King family member, not her husband's grandfather. The minutes were approved as corrected.

We went around the room and took turns introducing ourselves, and identifying which King family line we are from. There were a number of first-time attendees. Once again, Hopestill King had the most descendants here today.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL ISSUE

Mimi reported on the status of Les Whittle's efforts to change the name of a portion of Kings Boulevard in Corvallis to Veterans' Memorial Boulevard. Last July she wrote the following letter to Corvallis Mayor Helen Berg on behalf of the King family:

*"Although I do not live in Corvallis, I am writing to you in my position as President of the King Family Association. The King Family recently held their annual reunion at the Kings Valley School, an event that has been taking place for well over 125 years. At that meeting, Mr. Les Whittle, representing a Corvallis veteran's organization, made a presentation regarding changing the name of a portion of Kings Boulevard.*

*“We believe that the veteran’s monument that Mr. Whittle and others have built in Corvallis is marvelous and a fitting tribute to area veterans. Among the King Family there are many veterans; our Oregon pioneer, Nahum King, was himself a veteran of the war of 1812. We too believe in honoring our veterans, but we do not believe that a change in the name of any portion of Kings Boulevard is necessary to further honor those veterans. The King Family Association is totally opposed to a renaming of any part of Kings Boulevard. The name honors an Oregon, Benton County and Corvallis pioneer and we want to assure that it is in place for future generations as well.*

*“Kings Boulevard, is, of course, named for Sol King, son of Nahum King and a former sheriff of Benton County. His land was located on an upper portion of Kings Boulevard (formerly Kings Road) and his livery stable was located in town at the lower portion so he and his family traversed this road many, many times, hence it became known as Kings Road. We believe that Mr. Whittle was mistaken when he stated that only a portion of the road was actually important to the Kings. This entire road is a part of the King family heritage as is Kings Valley.*

*“I will include my e-mail address and my telephone number so that you may contact me, if necessary. We do want to be kept informed about this issue, especially if it is to come up for discussion at a future city council meeting. There are a number of King Family members who do reside in Corvallis; one, our Vice President, Mr. Earle Greig, has already written to you, I believe.”*

*Sincerely, Mimi Stang, President  
King Family Association*

Earle attended the City Council meetings, and Whittle finally said that he was temporarily dropping his request for the street name change. The businesses along Kings Boulevard (including Fred Meyer) are also against the change. Earle and others who live in the Corvallis area will keep watching this matter and alert us of any future developments. Earle also wrote to the City.

Mimi also reported that Christian Hill, a reporter for the Corvallis Gazette-Times newspaper, interviewed her for an article on this matter that was published on November 17, 2001. (See [www.gtconnect.com/archives](http://www.gtconnect.com/archives).)

Mayor Berg’s term is up this year, and it is unknown whether she will run for reelection. She lives in Kings Valley.

## DUES

A discussion took place about whether we should continue to collect \$10 per year dues from the members, since we do not at this time have a family newsletter. The \$10 includes a \$4 donation to the Kings Valley Cemetery fund.

Treasurer Anne Trussell reported that we have \$422 in the general fund and \$203.51 in the cemetery fund, not counting whatever came in today. There are between 150 and 170 names now on our mailing list, and it is expensive to do mailings even without the newsletters. Also, postage will go up 3 cents on June 30. Using e-mail as a means to communicate is a possibility, but not everyone has a computer.

Don Van Etten moved to keep the dues at \$10 including \$4 for the cemetery fund. Ellen Craven seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### KING FAMILY WEB SITE

Jackie Farris now has the King Family web site up and running, at [www.all-oregon.com/King](http://www.all-oregon.com/King). Family members may send items for Jackie to post on the web site via e-mail to [jackiefarris@all-oregon.com](mailto:jackiefarris@all-oregon.com) or to Jackie Farris, P. O. Box 971, Philomath OR 97370. Jackie says that we can even post messages back and forth; we just need to let her know what we want the site to contain.

### NEWSLETTER

A discussion took place about the possibility of someone picking up publication of our newsletter, *King Folk*. Charlotte Wirfs did a wonderful job in editing and compiling the newsletter from 1992 to 2001, and she still has a lot of material that has not yet been published. Jackie Farris said she is willing to put a newsletter together, but needs people to send her the material. She also said she would post the newsletter on the web site, and then we could mail copies to those who do not have access to a computer. Thank you, Jackie, for volunteering for this task!

Earle suggested that for now we should just do two issues a year, one in mid-year and one just before the next reunion.

### CEMETERY REPORT

Earle Greig and Bill Dixon have worked regularly and steadily at the Kings Valley cemetery, and so far they have straightened and realigned 277 stones!

Earle also noted that the old Plunkett farm is now being turned into a county park, and work is taking place at old Fort Hoskins. He suggested that we should put information about these projects along with maps showing their locations into the newsletter.

Earle reported that Roy Taylor gave us a tractor, which is now in use all the time. Also this group donated toward the purchase of a mower. Other donations included rock, grass seed and much labor. The Kings Valley Cemetery Association loves us, and the partnership between the two groups has been great. (Audrey Theurer of the cemetery association had company today and so was not able to attend the reunion.)

Joan Larsen noted that when cemetery stones begin to tip, especially on the hillside, they go down fast. She led a round of appreciative applause for Earle and Bill's efforts at the cemetery.

Earle passed around some "before" pictures showing how the Kings Valley cemetery looked before restoration efforts began.

## HISTORIAN

Family historian David Trask noted that he now has over 1500 obituaries of family members, and he is willing to provide copies upon request. He also asked everyone to send copies of all family obituaries to him, to help fill in the holes that remain in his collection.

David is also willing to collect and keep copies of family sheets for all family lines, to save others time and duplication of effort. Often we discover that someone else is working on something we've already worked on, or the other way round.

Thank you to David and to Rick Trussell for bringing their copiers today! And for donating the paper and toner used.

We wondered where Francis Rexford is today, as no one has heard from him since the last reunion. We hope he is well.

## OFFICERS

All current officers are willing to serve another term:

President, Mimi Stang  
Vice President, Earle Greig  
Secretary, Patricia Bearden  
Treasurer, Anne Trussell  
Historian, David Trask

## STATE ARCHIVES

Mimi reported that she volunteers at the Oregon State Archives. For years, copies of their records have cost 25 cents plus postage. Now, they are raising their fees for inquiries received via mail or e-mail to \$10 flat fee, or \$20 for out of state. Walk-in customers will still receive copies for 25 cents each. Mimi offered to make copies for family members at the rate of 25 cents each plus postage, if we direct our requests to her personally instead of to the Archives. They have death records to 1951, Donation Land Claim records and census records for Oregon among many other items.

## OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Don Van Etten suggested that we make an effort to obtain 8x10 pictures of each King family son or daughter. Pictures are known to exist for Lovisa, Rhoda, Hopestill, Solomon and Amos. Are there others?

Jackie offered to scan such pictures and include them on the web site if people will make them available to her. MaryLou Long said she has a cleaned-up picture of Hopestill already on her computer.

We also have a picture of Sarepta King. Earle said he has found the same picture in three different family albums, so its ID is certain. None is known to exist of Nahum.

Earle brought copies of some books for sale, several from Benton County Genealogical Society and also the reprinted Terrible Trail.

Mimi remembered that Linda Crew, a local fiction writer, attended our reunion a couple of years ago. Earle said she was gathering information for a novel about Lovisa Chambers, but instead she recently wrote a book about a religious cult that once was in the area.

We must take our garbage with us when we leave today, so we will divide it into several bags and Mimi asked people who could, to take a bag home with them.

Next year's reunion will be June 21, 2003.

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 P.M.

Patricia Plunkett Bearden, Secretary