

KING FAMILY REUNION  
Kings Valley School Gym  
Kings Valley, OR  
June 21, 2003

About 55 family members and guests attended the annual potluck, and most stayed for the business meeting. President Mimi Stang presided.

Charlotte Wirfs was absent. She is moving to Tacoma, WA.

Mimi introduced the King Family Association officers.

Thank you to Earle Greig for making arrangements for today's gathering. The K.V. school charges us only \$35 rent, but we do need to take our garbage with us.

New this year: A colored dot on each attendee's nametag to identify which King child we descend from. (A different color is assigned to each family line.)

Goal: To make it our quest to locate at least one descendant of Lydia King!

A number of new attendees were here this year.

Special guests: David Livingston of Endex Engineering. He plotted the outline of the pioneer K.V. cemetery as a donation to the cemetery. Maps are now on the four reader boards at the cemetery. Audrey Theurer, clerk of the K.V. cemetery. Bill Dixon, a descendant of the King and Plunkett families, who announced that the old Plunkett farm just down the road will be made into a new county park called Beazell Memorial Forest park. The Plunkett house is still standing and will be saved.

Bill has a key to the gate at the Plunkett property. Dedication of the park will be July 22, 2003. Beginning in July the gate will be open daily so people can hike on the trails in the new park. Bill said the Plunkett house "looks good on the outside," but "is a disaster" on the inside.

Earle Greig brought some Benton County Genealogical Society publications that for sale today.

Introductions were made of all attendees, and each identified which family line they represent.

Thanks to Vangie Greig for helping put the newsletter together!

The minutes of the 2002 reunion were approved.

Earle passed around a picture of a “famous” restroom (the outhouse at the K.V. cemetery.)

Mimi read a letter from Lynee’ Beebe Carpenter and an email from Charlotte Wirfs. Also a message from Linda Crew, a writer from Corvallis who is trying to find a publisher for a story she wrote about the King Family.

Anne Trussell gave the treasurer’s report. The general fund has a balance of \$551.11, and the cemetery fund has \$491.64. We received \$245 in donations so far this year.

A discussion took place about dues. Consensus was to leave dues at \$10 per year, with \$4 of each membership going into the cemetery fund.

Cemetery report: Four informational reader boards are being put up at the K.V. cemetery. David Livingston processed the pictures for the boards, and more boards will be added in the future. The original estimate was a cost of \$250 per board.

Audrey Theurer said she worked with the Ft. Hoskins group, and their signs ran almost \$2000 each! She said for the cemetery project she found some free labor, so the cost came out at less than \$200 per sign.

The signs in the cemetery will have grave locations. One board is already paid for and there is a promise of payment for a second one. The other two are not yet paid.

Jackie Farris moved, seconded by Tom Hudson, to pay \$500 to the cemetery board to help pay for the informational signs.

Audrey observed that if it weren’t for this group, the cemetery would be in poor shape!

Earle reported that the posts are now in place and the wire needs to be strung for a fence. He gave a rundown of all that Audrey and her family have done to help maintain and preserve the K.V. cemetery.

On call for vote on the motion to pay \$500 for the signs, all members present voted aye, motion carried.

Nigel Parkhurst said, “What better way for our money to go than to support our own family’s cemetery.”

Audrey said that the original records of the pioneer part of the K.V.

cemetery burned in the 1920's. They no longer sell lots in the pioneer section because no one knows for sure where all the graves are located. Lots are for sale in the new part of the cemetery for \$100 per grave.

Earle noted that the padlock on the cemetery gate is not locked, and cars can drive around the whole cemetery.

Nigel Parkhurst reported that in March the current owner of what was Nahum & Sarepta King's Donation Land Claim at Wren took Nigel to the spot where Nahum's cabin was built in 1846. He is a very private sort of man, Mr. Hemphill, and he does not like people trespassing on his land. Stewart and Carol Hemphill have looked for the grave site of Nahum and Sarepta but they couldn't find it.

Dorothy Brown said access to the site is a problem. Nigel suggested that we invite the Hemphills here for our next reunion as a guest. He respects the history of the family and the area.

Dorothy said that Stephen King's grave is also located on that property, but no one knows exactly where it is.

A big thank you to Earle for preparing the newsletter!

Mimi reminded everyone that if they change addresses, to be sure and let us know.

Maxine Bell donated the Chambers family Bible to the museum in Philomath.

The future home of the Horner Museum in the former Copeland Lumber building in Corvallis, is progressing, but the project is moving more slowly than expected. They work with a limited number of staff, and only one staff member oversees a large group of volunteers. They are currently unpacking, documenting, and repacking the Horner Collection. OSU still controls the maintenance fund for the collection.

A discussion took place about the Plunkett drums. Ft. Hoskins wanted to have it on display for the grand opening of Ft. Hoskins Park, but the historical society declined for security reasons. Bill Dixon said he used to beat on the Plunkett snare drum when he was a little boy and would visit his grandfather at the Plunkett place.

Jackie Farris manages our website. She said she had both personal and computer problems last year, but she will update the site and combine everything onto one web page instead of on 3 separate pages. Some people are finding us through that website. Please send pictures and other information for the website

to Jackie. She said the website can expand however we want it to. Thank you to Jackie who volunteers her time for this.

Earle reported that the effort to rename Kings Boulevard in Corvallis is now quiet. Less Whittle will retire from the honor guard soon. Bill Dixon keeps in contact with someone who keeps an eye on this (hopefully now dead) proposal. A discussion took place. If anyone hears anything about this proposal, please notify our president Mimi Stang.

Officers for 2003-04: Suggested by Daniel Frommherz and also consensus from the group was, "If you want to do it again, please do!" followed by applause. (*Note: That is considered an election for this family!*)

The newsletter will probably come out once a year now, in the Spring.

Next reunion: June 26, 2004.

Audrey suggests that if we ever cannot use the school gym, we could perhaps use the old church across the road from the school, or the new outdoor pavilion at Ft. Hoskins Park.

Thank you to Nigel for bringing soda pop today.

Bill Dixon will unlock the gate of the Plunkett property right after this meeting for anyone who wants to visit it. The Plunkett place is just down the highway, 1.5 miles west of the Hoskins Road.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M.

Patricia Plunkett Bearden,  
Secretary