

KING FAMILY REUNION
Kings Valley School Gym
Kings Valley, OR
June 25, 2005

About 70 family members and guests attended the annual potluck, and most stayed for the business meeting. President Mimi Stang presided.

Family historian David Trask displayed an old broken-off grave marker that he retrieved from an overgrown area of Locke Cemetery in Benton County some years ago. The stone was for an infant son of Amos King, and he asked for ideas on what to do with it and whether we could somehow replace the stone. David could not stay for the rest of the meeting, so he asked that the group discuss the matter and let him know what decision(s) may be made today.

Linda Crew, author of the novel "A Heart for Any Fate," based upon the King Family's story, was present and gave a slide presentation and talk about the book and her experiences during its creation. Thank you to Linda for writing the book and for attending today. She had copies of the book for sale.

President Mimi introduced the officers: Vice President Earle Greig of Corvallis, Secretary Patricia Plunkett Holler of Newport, and Jackie Farris, our webmaster. Historian David Trask had already left the meeting by this time to return to his home in Medford.

Thank you to Earle for making arrangements for us to use the Kings Valley School gym again this year for this event.

Joan Larsen introduced Josie, an 8th generation King descendant who lives in Kings Valley.

Thank you to Anne Trussell for preparing wall charts detailing the various King family lines.

Mimi introduced two guests, Marcia Gilson and Audrey Theurer from the Kings Valley Cemetery Association.

Mimi asked Nigel Parkhurst to name each of the King children, and then requested those present to stand when their own special ancestor's name was called.

A list of names was read of those known family members who passed away during the year.

A reminder, please send all family obituaries and other family information to historian David Trask. Everyone needs to participate in this effort, as David cannot do it all by himself.

A discussion took place about Stuart Hemphill, present owner of the land where Nahum & Sarepta King are buried. Mimi encouraged us to not try to go there individually. A few family members are trying to work with Mr. Hemphill, who does not like strangers visiting his land.

Anne Trussell reviewed highlights from the 2004 meeting when about 45 were present.

Dan Wojcik reported that they would like to reprint *The Brazen Overlanders* book, but they lack the funds to do so. (He is the son of the author Donna Wojcik.) Daniel Frommherz suggested he contact Higginson Books of Salem, MA, as they reprint many books.

Treasurer Anne Trussell reported that we have a balance of \$739.09 in the general account. The cemetery fund has \$307.31, and we have \$335.60 in donations in a flexible fund.

She also reported that we are taking orders for family t-shirts.

Thank you, Earle, for making complete sets of the King Folk family newsletter available. They can be ordered for \$25.00 for the complete set.

Earle Greig reported that the new reader boards with maps are installed at the Kings Valley cemetery. Thank you to Dave Livingston of Endex, Inc., for helping with this project, and Earle noted that the new reader boards “tell just about as much as can be told by a piece of paper.” Also, we have a master set of copies of the information displayed on the boards, and photocopies are available for those who request them.

A discussion took place about the location of family graves buried on the original Donation Land Claim properties.

Discussion then turned to the matter of the grave stone that David displayed at the beginning of today’s meeting. It is for a child of Amos King who was the first King child born in Oregon. Questions pondered by the group included whether we should keep the original stone in the family, and replace it with a new stone in the cemetery. If we replaced the marker, should it look like the original one? Consensus was that unless the King family takes the initiative, it will not happen, as cemetery boards do not have funds for this.

Nigel Parkhurst moved to spend a maximum of \$500 to fund the replacement of the marker for Amos King’s son. Daniel Frommherz seconded the motion. Daniel said that he knows someone who does sand casting to make brass markers. Mimi suggested that we let David Trask take the lead in this project. On call for vote, all those present voted aye, motion carried.

Mimi suggested that we purchase a copy of Linda Crew’s novel and present it to the Kings Valley School library. Again, Nigel Parkhurst moved,

seconded by Jackie Farris, to purchase the book for the school library. All voted aye.

Mimi issued a challenge to the group: To go home, buy an extra copy of Crew's book and get it out into more school libraries.

Linda Crew also suggested that we could go home and write a review of the book on Amazon.com.

Copies of the Benton County Genealogical Society's books on cemeteries and marriages of that county are available for sale today. Earle said they are super books to own.

Please submit family ancestor charts to Mimi Stang to add in to her Family Tree Maker computer program.

Mimi introduced Charlotte Wirfs, former King Family association president for some ten or eleven years.

Charlotte noted that we originally intended to gather money to replace some of the family stones that need replacement at Kings Valley and other cemeteries.

Cynthia Bell asked what happened with the proposed renaming of Kings Boulevard in Corvallis that was a topic of interest at past reunions. No one knew the current status, but we think the proposal died. Les Whittle, who attended a past reunion to plead for family approval of his idea, is no longer connected with the Corvallis American Legion. President Mimi and others wrote letters to protest the idea.

Jackie Farris said she wants to put information about Linda Crew and her book on the King family website. Also, anyone who wants to post their email address on the website please let her know.

The Benton County Genealogical Society's website has some King information on their pioneer page, and they will also list family researchers there as well.

Anne Trussell and Mimi Stang prepared a CD of King Family genealogical information, which is for sale. "It's a start," as they said.

There being no more business, the annual meeting adjourned at 2:20 P.M. The cemetery gate is open today for those who wish to visit, and the flag is up.

Patricia Plunkett Holler
Secretary