

KING FAMILY REUNION  
Kings Valley School Gym  
Kings Valley, OR  
June 24, 2006

About 80 family members and guests attended the annual potluck, and most stayed for the business meeting. President Mimi Stang presided.

Josephine Price Moore (age 2) was introduced as the youngest King descendant present. James King of Virginia came the farthest to attend this year's reunion.

President Mimi introduced the other officers: Earle Greig of Corvallis, vice president; Patricia Plunkett Holler of Newport, secretary, and Anne Trussell, treasurer. Anne and her husband Rich traveled from Sacramento to attend the reunion. Our family historian is David Trask of Medford.

Jackie Farris, our webmaster, noted that information about the King family can be found at [www.all-oregon.com/king](http://www.all-oregon.com/king), or by doing a Google search on "Oregon King Family."

Special guests in attendance were Audrey Theurer of the Kings Valley Cemetery Association and Linda Crew, author of the novel "A Heart for Any Fate" that she based upon the King family's trek to Oregon in 1845.

Mimi read a message sent by Lowell Tiller, co-author of the book "The Terrible Trail". He still has a few hardback copies of the book available at \$60 each. He was unable to attend the reunion.

All attendees then introduced themselves and described how they are related to the King family. The most numerous again this year were descendants of Hopestill King Norton.

Daniel Frommherz reported that he started a genealogical discussion group on Rootsweb about the Kings of Salem, MA.

Melissa Parkhurst (descendant of Rhoda Ann King) reported that Rhoda moved to Moro County, OR. She is buried near Lexington OR. She married at age 14, divorced a few years later, and moved to Eastern Oregon for the health of a child from her first marriage. Melissa Parkhurst visited her family farm. Rhoda ran the Lexington Hotel for about 15 years, in the days when the railroad came through that community. She will write a summary of her trip for next year's *King Folk* newsletter.

David Trask reported that he received an email from Stephen King of Houston, TX with a report that Nathaniel Philbrick wrote a new book "The

Mayflower,” that contains an error. Our William King(e) was mentioned in the book as William Ring. Stephen asked us to contact the book’s author and ask him to make the correction. It could be a typographical error, but he refers to an older book “Saints and Strangers” that contains a controversial mention of a man that may or may not be our William King(e) ancestor. The Philbrick book is receiving good reviews.

A descendant of Luther King said she felt like a “black sheep” some 15 years or so ago because of Luther’s background. She reported that Luther King was bit by a rattlesnake and thereafter was called “Rattlesnake King”. We do not yet know where Luther is buried. Her great-grandfather was John King, killed on the raft in the Columbia River.

Florence Gross reported that she has now lost all six of her Frommherz brothers. All of them reached at least the age of 80, and all died within a short time during the past year. Florence is now 92.

Daniel Frommherz reported that his research found that John King had married twice and had three children. The daughter lost from the raft in the Columbia River was named after John’s first wife who died.

Secretary Patricia Holler reviewed the minutes from the 2005 reunion.

Thank you to Earle Greig who made arrangements again for us to use the Kings Valley school gym today. They still only charge us \$35 per year rent.

Treasurer Anne Trussell reported that we have \$1430.55 in our treasury.

King Family Association dues are still \$10. We need to send items for next year’s newsletter to Earle Greig by February 2007.

President Mimi Stang shared a photo of a new monument listing her Cornell family history at the Lee Mission Cemetery in Salem. It includes the names of the children, and cost about \$1600 from a Salem monument company. She presented it as an idea for us to consider for the future.

Nigel Parkhurst suggested that the officers come up with a dollar amount that could be set aside for such a purpose, and then we could make donations. Anne Trussell suggested that we could probably designate \$700-\$800 toward it now. (Nigel noted that it could also cost \$2000 by the time we’re ready.)

Nigel Parkhurst moved to set aside \$600 into a special fund to go toward a King Family monument project. He noted that perhaps a year from now, we could be closing in on the total needed for the project. Daniel Frommherz suggested using some of our money as matching funds to encourage donations.

The motion was seconded by James King. On call for vote, all voted aye, no negative votes. Motion carried.

Mimi Stang displayed a picture of the replacement marker for the King infant buried in the Locke Cemetery. It cost \$530. Locke Cemetery is on the Monmouth Highway. Turn west at the Lewisburg store, go to the top of the hill, and the cemetery is just to the west. There is a sign.

Mimi Stang made a chart showing the classical homes of King Family members in Portland. This infant's parents, who moved to Portland after the baby died, lived in one of the pictured homes.

Bill Dixon reported that the old Plunkett farm in Kings Valley is now a Benton County park known as the Beazell Memorial Forest. The old house is still there, though it was remodeled in the 1930's. The rooms were small, but the outside was not changed. The current front door used to open into a bedroom. At first the County wanted to bulldoze the house, but we worked to stop that proposal. Bill worked with the County to tell them what the original house was like (he lived there for awhile during his youth). The County just remodeled the old barn and it is now quite nice—ready for use by groups. The vertical boards on the exterior walls were made from grooved boards. The house was built in 1870. Earle Greig noted that the county saved a board with some writing on it (probably that of Henry Plunkett) and it is preserved in the renovated barn.

Jackie Farris will check on the cost to rent the renovated Plunkett barn. She works for Endex, the engineering firm that did the engineering work on the renovation project. Jackie suggested adding information about this park to our website, if someone would help her put the info together.

Daniel Frommherz noted that the King Family numbers at least four U. S. Presidents among its descendants: William H. Harrison, Benjamin Harrison, Warren Harding and Gerald Ford.

The Charles King house on Harris Road in Wren is open today from 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. It is on the National Historic Register, and this is their annual required open house. The regular hours for the open house took place this morning, but the owners are doing a special second open house for the King Family members who wish to tour it after the reunion.

Daniel Frommherz reported that he is continuing his research work on the King Family genealogy back to William and Dorothy King(e) who came to Massachusetts in 1635.

He asked for family information on all spouses who marry into the King family.

Mimi Stang reported that her database now has 7500 names.

David Trask still collects obituaries and other family information.

Anne Trussell is beginning to scan any pictures of the King family, preparatory to making a photo CD. Anne and also Earle Greig are willing to visit people's homes to scan pictures they do not wish to bring to the reunion. Or, family members may send pictures to Anne on CD. Kings Valley pictures are also welcome. The intent is to try to put all of this information into one place, with access for more people.

James King Jr. suggested scanning photos at the highest resolution possible to best preserve the quality of the originals. It is also best to save the photos using both .tif and .jpeg formats. Public libraries may be able to do some free scanning for their patrons. If doing your own scanning, please identify photo images! This exciting project has just begun.

Melissa Parkhurst made a motion that Jackie Farris seconded to continue for another year with the same officers. On call for vote, all members present voted aye, motion carried.

Fort Hoskins will hold a commemorative observation of its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 29<sup>th</sup> at the Fort park.

Linda Crew's website lists her upcoming events to promote "our" book, "A Heart for Any Fate." The book is now out in paperback. The OR Historical Society Press just notified Linda that they are going to cease publishing. (They publish a lot of other books, too.)

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary