

## KING FAMILY REUNION

Kings Valley School Gym,

Kings Valley OR

June 27, 2009

About 65 family members and guests attended the annual reunion and potluck, and most stayed for the business meeting. President Mimi Stang presided.

Mimi introduced the officers. A special thank you to Rick and Anne Trussell for renting a sound system for the day!! And, thank you to Anne Trussell and Dee Parkhurst for tending to the registration table today.

Special guests who attended included Mark Hazelton and his wife and children. He is principal of the Kings Valley School. He told us that eight years ago the district decided to shut down the school, so the community met to decide what to do. The first Kings Valley School was started in 1848, and our ancestors built a school building right away. The community still has that same feeling for education and the children of today. There were only 17 students in school when it closed. The next year, after the charter school formed, there were 150 kids. Now, they come from all around the area—Salem, Albany and Philomath. Mr. Hazelton said that they have plans to construct more buildings as the school grows, eventually adding high school to the kingergarten-10<sup>th</sup> graders now served.

We thank the school for letting us use the gym building again, and we still pay only \$35 rent.

Another guest was author Linda Crew, who reported that she found a new publisher for her book about the King family, *A Heart for Any Fate*. The new company is Oligan Publishers. Also, the distributor went bankrupt, so the books are temporarily unavailable in bookstores. However, Linda has some for sale at [lindacrew.com](http://lindacrew.com). Linda also wrote another book, *Power of the Wind*, about the 1931 Tillamook Burn. She reported that Frances Ramsey, descendant of John King, has ties in both books.

Thanks to Anne Trussell for a new feature this year, a coloring/puzzle table she set up for young attendees.

Mimi reported that Francis Rexford will soon celebrate his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. He descends from Lucretia, and he was here today.

Maxine Bell and James King were also here today, after missing several reunions in recent years.

Thanks also to the Kings Valley Charter School Bakery for the wonderful cinnamon rolls we purchased and enjoyed today.

Mimi reported that Jackie Farris has been busy scanning King family photos.

The names of the children of Nahum and Sarepta King were called, and descendants of each were asked to stand when their ancestor's name was called:

Saretta	0	Lucretia	5
John	2	Hopestill	11
Stephen	1	Isaac	11
Amos	2	Sarah	2
Lovisa	12	Abigail	7
Lydia	0	Soloman	2
Rhoda Ann	2		

Nigel Parkhurst reported that the updated King Folk Directory for 2009 is now available for \$2. He asked that any corrections be sent to him.

First timers who attended this reunion included the following:

Ethel Sheppler (desc. from Hopestill). Ethel also brought her Grandmother Adeline Plunkett's afghan to display during the reunion. She said the afghan won a blue ribbon in 1905 at the Oregon State Fair.

Wendy Caster (desc. from Lovisa)

Rose Wall and her brother, George Willoby

Carrie Mahoney (desc. from Lovisa)

Jim King, who lives in Virginia

Robin Blair, San Juan Island, Washington (from Abigail). She reported that Brooks Raygen of San Juan Island is writing a book on the Meek Cutoff.

Susan Dietz, California (daughter of Earle Greig)

Edna Morse and husband Bryan (desc. from Lucretia)

Gary Ramsey (desc. from John)

Tom Moore (desc. from Lovisa, through Ruth Price Moore)

Judy Kelloff & family of 8

The youngest person present was 14-month old Jordan Mahoney, from Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

An anonymous person donated a book, *Oregon at Work 1859-2009*, to be auctioned at this reunion. (This is a new book by Tom Fuller and Art Ayre.) Nigel once again played the role of auctioneer, and the book sold for \$25, which will be added to the treasury.

Secretary Patricia Plunkett Holler summarized the minutes of the 2008 reunion.

Mimi urged everyone to go to see the King Family marker at the Kings Valley Cemetery that this group purchased.

Mimi noted that Charlotte Wirfs was not able to be here because they just recently sold their home and business in Tacoma and they now live in Baker City.

Mimi introduced Audrey Theurer, clerk of the Kings Valley Cemetery, and “unofficial mayor of Hoskins.” Audrey said the cemetery board is very satisfied with the new caretakers, and the cemetery is looking very nice.

Earle Greig replaces the maps on the cemetery reader boards whenever they deteriorate due to weather.

Treasurer Anne Trussell reported that we have a balance of \$1735.04 in the treasury as of yesterday. Anne and Mimi are signers on our bank account.

Mimi announced that if anyone present did not receive the King Folk annual newsletter, to please sign up and we will mail them a copy and also add their name to the mailing list. Thank you to Mimi and Earle & Vangie Grieg for putting out the newsletter once again. Please continue to send articles to Mimi for publication consideration.

Anne reported that there are now three different photo CDs available: 2007, 2008 and 2009. All contain different photos. Also, if someone does not have access to a computer, they may take the CD to someplace like Wal-Mart and have copies made from it.

Last year Norm Chambers brought in a picture of Lovisa King. Later on, Anne Trussell found an unidentified photograph of a woman with four girls at the Oregon Historical Society in the records of author Florin Lambert. Lambert wrote a book called "Ghost Towns of the Pacific Frontier," and included a photograph of Rowland Chambers with seven of his sons in the chapter about Kings Valley. Anne thought that the unidentified photo from OHS was Lovisa. The woman in that picture looked very similar to Lovisa in Norm's picture. Anne suspects that Lambert may have collected both photos when he did his interviews in Kings Valley, but only had space to use one in the book. Anne asked everyone to look at copies of the pictures at the registration table and give their opinion if they were both photos of Lovisa.

Jackie Farris reported that just today she scanned 70 new pictures! They will be on next year's CD.

Copies of all the CDs are also going to the Benton County Museum. The purpose of the photo CD project is to try to get them into one central location, and then make them available to as many interested people as possible.

Mimi reported that her database now includes some 8000 King family descendants! She stressed that this information is for our personal use, not for publication.

Historian David Trask now has about 2500 obituaries of family members and spouses. He has been our historian for 21 years now. Thank you, David! Someday, he hopes to put all his information onto a CD. Please continue to send him family information, especially obituaries and death certificates.

David's son Ryan Trask entered a contest sponsored by the Sons & Daughters of Oregon Pioneers. Ryan drew a picture depicting the Oregon Trail trip, and he won first place! Someone noted that a few years ago, another King descendant won the same contest. Her name is Emma Lancaster. The contest is open not just to Oregonians, but to any pioneer descendants. Ryan received his award at the Multnomah Athletic Club, which sits on land once owned by Amos King in Portland.

Also, another King descendant was Miss Oregon Pioneer in 1938.

This year, Oregon celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood, and the King family was here about 14 years before that event took place.

For some years we have had copies of a photograph that was said to be Sarepta Norton King. However, as David said, there was always some doubt as to whether it really was her likeness. Kathy Hood, daughter of Nathan King, was here today and she brought David a tintype picture of Sarepta. It is the original from which our copies were made. So, now we know that we do have a true photo of Sarepta. David carefully displayed the fragile old tintype so all could view it.

Mimi reported that on Wednesday a crew was here to set up for the reunion. Another group was also here, busily making jam to sell at the KV farmer's market. Andrea Davis now lives on Lovisa's land and she grows strawberries there.

Mimi reported that we ran out of S and M sized t-shirts. We still have L and XL available for \$10 today or \$15 by mail.

NEW PROJECT: Lydia King Williams (1831-1921) and husband Jonathan Williams are buried in the Salem Pioneer (IOOF) cemetery. He has a huge stone, but Lydia's name is not on it and she has no stone. Three of their children are also buried there. The cemetery has given us permission to mark Lydia's grave, so Mimi got a price quote on a stone. They (Oregon Memorials of Hillsboro) suggested a small stone, made of dark grey stone. They would give us a "bargain rate" of \$590 including installation. We know of no descendants of Lydia, though we do know they had one son who lived and died in Idaho. After discussion, consensus was that a simple stone, engraved "Wife & Mother/Lydia King Williams/1831 – 1921/King Family Association" would be best.

Nigel asked if we have pictures of all the other King children's graves. David said we do not have photos of Abigail, John or Stephen's graves. We also do not have a picture of Saretta's grave. She was the oldest child, who did not come west with the rest of the family.

Anne noted that three of the King children died young. She visited Ohio some seven or eight years ago, and discovered that the stones for the two little girls were gone. Pat Plunkett Holler visited there in the 1970's and took pictures of Hannah and Dulaney Kings' graves before the stones disappeared. They are buried in the Old Darby Township cemetery in Plain City, Madison County, Ohio.

Nigel moved, seconded by Jackie Farris, to purchase a marker for Lydia's grave for \$590. All voted in favor, motion carried.

There was no election of officers this year. Last year the present officers were re-elected for six years, so they have five more years to go. Officers are President Mimi Stang, vice president Earle Greig, secretary Patricia Plunkett Holler, treasurer Anne Trussell, historian David Trask, and webmaster Jackie Farris.

Nigel asked all Hopestill King's descendants to gather for a group picture.

Mimi requested that any death notices be sent to her or to David, so we can keep the mailing list current.

Jackie said she will compile a price list for the CDs that are available and will put it on the King family website. That will allow people who cannot attend the reunions to purchase CDs by mail.

Carole Putman Norton and Melissa Parkhurst attended a recent "book launching" event for Linda Crew's book. It was held at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City.

Today one lady bought two copies of Linda's book about the King family for her "unborn descendants," and two more for her existing grandchildren. Mimi also recommends donating copies of the book to school libraries in this area.

Next year's reunion will be here on June 26, 2010.

Since the Kings Valley Bakery is now a business, the kitchen we use for our reunions is now both licensed and inspected. So, we need to leave it as clean as we found it.

There being no more business, the reunion business meeting adjourned at 2:20 P.M.

Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary