

KING FAMILY REUNION  
Kings Valley School Gym,  
Kings Valley, Oregon  
June 26, 2010

At least 60 family members and guests attended this annual reunion and potluck, and many stayed for the business meeting. President Mimi Stang presided.

Mimi reported that she, Earle Greig, and Anne & Rick Trussell visited the farm owned by Andrea Davis. It is located on Tatum Road in Kings Valley, and once was owned by Lovisa (King) & Rowland Chambers. Andrea makes and sells various kinds of jams from fruit she grows on the farm. She sent two jars of jam to be auctioned off today.

The first offering was strawberry-rhubarb spread. Nigel Parkhurst again served as our auctioneer, and Winnie Trump's husband was the lucky bidder at \$25 that goes into the King Family treasury. The second jar was blueberry spread, and Char Wirfs won it with a bid of \$20 for the treasury.

Mimi asked all descendants to line up by families after the meeting for a photo opportunity.

President Mimi Stang introduced herself, along with Vice President Earle Greig, Secretary Patricia Plunkett Holler, Treasurer Anne Trussell and Historian, David Trask. Our webmaster is Jackie Farris.

Mimi asked all first-time attendees to stand and introduce themselves. Bill Wood & Chris Olson (descendants of Lucretia King) attended from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. They reported that Lucretia Pittman's ashes were sent to them from the Oregon State Hospital, where Lucretia died in 1951. They just placed her ashes in the Kings Valley cemetery yesterday.

Julie Heinzl and husband from Redding, CA, and Kelly King & husband came from Springfield, OR (descendants of Lucretia and also the Ritner family.)

From Nebraska, Bruce Schindler and Vesta, (descendants of Abigail). They live 30 minutes off the old Oregon Trail in Harlan County, Nebraska.

Daniel Frommherz noted that we all have relatives in Johnson County, Nebraska.

Other first-timers were Dan and Barbara Norton from Memphis, TN. Also Del Brown, with Cindy and Logan, from Portland (descendants of Isaac King.) And Diana Norton Chung (descendant of Hopestill King) attended along with twin sons, Jonathan and James Chung.

Mimi welcomed Tom Hudson from LaMesa, CA, who was absent for a few years due to illness.

Nigel Parkhurst called out the names of all the King children and asked their descendants to stand:

Descendants of Saretta King who were present:	0
Descendants of Lucretia King:	5
Descendants of John King:	2
Descendants of Hopestill King:	16
Descendants of Stephen King:	1
Descendants of Isaac King:	6
Descendants of Amos King:	0
Descendants of Sarah King:	0
Descendants of Lovisa King:	2
Descendants of Abigail King:	4
Descendants of Lydia King:	0
Descendants of Solomon King:	4
Descendants of Rhoda Ann King:	4

Also, copies of the King Family Directory that Nigel compiles and updates each year are for sale for \$2.00. The directory shows who descends from each King child. (Nigel noted that he made about 40 changes to the directory this year.) *Please send any additions or corrections to Nigel for inclusion in next year's directory!*

Mimi noted that last year we approved purchase of a marker for Lydia King's grave. The King Family had the stone made and installed in Salem Pioneer Cemetery.

Secretary Pat Holler reviewed highlights of the 2009 reunion minutes.

Treasurer Anne Trussell reported that as of today we have \$2148.94 in the treasury. Thank you for those who sent in some extra donations this year. The money goes for King family projects such as the benches and reader boards in the Kings Valley Cemetery, and several other grave markers that we purchased in past years.

Mini noted that copies of the 2009 and 2010 *King Folk* newsletters are available at the registration desk. Thank you to Earle & Vangie Greig and Mimi Stang for their work on getting the annual newsletters prepared and distributed. We now send out about 250 copies out, around the first week of April each year.

Earle gave an update on happenings at the Kings Valley Cemetery. He and Bill Dixon continue to work on maintenance of family graves in the cemetery. They will try to place a paver stone wherever the King Family has unmarked graves. Also we want to figure out how to mark the graves that are identified. Nigel noted that it's not terribly expensive to have names cut into the paver stones.

Mimi introduced Audrey Theurer, who wrote some books about Kings Valley, noting that "she's 'almost' a King."

Historian David Trask thanked Daniel Frommherz for his work on the King Family's "ancient history." Also thanks to George Davidson who is now working with Daniel.

David collects and compiles obituaries and death certificates of King Family members. He has about 2500 now in his collection. He said he finds it fascinating to put it all together and be able to share copies with others. Please keep sending copies of family trees, obituaries and death certificates to David.

David displayed some framed copies of some stamped envelopes mailed from Benton County during the period 1857-1909. He may have a legitimate original signature of Rowland Chambers. Stamps on the framed envelopes were cancelled by hand. Not all were to or from King family members, but they show examples of the postmarks in use during the time our family lived here.

Daniel Frommherz said he has been working on the ancient history of the King Family (the first six generations out of Salem, Massachusetts.)

This year he also worked on Luther King, Nahum's half brothers and Horace King. Horace lived in Johnson County, Nebraska, Colorado and also New York City.

Daniel reported that Luther King was the last to leave Lebanon Springs, Columbia County, New York. He followed Horace King to Niagara County, then to Henry County, Illinois and on to Michigan. Daniel said he tracked Luther through his two daughters to the last living cousin, who sent Daniel the Luther King family Bible and also Amos King's wallet that he carried during the Revolutionary War. Also a copy of Amos King's obituary. Daniel said he will share any of his information free of charge for the asking—and he stressed that his information should never be offered for sale. Anyone interested in Daniel's work may contact him by email.

Mimi thanked David for all his years of work, and for sharing his collections that are in 3-ring notebooks.

Daniel introduced George Davidson who has been helping Daniel.

Daniel suggested that David's collection should be scanned and put onto a CD to preserve it. (The only existing copies are in David's paper notebooks.) Mimi said that we would like to have that done professionally, and soon.

Author Linda Crew was unable to be with us today. Copies of her books can still be ordered directly from her ([www.lindacrew.com](http://www.lindacrew.com)) including her novel about the King Family, *A Heart for Any Fate*. It is now in its second edition, through Ooligan Press. Ooligan also reissued the book in paperback. Linda is currently at work writing a new adult novel to be called *Family Trees*, set in Corvallis and Philomath.

Anne reviewed the CD project. We started the photo CD project in 2006. This year there are 180 new photos on the 2010 CD. She thanked those that contributed photos, and noted that we have given a copy of each year's CD to the Benton County Historical Society. The CD also contains a 5-generation genealogical chart compiled and updated yearly by Mimi. This year Pat Holler scanned all the old *King Folk* newsletters, the "Back

*When*" newspaper articles, and all King reunion-related materials that we have, 1968 through 2009. They are all included on this year's CD, along with a copy of Nathan King's remarks made at a King Family reunion in the 1980's, which Pat transcribed.

Jackie Farris noted that she only scanned four new photos today, so please bring more photos in!

Mimi thanked Anne for making the CDs. All money raised from the sale of them goes into the treasury.

Mimi introduced Charlotte Wirfs, former president of the King Family Association. Char stated that all the King Family CDs and whatever we post online, are open to anyone who wants the information. (People do copy and repost our things, but we cannot control that.) Char stressed that we always need to add proper documentation (sources) to anything submitted to the family genealogy collections, whether paper or digital files or pictures.

Daniel also suggested that if anyone puts things on the internet, they need to give credit to whoever they got it from.

Char added that any time we post an original (not a copy), that we need to be sure to so state that as part of the documentation.

Mimi noted that both ancestry.com and Rootsweb allow for corrections. When we spot things that are in error, we can post a correcting note and cite our source(s).

Anne said that included on the CD is an MS Word document. Each photo is saved with its title and its source. There is also a disclaimer on the CD urging all to contact the owner before just using the item. The CD identifies the person who contributed the item.

Mimi noted a beautiful new quilt made by Char Wirfs that was on display today.

Sherrie Fish brought a quilt made with the Sunbonnet Sue pattern by Sarah Plunkett Bottger. (Descendant of Hopeskill King/Ashnah Norton Plunkett.)

Sarah gave it to Sherrie on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sherrie does not know of another surviving quilt made by Sarah Bottger.

Char said that Sarah's quilt is almost identical to one made by Minnie Price for Char in 1952. Both quilts have the same blue and white lattice pattern.

Char told a story about Minnie Price's quilt—Minnie made two quilts for Char and her brother. Char's is blue and white, while her brother's quilt is pink and white. Char's mother said that traditionally at the time the quilts were made, boys had pink colors and girls had blue. Char noted that Sherrie's blue quilt helps to validate what her mom said.

Mimi read a letter from Francis Rexford, 92, who for many years has driven here from his home in Sulphur, OK to attend this reunion. She read a letter from Francis, who was unable to make the trip this year. We passed a card around for all to sign, and we'll send it to Francis.

Mimi displayed pictures of several King Family items now at the Benton County Museum. One showed Sarepta Norton King's pitcher, purchased around 1845-46 by Nahum King for Sarepta at the McLaughlin Trading Post in Oregon City. Bertha King gave it to the museum.

A portrait of Hopestill King Norton hangs in the hallway of the museum.

We received word that the posts surrounding the trailside grave of Sarah King Chambers near Juntura, Malheur County, Oregon were nearly rubbed to sawdust by the range cattle. The native stone marker is still OK. George Davidson said he would like to have the GPS coordinates for the grave's precise location. Anne said that the California-Oregon Trails Association plans to put in new railings around the grave in September.

A movie called "Meek's Cutoff" was made in 2009, and will be released in 2011. Kelly Reichart is the director. It is based on the true story of our family, set in 1845. (For more information, Google "Meek's Cutoff Movie.")

Mimi reported that Lynee Carpenter and Jane Frommherz have pins for sale, \$1.25 each, that say "I'm a King's Kid."

Lynee (descendant of Soloman) explained her project of wanting to commission a family painting depicting the Nahum King Family on the trail.

The artist is Tina Lee Fisher, of Spokane area. She tries to be historically correct and accurate in her paintings. The proposed painting would be set in the early part of June, with wild flowers and five wagons on the prairie trip. The artist would keep the original painting, but would make prints available for sale. Lynee brought and displayed some of this artist's work today. Limited editions of 200 only as well as less expensive prints would be available for sale, as well as potentially coffee mugs, mouse pads, blankets and note cards. Lynee said that she is "pretty serious" about getting this project done.

Also, Lynee's nephew has some music CD's for sale.

Mimi called attention to Winnie Trump's display of photos of King Family gravestones at the Kings Valley cemetery.

Mimi reminded everyone to line up for photos by family groups after this meeting.

Elections for family association officers were held in 2008 for six year terms ending in 2014, so there will be no changes at this time.

Next reunion will be on Saturday, June 25, 2011.

We still pay only \$35 to rent this school gym, and they also let us come in on Wednesday to set the room up.

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned.

Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary