

KING FAMILY REUNION  
Kings Valley School Gym,  
Kings Valley, Oregon  
June 25, 2011

About 50 family members and guests attended this annual reunion and potluck, and many stayed for the business meeting. President Mimi Stang presided.

Photos of family groups were taken outside before lunch.

With Nigel Parkhurst as auctioneer, we auctioned off two copies of Linda Crew's book *A Heart for Any Fate*. Thank you to Char Wirfs who donated the two books.

Anyone wanting copies of the family group pictures may contact Nigel Parkhurst and/or Winnie Trump. Winnie said she will send a CD of her pictures to Char Wirfs and Mimi Stang.

Updated King Family directories are for sale for \$2.00. Thank you to Nigel Parkhurst for maintaining this important resource. Also thank you to Dee Parkhurst for helping at the registration table today. Thank you to Anne and Rick Trussell for setting up the sound system for this meeting. And thanks to Char Wirfs for scanning the pictures included on this year's photo CD.

President Mimi Stang introduced herself, along with Secretary Patricia Plunkett Holler, Treasurer Anne Trussell and Historian, David Trask. Vice President Earle Greig could not attend this reunion because he and Vangie are in Eugene today to hear their daughter sing. (She is a professional singer.)

Char noted that this annual King reunion has held for at least 124 years now.

Today the youngest attendee was Melissa Parkhurst's baby, Oliver, who is 8 months old.

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:	3 + 3 more entered later
Descendants of John King:	6
Descendants of Hopestill King:	13
Descendants of Stephen King:	0
Descendants of Isaac King:	4
Descendants of Amos King:	0
Descendants of Sarah King:	0
Descendants of Lovisa King:	4
Descendants of Abigail King:	9
Descendants of Lydia King:	0
Descendants of Soloman King:	2
Descendants of Rhoda Ann King:	4

Historian David Trask's collection now includes about 3000 obituaries of family members and related/extended family.

Mimi asked all first-time attendees to stand and introduce themselves.

- . Chris Keeney and Katie Turner are descendants of John King. They were adopted out at birth and found the family in the 1970's.
- . Katie Kellogg, age 4 ½, a descendant of Hopestill.
- . Warren Wylie Norton, daughter Amy and granddaughter Katie. (Descendants of Hopestill.)
- . Rebecca Campbell, descendant of John King.
- . Krish Frantz and daughter Nicole, descendants of Hopestill.

The secretary reviewed highlights from the minutes of the 2010 reunion.

The treasurer gave her report and noted that dues are falling off again, perhaps because of the economy. King Family Association dues are \$10 per year. The treasury has a balance of \$3795.02. We use these funds for such things as rental of the Kings Valley School Gym for this reunion, to rent a sound system, cemetery improvements, gravestone marker replacements, and the annual newsletter *King Folk*.

Thank you to Earle and Vangie Greig for mailing out the newsletter. Articles for *King Folk* are welcome all year long.

Several deaths during the past year were noted. Frances Rexford (descendant of Lucretia) died at age 92 in Oklahoma. Elizabeth Flansberg died at 97. Pauline Price Allen was 93. Wayne Bell was 60, and our webmaster Jackie Farris died at age 57. (Jackie's husband will try to maintain the King website for us.)

A big project is underway now at the Kings Valley Cemetery. A crew is busy limbing trees, and the cleanup is not done yet. (The cemetery association sent a notice that cleanup will soon be done.) Thank you to Bill Dixon and Earle Greig for their continuing work on helping to maintain the cemetery and family members' graves.

Char noted that the cemetery has an ongoing problem with road slides at the back side of the cemetery. A new road will be built soon. Five King family representatives attended a cemetery association meeting in May. Char said they are a well-organized group.

Recently a "ghost buster" declared the Kings Valley cemetery to be "haunted."

Char said that the road that circles around the back of the cemetery is above an almost straight drop-off down to the river, some 75 feet below the cemetery. The bank continues to slide and to sluff off. Years ago there was an earthquake and the road had to be moved. This meant that the road had to run across two graves. Their stones were moved nearby. The plan is to reroute the road and to close the old section. The pioneer section had a road platted years ago, so they will now open that right-of-way. One grave is located in the right-of-way, and the association is working with that family now to decide what to do. The new road will be one-way through the Pioneer section, with a turn-around. The back section of old road will be abandoned. The King family members attended the meeting in support of the new road project, and the association board members voted to make the changes.

Char suggested that the King Family Association could consider making a donation. The cost of the limb cutting was \$550. The gravel was partly donated, along with some of the grading work. The new road cost \$2000.

A lady present said she has ancestry through Isaac King, and one of her family's graves does not have a marker. She asked if she could take care of getting a

marker made. Char has a copy of the cemetery's rules and regulations. The cemetery is still active, and they still have about 200 lots for sale. The Wren cemetery is now full.

Mimi asked if our group wished to help fund the road project. She summarized a list of our past projects.

Melissa Parkhurst moved to donate the sum of \$500, earmarked for the road project. The motion was seconded.

Nigel noted that donations to cemetery boards are very important, because it is always a struggle to operate and maintain a cemetery. (We can also donate individually if we want to do so.) Char Wirfs will collect any individual donations and pass them on to the cemetery board.

On call for vote, the motion was unanimously approved. Treasurer Anne was directed to send a check for \$500 to the Kings Valley Cemetery Association, P. O. Box 955, Philomath, OR 97370.

Mimi thanked Char for preparing new display boards on the King Family.

Secretary Pat is a member of the Kings Valley Cemetery Association, and she said it costs \$10 to join, plus dues of only \$5 to renew each year.

Individuals can also put private stones in the cemetery, but they need to work through the cemetery board.

Thank you to Tom Hudson who brought a huge sheet cake for dessert today.

Historian David Trask explained that he keeps copies of obits, death certificates, birth certificates, family trees, marriages, all pertaining to the King family history. He said he is working on how to make his paper files digital. Please continue to send any new information to David. He stressed that he especially needs help with researching people missing from his collection.

Anyone with family history questions is invited to send them to David, as he may already have the answer in his files.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Anne Trussell noted that she began the photo CD collection in 2006-07. This year's CD is the fifth one. This project is an effort to share our family information with anyone that is interested. It has evolved every year.

The 2011 CD collection has 85 King family photos. It also includes 50 reunion pictures and 80 cemetery pictures taken by Winnie Trump. Each year's CD contains an index, scanned images of the "Back When" series of newspaper articles, scanned images of various King family documents and transcripts. Included this year is a collection of minutes shared by Norm Chambers from the K.L.C.E. (Kings Valley Christian endeavor group). The CD also contains all the *King Folk* newsletters (30 issues), and items portraying the history of the King family reunions over the years, and a copy of Mimi's 5-generation database that she updates yearly. CDs cost only \$5, which is a pretty good deal.

Anne thanked those who contributed photos and other information to make the 2011 CD possible. (She read a list of these folks.) Anne also announced that Char has volunteered to help with this project and will be taking over the photo CD project, so please send photos and other items to her to include on next year's CD.

Char said that 26 new photos came in today and are being scanned. Some were from Charlotte Langston (John King descendant). They will be included on next year's CD. Char can also scan negatives if no copies are available.

Mimi said she heard nothing further from Lynee Carpenter about the project she announced at the last reunion. Lynee wanted to commission a family painting depicting the Nahum King Family on the trail from an artist in Spokane. Winnie Trump said that she heard that the artist had some family problems.

The Sarah King Chambers grave in Malheur County, Oregon, needs some repair. The fencing was installed by the OR-CA Trails Association some years ago, and cows rubbing against the posts have done some damage. They didn't get the repairs done yet, but it may happen in September.

Pat announced that she and Steve went through Juntura, OR recently and there are six new units just completed at the Oasis Motel there. (Sarah's grave is a few miles from the community of Juntura.)

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mimi said that her personal family database now contains about 8000 names of family members. Char Wirfs reported that Mimi graciously allowed the King Family to use her database as a foundation to begin compiling a comprehensive King Family tree on ancestry.com. The new tree, called King Folk, is available for searching now, and it grows almost daily. Those who are interested may send Char their email address and she will have ancestry.com send them an "invite" which allows access to the new tree. (This does not require a membership in ancestry.com.)

Terms of current officers will expire in 2014.

#### ITEMS DISPLAYED TODAY:

Kristi Griffith (descendant of Hopestill King Norton) brought several family heirlooms to display today. One was from Helen Clairmont—a wooden hoop once used on the King farm to hold bags open to fill with seed or other farm products. Kristi's great-aunt was Retha Greig, mother of Earle Greig. Kristi also brought a candy dish with a lid, trimmed in gold, also from the King family farm. Also a crystal creamer. She received those items through Retha.

Nigel reported that the Crook County Historical Society gives tours from Prineville of a portion of the Meek Cutoff route near there. The society sponsors two different one-day tours (usually in the spring.) (Carole Putman, Pat Holler, Maxine and Jesse Bell went on a three-day wagon train reenactment sponsored by this society in 1993.)

Mimi said she will take home the descendant charts from each King child that are on display today and try to update them.

A number of those present saw the Meek Cutoff movie that came out this year. Consensus was that the scenery in the movie was great. The story was based on our family history, but "it is fiction, based upon a few facts." Maxine Bell noted that the movie showed real oxen, which was true to our family's story.

Nigel said “thank you” to the officers and spouses who each year come here a couple of days early to clean the school gym before this reunion, plus cleaning it up afterwards. He thinks we can afford to hire a janitor to do much of this work. We could provide them with a list of what we want done, the room layout, etc., and possibly could get some bids. Mimi took pictures this year of how we want the room to look. Kristi Griffith said she is a professional cleaner, and she will talk with Mimi and Nigel after the meeting.

Nigel Parkhurst moved, seconded by Bill Dixon, to authorize the officers to negotiate with a janitorial service to facilitate this annual meeting in the future—for both setup and cleanup. Mimi noted that we still pay only \$35 to rent the school gym each year. On call for vote, all voted aye, motion carried.

Next year’s reunion will be held on June 23, 2012.

Mimi reported that Mary Gallagher, of the Benton County Museum, “always wanted to be a King” and she just found a link between herself and the Kings through the Nortons.

Mimi also noted that we have a Canadian connection, through Margaret Hallock. June 24<sup>th</sup> was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death in Alberta. (They homesteaded there.)

William Wylie Norton displayed an old muzzle-loading shotgun & powderhorn that was once owned by his grandfather and great grandfather. There is no proof that it came across the plains, but it has initials that could be either for his grandfather or great-grandfather.

Edna Morse noted that three more descendants of Lucretia King arrived since we took the descendants count earlier in the meeting.

Anne Trussell reported that the museum in Philomath has an old oxbow from Hopestill and Lucius Norton and an old trunk that came across on the Oregon Trail. They will let us see family items up close and take pictures if we call ahead. Anne noted that these particular items are of interest right now because of the Meek Cutoff movie.

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary