

KING FAMILY REUNION
Kings Valley School Gym,
Kings Valley, Oregon
June 23, 2012

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

President Mimi introduced the other officers:

Vice President, Earle Greig
Secretary, Patricia Plunkett Holler
Treasurer, Anne Trussell
Historian, David Trask

"Thank yous:" to Rick Trussell, for bringing the sound system. To Rick & Anne Trussell for bringing donuts. To Vangie Greig, Anne Trussell and Char Wirfs for working at the registration table. To David Rossi (Melissa Parkhurst's husband) for photographing today's reunion, and to Mimi Stang and Sherry Fish for setting up the kitchen.

Someone noted that this may be at least the 125th reunion of the King Family in Oregon.

Descendant Attendees: 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

Lucretia King: 4

John King: 3

Hopestill King: 15

Stephen King: 0

Isaac King: 4

Amos King: 0

Sarah King: 0

Lovisa: 4

Abigail: 2

Lydia: 0

Soloman: 3

Rhoda Ann: 6

Ruth Ann Delavega, great-great granddaughter of Rhoda Ann King, attended for the first time. Ruth is an entertainer who sings and tells stories in the Portland area. She brought the recipe for Rhoda Ann's "pigs in blankets" (wrapped sausages.) Ruth told us that Rhoda Ann was renowned in Eastern Oregon for her cooking skills.

The youngest attendee again (second year in a row) was Oliver Rossi, son of Melissa Parkhurst and her husband David.

Secretary's report: The secretary summarized the high points from the minutes of the 2011 meeting.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Anne reported that we have a balance of \$4234.80 in the treasury. All donations are greatly appreciated. (Preparation and mailing of the annual newsletter costs about \$400.) Thank you to Mimi, Earle and Vangie for all the work they do to make the newsletter possible.

Death notices received since the 2012 newsletter was printed: Tom Hudson (Isaac), 91, 30 March 2012; Maxine Bell (Abigail), 22 April 2012; James Hollis King (Isaac) 3 May 2012 and Alice Beebe Blowers (Soloman) 17 May 2012.

Kings Valley Cemetery report: Earle Greig and Pat Plunkett Holler are now members of the cemetery board, appointed this year. Earle reported that Marcia Gilson, clerk of the cemetery, loaned him some death certificates to photocopy. She gladly shares information with us, and we will continue to share with her.

Thank you to Earle Greig and Bill Dixon for placing flags on graves of veterans for Memorial Day. They not only honor the veterans in the Kings Valley Cemetery, but in some other cemeteries as well.

Photos of the newly-completed road around the cemetery are included on the 2012 King Family photo CD.

We have a list now of 7 family gravestones that need repair. We obtained an estimate which came to \$1350 for the seven. It would also cost \$1800 to repair the Maxfield arch. Discussion took place about whether we want to move on this project.

Someone thought that there may be some grant money available from the state.

The Franz stone spire was knocked off and thrown over the steep bank toward the river. Thanks to Earle, it was retrieved, and it should be properly reinstalled.

The stone for H.H. Gasper, a Civil War veteran, was knocked over. The Chambers spire is leaning a bit. (Whenever the equipment is on site, it could be corrected at the same time.)

Pat Holler asked Mimi about a cost estimate for a simple new stone marker that could be placed on graves that are unmarked. Mimi said she thought it would cost at least \$250 per stone.

After discussion, Nigel Parkhurst moved, seconded by Tracy Willie, to authorize Earle and his helpers to spend up to \$1500 to repair King family stones as well as Mr. Gasper's stone. (He is buried at Kings Valley, but has no relatives in this area.) On call for vote, all voted aye, motion carried.

Char Wirfs noted that Andrew Jackson and Almeda VanBibber King Zumwalt never had grave stones. She did have a small metal marker in past years that is now long gone. Their graves are marked by two lilac trees. Discussion took place and then George Davidson moved, seconded by Daniel Frommherz, to authorize up to \$700 toward buying 2 new simple stones for Almeda and Andrew. On call for vote, all members present voted aye, motion carried. Pat Holler and Tracy Willie said they will contribute to paying additional cost, if it exceeds \$700.

Historian's report: David Trask reported that he has been the keeper of obituaries and death certificates of family members since 1989. This year he had an employee photocopy his whole collection onto archival paper. There are over 10,000 pages that include over 3000 obits and 800 death certificates, plus some family trees. Two family members worked on scanning some of this information and putting it onto CDs. Thank you to Pat Holler who did one notebook and to George Davidson who did two notebooks. (There are 35 notebooks in all in David's collection.) One copy is now stored at David's home and the other at his office. Thank you to David for all of this ongoing work!

Old Business: Anne reported that the 2012 photo CD is available for purchase. It includes 170 photos, all the "Back When" articles by Ken Mumford and Char Wirfs; docs pertaining to Nahum and Sarepta King, and reunion pictures & history. Also a 6 generation chart of King descendants compiled by Mimi Stang. This is the 6th annual CD that we've produced since Char Wirfs began collecting family pictures some 20 years ago.

Today, no one brought in anything new to be scanned. We are still collecting photos of people and also of the Kings Valley area. We may not issue a new CD every year now, since we are not receiving so many new items. A copy of each CD also goes to the Benton County Historical Society. Please continue to send new pictures and other items to Anne.

Char Wirfs reported that she started a King Family tree called "King Folk" on ancestry.com a little over a year ago. It is a public tree, which means that anyone can view the items. All items posted on the tree should be identified as "posted by King Folk" so that whenever others copy the information, an identifying tag goes along with it. Char said that at least 300 items have been copied from the King Folk tree to other trees on ancestry. We are adding new items all the time. Anyone wishing to have access to the King Folk tree itself should send an email to Char, who will send them an invite through ancestry.com. The new user then accepts the invite and then can access the tree.

Thia Bell asked whether we can black out Social Security numbers on the death certificates posted online, but Char noted that we do not post anything recent. Daniel Frommherz is helping Char, and several others are also working to try to fill in the blanks on the King Folk tree. Thank you to Char who is paying the annual fee for the

tree. Thia asked whether the family association could pay some of that cost, but Char declined any reimbursement.

Pat Holler also started a Plunkett Family tree on ancestry, and said she will gladly share any information there with interested individuals.

Winnie Trump could not attend today because she is in California for a wedding. But she sent us copies of last year's reunion group photo. Thank you to Winnie for all her work on photos. (Another group picture was taken today.)

New Business: Mark Hazelton is the principal of the Kings Valley Charter School. They now have insurance for the school that requires any group using the school facilities to have its own insurance. (We still pay only \$35 rent each year.) So we now have a liability insurance policy issued for today only, \$1 million in coverage for a cost of \$103. This is a new expense for the reunion. We were able to purchase the coverage through the same company that insures the school.

The Kings Valley Charter School graduated its first class of 3 seniors this year. They want to build a new school gym.

Char reported that the Commander's House (sometimes called the Phil Sheridan house) was moved from Ft. Hoskins to Pedee many years ago. Several King Family members went on a recent fundraising tour to Ft. Hoskins which helped to raise money for moving the home back to Ft. Hoskins to its original site.

Earle said that the building was constructed when Gen. Phil Sheridan was at Ft. Hoskins. People still debate how it was originally moved from Ft. Hoskins to Pedee: either by river or with a team of horses and log rollers all the way. The house was cut in half and the back half is gone, so they want to reconstruct it. It is in amazingly good shape, with renters actually still living in it.

They are now trying to raise \$50,000 for the move. Nigel Parkhurst said that since we have already today obligated substantial funding to directly benefit the King Family, he thinks we should decline to participate in this project, though we think it is a worthy one.

Officers' Terms: Current officers' terms run through 2014.

The next reunion will take place on 22 June 2013.

Book: Tracy Willie noted that a book, History of NW Portland from the River to the Hills by Jane Comerford, mentions Amos King's property several times. He owned part of what is now Washington Park.

Tracy asked whether anyone is interested in the King Family's having a presence on Facebook.

Also Tracy noted that Amos King's family plot in Riverview Cemetery in Portland shows some decline of condition of the stones.

Bibles: Daniel Frommherz noted that he had Luther King's Bible restored. It is dated 1857. Luther was Nahum King's younger half-brother. Don VanEtten also brought Daniel Abe King's family Bible. Daniel plans to have that one restored as well. He said he is not the "owner" of the Bibles, but their caretaker.

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

Patricia Plunkett Holler
Secretary