

KING FAMILY REUNION
Kings Valley School Gym
Kings Valley, Oregon
June 22, 2013

About 60 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

Descendant Attendees: Dan Trump called out the names of each of the King children and asked their descendants to stand:

Descendants of Saretta King who were present: 0

Lucretia King: 2

John King: 2

Hopestill King: 15

Stephen King: 0

Isaac King: 6

Amos King: 0

Sarah King: 0

Lovisa: 5

Abigail: 2

Lydia: 0

Soloman: 8

Rhoda Ann: 1

All were asked to stay after the meeting so Winnie Trump could once again take pictures of each family group.

Eight people present said they were not Kings nor connected to the King family.

First time attendees: Diana McDonald (Hopestill King Norton and Eethel Plunkett descendant,) and Sherry (Mike) Porter, a Plunkett descendant from Blodgett.

We missed some regular attenders from years past were unable to attend today: Nigel Parkhurst, Sherry Fish and Carole Putman.

A special item on display today was Abe King's Bible, which Daniel Frommherz recently had restored.

Special thank yous to Earle Greig and Bill Dixon, who faithfully place flags on veterans' graves in local cemeteries each Memorial Day.

Secretary's report: The secretary summarized the highlights from the minutes of the 2012 meeting.

Treasurer's report: Anne Trussell thanked Vangie Greig for her help today at the registration table. We have \$4,028.81 in our treasury for various projects.

Thank you to all those that have paid their dues and made extra donations.

We paid out \$103 for insurance for today's use of the school gym. (\$1 million liability policy that is now required by the school.)

If anyone present did not receive a copy of this year's newsletter until today, please let Anne know and she will add their names to the list for next year. Also we need to keep Anne advised of any address changes to keep the mailing list current. Newsletters are mailed out around April 1 of each year. Thank you to Mimi Stang and Earle & Vangie Greig for producing and mailing the newsletters again! (Please send any items to be included in the next newsletter to Mimi.)

Terms of all current officers run through 2014.

Word was received this year of the passing of Mary Gerding and Roy Taylor. Please continue sending all obituaries to David Trask to be included in his collection.

Pat Holler noted that today, Hayley Thompson is getting married. (She was the model for the cover of the book A Heart for Any Fate (the novel about the King family) a few years ago.

Kings Valley Cemetery: Last year this group authorized spending up to \$1500 for stones of King Family members, and an additional \$700 for stones for Andrew and Almeda (VanBibber King) Zumwalt.

Thank you to Earle Greig and Bill Dixon for their work on this project. We contracted with Jeff Hilts of West Salem to do the stone work. Several stones were repaired, including that of Lt. H. H. Gasper of Fort Hoskins. He was from back east somewhere, and has no family in the area. His stone was bought and placed in the cemetery by his comrades from Fort Hoskins, which was not an ordinary practice. Bill Dixon described the physical process of removal of his old stone, which had 2 heavy bases under it, and then the resetting of the stone. Earle said that the stone broke 3 different times, and each time it was reset. We saved a portion of the original marker.

The Frantz spire toppled down over the bank during an earthquake some years ago. Bill noted that it was 85 feet straight down the bank above the water. A neighbor had a friend who owns an old wrecker truck with a winch. He was glad to help retrieve the

spire by hooking onto it and winching it back up the bank. He laid it alongside the Frantz graves, where it belonged. Jeff Hilts just recently placed it upright again.

Earle reported that we heard of a young mother from the Norton family who died along with her three children in a house fire. Anne researched the story and located an article in the Corvallis Gazette-Times dated October 9, 1896 that told the story, which she read to today's group: "Mrs. Thos. Savage and 3 Children Burned in House Fire." She was Leonora Savage, aged 20, daughter of Nahum Norton. We still do not know the names of the three children. Mr. Savage later remarried. We placed a new stone in the cemetery this year honoring the mom, two small sons and an infant. Earle explained that we do not know for certain the exact location of her grave, so we placed the marker by her father's grave.

Earle brought up the VanBibber-Zumwalt stones.

Almeda and Andrew were buried in the Kings Valley cemetery next to her parents, but never had gravestones. Instead, their graves were marked by 4 lilac trees, some of which still bloom every spring. He noted that Almeda VanBibber King Zumwalt was the only wife of Isaac King, and mother of his children. Her second husband was Andrew Jackson Zumwalt. Andrew is buried alongside his wife, while Isaac King & other members of his family are buried on Isaac's Donation Land Claim in a small private cemetery. Some years ago Almeda had a small metal marker that is now gone.

Mimi introduced Charlotte Wirfs, former president of the King Family Association. Char noted that a family letter from the 1940s confirmed that A. J. Zumwalt was buried in the Kings Valley Cemetery. We recently located his death certificate, which also confirms this. She explained that Almeda's four Zumwalt children are not members of the King family. Almeda's parents, Martha and Lazarus VanBibber also were not King family members, and they are buried alongside Almeda. Almeda married Isaac King. The VanBibbers and Zumwalts came to Oregon via the Southern Route in 1846.

Earle Greig and Pat Holler are currently members of the Kings Valley Cemetery Board. Pat will try to help the KV Cemetery Secretary by sharing some King Family obits or death certificates that they lack.

Pictures were on display today showing the new and repaired stones from the past year.

Mimi explained that the Frantz family were also not members of the King Family, but it was a gesture of goodwill for us to pay to have their spire put back into place. It looks beautiful now. However, Ellen Craven said that Mrs. Frantz was related to the Kings and also to the Groshong family.

We spent \$850 out of the \$1500 that was authorized a year ago for this work. The Zumwalt stones are not done yet, so we have not spent any of the \$700 authorized for

that project. We think we have enough money left for the additional stones and more repairs.

Ruth Stellmon moved to “trust the board to use discretion to spend additional money if needed.” The motion was seconded and passed with no objections.

Historian’s report: David Trask said this is the 30th reunion he’s attended. He gave a summary of how things have changed over those years, as far as family records are concerned. He now has well over 10,000 pages of information on the Kings and other related families

He said he is now trying to get all his information scanned and put onto CDs. So far, he estimates that 20% of the collection is in digital format. Several people, including Anne, Pat, George Davidson and Char Wirfs, have helped to do the scanning.

David maintains obituary files and other items of documentation regarding our family roots. He noted that we probably have as much or more information than any other family association, anywhere.

He thanked those who brought him new documents today, and encouraged all to send copies we locate to him. He noted that even when we send him something that may seem too simple to hardly notice, it could be one of the missing pieces that his collection lacked.

He also collects pictures of family grave markers.

Photo CD Update: Anne reported that the photo CD project began in 2007, and has been updated annually since then with photos and other items that people brought in—until last year, when contributions just seemed to dry up. Because no one sent her anything new, this is the first year that we do not have a new CD. She reminded people to send pictures to her—not just of family members, but of the area, too: Kings Valley, Summit, Blodgett, Philomath, etc.

The latest newsletter and minutes are also available in digital form.

Char reported that we are now on Facebook, thanks to Traci Willey. It is a public page, called Kings Valley Kin. Facebook members may search for that name. ((You have to push “like” to get to that page.) We are using the Facebook page for communicating what is new (current and recent news) while the tree on ancestry.com takes care of the old. Both are free to use, though one must belong to Facebook to access that page. A photo of a nice oil painting of the Chambers Mill is posted there.

We have been on ancestry.com for several years now. Our tree is called King Folk, which now contains more than 10,000 names, plus photos, obits, stories and other documents.

Daniel Frommherz requested that census and other information be added to the King Folk tree.

Char invited people to email her if they wish to have access to the King Folk tree. Char and Anne will be available after the business meeting today to help people or answer questions. Char's email address is charwirfs@gmail.com. Char is also working to get David's collection onto ancestry.

Pat Plunkett Holler also has a lot of Plunkett information posted on her ancestry.com tree, called Plunkett/Zumwalt/Baltruschat, including some info that is not posted on the King Folk tree.

Thanks to Anne for making 3 posters displaying Kings Valley history that were on display today.

Thank you to Winnie Trump for the family group photos from last year.

Mimi noted that the Commander's House did get moved successfully from Pedee back to Ft. Hoskins. It was moved in 2 pieces.

It was reported that the board is considering what to do about Darby Cemetery in Plain City, Ohio. Three of Nahum & Sarepta's children are buried there, but their original stones have disappeared. Pat Holler visited there in 1977-78 and took pictures of Hannah and Dulany's stones, but never found one for James Russell. A few years ago the 2 girls' stones were no longer standing when Anne and Rick Trussell visited the cemetery. However, Rick found one of them in a pile of discarded stones! The Trussells plan to drive to Ohio again next year, so if we wanted to have a replacement stone made, they would deliver it. Estimated cost is a few hundred dollars for a stone, plus we would have to pay the cemetery to install it (probably an additional \$250 to \$350.) None of the three children died as infants, but all were under 12. We think it probable that the girls died in the cholera epidemic of 1825-26, and then James died in 1829. The Darby Cemetery is less than a mile from where the Kings lived.

After some discussion, consensus was that it is a good idea to pursue this project. Anne is awaiting a return call from the cemetery for permission and more particulars.

Pat suggested that we should identify the new stone as coming from the King Family in Oregon, and others liked that idea.

Anne noted that Hannah's original stone may be the only physical thing that Nahum and Sarepta did in Ohio that still remains. Also, it clearly shows the spelling of Nahum and Sarepta's names.

Traci Willey moved, seconded by Ellen Craven to proceed. All voted aye.

Consensus was also that Anne & Rick should bring Hannah's old stone (that Rick found) back to Oregon for safekeeping.

Lynee Carpenter was here this year, and displayed a large painting she had commissioned. The painting is entitled A King's Ransom, by Tina Lee Fisher who also was here at the reunion. It depicts the King Family's covered wagons and horses on the open prairie. Thank you, Lynee and Tina. Prints of the painting can be ordered from KLKKCARP@centurytel.net.

Jane Frommherz brought some pins for sale that say "King's Kids." She will donate 25 cents from each sale to the King family.

Next year's reunion will take place on June 21, 2014, at which time officers will be elected.

Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary