

KING FAMILY REUNION
Kings Valley School Gym
Kings Valley, Oregon
June 21, 2014, 1:00 P.M.

About 70 family members and guests attended this annual reunion and potluck, and most stayed for the business meeting. President Mimi Stang presided.

President Mimi introduced the other officers:

Secretary, Patricia Plunkett Holler
Treasurer, Anne Trussell
Historian, David Trask
Char Wirfs, Past President

Vice President Earle Greig was unable to attend due to a grandchild's wedding today.

The youngest person present was Nigel Parkhurst's grandson Oliver, age 3.

First time attendees: Jerry Gross (descendant of Sol King) and his wife and daughter from Corvallis. Char Kingsbury (descendant of Hopestill King Norton). Renee Dick and Bonnie Witham, both also descendants of Hopestill. Also Nicki and Delores Porter Dziggel, from Stayton. Also attending the reunion for the first time in many years were Calvin Ramsdell and his mother Hazel Ramsdell (Hopestill). They were unable to stay for the meeting, as was Margaret Price Moore (also descended from Hopestill).

A very special item on display earlier today was Isaac King's family Bible, brought by the Ramsdells. They graciously allowed us to make photocopies of the family information the Bible contains.

Secretary's report: The secretary summarized highlights from the minutes of the 2013 meeting.

Auction: In 1994-95 we had t-shirts printed with a King Family coat-of-arms, and with a different color shirt assigned for each King son or daughter that had descendants. Pat Holler brought hers today (jade green color for Hopestill's line) to be auctioned. Nigel Parkhurst acted as auctioneer, and Delores Porter Dziggel won the bid for \$8.00.

The next item to be auctioned was a hardback copy of Linda Crew's novel *A Heart for Any Fate*, signed by the author. (Hardback edition is now out of print.) Nigel summarized the book's plot as being 'the Oregon Trail trek as seen through young Lovisa King's eyes, adding that the book is "a historical piece about us." ' Currently similar copies of the book sell online for between \$30 and \$185. Les Fish was the successful bidder, for \$40. (Linda Crew has had medical problems for the past year, and was not able to attend today's reunion.)

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Anne Trussell reported that we have \$3953.74 in the King Family Association treasury. Thank you to all those that have paid their dues and made extra donations. She summarized expenses for the past year: \$244 for reunion expenses, \$103 for insurance, \$50 to rent the school gym for the day, \$91 for sound system rental, and \$449 for printing and mailing out the annual King Folk newsletter.

Newsletter Report: Mimi Stang was editor this year, and Earle and Vangie Greig were again "helpers extraordinaire" in mailing it out. Anne Trussell will take over as King Folk editor next year.

David Trask's son Ryan asked that a note be included in this year's newsletter asking other younger King family members to get in touch with him. Ryan could not attend today's meeting because he is currently in Uganda, serving on a mission trip.

Cemetery Report: Bill Dixon and Earle Greig continue to do a lot of work on the cemetery. Pat Holler and Earle are both members of the Kings Valley Cemetery Board.

Pat has been researching the story of Lt. H. H. Garber, who died while serving at Ft. Hoskins in 1859 and is buried at Kings Valley. She summarized what she has learned so far, and will make the story (when complete) available to all who are interested.

Anne reported that we spent a total of \$875 to repair the grave stones of Lt. Garber (who was not a King family member and has no family in the West) as well as the Savage and Van Bibber stones and the Frantz spire. (In 2012 this group authorized up to \$1500 for this work.)

Also we only spent \$250 of the \$700 authorized for a stone for Almeda VanBibber King Zumwalt and her husband Andrew Jackson Zumwalt.

Bill Dixon noted that Lovisa King Chambers' stone is now leaning, and that Jeff Hilts will straighten it for a fee of \$200.

Char Wirfs noted that we have in the past talked about restoring stones located in cemeteries other than Kings Valley for members of the King Family. Melinda Norton Price (descendant of Hopestill) is buried in the Jacksonville OR city cemetery, and she has no stone. We have documentation of her death in a letter written to her sister Ashnah Norton Plunkett by a neighbor who was there when Melinda passed on at the age of only 31. Char said she will be working on this during the next year, and suggested that we keep it in mind for an upcoming project.

Someone asked about whether we should make a cash donation to the Kings Valley Cemetery, and a discussion took place about the amount. Anne reported that our last two donations were \$500. Traci Willey moved, seconded by Daniel Frommherz to donate \$500 to the cemetery, to be used at the cemetery board members' discretion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Dixon reported that the Isaac King cemetery (located on his DLC) needs a lot of help. The fence needs to be repaired. Volunteers including Bill and also Earle Greig have been working to start clearing out the brush that took over the cemetery years ago. Nigel said we need to know more about specific needs there before we make a decision on how to help. A report was requested to include in next year's newsletter.

Historian's Report: David Trask reported that this is the 30th anniversary of the first King reunion he has attended! He has been compiling family history information for more years than that, and his collection now totals well over 10,000 pages of information. He encouraged others to volunteer to help maintain and scan the collection. So far, 4 or 5 CDs have been scanned from his notebooks, and the goal is to get more of the paper collection transferred to digital files. David now has two complete and updated sets of the entire collection, for security purposes. He asked that everyone keep sending obits, pictures of gravestones, death certificates and other information to him. Mimi added, "If in doubt, just send it to David!"

Old Business:

Photo CD: Anne reported that we had no new CD last year because no new pictures came in. This year we had a lot of pictures from Bill Dixon and others. (A picture of Bill Dixon and his dog, riding on a horse, is the CD cover picture for this year.)

Also included on the 2014 CD are pictures of moving the Commander's House from Pedee back to Ft. Hoskins; pictures of setting the new and repaired stones; and some photos of the Isaac King Cemetery (all you can see is brush and a huge job ahead.) Shaun Davis sent some Plunkett family pictures, and there are pictures of the old Isaac King barn.

Today, Naomi Jones brought in a pile of pictures, as did Calvin Ramsdell, so we already have enough new material to insure the making of another CD for next year.

Anne thanked those who contributed items for the 2014 CD: Bill Dixon, Earle Greig, Margaret Fox, Shaun Davis, Peter Lema, Winnie Trump, Pat Holler and Liz Carter.

Darby Cemetery, Ohio: Anne noted that last year we voted to replace the stones of Hannah and Dulaney King who died between 1823 and 1825, and also to have a stone made for James Russell King, who we believe is probably also buried in Darby. Anne displayed pictures of the original stones for the two little girls, taken by Pat Holler in the late 1970s. Darby Cemetery is in Plain City, Ohio, near where the King Family lived for the longest spell of time before they moved to Oregon. She also displayed pictures that she and Rick took in 2012 when they visited, including one showing Hannah's stone lying broken on the ground. Last year, our intent was to have one new stone made for all three King kids. But in the meanwhile, Darby Cemetery hired a company named Stone Huggers to repair and replace many stones over a two-year period. They sent pictures to Anne of both Hannah and Dulaney's original stones, now nicely repaired.

The picture that Pat took showed the stones up against the edge of the woods, but now they are in the third row back. The stones have been reset near to stones from the Dominey family, who were also relatives. Since we did not have to pay for a new replacement stone, we sent the Darby Cemetery a \$200 donation to help with the costs of repairs they made. (Rick Trussell noted that it is possible that the brush just grew up around the graves at the time Pat's picture was taken, and it has now been cleared out.)

Dulaney King was 11 years old at the time of her death in 1823; Hannah was 9 in 1825, and James Russell King died in 1829 at the age of 3. We do not know for sure that James was buried in Darby, but we are assuming that he would have been. The cemetery people looked for a stone for James (in a large pile of discarded stones that Trussells saw when they last visited there). They will keep his name and information in case a stone for him turns up somewhere there in the future.

Char reported that the King Folk family tree on ancestry.com continues to grow (with currently more than 10,200 names). Char will send an invitation to any family members to view the site at no cost if they are not already an ancestry member. Documents, photos, death/marriage/census information are all continually being added. Also our Kingsvalleykin Facebook page has some very active online members, and is more of a chatty site and the place where we post current things like illnesses, awards, current photos, etc. Everything we post online always contains our trademark line, "Posted by King Folk," or "King Family Association of Oregon." That way, whenever our material is copied by others, our name always goes with it. Char added that Facebook is devoted to "living history" while ancestry.com is devoted more to the past. To access the Facebook site, someone must be a Facebook member, and every member can also post there.

King Folk Directory: Nigel noted that we have published the family member's directory for many years, with a new updated edition each previous year. However, this year there were few changes so we decided to only publish an addendum page. (Please continue to send corrections and additions to either Nigel or Anne.)

New Business: Mimi brought up the suggestion that possibly we should consider changing the date for the annual reunion, adding that this is a "sacred day" for us. However, after some discussion consensus was to leave it as is—always the Saturday after Father's Day.

Election of Officers: Mimi Stang announced that she has decided that she does not wish to be considered for reelection as president, after serving in that capacity for the past 14 years. However, all the other officers are willing to continue to serve in their respective offices.

Charlotte Wirfs made a motion to nominate Traci Willey (descendant of Isaac) for president, and to reelect the existing vice president, secretary, treasurer and historian.

Char said that Traci works as a library assistant in Tigard, and this fall she plans to start working on a master's degree program, continuing to pursue the fields of library science and research. Nigel Parkhurst seconded Char's motion, adding that Mimi is leaving some very big shoes to fill. Traci has both youth and interest in the King Family Association, as well as researching experience. All of which makes her a very qualified candidate. Nigel also then moved to close the nominations.

[Mimi only very recently advised the other officers of her wish to no longer serve as president. Since this Association meets only once a year and we have no bylaws that define how we are to elect officers, the officers served as the nominating committee. All the officers agreed that we would like to nominate her for the position of president if Traci was willing to serve. After some consideration, she allowed her name to be placed in nomination.]

During discussion, Daniel Frommherz said he thinks we need to think about it before we close nominations. However, Mimi noted that it is not advisable for the King Family Association to go a whole year until the next reunion without a president. The motion to close the nominations was seconded.

On call for vote on the motion to the elect officers, all voted aye, motion carried. Mimi congratulated Traci on her appointment.

President Traci told us that she became interested in genealogy because of her grandmother. Then, she discovered that one of her best friends in school was also a King family member. She has attended this reunion off and on for about 20 years. She said she hopes to do a "really good job" for us.

Note: All the officers were elected for an indefinite term.

Char called attention to an interesting artifact that Norm Chambers brought in today—a cannon ball believed to have come from Fort Hoskins. Norm's father dug it out of a field near the site of the old fort. It is an 8-pound ball, and Norm said "It's real cool!" Char noted that Norm also has a wonderful collection of arrowheads found in Kings Valley.

David noted that Char served for 7 years as our president, and now Mimi has served for 14 years. He presented Mimi with a plaque honoring her for "outstanding service...with much gratitude." Mimi said she did it as a labor of love and also for her grandchildren who are King family members. She said she herself "doesn't have roots like the Kings have." Mimi said she intends to keep attending the reunions.

Traci asked Mimi whether there is a term of office, and Mimi said not as far as she knows.

Winnie Trump noted that last year Lynee Carpenter (descendant of Sol King) brought a painting that she commissioned Tina Turner, an artist friend of hers, to paint. Winnie said there are information sheets at the registration desk, and prints of the picture are

still available. Lynee is attending her daughter's graduation from medical school today, so she was not able to be with us this year. Since there were no photographs of the King family as they came west, Lynee researched the exact date they crossed the Big Blue River in Kansas (May 13, 1845) and so the picture was oriented to look like that time of year.

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned at 2:21 P.M.

Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary

Note: During the meeting we usually call out the name of each King child and ask their descendants who are present to stand. However, this year we forgot to do that. Anne Trussell went through the registration forms from the reunion and came up with this approximate (but probably incomplete) count:

Lucretia	2
John	2
Hopestill	15
Isaac	7
Lovisa	4
Abigail	5
Soloman	6
Rhoda	4

Next Reunion: Saturday, June 27, 2015