

KING FAMILY REUNION  
Fort Hoskins Historical Park, Benton County OR  
July 11, 2015

This was a different sort of reunion, held outside under the gazebo at Ft. Hoskins. It was a beautiful sunny day, and sixty-seven family members and guests registered today. Our president Traci Willey presided, and she welcomed a number of first-timers. (Many were from the Norton family.) We even had some visitors from Montana and Maryland!

There was a tie between Art Dixon (aged 90) and Earle Greig (turning 90 in a few weeks) for the oldest person present. The youngest was an 8-year old from the Norton family. One family member, Nicole Dziggel, was celebrating her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday by attending the reunion. And Wiley Norton celebrated his birthday yesterday. We sang happy birthday to them all.

Our Treasurer could not be here today, but she reports that we have just over \$4100 in the treasury.

Char Wirfs, who also could not be here today, is heading up a committee to decide which King family grave stones need work next. Our first priority in years past was for those of the first generation. The committee will do an inventory of needed repairs, etc. (Contact Char at [charwirfs@gmail.com](mailto:charwirfs@gmail.com).)

Isaac King is a different issue. He is buried on his Donation Land Claim which is now in private ownership. We may decide to put a stone in the Kings Valley Cemetery as a permanent memorial to honor Isaac, who has many descendants. Please email our president, Traci Willey, at [traci1031@gmail.com](mailto:traci1031@gmail.com) with questions, ideas and concerns concerning this project.

We have not decided where next year's reunion will be held. One possibility that has come up is to rent the Methodist Church's meeting room. It is located next door to the Benton County Museum in Philomath. Attendees were asked to let the Board members know if they have other ideas for possible future reunion sites. Consensus was that we definitely want to continue having the annual reunions!

Someone suggested that we might possibly also have some type of off-season get-together for indoor research.

Our Historian, David Trask, also was absent. He and his wife are back East touring colleges with their son Ryan.

Someone asked why this reunion did not take place at the Kings Valley School as it has for the past many years. There are several reasons, but in general cleaning up the school gym in time for our reunion is a lot of hard work. We always had to clean it thoroughly (custodians apparently wait to do their cleaning in the late summer before school reopens) besides setting up the tables and chairs, and we also cleaned the kitchen for our potluck. Then we had to clean up again after our reunion. We also had to purchase liability insurance for reunion day. A stalwart group of family members always went to the gym a few days ahead of our reunion to do the cleaning work. So, we decided to hold a brown-bag picnic at Ft. Hoskins this year.

It cost \$195 to rent the park facilities for today, but we will get a \$100 refund back if we leave the park clean after the reunion.

Someone remembered that years ago this reunion was held at Avery Park in Corvallis. Earle said he inquired and learned that the park facilities rent in four-hour increments, 8-12 Noon and Noon to 4 PM, etc.

President Traci noted that we are collecting email addresses, and we would like to be able to send out at least some of next year's King Folk newsletters by email instead of paying for paper, printing and postage.

All the remaining green t-shirts that we had on hand were sold today. Will we do more shirts? Please let Traci know if you are interested, and we will consider making another order of shirts.

King Family Photo CDs are for sale today—individual years from 2007-2012 and 2014. (There was no CD made in 2013.) \$5 each + \$3 for mailing. Contact our Treasurer, Anne Trussell, to purchase them, at [atru02@comcast.net](mailto:atru02@comcast.net).

Art Seavy displayed a signature quilt that he brought. It was from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and some of the signatures were from the Plunkett family.

President Traci introduced the officers: Vice President Earle Greig, and Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary. (Absent, Anne Trussell; Treasurer, Historian David Trask and Past President Char Wirfs.)

Someone asked how long these reunions have been held. No one knows for sure, but we do have a picture from 1888 of a Chambers family reunion, so we know that reunions have been held for way over 100 years. This year is the 170<sup>th</sup> year since the King Family came to Oregon in 1845.

A list of the King children were read, and descendants of each one were asked to stand:

- Lucretia King – 3 present
- John King – 2 present
- Hopestill King – 31 present
- Isaac King – 2 present
- Lovisa King – 3 present
- Soloman – 5 present
- Rhoda Ann King – 1 present

Thank you to Vangie Greig who worked at the registration table today.

After the business meeting ended, Sally Greig took a group photo of those in attendance.

Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary