

KING FAMILY REUNION
College United Methodist Church, Philomath, Oregon
June 25, 2016

This was the first reunion held in the church next to the Benton County Museum. It was a beautiful sunny day, and about 80 family members and guests attended today. Our president Traci Schilling Willey (descendant of Isaac King) presided.

Traci introduced herself, saying that she is working toward her master's degree in library science, and will graduate next spring. As part of her graduate work she would like to do something about the King Family, to help preserve our heritage for the future.

She then introduced vice president Earle Greig (descendant of Hopestill King.) Earle received a round of applause for coordinating today's tours of the museum's storage building next to the church, and he also made arrangements with the current property owner so that we can visit the Isaac King Cemetery that is located on Isaac's DLC later in the day. Thanks also to Earle's wife Vangie who for years has been faithful in preparation and clean up and registration for these reunions.

Traci asked the officers to introduce themselves.

Earle Greig said he has served 8 to 10 years as vice president. He also works on cemetery repairs and many other tasks related to preserving our history.

Anne Trussell (descendant of Lucretia King), our treasurer since 2001, is stepping down this year, but she plans to continue producing the annual family newsletter. Thank you to Anne for all that she has done for the King Family over the years. Anne also coordinated the photo CD project.

Patricia Plunkett Holler (descendant of Hopestill King) has been secretary since the 1980s.

Past president Char Wirfs (descendant of Isaac and Lovisa King) has been active in many areas, such as helping to procure grave stones for first-generation King Family members who never had stones. She got involved with family history in the 1970s, and she and Pat Holler actually met each other in the basement of the Benton County Court House one day while both were there researching family history.

Char reminded us that this King reunion goes back for over a hundred years. When we were kids it was always held at Avery Park in Corvallis, and many of us remember older cousins taking us across the park to see the bear that lived there.

OLD BUSINESS:

King Folk Family Tree on ancestry.com Char donates the cost of membership in ancestry.com and maintains the King Folk family tree there. This is an extensive family tree that goes back to our ancestor Nahum King and wife Sarepta Norton, for whom Kings Valley is named. A team of several other King cousins also contribute information to this tree, and Char enrolls any family members that are interested, which is free to the enrollees.

This Year's New Grave Stone Report: This past year Char headed up the project to place a stone for Melinda Norton Price (descendant of Hopestill King) who died in Jacksonville, OR. Char told the story of how a neighbor took care of her during her last illness because Melinda's husband was out of town. Later that neighbor wrote another family member a wonderful letter about Melinda's last days. (It was also published in a recent King Folk newsletter, all of which are now available online.) We do not know why Melinda never had a stone before now.

DNA: Traci announced that we are trying to find a male, direct-line King descendant who would be willing to take a Y-DNA test that the family association would pay for. We had a couple of suggested names, but unfortunately we have so far been unable to contact them. Please let us know if you have a way to contact any direct-line King males.

Anne explained that this person must be a father/son/son/son etc. direct descendant from Nahum King. There is a King DNA project online, but we cannot identify any participants there with Nahum's family. If we could make a connection, it would likely go back at least 10 to 15 generations.

Formerly we believed that all of Nahum's siblings were from Amos King's first wife Hopestill, but new information seems to indicate that some of them came from his second wife.

Isaac King Cemetery Update: This small family cemetery contains only 4 graves and is located on what was Isaac's Donation Land Claim in Kings Valley. Earle reported that the new property owners, Mr. & Mrs. Wischnofske(?), have done a lot of work to clear out the poison oak and to improve the road across their land to the cemetery. This afternoon, after the business meeting concludes, they have invited us to caravan out to the cemetery. Most of us have never been there, so this is a special treat for the King Family.

Next Year's Reunion: Earle proposed that we look into doing a bus tour as part of next year's reunion. A majority indicated interest by raising their hands. The cost is unknown, but we will gather information in time for the newsletter that comes out in April. There are many family-connected sites to see in this area. We would need to have people pre-register so we know how large a bus we would need, etc.

Election of new Treasurer: Earle nominated Pam Dixon Peck (descendant of Hopestill King) to serve as treasurer. The motion was seconded, and no other nominations were heard. On call for vote, all voted aye, motion carried and Pam was elected as our new treasurer.

Birthdays: Earle wished Pam Peck a happy birthday, as well as her Dad Bill Dixon, whose birthday is the day after tomorrow. Cynthia Long's birthday is also around this time, and Ellen Craven said her youngest son turns 55 today.

Treasurer's Report: Outgoing treasurer Anne reported that we spent \$325 on Melinda Norton Price's stone, and the newsletter cost \$672 including postage. We are encouraging people to choose to receive the newsletter via email now, rather than through the Post Office.

The reunion costs totaled \$291, but if we leave the room very clean we will get a \$50 refund from the church.

Total expenses for last year: \$1266. Dues and donations came in at \$1503. We have a balance of \$4496.72 in the treasury.

Traci introduced David Trask (descendant of Isaac King), the King Family historian, or as we sometimes say, "The Keeper of the Books."

David noted that several people are interested in joining the DAR, and David would be the person to talk to for information and copies of documents.

George Davidson (descendant of Hopestill King) did a wonderful job in setting up a new King Family website at www.kingfolk.co. (NOTE: NOT .com!) The website has many pictures, documents, all issues of the King Folk newsletter, reunion minutes from the past, and much more. George has been busy today with scanning and taking more pictures to add to the site. Thank you, George!

Thank you to the Benton County Museum and volunteers. We were thrilled to get to see numerous artifacts from the King Family on the several tours earlier this morning. They are raising \$ to build a new museum downtown in Corvallis, so we all are encouraged to support their efforts.

The Benton County Genealogical Library next door was also open today. We appreciate all the volunteers who worked on our behalf today.

President Traci said she would like to have next year's reunion here again.

NEW BUSINESS:

Maxine Sprick (descendant of Isaac King) brought up several items:

She reminded us that the street in Corvallis known as Kings Boulevard once bordered the property owned by Sol King. She said whenever we drive down it, we should do so with pride in our hearts.

She asked how many others present are descended from Isaac King, and several raised their hands. She suggested that perhaps we should place a monument in the Kings Valley Cemetery to honor Isaac and 3 of his family members that are buried on his old DLC. The Isaac King Cemetery is generally not open to the public, except on very rare occasions like this afternoon.

Traci noted that we do have the King Family stone in the Kings Valley Cemetery that names all the children. If we did do a stone for Isaac and his family, it should say that it is a memorial stone, and that he is buried on the DLC—nearby but not generally accessible.

Anne noted that we would need to get permission from the Kings Valley Cemetery Assn..

Also, Rhoda Ann King is buried in Eastern Oregon. (In a cemetery, and she does have a stone.)

Consensus was that we do want to pursue a memorial stone for Isaac King, and that we will consider the possibility of a memorial stone also for Rhoda Ann. However, Anne noted that Lydia King is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery in Salem, so the King kids are scattered around.

Thia Bell (descendant of Abigail King) said she attended an event last week at Harris in Benton County, on what was once the Charles King Farm but now is Harris Bridge Winery. She suggested it as another possible reunion spot some time, as they put on all sorts of events.

Traci asked how many had trouble finding this location today, and no one said they did. But we agree that some sort of sign on out the street would be a good idea. (There was also a church-sponsored rummage sale taking place today out on the church lawn.)

Tour to Isaac King Cemetery later today: Earle noted that one grave in the Isaac King Cemetery is unmarked. He was the son of Isaac King's widow Almeda's second marriage with Andrew Jackson Zumwalt. [George Henry Zumwalt (1871-73.)] We would like to have a small marker made for him (estimated cost \$350) and also, Isaac's monument is broken. The property owners already gave us permission to repair it. On call for a vote, all voted in favor of repairing Isaac's stone and purchasing a small stone for little George. No one was opposed.

Earle said he would lead the caravan of vehicles from the church to Isaac's graveyard. It is about 11 miles from here.

We will pose for the annual family picture just before we head to the cemetery.

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

Saretta King - 0
John King – 6 present
Stephen King – 0
Amos King - 0
Lovisa King – 3 present
Lucretia King – 2 present
Hopedill King – 17 present
Isaac King – 8 present
Sarah King – 0
Abigail King – 2
Lydia King - 0
Soloman – 3 present
Rhoda Ann King – 3 present

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M. for the group photo, followed by the tour to Isaac King's small private cemetery.

Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary