

## KING FAMILY REUNION

College United Methodist Church, Philomath, Oregon

June 24, 2017

Again, reunion day was bright and sunny, and about 50 family members and guests attended. President Traci Willey presided. Three people were here for the very first time.

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

Saretta King – 0

Isaac King – 5

John King – 0

Sarah King – 0

Stephen King – 0

Abigail King – 0

Amos King – 0

Lydia King – 0

Lovisa King – 6

Soloman King – 3

Lucretia King – 1

Rhoda Ann King – 3

Hopestill King – 18

Total descendants in attendance: 36

Traci reported that she finished her Master's Degree this past year. Congratulations, Traci!

Vice President Earle Greig is stepping down today, after many years of serving the King family in too many ways to count. THANK YOU, EARLE! All were invited to share in a cake honoring Earle today for his service as our vice president since 2003. So this means that the vice president's position is now open. We will leave this position open for now, until someone steps up who is willing to serve.

Officers were introduced: Pat Plunkett Holler is our secretary. Pam Peck is our treasurer, and David Trask is our long-time historian. Former officers Anne Trussell and Char Wirfs now serve as board members-at-large.

President's report: One of her goals is to research how the King Family can become a non-profit organization. This might open up some grant opportunities for different projects. She will present a report and recommendation at next year's reunion for discussion.

Earle noted that being vice president "was a good job, especially for such a great family, and most especially when it ends with the 'best doggone cake you've ever tasted!' "

This afternoon after the reunion there is an opportunity for all who would like to caravan out to the old Isaac King DLC to view the Isaac King Cemetery (on private property) and also the old King barn which is still in use. We are cautioned to stay on the roadways, because fire hazard concerns are very high in this dry summer. Also we are requested to stay by the barn area, and not to go near the marijuana greenhouses located on the back of the property.

Jane Fromherz offered some lapel pins that say "I'm a King's Kid" for sale for \$1.25 each.

Earle reported that the new monument that we bought for little George Henry Zumwalt (1871-1873, son of Almeda King Zumwalt & her second husband) was placed in the Isaac King Cemetery since the last reunion. Also the owners have installed a wrought iron fence surrounding the graves.

The secretary summarized the minutes of the 2016 reunion meeting. There were no corrections, and the minutes were accepted as presented.

The treasurer reported that we have \$4733.97 in the bank as of today.

The historian said that there isn't much news to report for this year. Please keep sending obits, birth and death information, etc., to David Trask to add to the family archives collection. Thank you to David for once again bringing "a fraction of the collection" for display today.

David said that today he is presenting the original gravestone of the infant son of Amos Nahum & Melinda Fuller King (who died in 1847) to the Benton County Museum. It was originally in the Locke Cemetery, and is believed to be the earliest marker of a King descendant in the Kings Valley area. Many years ago David found the original stone in a pile of stones at the Locke Cemetery and rescued it, keeping it safe through the years. A few years ago the King Family paid to have a replacement marker for the infant set at the Locke Cemetery.

Tour today to Isaac King cemetery & barn: Char Wirfs prepared a nice commemorative tour booklet about the Isaac King DLC and cemetery for our use today. We hope to put out a new tour guide every year now, to various areas connected with the King Family. The same information in the booklet will also be printed on the [kingfolk.co](http://kingfolk.co) family website. Today Char also gave a copy of the booklet to the Museum next door. She will also give copies to both property owners who graciously are allowing us to visit today.

Jane Fromherz volunteered to also take a few copies to the Fromherz reunion that takes place tomorrow.

Char noted 2 corrections in the booklet: on page 6, it should say "great-great", not "3<sup>rd</sup> great." (Isaac King was Char's great-great grandfather.)

Also on the last page, the year for Isaac King's death information from the Corvallis Gazette should read December 1, 1866, not 1886. Isaac King died at the barn on his 47<sup>th</sup> birthday in November 1866.

In 1975 the US Department of the Interior National Parks Service prepared a form that described the houses then remaining on the property and the old barn.

The historical society also researched the history of Isaac's death and they said it was "inconclusive, whether suicide, accident, or even a murder." That is probably why there are so many stories surrounding the death.

The original comments from 1866 appear to have come from an inquest. One said it was suicide and 2 or 3 more said it was an accident, a gunshot by his own hand.

So, we do not know the facts. The family, the community and friends must have all been traumatized. People still talk about it. However, we feel that the documents that are dated closest to the date of death are probably the most factual.

There is evidence at the Benton County Courthouse of a coroner's inquest being held. However, the clerk said the file contents are missing. It will be a continuing project for the King Family to continue digging for the facts in this matter.

Earle told us about the Isaac King barn. There is a picture of his mother at the barn. She and Earle together looked for any bullet holes in the barn years ago.

Earle will lead today's tour. He asked those in attendance to help with cleaning up this room in the church, because last year Pam Peck was left to do most of the cleanup. (Thank you, Pam.) We all need to help with this.

Sherry Fish said that someone tried last year to obtain GPS coordinates for the Isaac King cemetery, but they were unsuccessful because there is no cell service out there.

**Y-DNA Testing:** Anne Trussell said we are still looking for a direct-line male King descendant who would be willing to take a DNA test. The King Family will pay for the test.

Anne said that currently Ancestry DNA has the largest database (close to 4 million participants). There are 33 matches in our "DNA Circle" of King connections.

Anne reported that her connection through a female line of Kings shows some Native American ancestry. Earle's test came back the same as Anne's, so likely somewhere among the Norton family there is some Native American blood.

**DAR & SAR Application:** Anne said that the first thing is to contact the national organization. They will give an applicant some paperwork to complete. Amos King (Nahum's dad) was a Revolutionary War soldier.

There are two Amos Kings whose service is documented in Revolutionary War records. Unfortunately, the DAR mixed them up for years.

To join, it is necessary to begin with yourself and then work backwards. You must provide birth/death/marriage records (some are available already on our King website). A critical dilemma is that we MUST have the title page from the Nahum King Family Bible.

We have photocopies of the hand-written birth/death/marriage information from the Oregon King family Bible, but no copy of the title page. The Bible itself disappeared from the Benton County Museum.

Char noted that each DAR region has a registrar, and some of them are more meticulous than others. But they will help applicants work on it.

Char is working on this question, but what always stops her is the missing Bible title page. However, the DAR will accept land records.

The missing absolute proof of relationship between Nahum King and his father Amos King is truly our "missing link."

Anne suggested that during the next couple of years, we will try to fill in gaps in the information that Historian David Trask has. David has a funeral card and some other info that may help make the connection.

Those who wish to apply for DAR or SAR membership may contact David for help with documentation. The SAR is easier because someone in Idaho already joined that group through our Amos King and his youngest son Horace. But, the DAR registrar said that the DAR does not accept the SAR's records! (The SAR does accept DAR records.)

Our Nahum King was Amos King's first-born, so we know that Nahum was a descendent of Hopestill Haskins, the first wife of Amos King.

Kings Valley Cemetery report: Earle reported that the cemetery board just applied for and received some small grants. This good news has not yet been made public. The grant funds will be used for a new sign at the cemetery entrance, an informational kiosk to be placed in the cemetery and some new fencing to replace an old fence that has deteriorated. The materials for the new sign have been purchased and the project is already in process.

#### Business Items:

The King Family officers suggest paying \$300 as a donation to the K.V. Cemetery, to be used for improvements at the cemetery. It was moved and seconded to approve this item; all voted aye, motion approved.

President Traci suggested that we also make a \$100 donation to the Benton County Museum as a thank you for the museum tours they hosted this morning. It was moved and seconded to approve this item; all voted aye, motion approved.

For those who are interested in having access to the King Folk family tree on ancestry.com, please contact Char Wirfs.

Char is administrator of the huge King Family tree on ancestry.com. She pays the annual membership fees, and she can send invites to the tree that will allow participants to view the information posted there.

Thank you to Char who pays the membership fees as a contribution to the King Family. Some discussion took place about the membership fees, and consensus was that the King Family should be helping Char with the fee amount.

Deaths during the past year: Michael William Olson; Winnifred Jane Smith died a few months ago, and Mary Gerding died.

Char also noted that the King Family has a Facebook page. Search for it as "Kings Valley Kin."

George Davidson administers a website devoted to the King Family's history: [www.kingfolk.co](http://www.kingfolk.co) ("dot co" NOT dot com!) Thank you, George, for all the work you've done already on this site!

There being no more business, attendees were invited to meet outside for the annual group photo, followed by cleanup of the church meeting room.

Following that, we will caravan from the reunion site to the Isaac King DLC located in Kings Valley.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary