

KING FAMILY REUNION

College United Methodist Church, Philomath, Oregon

June 23, 2018, 1:00 PM

Pre-Business Meeting Presentations:

1. Char Wirfs displayed a quilt made by Hopestill King Norton for Dora Price Allen that was then handed down to Reitha Allen Greig and is now in possession of Sally Greig. It is probably 175 years old! It is the Double Irish Chain pattern, done in red and white which were the most-popular quilt colors of that time. It is completely hand-stitched, made of cotton. On the edge of the quilt, it looks like there is a little blood stain—this was common and was due to a finger being pricked by a needle

Char told us that in today's quilting world ladies sometimes spit on a quilt to clean up blood spots! (It works, but only if the saliva and the blood come from the same owner.)

2. Char Wirfs prepared an informative slide show that depicts the story of Stephen King, son of the Nahum King family that just kept moving west. Char narrated family history and stories that explained the slides. It was very well-received, and we appreciate Char so much! Hopefully the slide show will be made available for viewing on the King Family website at www.kingfolk.co. (NOT .com!)

Only 35 people attended this reunion.

Stephen King Gravesite: Marc Vomocil, of Starker Forests, Inc., of Corvallis, was a guest and he spoke to us about locating the Stephen King grave last year. He led a small group of King descendants onto the property, which is protected by a locked gate. He said that Starker is now trying to repurchase that land.

The grave site is a rectangle-shaped piece of land that is currently covered with rocks that look as if someone placed them there. Nearby daffodils and fruit trees indicate a home site location of the past. (The grave is in Benton County about ten miles from Philomath.) Oregon land-use laws now make it very hard to develop land like that.

The land is now owned by investors from Portland, a timber investment management group. They invest in forest lands, and they bought this land since our group visited it last year. They do not know that the grave is located there.

The new owners cut some trees on the south and west side of the grave, but they didn't damage the grave site.

Kathryn Hood asked, "How do we get the grave protected?"

Traci Willey suggested that we should let the Cemetery Board of the State of Oregon know the grave is there, and see if they would try to help us protect it.

Vomocil said that other Starker lands have four or five small known cemeteries located on them. Starker has allowed a small fence and perhaps a small grave stone on some of the other gravesites.

He said that the most risky thing is that by law timber companies must replant any land that they log, and there is a lot of logging debris near the grave site (but not on it.)

Vomocil left the meeting after he completed his presentation.

King Family Association president Traci Willey then presided over the business meeting. She is a descendant of Isaac King.

Vice President Vacancy: The position of Vice President is still open, after the retirement of Earle Greig last year. The position requires someone who has access to email, and who is able to attend the family reunion annually and to help us manage the reunion. They might also contribute to the annual King Family newsletter.

Reports:

Secretary Patricia Plunkett Holler reviewed the minutes of the 2017 meeting.

Earle Greig gave a brief report on news from the Kings Valley Cemetery. The cemetery board is just beginning the process of having new updated reader boards made, which serve as an index to help cemetery visitors locate specific graves.

Earle also said that Mr. Vomocil left us some pictures taken during the family visit to Stephen King's grave site last year, and he will give them to Anne Trussell for the newsletter.

Treasurer Pam Peck reported that we have a balance of \$4628.34. Report was approved.

Thia Bell moved, seconded by Char Wirfs, to approve the minutes of the 2017 reunion meeting and the treasurer's report. All voted aye, motion carried.

Family Historian David Trask reported that he now has about 10,000 pages of family information, collected over many years with contributions from many people. Please continue to send him copies of all historical documents pertaining to the King Family & descendants, including obituaries.

David said he helped one family member to achieve DAR membership this year. He said his hard copies of family information made the application a "shoe-in." Now, other aspiring DAR members can join by tagging onto that successful application.

Preservation of Family Heirlooms:

David noted that it is very important for us to work to preserve known family heirlooms. A discussion took place about what we can do to preserve them. We need to identify a process to consistently use for this.

It was suggested that we compile a registry describing each item, and how the person who currently has it (or who donated it to a museum) acquired it, etc. (The younger generation may look at something old and automatically think it is “just trash.”) We also need to agree on just how to do this.

Someone suggested that we should write labels for the historical objects and pictures—defining “Who? What? When? Where? Why?”

This year we also assisted a young man with obtaining a scholarship to Western Oregon University as a King descendant. Char Wirfs reported that his family bought the old James Watson/Price place. Their name is Chatfield, and we proved the young man’s lineage which helped him with the scholarship.

Char then offered a challenge to David to begin making a registry of items already housed in museums. She, as “assistant historian” will help with this effort.

Ellen Craven reported that she just recently acquired a trunk that contained a man’s long, heavy wool coat that looks almost like it is new. It belonged to John Patterson, son of Washington “Wash” Patterson. It is an old trunk with a tin top.

Thia Bell displayed a crisscrossed letter written in 1847. It was addressed only to “Washington Pugh, Oregon,” and yet it found its way to him! The letter was said to have been Abigail King Fuller’s most-prized possession.

Regarding the DAR, Char said that there were two Amos Kings that were born about the same time and in the same area. One got credit for serving in the Revolutionary War, but for years the DAR did not recognize our Amos King’s service. We just recently found some new documents which actually included a document needed in the DAR library. So, they finally looked at their files and decided to recognize our Amos King as a Patriot.

What is needed for DAR membership? To prove the relationship from an applicant back to Nahum King of Kings Valley, who was the son of Amos King, Patriot.

OLD BUSINESS: Char noted that the grave of Cynthia, one of the Norton triplets, at the Kings Valley Cemetery had to be moved a few years ago due to landslides at the back of the cemetery. So, we moved her marker. Now the old road is closed so we need to find out about moving the marker back to where it belongs on the grave. (It was formerly located in the middle of the then-road.) The stone was moved some three or four feet to the side. This seems to be a doable project, and we just need to get it done.

Earle Greig moved to have the stone moved back into its proper location. Kathryn Hood seconded the motion. We will approach the Kings Valley Cemetery Association about this. Motion passed.

Char estimated that it will probably cost between \$300 and \$400 to accomplish. Earle said that the base may or may not be reusable. K. Hood said cemeteries are required to use new replacement bases.

Char introduced Kathy Abernathy, descendant of Stephen King and Charles Allen King. She brought some pictures and records from the Wren/Harris area for display today. Unfortunately, no one in attendance was able to identify anyone in the photos. Some were portraits of Charles King's second wife, printed on canvas (cotton or linen.) They are actual photos, but were retouched to make them look like a painting.

Newsletter: It currently costs between \$4 - \$5 to mail out each copy of the King Folk newsletter, and we send out about 140 of them currently. Please send email addresses to Anne Trussell if you are willing to help us save \$ by receiving your copy via email instead of via U.S.P.S. Also please send news and articles related to the King Family to Anne, or suggestions and comments as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Traci Willey announced that ancestry.com has a shop where one may purchase printed copies of family trees. She said she would like to investigate having this done in book format, back to Nahum King. She said she will research the cost.

Foundation/Association? Traci also said she thinks we need to form a foundation. "Non-Profit" status does not work, because we don't do fund-raising or give out grants. The federal government, she said, does not recognize family associations of under \$5000.

Banking laws are also complicated. In order to have a bank account in the name of the King Family we would need to declare ourselves to be a foundation. Our bank account now is in Treasurer Pam Peck's name. We only need to have one director on the board of a foundation, so we are more than covered already. Yes, we would need to report to the IRS periodically. In light of all of this, Traci said we will be incorporating during the next year.

Discussion took place about what we should call the family association. For years, we have simply called ourselves the King Family Association.

Char suggested the "King Family Association of Oregon," or the "King Folk Association." Pat Holler suggested that we could easily add "1845" to either name.

Julie Heinzl suggested not putting "Oregon" in the name. Nahum came from back east, and some descendants do not live in Oregon. Char noted that Nathan King, of Toppenish WA was the one who began researching the King Family of Oregon.

Early research went back only to Nahum King. Now, we have information on the “ancient Kings,” from Nahum King back beyond his father, Amos King.

Someone suggested voting on the association’s name. Traci said she was afraid that would put it off then until next year’s reunion. Discussion took place. Maybe we could vote by email? We do want to get it done.

Vice President Position: Char reminded us that we need to have a new Vice President! Traci said that is really just a matter of being present and participating—a low-key position.

K. Abernathy asked about the duties of Vice President. Earle Greig, our esteemed retired V.P., said he thinks it is a great job to hold. He suggested George Davidson, but George said that his plate is really too full right now.

Traci added that being Vice President does not mean that the person will have to be President at some point.

She also said she is hoping to send monthly emails to the officers this year. We have been lax in the past about communicating between reunions.

Traci said the Oregon Heritage Association feels that email is not a recognized form of meeting, because communication is instantaneous to all. The State of Oregon has guidelines for an Oregon foundation—one “just has to be willing to communicate.”

Reunion Date: K. Hood asked whether the reunion date of the “Saturday after Father’s Day” is “carved in permanent stone.” (For over 100 years, or at least as far back as anyone can remember, the reunion has been held on the Saturday after Father’s Day.)

Hood said that President Traci is missing a professional development opportunity, as the national library association also meets today, and she has missed attending it for a number of years.

Traci said that the board members can discuss this. Reunion attendance has dropped in the last couple of years. In the past it had usually been almost 100, but last year was about the lowest-ever attendance.

Char said that if we do change the date, we need to change it soon, as people need to make their travel plans. Thia Bell said she felt we should settle it today.

The President asked for a show of hands of those in favor of changing the reunion date to another time than the traditional Saturday after Father’s Day. About half the attendees indicated they are agreeable to changing the date.

Discussion then turned to “when.” Some feel that summer time is just too hot. Someone suggested the first Saturday in May (May 4, 2019.)

Julie Heinzl moved, seconded by Kelli Arnold King, that the next reunion be held on May 4, 2019. We will leave it as a brown bag lunch event.

Traci said she wants to look into finding a different site. She suggested the tasting room at Harris Vineyard at Harris in Benton County.

Les Fish suggested using Survey Money, a free program that could do a broadcast to all members of the organization, for surveys, announcements, or general communication. It could also generate more suggestions. He said he has heard good things about it.

Three questions that still need to be answered:

1. Association name change
2. Reunion location.
3. New Vice President

Traci said she will look into Survey Monkey as a possible tool for us to use.

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 P.M.

Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary

Note: Per Treasurer Pam Peck (after the reunion), 35 people descendants and spouses attended this reunion. According to the registration slips, this is the tally of the descendants that were present:

Abigail	1
Isaac	4
Rhoda Ann	1
Amos	1
Lovisa	1
Lucretia	3
Hopestill	14
Stephen	<u>2</u>
Total	27 descendants
