

KING FAMILY REUNION

College United Methodist Church, Philomath, Oregon

May 4, 2019, 1:00 P.M.

About 40 adults plus 8 children attended this reunion. President Traci Willey presided.

Secretary Patricia Plunkett Holler reviewed highlights from the minutes of the 2018 meeting. Minutes were approved.

Note: Most of our officers & board members were unable to attend today: George Davidson, our new Vice President; Anne Trussell, newsletter editor; David Trask, our family historian; and Charlotte Wirfs, past president & board member.

Vice President: Traci announced that we have a new vice president since the last reunion. At the time of the last reunion Earle Greig stepped down from that position, and since no one was willing to be elected at that time, the position remained vacant. However, George Davidson, who had been suggested for the position during the meeting, agreed to serve as such sometime during the last year. George descends from Hopestill King. He is also president of the Benton County Genealogical Society. Thank you, George!

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Pam Peck reported on our financial standing:

Beginning balance, June 2018	\$4628.34
+ Income, dues & donations	1055.00
- Expenses	<u>(1063.06)</u>
Current balance:	\$4620.28

Newsletter: Traci announced that Anne Trussell is stepping down from being editor of our King Folk newsletter, due to some health concerns. So, we need to find someone else to take over this responsibility.

Non-Profit Status: Traci said she is in touch with the Oregon Heritage group, a state-wide organization. They have responsibility for maintaining Oregon heritage sites and history, and they host workshops on various topics. She said she contacted them about non-profit status.

She said she is also in contact with someone from OSU, in an effort to get someone to work with our board on the newsletter.

Pat Holler suggested, even though Anne could not attend today, that we give her a big “thank you” for all the hard work she has done for the newsletter (and serving as our former treasurer and doing many other projects) over the years. Cheers and hand-claps went up all over the room. Thank you, Anne! ☺

[In February, Anne sent out Issue #38. Char Wirfs started the King Folk newsletter in 1992.]

Secretary position: Traci announced that Patricia Plunkett Holler is stepping down as King Family secretary as of June 1, 2019, so her position will also be open. Pat has been our secretary since around 1990.

Board Members: Traci also noted that it is not necessary for one to be an officer in order to serve on the King Family’s board. She urged anyone who might be interested in serving in that capacity to contact her. (For example, Char Wirfs is a past president who now serves on the board, and our historian, David Trask, also serves on the board.)

Kings Valley Cemetery Report: Earle Greig reported that the cemetery board and volunteers are working now to update and digitize the maps that are posted on the reader boards in each of the three cemetery sections. The maps show locations of known burials, and are an aid to cemetery visitors who want to locate graves of their family members. Also, some logging has been done around the edges of the cemetery by the Bush family which owns all the land adjacent to the cemetery.

Old Business: Last year we heard a report about the location of Stephen King’s grave on his DLC. An investment company currently owns that land. Traci said that Oregon has laws about preserving all burial sites, whether on private or public lands. She asked for a volunteer to contact Marc Vomicil, of Starker Forests, who attended our meeting last year and gave an informative talk about the subject. Anyone who would like to work on preserving Stephen’s grave site please let Traci know.

Also last year, we discussed preservation of known family heirlooms. Char Wirfs and David Trask said they would begin making a registry of items already housed in museums, and of others that are privately owned.

Since neither Charlotte nor David were able to attend this meeting, no updates on this project were available.

Ellen Craven today brought a suit and long wool overcoat that belonged to John Patterson, great-grandson of “Wash” Patterson and Rhoda Ann King Patterson. These items were on display today during the reunion, and after the reunion Ellen said she will donate them to the

Benton County Museum next door. The clothing appears to be from around “1900-ish” and is in excellent condition.

Today someone inquired about the availability of scholarships for King Family descendants. Traci confirmed that Oregon Pioneer Scholarships are indeed available to those who are able to prove descendancy. Questions on this should be directed to our historian, David Trask.

DAR: At the time of the last reunion, Char Wirfs reported that she tried to join the DAR through our ancestor Amos King (1756-1839). He was father of Nahum King, patriarch of Kings Valley, OR, and served in the Revolutionary War. But in fact, there were two Amos Kings who served in that war, and for a long time they did not recognize our Amos King as a Patriot. (So Char joined the organization under one of her other ancestors.) However, then the DAR only recently recognized some documents and decided to approve our Amos King as a Patriot. This means that now other female descendants of Nahum King only need to prove that descendancy and then they are eligible for the DAR. Again, historian David Trask can give assistance with proof of descendancy. Male descendants can also join the SAR through Amos King.

Grave marker for Cynthia Norton: As also discussed last year, the grave stone for Cynthia Norton at the Kings Valley Cemetery had to be moved some years ago due to landslides at the back of the cemetery. So, her marker, which is one of the earliest in the cemetery, was moved. Now the old road is closed so we would like to have her marker relocated to its original location. At the meeting held in June, 2018, a motion passed to approach the Kings Valley Cemetery Association about moving the stone. Estimated cost was between \$300 and \$400.

Pat Holler, who is also on the board of the Kings Valley Cemetery Association, reported that the cemetery board has no objection to our moving the stone back to its original location. The marker is in good condition at this time.

However, President Traci said that, because our Treasurer is also stepping down from her position, she (Traci) feels that we should hold off on this project until we achieve non-profit status. So, no action was taken.

Traci again said that we need a volunteer to take over producing the King Folk newsletter, and she is also reaching out to OSU for help with it. Please contact Traci to help on this matter.

Reunion date for future: Traci said that she felt that we had a good turnout this time (40 adults and 8 children.) Reunion date has been (at least for many decades) always the Saturday after Father’s Day in June. However, the date was changed for this year because Traci wanted to attend a professional organization’s conference that is also held on the weekend after Father’s Day. But today she said that this year the conference will be held in Washington D.C. and she

will not attend it after all, nor does she plan to attend the following year, so we could return to meeting in June per established tradition.

Melissa Parkhurst said she prefers that the reunion be held after school is out, to allow families with children to attend.

Several others who were present also felt that they would like for the date to be moved back to the Saturday after Father's Day for various reasons.

Social Media: Traci asked how many in attendance are aware of our Facebook presence. (Hands went up throughout the room.) We now have several presences on social media:

"Kings Valley Kin" on Facebook

<http://kingfolk.co> (notice: NOT "dot com!") Website maintained by Geo. Davidson

George also maintains another site, <http://davidsonhistory.com/> that is also of interest to many King descendants.

Traci said that she will send out "save the date" postcards for next year's reunion. (No decision was made on when the reunion date will be.)

Reunion Location: This is our third reunion held at the College United Methodist Church in Philomath. All agreed that it is a good location, with many positives. Consensus: Continue to meet here annually.

Museum Tours: Someone asked about the possibility of our having another "behind the scenes tour" of the many King Family artifacts that the museum next door houses. The museum did this for us in the past, and it was well received by reunion attendees. Traci said we need to have a volunteer to coordinate the tours with museum staff, if we want them to do it again. (Someone also noted that the new museum in downtown Corvallis will probably open sometime during the coming year, and that they will likely have a "King Family" display area.)

Traci suggested that we might set up tours before and after the time scheduled for socializing, eating lunch and holding our annual business meeting, such as between 10 AM and 12 Noon, and then again after our reunion.

Discussion took place about the time of day to schedule the reunion. This year, it began at 11 A.M. and will end at 3:00 P.M. In previous years, the reunion began earlier in the day.

Treasurer Pam Peck noted that the church only rents this room out in four-hour time blocks.

Earle Greig noted that the church also hosts many weddings in June, so we need to be sure and reserve the room early to insure we can come when we want to.

DNA: Traci thanked Ross Norton, who was present, for being willing to donate the sample for the Y-DNA test done this year on the Norton line. Because of that test, we have been able to “scientifically confirm” our Norton family history, and that we indeed do descend from James Naughton/Norton of Farmington, CT. (We also owe a big thank you to Carole Norton Putman who did much of the early research on our Norton family.)

So far, we have not been able to find a direct male descendant of Nahum King who is willing to donate a DNA sample. Pat Holler noted that James King of Cottage Grove, OR (now deceased) always attended our reunions for many years, and a few times he brought a grandson from Virginia with him to the reunions. Traci said she tried to locate Jim’s descendants without success.

Honor Roll: Traci read the names of several King Family members who passed away during the last year:

Patrick Lebo (sp?), husband of Clair Lebo, a descendant of Sol King

Frederick Price, who was a sheriff’s deputy in Los Angeles County, CA & a writer

Elmer Gatchett

Kathy Gerding Martin, a descendant of Sol King

King Document Found: Traci reported that she received a message last summer from a Misty Jones, who found the will of one of the Kings in an antique store in Newport. It also describes land in Kings Valley. Ms. Jones wants to turn it over to the King family.

Jodi Donahue said that she has the original deed for the Charles King house and property located in Harris. She also has some other original deeds.

TV program: Discussion took place about a TV program that aired on the Travel Channel last February. It depicted the story of the legendary “Blue Bucket Mine” in Malheur County, Oregon, near the grave of our Sarah King Chambers. They also used ground sonar equipment to prove that indeed a body is buried in Sarah’s grave.

A nearby site did turn up a few flecks of gold, so the show’s producers are now trying to arrange permission for access and to possibly film another episode of “Lost Gold” on that land.

Descendants present today: Traci called the roll of King sons and daughters, and this was the total of descendants here today:

Isaac	2
Rhoda Ann	3
Lovisa	3
Lucretia	2
Hopestill	16 adults + 8 children
Stephen	1
Lydia	2
Sol	3

Nominations for Officer Positions:

Secretary: Traci said that the secretary would be on her mailing list, would attend board meetings and help to plan the next reunion and other events. The secretary also takes minutes at the annual reunion meetings.

There were no nominations, but Sally Greig volunteered to serve as Secretary. Thank you, Sally!

Treasurer: Duties of treasurer include receiving dues and donations and tracking them in an Excel spreadsheet; maintaining the spreadsheet (it is also used for the newsletter mailing list), and to record deaths of family members. Also, responsibility to pay the bills as they come in (only about 3 per year.)

Traci announced that Pam Peck no longer wishes to serve in the treasurer's position.

Traci said she still wants to work on getting the family association incorporated or into non-profit status. To do so, having a treasurer is not required.

Currently treasurer Pam Peck maintains the King Family's funds in a bank account in her own name since we do not have legal status. Pam said she has never felt at ease about this arrangement, and is concerned that more than just one person should be involved in assuring our financial well-being.

Traci said that we do have an "official" name now: "King Family Pioneers of Oregon." A poll was taken last year on Facebook and a number of family members voted on their choice of several names.

Traci said that she met with a law librarian, and he gave her some resources to look into, and he also had been previously involved in setting up similar groups in the past. She also said she is contacting law schools in Oregon, and they sometimes have free clinics discussing how a group can file for tax exempt status. Several components need to be done in a certain order for this, so Traci said she is working on it.

All agreed, we do need to resolve our uncertain financial status.

Traci asked for a vote that, “in case of emergency all King Family funds would revert to the Kings Valley Cemetery.” Some of those present voted “aye,” but discussion continued.

[Clarification note: The King Family’s funds have never been part of the cemetery association, so they could not “revert” to the cemetery.]

Pam Peck noted that her son will have access to her personal finances should something happen to her. She worries about how this could affect the King Family’s funds.

Someone suggested that, to protect the King Family, we should have two family members who could open a bank account together, and it could be set up so that both persons would need to sign checks. Ideally, the two people would live in fairly close proximity, for ease of obtaining signatures.

All agreed that this matter IS a problem, and that it has been a burden upon outgoing treasurer Pam Peck.

Pam said that the account is actually named, “King Family – Pam Peck,” but then OSU Fed. Credit Union would not print “King Family” on the checks, so she hand-writes it on each check.

Discussion continued for some time on possible ways to handle our money.

Traci again suggested that we should just donate the balance in our account to the Kings Valley Cemetery. We would never get the money back then, but we also would not need to worry about handling it. No action was taken.

Les Fish suggested that we create a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) and appoint two of our members as trustees to handle our funds.

Pat Holler (who is also a board member of the Kings Valley Cemetery) cautioned, “Let’s not do this in haste!” We know that some families and individuals in the past have donated sums of money much larger than our \$10 annual dues. They donated those sums in good faith that their money would be used for benefit of the King Family in some way, but NOT to the KV Cemetery. Others agreed with this assessment of the situation.

No decision was made about the financial situation.

Also, no action was taken about the treasurer position.

President's Position: Traci then announced that next year's reunion would probably be her last time to preside over a reunion meeting. She said she has a lot of work to do, has lots of projects she wants to work on, but does not see her work for the King Family as finished. And, she said that her decision to step down is not final.

Pam Peck said, "Let's just punt, and take some time to digest all of this."

Traci said she will call a board meeting soon. She said that sending out emails is not considered to be an official board meeting. However, we could possibly meet via Skype or with a conference call.

Traci also said she has a hard time remembering things, so requested that people need to be sure to submit things to her in writing.

Welcome: Earle Greig said he wanted to give a special welcome to Glenn Williams and his cousin Maria Williams, who were present today. Glenn lives in Boston, and Maria lives in San Francisco. They are descended from Lydia King and her husband Jonathan "Jont" Williams; in fact, they are the very first ones of Lydia's family to ever attend a King Reunion, as far as we know!

Glenn said their family background was always a mystery. He is a great-grandson of Lydia's son Emmett D. Williams, who has served as Glenn's personal "brick wall" until recently. Emmett Williams died right after his son Emmett Williams was born; then Emmett the younger died six months before his son was born. So, two generations of the family history were pretty much lost to their descendants. Then Glenn began researching a few years ago and eventually found his way to us—his King family!

The meeting adjourned around 2:45 PM.

Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary