



King Folk



Newsletter #36

King Family Association

April 2017

The Tragic Death of Isaac King

By David Trask, King Family Historian

When I attended my first Kings Family Reunion in 1984, I had no idea of my family history, other than I was somehow related to the Kings of Kings Valley through my great-great grandfather, Alfred King, oldest child of Isaac King. I will always remember the delight of those at that reunion, in learning who I was, and who I was descended from. Alfred and his wife, Mary Fowler King, left Kings Valley in 1877 to move to Southern Oregon, settling in the Ashland area. I represented a major missing piece of the puzzle, and family members were so eager to learn more about my branch and to fit me in the family tree. Seems that my branch was long lost, and I was able to quickly fill in some major blanks in many peoples' notes. Remember that there was no Internet then and we all were dependent on letter writing or telephone calls. I rapidly became incorporated into the King Family, and the genuine interest so many people expressed at that time inspired me to take it from there. I was the first to start organizing each child of Nahum and Serepta King into notebooks, and from there, with the help of many family members, have amassed more than 10,000 pages of obituaries, death certificates, family trees, and much more.

The most remarkable story though, that got me so interested in the King family, was how

my great-great-great grandfather, Isaac King died. Prior to that first reunion that I attended, I did not even know who Isaac was, or any of my relatives prior to Alfred King. At that first reunion, I heard the fascinating accounts of how he died. What struck me the most was that different branches of the family believed in different versions, depending on what was passed down the generations in each branch. Furthermore, different stories appeared in the Oregonian and local newspapers as to how he died. It was speculated that it was from a hunting accident with the fatal shot being fired by someone in the hunting party or that he was cleaning his firearm when it accidentally went off. There were those who insisted that it was clearly a suicide, occurring on his birthday and during a state of depression. And there were those who said it was murder, possibly connected to the "hired hand", insinuating Andrew Jackson Zumwalt was involved, who then shortly thereafter married Isaac's widow, Almeda VanBibber King Zumwalt. These different versions continue to be discussed by different branches of the family in the reunion since that first one I attended. However, I think I hold the clue that may point to the real story.

King Family 2017 Reunion

Saturday, June 24, 2017

9:30 AM – 2 PM

College United Methodist Church, Philomath

Alfred King (1848-1908) was the oldest child of Isaac and Almeda VanBibber King. He was born August 10, 1848. Isaac died November 23, 1866, and so Alfred would have been 18 years old when his father died. He was reportedly at the scene or was a part of the hunting party or at the least, the one who may have known what really happened to his father. Alfred left Kings Valley in 1877, eleven years after Isaac died. He had eight children. His sixth child was Frances Margaret King, my great grandmother (1879-1918). She lived in Southern Oregon most of her life, but actually died in North Bend, near Coos Bay, where she is buried. This happened to be the place where my great-grandfather, George Alden Trask, was able to find work at the time. Frances had seven siblings, most of who lived in the Ashland area. Rufus (1867-1932), Frank (1870-1928), Lena (1874-1955), Annie (1874-1922), Charles (1885-1937), and Alfred (1888-1908) all lived and died and are buried in the Ashland area. Minnie (1869-1938) lived and died in Klamath Falls, also in Southern Oregon. Living in the same general area, these eight siblings probably knew each other fairly well. In fact, six of the siblings and their parents, Alfred and Mary Fowler King are buried in the same cemetery, Mt. View, in Ashland and Rufus is buried a few miles out of Ashland.

My great-grandparents, George and Frances King Trask had four children. The oldest was Hollis King Trask, my grandfather (1905-1945), who married Jane Sanford. Upon his death, his youngest brother Alfred George Trask (1913-1982) married my grandmother. I knew the latter two well (Alfred and Jane Trask), but my grandfather, Hollis, died before I was born. My father, Lester Hollis Trask, an only child, died in 1989. My grandmother Jane lived until 2001, and I acted as her guardian. Before she died, she gave to me some photos and letters written by Frances, and kept in her Bible. My grandmother verified these were passed down by George Trask, to my grandfather, Hollis, and upon Hollis' death, my grandmother gave them to Alfred Trask,

who she married (my "step grandfather" and actual great-uncle), and when Alfred Trask died the Bible was left again in my grandmother's possession. Then she gave them to me after my father passed away in 1989. So I am sure the material is genuine.

On one piece of paper, are some notes, a photocopy of which I am including. On it, there is some ornate writing. It says:

*"Father's F(ather) age of death 47 shot by accident 1866
Benton Co. Oreg."*

*"Father's M(other) age of death 60"
"Paralysis caused from fall 1890
sick 6 months Lincoln Co. Oreg."*

*"Mother's F(ather) age of death 60
Dropsey 1884
sick 3 mo. Benton Co. Oreg."*

*"Mother's M(other) age of death 76
1901
Benton Co. Oreg.
sick 3 mo.)*

*"Mother born in Ray Co. Missouri
April 2, 1849"*

*"Father born in Benton Co. Oreg
Aug 10, 1848"*

On the back of the note, and in the same original handwriting, it says:

*"Ashland, Oreg.
Oct 1, 1903"*

and also:

*"Mr. Geo Trask
Phoenix, Oreg"*

This suggests the note was written in 1903, from the date on the back. It had to be at least 1901, based on the correct notation that Mother's mother died 1901 (Philena Vanderpool Fowler, mother of Mary Fowler King). Philena (Lena) is buried in Kings

Valley Cemetery, and the marker says she died in 1901 (no month or day).

What I included in parentheses was added by someone else, in pencil, obviously in an attempt to clarify what the "F" and the "M" stood for. There are a few other additions in blue pen, obviously added at a later time.

our Grandfather
Father's *F* age of death 47
(King) shot by accident 1866.
Benton Co. Oreg.
Father's *M* age of death 66
Paralysis caused from fall
sick 6 months
Lincoln Co. Oreg.
Mother's *F* age of death 60
Dorsey 1884
sick 3 mo.
Benton Co. Oreg.
Mother's *M* age of death 76
1901
Benton Co. Oreg.
sick 3 mo.
Mother born in Ray Co. Missouri
King Grandmother
April 2, 1849
Father born in Benton Co. Oreg.
King
Grandpa
Aug 10 1848
1848

The last two statements on the front of the note, regarding mother born in Ray Co, Missouri and father born in Benton Co, Oregon relate to Alfred King, and his wife, Mary Fowler King, parents of Frances, and the dates and places of birth are correct for these two family members. So that alone tells us that either Frances or one of her siblings wrote this note, as it refers to "Mother" and "Father". As I mentioned, other notes added, in addition to the pencil entries, include several in blue ink, which were obviously written afterwards. However, the original note clearly was written by a child of Alfred and Mary Fowler King, and the blue ink must have been written also by a child of Alfred and Mary King. The words, "our

grandfather" is in blue ink at the top left of the original note, and has to have been written by someone in the same generation as Frances. Two notations in blue ink and in different handwriting show "Grandma" with an arrow pointing to "Mother born in Ray Co. Missouri" (Mary Fowler King) and "Grandpa" with an arrow pointing to "Father born in Benton Co. Oreg" (Alfred King). These two words I am sure were written by Alfred Trask, who would have been a grandchild of Alfred and Mary Fowler King, as I recognize his handwriting. So I can explain those notations.

This note was in the Bible that contained photos and letters written by Frances King Trask, passed on to two of her sons, Hollis and then Alfred Trask, and then given to me by my grandmother, Jane Trask, who outlived her two husbands, who were brothers. My branch of the family left Kings Valley in 1877, and this note was written by a child of Alfred, the oldest child of Isaac, and reportedly at the scene or who knew most about the incident. Family members in this branch alive in 1903, which is probably when the note was written, would have been Frances, all her siblings, and both her parents, including Alfred and Mary King.

So it would seem that this note should be considered crucial evidence that Isaac King was shot by accident. This is the best evidence I believe that physically exists on what really happened.

The clincher would be if the note matched a letter I have that my great-grandmother was known to have written in 1897. She had very ornate writing. I am no handwriting expert. When I compare the two styles of the note and her letter, I can clearly see some resemblances in the way some letters were written. However, I see several letters that are consistently not written the same. So unless we have a handwriting expert compare the two, I have to say that I do not know if Frances wrote the note. Her letter of 1897 was very formal, and she wrote a poem, and her handwriting was

extraordinarily beautiful. It is possible that the note was written by her and was not as formal as she may have otherwise written. However, if it was not her who wrote the note, then it would have had to of been written by one of her siblings and given to her, as the note refers to mother and father which can only be Alfred and Mary King. So a child of the oldest son of Isaac who reportedly was there at the time of Isaac's death, wrote this note, and clearly says that Isaac was killed accidentally, and it was passed down several generations to me, and I feel it is genuine. I do not know the significance of Geo Trask's name on the back of the note, nor the date of October 1, 1903. Phoenix is a little town about 7 miles north of Ashland, between Medford and Ashland, and is where George and Frances lived when they got married February 2, 1904. So the notation of Oct 1, 1903 and Mr. Geo Trask on the back of the note suggests this was written months before she married George. This addition on the back of the note seems to personalize the note, making it more likely to be Frances's note, either written by her or given to her by one of her siblings. The version of Isaac's death that was passed down my branch of the family was it was an accident that killed Isaac.

Of course, this does not prove the cause of death. There are and remain other theories. The note does not specify whether it was a hunting accident or whether Isaac was cleaning his gun. I think the note rules against a suicide or murder. I never heard of any animosity held against Almeda or Andrew Jackson Zumwalt by any family member in my branch so I doubt she was involved. Isaac was well-off financially and this would go against him committing suicide over depression. However, as we all know, none of us were there, and we have reports by some family members recorded in several newspapers of the time, and versions did vary some even then. So it is no wonder how such versions survived as they were passed on down the generations. The note does not prove what happened, but it is a genuine document that proves the thinking

of close relatives at the time. Four of Alfred King's children were born in Kings Valley before the family moved to Southern Oregon, and Rufus would have been 10 and Frank would have been 7. They could have been old enough to have heard the stories shortly after the incident. I believe that at least two of Alfred King's children wrote on the note, and since all eight siblings were alive as were Alfred and Mary King in 1903, then they all must have heard the same account of the tragedy. Furthermore, had Alfred King felt guilty of any personal involvement in his father's death, or if there had been any suggestion it was a murder, then one might ask why he stayed from 1866 to 1877, in close proximity to his mother, and then step-father, Andrew Jackson Zumwalt. He could have left right after the tragedy, as he was 18 years old. Therefore, I conclude, therefore, it was probably truly an accident.

I think it remains important, though, to know the other versions too, as they are all a part of our family history, and I have left it up to others to review these stories in this newsletter and future ones.



Bits and Pieces

REUNION... We will again meet at the College United Methodist Church, 1123 Main St., Philomath, June 24, 9:30 am -2 pm. It's going to be a fun and informative get-together. Thank you again, Earle, for organizing this year's reunion. Thanks to Mary Gallagher and the Benton County Museum for tours this year. Thanks, also, to the College United Methodist Church for use of their facilities.

REUNION TOUR GUIDES... A written tour guide of King landmarks will be provided for each place that is visited during future reunions. The tour guide will also be placed on our website where it can be downloaded and/or printed. See the 2017 reunion article for this year's tour.

PHOTOS... George Davidson will again be scanning King-related family photos at the reunion. Please bring yours along!

WE HAVE A NEW TREASURER! Welcome to Pam Peck. Please make checks out to **Pam Peck-King Folk** and mail to **Pam Peck, 1524 Kings Blvd., Corvallis, OR 97330**. Your \$10 pays for the reunion, the newsletter, and repair and replacement of family headstones.

OBITUARY COLLECTION... David Trask, our historian, has one of the most extensive collections of King-related family obituaries on the west coast. He's worked hard to organize and maintain this. Please help him expand this collection by sending him obituaries for King Family members and their extended families.

LINDA CREW... Look for the latest on *A Heart for Any Fate* in Linda's article. And be sure to read her newest book *Accidental Addict*. Have you wondered why we haven't heard from Linda in awhile? Here's your answer. This is a great read and an important warning to us all.

DAR... There were two Amos Kings from Massachusetts who fought in the Revolutionary War. The DAR had them as one individual. Now that the two are recognized

as separate individuals, we have to prove **who** our Amos was. SAR applications are not acceptable. Stay tuned...

WELCOME TO NEW KING FOLK... Joseph Casprowiak (Lovisa), Janice Chatfield (Hopestill), Gerry Delongchamp (Hopestill), Mary Dickens (Hopestill), Jerry Holden (John), Penny Lucas (Hopestill), Terry Osborne (Isaac), Rod Price (Lovisa & Isaac), Wanda Ridenour (Hopestill), Milt & Debbie Sedlacek (Hopestill), Bill & Jeri Wischnofske.

COMMANDER'S HOUSE, FORT HOSKINS... Much has been done to stabilize and restore the exterior of the house. An open house is scheduled for June 10, 2017.

KINGS VALLEY CEMETERY... The entrance to the cemetery needs some repairs. Wood rot and sag have deteriorated the poles, which hold the gate and the sign. Poles have been donated by the power company but there will be a cost to have them properly set. The sign itself has deteriorated also and needs replacing. Work is to be done later in 2017.

Y-DNA... We are still looking for a male King, a direct descendant of Nahum's through the male King line, who would be willing to take the Y-DNA test to help determine earlier King ancestry. Please contact either Traci Willey or Anne Trussell.

KING MILITARY PROJECT... Please continue sending us information and stories of your military experience or that of your father or your grandfather or earlier ancestors. Don't miss Earle Greig's WWII article in this newsletter.

FAMILY TREES... Do you have a family tree that you'd like us to publish in the newsletter? Please contact Anne Trussell for further information.

2017 King Family Reunion

We will hold this year's reunion at the **College United Methodist Church, 1123 Main St. Philomath.** In the same complex is the Benton County Museum, which is housed in the big brick building built by the United Brethren Church.

GETTING THERE: Drive west through Philomath. The Methodist Church and the Museum are on the north side of Main St. Lots of additional parking behind the museum.

MEETING ROOM: Located at the north end of the long hall in the Methodist Church. It will be open from 9:30 am – 2 PM. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

NOTE: WE WILL “BROWN BAG” IT THIS YEAR. NO Kitchen available. There is a Subway and a Safeway store with a deli counter located at the 53rd St shopping center, about 2 miles east of Philomath. Donuts and coffee will be provided in the morning.

TOURS: We will be visiting the Isaac King donation land claim after the reunion. Written tour guides will be available showing a map and information on Isaac King's life in King's Valley. There will also be morning museum tours as there were last year. Space is limited so be sure to arrive early.

ADDITIONALLY: The museum itself opens at 10 AM and we encourage everyone to browse through the displays on the first and second floors. “Around the World in 80 Countries” presents artifacts from the Horner Museum Collection, on exhibit until October.

AND FINALLY: Please take a moment to visit the Benton County Genealogical Society in the little annex house on the west side of the museum. They have an impressive collection of books and research guides. Their library is open 1:00 – 3:30 pm.

Isaac King Cemetery

We want to welcome Jeri & Bill Wischnofske to the King Family Association. They own part of Isaac King's original land claim in Kings Valley, including the Isaac King Cemetery. They've done a massive amount of work to clean out the cemetery. After the reunion last year, many of us were able to visit the cemetery for the first time. The Isaac King headstone was repaired and a new marker was set for George Zumwalt, who died in 1873. (See below article.) Thank you, Jeri and Bill, and thanks to your family for making this possible. (Please remember this cemetery is on private land. Permission is needed to visit.)

George Henry Zumwalt ***October 15, 1871--January 29, 1873***

Little George Zumwalt was only 15 months old when he fell into a kettle of boiling water and died a horrendous death. His parents, Andrew and Almeda Zumwalt, buried him in the Isaac King Cemetery, near Isaac King and George's two siblings. In September 2016, a marker for George was placed by the Jeff Hilts Marker Service of Salem. Its cost was \$300 and paid for by the King Family. Following are two articles from the *Corvallis Gazette*.

We learn from Mrs. R. T. Jordan that a little child of Mr. J. Zumwalt of King's Valley, fell into a kettle of boiling water on last Monday evening. Fears are entertained that the little sufferer will not survive the accident. Its arms from the shoulders down are literally cooked off. (The Corvallis Gazette; Corvallis, Oregon; Saturday Morning, February 1, 1873; Vol.X; No. 9; page 2; Column 4.)

The little child of Mr. J. Zumwalt that we noticed last week as being so severely scalded, only survived the accident two days. Its sufferings were intense. (The Corvallis Gazette; Corvallis, Oregon; Saturday Morning, February 8, 1873; Vol. X; No. 10; page 3; Column 1.)

President's Letter 2017

I want to start this year's letter with a thank you to our Vice President, Earle Greig. Besides being our Vice President for more than fifteen years, Earle was instrumental in organizing last year's, and this year's, reunions. He made the arrangements with both the College United Methodist Church and for the behind the scenes tours at the Benton County Museum. I am so excited to be back there again this year.

However, Earle is ready to step down. We are looking for someone to fill the position of Vice President. If you are interested in this position, please notify me before the reunion. My contact information is tracij1031@gmail.com.

We had to say goodbye to two of our Fromherz cousins in the past year, Winifred Jane Smith Fromherz, August 8, 1927 - January 19, 2017, and Jessamine Mary Fromherz, September 29, 1928 - November 1, 2016. Adolf Joseph Fromherz married Lucy Adelia King, a granddaughter of Solomon King. Adolf and Lucy had ten children so there are quite a few Fromherz who are also King descendants. Fortunately, I haven't heard of any other deaths this year. If I have missed anyone, please let me know as well as David Trask or Char Wirfs so we can keep our records up to date.

At last year's reunion, we elected a new treasurer, Pam Dixon Peck (descendant of Hopestill King). She is taking over for Anne Trussell who had been treasurer since 2001. Anne is continuing with production of the newsletter. Thank you for joining the board, Pam!

I am looking forward to June. On the third, I will be graduating with my Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington School, and then our reunion is on the 24th. I can't wait to see everyone!

Pam Peck King Family Treasurer

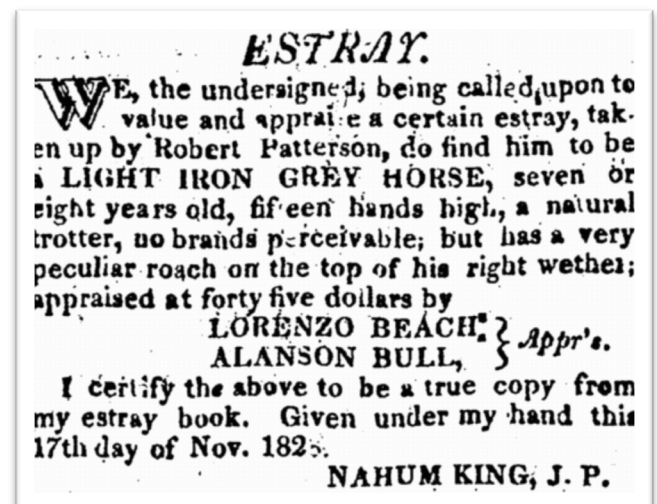
I was born to William (Bill) Dixon and Patricia Dixon (Pollock). My immediate family consists of a sister and brother-in-law, Debbie and Milt Sedlacek, and a son, Adam. I am a descendant of Hopestill King and Lucius Norton through their daughter, Ashnah Norton Plunkett.



My great-grandfather (grandad) was Henry Plunkett and we shared a birthday. I remember my 7th birthday party was a shared party with granddad. He turned 77. I have many great memories of time spent at his house (the current Beazell Park). I feel blessed to be part of a family with such a rich heritage.

Nahum King: Justice of the Peace

Ohio Monitor; Columbus, Ohio, November 19, 1828



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 gravestones 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 contributes 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.

King Y-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 \$75 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
- Hopestill King - 17 present
- Isaac King - 8 present
- Sarah King - 0
- Abigail King - 2
- Lydia King - 0
- Soloman - 3 present
- Rhoda Ann King - 3 present

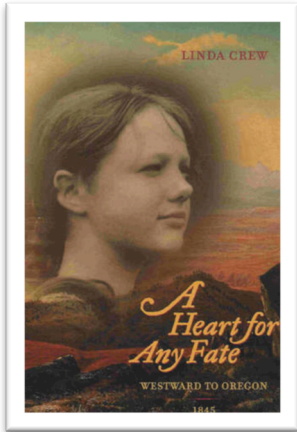
The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M. for the group photo, followed by the tour to Isaac King's small private cemetery.

Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary

A Message from Linda Crew

I'm happy to report that the Ooligan edition of *A Heart for Any Fate*—which contains King Family Historian David Trask's lovely postnote about the family—continues to sell steadily, if modestly, on Amazon in both a paperback and a Kindle edition. I was pleasantly surprised to check on Goodreads yesterday and find something like 150 good reviews. It's heartwarming to me that people continue to respond to the story of the King family on the Oregon Trail!

I'm aware that most King family descendants prefer the cover of the original Oregon Historical Society Press hardback and paperback and I'm with you there! King family descendant Haley Thompson could not be topped for a beautiful cover girl, although I do think the surly teenager on the cover of the



Ooligan edition looks at the potential reader with a compelling expression that kind of says, "Hey, kids! This isn't just dusty history! I was a real live girl!"

Because the original printing of the first edition was not huge, copies of the hardback are hard to find and not cheap. I have only eight copies left myself. The Amazon used book listings show three new copies, from \$70 to \$102. About a dozen used, ex-library copies are offered, many at around \$15. I've been selling these last copies of mine for \$30. If you're interested, check my website at www.lindacrew.com or just email me at ljc1@earthlink.net. I would really like to see these last copies go to King family descendants who wouldn't be likely to put them right back up on Amazon!

One interesting development was hearing that a Dutch publisher was interested in the possibility of acquiring translation rights for *Heart*. I know how this goes and would be surprised if it actually happened—still the idea tickles me.



I think the story of the Oregon Trail translates very well to other cultures. A woman named Pat Schmaltz here in Corvallis teaches English-as-a-second-language at Crossroads, which caters to international students and their spouses at OSU. In the past she's used my other titles with her students, but last year, for the first time, she used *A Heart for Any Fate*. It went over quite well and I had a ball visiting the class, which consisted mostly of young Chinese women. They just *got it*, especially all the family conflicts and the debates over how people would eventually pair up.

I was so impressed with the list of study questions Pat developed that I asked her if I could make them available to other teachers using the book. Just yesterday another teacher wrote saying her students loved the book and would I send her the questions. Now, in the middle of writing this, I've received this letter from her:

I read your novel with my 7th grade class this year. We are in Garden City, Texas. Each day they would beg for us to read another chapter. They just couldn't get enough. The book created so much discussion and excitement in our classroom. Some days there would be giggles or squeals and others I would look up and see such heartache and tears because they felt very close to all of the characters. When we read the last chapter several of my students just sat there and hugged their books with such big smiles on their faces. My students then asked if I could take them on a field trip to Oregon!! :) (I

wish) I have read this book for the last 4 years and I still have High School kids ask me if my Junior High kids have read *A Heart for Any Fate* yet. We write our own diaries after we read your book and it has really helped them to understand the many emotions and adventures of being on the Oregon Trail. I can't thank you enough for writing this truly touching story. It is one of our greatest treasures of the year.

Sincerely,
Maryellen

So, this makes *my* day. Since it's your book too, I thought I'd share. If anyone's interested in these study questions, it's the easiest thing for me to send them along to you, so please contact me.

Finally, just for fun, if you search the title with my name on YouTube, you can see my little video trailer, which I had fun learning how to make. I used my favorite, most inspiring version of "Shendandoah," which I mention in the book.

Thanks, as always, for including me as an honorary King!

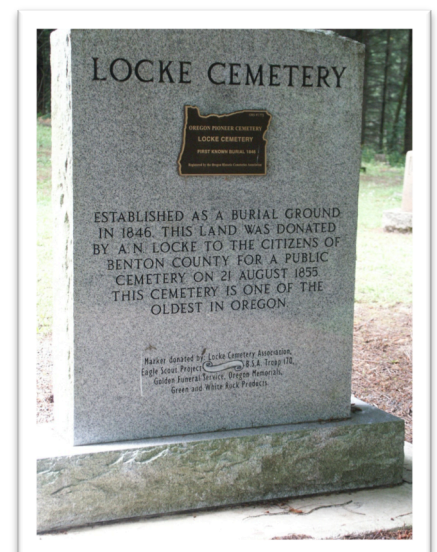
The Gravestone for the Infant Son of A.N. & M. King

David Trask, King Family Historian

Amos Nahum King (1822-1901) and Melinda Fuller King (1827-1887) married March 8, 1846 in Tuality, Oregon Territory. Their first son died September 8, 1847. I do not know the official birth date. He was buried in Locke Cemetery near Lewisburg, Oregon in Benton County near Corvallis.

Over 30 years ago, I visited the cemetery and found the marker propped up against another marker. I took photographs of the marker. I did not record the exact date, as I was not into the "Historian" mode yet, but it was probably about 1985. A few years later, I went back to the cemetery, and to my horror, the marker was not there.

There had been a lot of work being done on the cemetery with brush and trees getting trimmed up, and there was a large pile of debris including dirt, rocks, and branches. The pile, as I recall, was at least 25 X 25 feet in area and at least piled up higher than me. I looked around for the marker, and it was definitely not propped up on the stone as I had seen it several years before. I only could imagine that the marker was buried under that pile of debris, and I could already tell from tire tracks leading away from the pile that some debris had probably already been hauled away. I was saddened that the marker that may very well have represented the first one for a King family member born and dying in the Oregon Territory may have been hauled away or buried forever. As I was about to leave, I noted a stone shaped like an obvious grave marker, sticking out from the bottom of the pile, with several other broken stones. With some effort, I pulled out the obvious marker, and to my dismay, it was the marker I was looking for.



I took it with me that day, at least 25 years ago, and again, I failed to record the date, but I did tell people at the next reunion about it and I have brought it several times for others to see. We thought about options of what to do with it, whether to place it back in the cemetery or to replace it with a new marker. The latter is what we decided to do, and in 2006, with Mimi Stang,



the president of our King Family Association, a new stone was erected and placed on what is believed to be the exact grave. It was decided that I would continue keeping the original marker in my possession until we figured out what to do with it. We all felt it was too valuable of a piece of our family history to let it get stolen, vandalized or lost.

So now, with it being in my attic, safe for a number of years, I thought about what to do with it. At the last reunion in 2016, I was impressed with the tour we took of the Benton County Museum next to the College United Methodist Church in Philomath, that I was wondering if we should donate it there. It should be safe with other family heirlooms. Technically, Locke Cemetery is not in Benton County, but it does relate to the King family. This way, it would be available for anyone to see. Perhaps any descendants of Amos and Melinda Fuller King reading this newsletter can express their thoughts. As I get older, I feel that such heirlooms should be made safe for future generations to view and a museum seems like a good home.

The Importance of Documents

David Trask, King Family Historian

As my son Ryan prepares to graduate from high school, I have remained fascinated by the classes he has taken, especially with regards to his advanced placement history classes. The important emphasis in these classes has been on finding and analyzing documents. Documents are physical items that help establish that an event may have taken place but do not always prove it. Documents can be official, or very simple, and not necessarily a piece of paper, and they can and should be scrutinized objectively by historians. An example of a very official document is the Declaration of Independence. It is a very real item, declaring a factual statement, signed by known actual people, and its contents are genuine. No one can dispute the authenticity of this piece of paper.



In my research, I have accumulated copies of a massive number of obituaries and death certificates. Although their accuracy are subject to the knowledge of those providing the information included in these documents, they are fairly correct, and require very little analysis. They add tremendously to the knowledge of our family history. A photo is an excellent example of a document, as it can show who was present at an event, and it also tells us which family members were likely to have known each other, who was alive at the time, and one can even ponder about why someone was not in the photo. Older photos with the name and city of the photographer or studio can provide invaluable information about where family lived.

An old letter, signed by the writer, and better yet, in the original envelope it was mailed in with the addressee and with the postage stamp and postmark can add to the authenticity of the letter's contents, adding evidence on where the letter writer may have been living at the time. I



made mention of the grave marker I have in my possession for the infant son of Amos and Melinda King. This is a document, as it tells us that Amos and Melinda had an infant son who died in 1847, that the son was probably born in 1847 in order to be an infant, and that he was one of the first King descendants born in the Oregon Territory and one of the first to die there. There is no known mention in any newspapers that I am aware of, of his death or even his existence, and death certificates were not recorded until the early 1900's. So this document provides proof the event of this infant's short life, and has to be one of the earliest grave markers known for a King family member here.

A popular and fun form of disseminating information regarding family history is the sharing of folklore, some of which may very well be fact, some myth, and some hearsay. Although fascinating and interesting, such stories do not always have supportive documents to back them up as being true. That is not to say that the stories that have been passed down over the generations through various branches of our family should not be included in our archives. In fact, they really should be. However, they should also be scrutinized and analyzed to the same degree or even more so, in the absence of supporting documents. Such stories should be recorded, as such, as accounts of events passed down because someone else said that it happened.

The note I believe was written by my great-grandmother that I discuss in the tragic death of Isaac King in this newsletter, as simple as it is, is a document, as it does provide physical evidence that was what was believed by my branch of the King family. No document is absolute proof that an event occurred, but rather, can lend support that it did. All documents should be subject to study and careful examination by all, just as folklore should be. Differences in opinion may occur, and this is totally acceptable and to be expected. Recording the existence of documents and all interpretation is the important point here. We should all share documents we may have on our family for all to examine. Even advanced historians do not agree exactly on how events may have taken place.

LOOKING FOR FAMILY DOCUMENTS? Look no further than our own website, kingfolk.co, or our family tree on Ancestry, **King Folk**. We have many documents stored in both places. If you have documents to add, please contact Char Wirfs or George Davidson. Thanks to both for maintaining these sites.

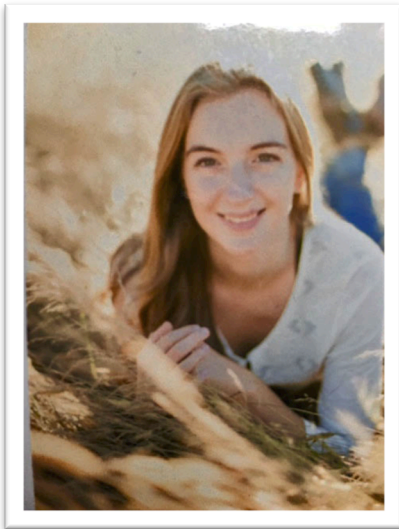
SDOP JR AWARDS WINNER 2016
Grades 9-12

The Value of an Oregon Pioneer Descendant

By Emma Lancaster

To me, being a descendant of an Oregon pioneer is a great honor. I am proud to be a member of a group of people who are directly related to the people who braved the journey across the American wilderness to start new lives and found our state. I take pride in sharing with others Oregon's rich history from the tales of my pioneer ancestors that have been passed down from each generation. Unlike so many other people in this country, I have direct knowledge of my origins in the state I call home. Most importantly, my pioneer ancestors brought me to the life I have today. Without their courage to venture along the historic Oregon Trail, I would not be where I am today.

However, along with this knowledge as well as any comes with a great responsibility. I believe that being a descendant of the Oregon pioneers means that I am given the privilege to share my knowledge of Oregon's history and origins in order to maintain its memory and importance in our state today. As a direct descendant, I have a unique perspective on the history of Oregon and it is my duty to share this with today's generation in my town, my state, and beyond.



When I was around the age of ten, I met author Linda Crew at a Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers function. She had just published her novel entitled *A Heart for Any Fate*. Her book is based upon the stories of the King family, who like many other pioneers, traveled across the country in hopes of starting a new life in beautiful Oregon. It is written in the perspective of Lovisa King – my fourth great grandmother. Reading about my own ancestors in a novel and meeting the author who took such an interest in my family and their journey fascinated me. I felt so completely honored to have a book written about my family. It proved to me that their importance was not something to be taken for granted. As an honored descendant, I have learned to take pride in my pioneer ancestry and to share it with others.

Being a descendant is also very important to me personally as it puts value in certain events within my life today. As a high school senior this year, one of the colleges I am very interested in is Willamette University. I recently discovered that one of my great grandmothers, an ancestor in the line of my pioneer ancestry, attended the school as one of the first few women. Applying to this school makes it much more value and important to me, as I have a direct connection with it and can take pride in the origins of my family.

As a descendant of the Oregon pioneers, I am part of a valued group of individuals who are privileged to have a connection to Oregon's roots. Knowing your origins is a special privilege, but being able to share them with others to maintain an important history that deserves credit is even more of an honor. To me, being a descendant of an Oregon pioneer is more than just a name on a family tree. It means my ancestors had the courage to journey the treacherous, unknown American wilderness to give their families a better life. They possessed a courage I am honored to share as a tribute to their lives and the lives of others who helped Oregon become the beautiful state it is today.

Uncle Sam Came Calling

By Earle Greig



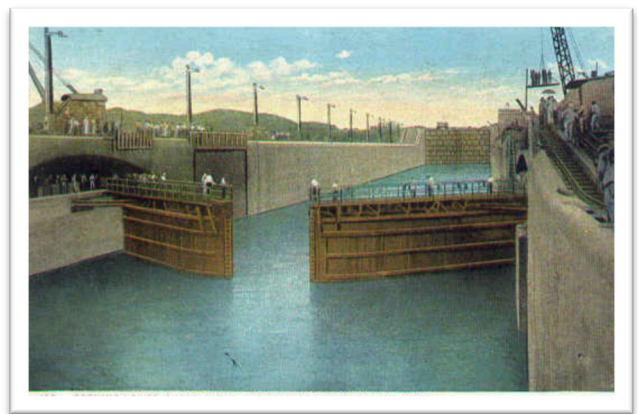
It was December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. I was sixteen, a high school sophomore. A southern friend referred to the time as "... a state of high intensity." Indeed it was. I finished high school plus one term of college and, shortly after my eighteenth birthday in 1943, Uncle Sam came calling.

My brother and some friends were already in the Naval Seabees and the government was still allowing recruits so a new Seabee was born. I left Portland by train in early November 1943, headed for Camp Perry, Virginia (now a CIA base). Basic training was basic training with lots of shots, lots of pushups in the mud, lots of hikes, etc. Early

in January 1944, we left Camp Perry in an ancient wooden troop car and headed south for "advanced training" in Gulfport, Mississippi. This consisted primarily of marching around and around in a recently harvested cornfield. However, the balmy weather was way better than the blustery Atlantic weather back at Camp Perry.

After about a month, we packed all our gear and marched down to the pier to board a brand new little ship, *Jean Lafitte*. She had recently completed a shakedown cruise and was supposedly ready for her maiden voyage. On February 7, 1944, about 600 of us shipped out of Gulf Port on this tiny ship and headed for the Panama Canal. A severe problem arose almost immediately. The fresh water system failed and we were told that our showers and laundry would now be with salt water. As we moved further south and into warmer and hotter weather, the air-conditioning also failed. Sleeping quarters below deck were sweltering and miserable.

We went through the Panama Canal at night and it was a memorable experience. Search lights everywhere. That night, we showered and shaved with fresh water borrowed and returned to the canal. At dawn we emerged on the Pacific side and headed west, unescorted. (No protection) The ship captain was afraid someone would light a cigarette and reveal our location so we were locked below decks at dusk. Those hot, sticky nights, located below deck were a nightmare. We made the trip alone and undetected, crossing the equator late in the month of February. On March 5, 1944, we docked at Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, in the Coral Sea. One hundred thirty of us, from the original six hundred went ashore and became replacements in the 44th Seabee Battalion. This outfit had left the states a year earlier and needed replacements. They lined us up and took every third man for three months of KP duty (a bad hair day for me). Next they closed ranks and took every third man again and set this group aside for unpopular work details like laundry, camp clean-u, etc. Then they assigned the remainder to construction jobs such as roads, piers, hospital buildings, etc.



A month later, on April 4, we left New Hebrides, on board the USS Monroe, APA 104 and headed northwest towards Manus in the Admiralty Islands. This island is north of Papua, New Guinea, just two degrees south of the equator. We arrived at Manus on April 17, 1944. It was a mess. The island was still not secured. It was monsoon season and average rainfall was 150 inches. Recovery details were everywhere. We pitched tents on the beach and my company, C, was ordered to stand guard in the jungle on the edge of camp for several nights while army units secured the island. We remained on Manus for about a year and, in that time, we built a huge water purification plant, many miles of roads using coral in place of gravel, a huge hospital to

receive casualties from the planned invasion of the Philippines and two long finger piers. I was primarily involved with the hospital and the two piers of 800 feet long and over 900 feet long.



Explosion on the Mt Hood

On the morning of November 10, 1944, we were on the beach getting ready to go to work on one of the piers when suddenly the ammunition ship, Mt Hood, blew up. The entire ship and crew were lost in one horrendous blast. We dove under a flatbed truck for shrapnel protection. Numerous other ships in the vicinity lost upper decks and personal. Over 300 died.

About January 16, 1945, we were notified to pack as we were to head home January 18. I think the ship was the USS Madison. We headed pretty much south, past New Guinea and New Hebrides again and, a few days later, docked on January 36 at Nome, New Caledonia. Suddenly bad news! The loud speaker ordered all 130 replacements to disembark immediately. The 44th battalion was returning to the states without us. Our personal gear would arrive in San Francisco without us.

After about a week in New Caledonia, we headed back into the Solomon Islands group. We landed on Guadalcanal, learning we were now assigned to the 11th Special Seabee Battalion, which was a stevedore outfit rather than a construction outfit. So we learned to unload ships of all sizes that were loaded with everything from motor equipment to aviation gasoline or ammunition or sometimes a food ship loaded with goodies like canned peaches. How do you sneak ashore with a #10 tin of peaches under your coat?



At Guadalcanal, we unloaded numerous ships and just marked time. What was happening was the formation of the largest sea attack group ever assembled. Larger than Normandy. Finally, sometime in March, we boarded the Thomas Jefferson, APA 30, and headed for Okinawa in the Ryuku Island group. There were ships as far as we could see in any direction and hundreds more that were not visible. On Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945, we dropped anchor off Hagushi Beach, Okinawa. That afternoon, we watched a Kamikaze pilot as he slowly circled and then started his steep dive into the largest ship he could see. The ship was severely damaged but did not sink.

The next day our crew was unloading ammunition from hold #3. My buddy, Hartz, was three decks down, manually lifting and loading huge shells plus boxes of explosives onto a rope net. I had gone topside for a short breather when I noticed a net load of ammunition was hanging above the hatch opening, slowly twisting one way and then the other. The winch operator was supposed to pull the net out over the side of the ship but he was frozen at the controls. The captain had refused to permit us to use our trained winch operator so his operator could gain experience.

Suddenly one of the four corner beackets (rope loops) broke and the entire load of munitions spilled out and fell three decks back into the hold of remaining munitions. Having witnessed the USS Mt. Hood explosion, I took off towards the bow of the ship at warp speed, covering the distance in world record time. Fortunately the huge shells required detonators, which were not yet attached. The brass shell casings did not spark so we all survived another day. I'll bet the captain never logged this incident. The crew in the hold calmly loaded the bent and damaged ammo on a new net, which was raised and dumped in the bay, where it remains today.

There was an airfield named Yontan on a bluff just above our camp. One dark night a lone Japanese plane loaded with suicide volunteers managed to fly in and land on Yontan. The Japanese jumped out of their plane. Each was carrying powerful explosives, which they attached to our planes with magnets. They detonated shortly after attachment. Soon numerous American planes were destroyed. In the meantime, fighting for control of Okinawa went on for weeks. We went through two massive typhoons, President Roosevelt died, and two atom bombs were dropped on Japan.



Yontan Airfield

In January 1946, the 11th Special received notice they were heading back to San Francisco. However, anyone having left the states as late as February 1944 was not eligible. So, again, what remained of the 130 replacements went to a third outfit, the 4th Special. Finally, in February 1946, those of us who had been assigned to the 4th Special boarded the USS Admiral Simms for return to Seattle, Washington. The ship carried nearly 5,000 troops. We docked at Pier #91 on March 6, 1946, after 25 months in the Pacific.

King Folk is a newsletter published by the family of Nahum and Sarepta Norton King, Oregon pioneers of 1845. Annual dues are \$10. These funds are used for family projects, publication costs, and reunion costs. Please make checks payable to "**Pam Peck - King Folk**" and mail to Pam Peck, 1524 NW Kings Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97330.

the information may not be completely accurate. Corrections and updates are published whenever they become known. Please submit material for publication to Anne Trussell, 2108 Stacia Way, Sacramento, CA 95822 or atru02@comcast.net.

All information published in **King Folk** is printed as it is presented. For that reason,

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