

KING FAMILY REUNION
Kings Valley School Gym
June 22, 1996

We will publish a list of family members' e-mail addresses in the King Folk newsletter.

David Trask asked that we continue sending family obituaries to him.

Discussion about how we might want to spend the money we have collected for the cemetery. To repair stones? We have a list started of stones that need maintenance.

David has an 1847 gravestone in his possession that belongs in the Locke Cemetery. He found it in the bushes along the road. It is for the son of Amos Nahum King and Malinda Fuller King, possibly the oldest child in the family that was conceived in Oregon Territory. Carol Nelson said local funeral homes would know how to contact the person in charge of that cemetery. There are also Fullers buried there. The cemetery is on Lewisburg Road, off Highway 99 W. (Turn left at the blinking light; about 1/2 mile to the top of the hill, cemetery is marked.) Carol said it is a very interesting cemetery. It is also Benton County's paupers' cemetery.

Several were recognized recently for their work at the Wren Community Cemetery--David & Mary Ann Norton, Dorothy & William Brown. That cemetery is also recognized as a significant historical site in Benton County. Charles King & other family members are buried there.

The Morgans displayed some lovely old pictures of Charles King and his second wife (a Barnes, from Eddyville) and their daughter, Ethel King.

Charles King's home at Harris Bridge is now being restored by Aaron & Naomi McKee. The house is between the railroad and the river.

Kenneth Munford said the McKees are doing a remarkable job of restoration of the home, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Daniel Fromherz suggested compiling a database of family members, with death/funeral dates, burial place, condition of their stones. Carol Nelson said we need to have someone actually look at the graves, take an inventory, then add them to the database.

Carol Nelson & her daughter will work with David Trask to get the database started, and we can publish it in the King Folk newsletter.

We have about \$300 now in the cemetery fund.

A discussion took place about a request for donations in memory of Dorothy King. The donations will help fund purchase of a bench in California.

Ideas: 1) Increase the King Folk dues. 2) Add a voluntary surcharge for a special fund. 3) Keep the cemetery fund for the purpose it was meant for.

Charlotte Wirfs will send a plea for voluntary donations in the next newsletter.

Election of officers for the next year: Charlotte Wirfs is our president; Carole Putman is Vice President. Secretary Janey King (widow of Robert King) asked to be relieved from her duties. (Janey was secretary since 1982.) David Trask is family historian.

Charlotte volunteered to continue as president, and Bill King seconded the motion! Carole will continue as vice president.

Margaret Fromherz moved, seconded by Nadine Long, to elect Patricia Bearden as secretary. Pat was elected by unanimous vote.

A discussion took place about a date for the reunion in the future.

Consensus was that the emphasis of this group is on records, cemetery upkeep and the newsletter. The Fromherz picnic is a social event that takes place the day following this reunion at Avery Park in Corvallis.

Charlotte asked for help in organizing the party, with planned events like the Beebe girls did the last two years. All agreed--the Beebe's did a terrific job, and we miss them this year. They came a day before the reunion to set up the activities. They are a family of "do-ers."

Margaret Fromherz will try to contact the Beebe girls to find out why they aren't here, and ask them to return next year.

Bill King said, "Don't make things much different than the way we've always done it."

Joan Larsen will get this reunion onto the list of Sons & Daughters of Oregon Pioneers reunions for next year.

Consensus: Keep the date as the first Saturday after Father's Day each year.

The Fromherz reunion is sponsored by Sol King's branch of the family.

Florence Gross said she likes the history part being on Saturday and the picnic on Sunday. She said they start on Saturday with a golf tournament, then have their picnic on Sunday and finish it off on Monday.

Kenneth Munford said Sol and Anna Maria King built a house and took over the livery stable in Corvallis. They put horses on the north side of the hill, and built their house on the crest of the rise by Dixon Creek. He dammed up the creek and used it for irrigation. Rawies bought the house, tore it down and built a new one. It is located on 35th Street. Velma Rawie lives there now, and she has a photo collection of how it looked long ago. She said she would show family members the photos.

Daniel Fromherz suggested that we put together our own King tour of different houses, like a progressive party.

Francis Rexford said he remembered touring four or five old houses in Kings Valley some time back. He said we should do it again, so we can keep track of the old homes that still exist. We could also mark out where our people lived (the sites) or other family landmarks. Or, we could do a map of family sites for a driving tour.

The County Surveyor still has maps from the 1850's and Donation Land Claim information.

Maxine Bell said every cemetery plot is a deeded piece of land, recorded at the court house. She suggested using a metal detector to help find unmarked graves by locating the old nails in coffins. She said it is best to take gravestone photos early in the day while the dew is still upon them. She cautioned to never use a brush on a gravestone because it can scratch the stone. Even taking a rubbing can bring a fine around the Boston area! Bronze markers hold up the very best, without deterioration.

A discussion took place about whether it is better to repair an old stone, or to put a new stone in.

Idea: A cemetery in Eugene has a big diagram, framed under glass, showing the graves there and exact plot location.

Joan Larsen suggested that perhaps a company that sells gravestones could tell us more about what is involved in repairing stones.

Daniel Fromherz said our first ancestor in America was born 401

years ago. Soon, it will be the 400th anniversary of the first King in America.

GEORGE NEWBERRY

Florence Gross told the story of George Newberry. He was son of Sol King, by an Indian woman. Her name must have been Newberry, as he was known by that name. No one in the family talked about him. Bertha King said that Sol and his wife raised him as their son. He was half-brother of Abe King.

George was blinded at a young age after a horse accident. After Sol died, his half brothers told George to get lost. He became educated and established a business college in Medford.

George came back once a year to visit Florence's family during the depression years. He had a chauffeur because of his blindness. He always brought treats to the kids, bananas and oranges. One year, he got a new car and left them his old one. Florence's mom was George's best friend in the King family.

Daniel Fromherz said George's mother was the widow of Surveyor Newberry who surveyed Sol's narrow gauge railroad. Sol took care of her and put her in a cabin behind a hill and his orchard. Anna Maria brought George into her house and educated him. George's mother's first husband discovered Newberry Crater in Eastern Oregon.

George Newberry was born in 1886. He had a distinguished list of Medford businessmen as honorary pallbearers at his 1954 funeral. His death certificate lists his parentage as unknown.

George W. Newberry married Mildred E. Pratt, May 24, 1911.

Florence said George came to her mother and asked her to help prove that he was part Indian.

Florence said George was a "hush-hush chapter" in the family history, and it is time to "bring him out of the closet."

Florence's family used to like George "real well."

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

Patricia Plunkett Bearden
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Secretary