

KING FAMILY REUNION

Kings Valley School

Kings Valley, OR

June 26, 1999

President Charlotte Price Wirfs presided over the meeting. About 40 were present during the meeting, but others were here earlier in the day and had already left before the meeting. We had lots of new faces this year.

Charlotte asked everyone to fill out an "I'm a King's Kid" slip, showing their lineage, if they have not already done so. This year, slips from descendants of each of Nahum & Sarepta's children were displayed around the room on brightly-colored poster boards.

Charlotte also distributed some "cousin finder" sheets to all who wanted them.

Dues are due in January. Charlotte will send reminders. Cost remains \$6.00 for the King Folk newsletter and \$4.00 contribution for the tombstone fund.

All first-time attendees introduced themselves. They were descendants of Sarah, Lucretia, John, Hopestill, Solomon, Stephen and Abigail King.

Charlotte announced that Audrey Theurer is now the clerk for the Kings Valley Cemetery. Donations may be sent to her at 755 NE Circle Blvd. #57, Corvallis, OR 97330.

Charlotte said they are doing a great job this year on cemetery maintenance. It is kept mowed and cleaned up. Virginia Price said they plan to install a gate at the highway. It will not be locked, but is to discourage vandalism.

Two of our family members died during this past year-Retha Greig and Warren King.

Bill King, of Lincoln City, was not able to be here this year, due to ill health. We missed him.

GRAVE LOCATION PROJECT:

Dorothy and Pat Brown reported that they searched diligently for the graves of Nahum and Sarepta King. They found three iris beds, each about 3x6 feet, separated by spaces of the same side. There are two rocks there, but the big old rocks that old-timers remembered are gone, possibly moved into a nearby yard. A professor at the OSU school of forestry examined the rocks in the yard nearby and said they were old, and covered with moss. The Browns are still working on this project.

The grave of Stephen King was supposed to be on the old King property, but the people who now own the land didn't want the family on their property. Someone divided the original land, and it has now been determined that Stephen's grave is above the dividing line, on someone else's

ground. Pat Brown has permission to go onto the properties, and he will keep looking for the grave.

Dorothy Brown suggested putting a memorial to the three at the Wren Cemetery, which is adjacent to the Nahum King DLC.

A discussion took place about the possibility of moving the memorial stone from the Kings Valley Cemetery to the Wren area, possibly into the Wren Cemetery. The DAR set the stone in the Kings Valley Cemetery in the 1930's. Or, we could do a second memorial stone.

Daniel Frommherz suggested that if we ever locate the graves with certainty, we could check into the possibility of getting a tax write-off for the current property owner, if he would set it aside for a memorial area. Charlotte will contact the Oregon Cemetery Association to find out the rules about this.

Maxine Bell suggested that any memorials we decide to erect should be of brass, because it lasts longer than other materials.

WILLIAM KING ISSUE:

A discussion took place about whether we have the correct William King in our lineage, as there is some conflicting information in genealogical records. We are rechecking the documentation back from Nahum King, and there is some question about some of the women in the line and their parentage. We need someone who is interested enough in detail work to take on this project. Much of our information came from research done in the 1960's, and some from Rufus King of New York done in the 1800's. We believe that some of it is flimsy research.

Daniel observed that, "Wonderful things can happen when you want wonderful things to happen."

Daniel, Alice Blowers and Ellen Craven have been working on this puzzle recently. The biggest question is about Mary Andrew(s) and her parentage.

HOSKINS/HASKINS ISSUE:

Daniel suggested that we collectively agree to drop the "a" and record the name as HOSKINS instead of Haskins. Maxine Bell agreed. A short discussion took place.

Florence Gross said she made a circle chart of Alice Blowers' family line.

Daniel said there is a possibility that William⁽¹⁾ King(e)'s wife Dorothy may have had a different surname than Hayne.

Charlotte noted that several years ago we decided we would use the spelling SArepta instead of Serepta.

Charlotte then pronounced it "settled." We will henceforth use the spelling HOSKINS instead of HASKINS. Maxine noted that the Hoskins men were all blacksmiths, and they married into New England lines that were well-researched.

TOMBSTONE PROJECT

Charlotte announced that we have about \$550 in the tombstone fund, and a list of stones that need repairs-but so far no one wants to head up the repair project. Suzanne St. Romain was going to do it, but now she's started her family and is too busy.

During discussion, someone asked whether the K. V. Cemetery Association would have any interest in doing the repair work. (We agreed, the fund is not to be used for general cemetery maintenance.) We need to compile pictures of the family stones that need repair, with notes of what the wording should be if too worn to be readable.

A discussion took place about redirecting our tombstone fund through the K.V. Cemetery Association to be used to repair/replace the King Family gravestones. Barbara Drew asked that the VanBibber stones be included, as they are part of the family also.

Daniel suggested that perhaps the Eagle Scouts might help.

MESSAGES FROM THOSE WHO COULDN'T BE HERE THIS YEAR

Charlotte reported that she received regrets from Alice Blowers, Ellen Craven, Lanay Carpenter (too much sports involvement with her kids right now). Also, Kenneth Mumford.

David and Libia Trask were unable to attend because their firstborn is due on June 29th! They are expecting a son, whose name will be Ryan.

T-SHIRTS

Consensus was to revive the T-shirt project. Jim King suggested we make them all white or light gray, and abandon the color scheme from several years ago that had a different color shirt for descendants of each of Nahum's children.

Margaret Fromherz suggested putting the name our King ancestor on the shirts, perhaps using black lettering on white shirts.

Maxine said the King crest, used on the last T-shirts, doesn't mean anything. Daniel also thinks using it is too "iffy."

A discussion took place about using a Kings Valley theme for the shirts instead. We will work on devising a graphic for the shirts this year.

1890 CENSUS RECOMPILING

Daniel reported that a group is now trying to recompile the 1890 census that was mostly destroyed by fire. They will use any available records for the project. They are asking anyone with knowledge of ancestors living in 1890 to write them down in a set format and then submit them to a lady in Maine. This is a private project.

Maxine noted that 1890 city/county directories state that the information was "taken from the 1890 census" and they exist from all around the country.

We agreed that we want to leave it up to individuals to participate in this project if they wish to, and we recognize that the information compiled will be only as accurate as its sources.

STORY TIME

Florence Gross noted that her Uncle Warren King (the youngest of Abe King's children) died March 4, 1999 after a long illness. He lived in Idaho. Charlotte will print an article about him in a future issue of *King Folk*.

Florence displayed a large picture of Abe King's family that shows Bill and Dorothy King as children. (Dorothy is now 95.) Bill and Dorothy are the only family members still living.

Don Van Etten told about Abraham Lincoln King, who was born in Wren. He had a red beard he was proud of, because with it he didn't have to wear a tie. He was one of few redheads in the family.

Louis & Florence Gross just celebrated their 60th anniversary. Florence will be 86 this fall, and is the oldest of her eight siblings, all of whom are still living.

Florence told about her brother Adolf King who changed his name to "Joe" during WWII. The family always called him Little Adolf because his dad was Big Adolf.

Florence reminded everyone of the Fromherz reunion that takes place tomorrow at Avery Park in Corvallis. All are welcome. Usually between 100 and 120 attend.

Charlotte said it was Florence who had the idea for the *King Folk* newsletter. Florence does a newsletter for the Fromherz family.

VAN BIBBER FAMILY

Barbara Drew reported that the VanBibbers came from Macoupin County, Illinois to St. Joe, Missouri. They needed \$500 plus a big supply of provisions for the trip to Oregon. Most brought two wagons. She said they learned this from the information displayed at the interpretive center at Sunny Valley, OR about the Applegate Trail. Lazarus and Martha VanBibber came on the Applegate Trail that branched off from the California Trail. Jesse Applegate tried for two years to find an alternate route to Oregon because they lost a son in the Colorado River.

Lazarus and Martha were born in Macoupin County, IL. They left for Oregon in 1845. Their daughter Almeda married Isaac King in Benton County, OR in 1847. They had nine children. Barbara said that Almeda had another child born after Isaac died, and its father is in question. Later, she married Andrew Jackson Zumwalt and had several more children. (Note: These two marriages are the reason for the "double cousins" the King Family members often refer to.)

Almeda tried to get her father Lazarus VB declared incompetent. She died before her father did, so Lazarus left his money and property to the colleges.

Barbara said the new interpretive center at Sunny Valley is very good, and is the result of a dream of some people there. She said it is very well organized.

Charlotte noted that there is an interview with Lazarus VB printed in one of the older books. She will reprint it in *King Folk* in a future issue.

Charlotte said she appreciates all the networking that goes on between family members, and the sharing of information. Those are the things that keep a group going. For as long as the K.V. school will let us come here, we will be here on the Saturday after Father's Day each year. They charge us only \$10 rent, and "treat us like Kings."

Charlotte noted that David now has all of Nathan King's records. Nathan was King family president for ten years, until he died in 1989. He collected information and was planning to compile a book, but never got it going. He left his records to the family, with David designated as custodian. Janet Leschae, of Gates, OR is interested in working with David to organize Nathan's collection.

Daniel reported that most public libraries now have Internet access for free. Anyone can obtain a free e-mail address through hotmail.com, with 20 MB of mailbox space. Therefore, there is no reason why all of us cannot converse, even daily.

James King's e-mail address is jimhking@juno.com. It was listed incorrectly in the last issue of *King Folk*.

Don Van Essen has been working with Bill and Gladys King to donate the old King Family reed organ to the Rock Hill School, south of Lebanon. Florence reported that a group is working to beautifully restore the old schoolhouse, and she would like to place the organ there, along with a plaque of recognition. The group would also restore the old organ.

Albert Fromherz reported that the Kings always had a great sense of humor, in spite of being flooded out of their homes in several different states.

Charlotte announced that Pat Brown and friends have a new book out on Wren, Memories of Wren, Oregon. She had several copies available for sale at the reunion.

Francis Rexford asked if anyone knew what type of casket Nahum was burned in.

Conjecture was that it likely was made of pine. Francis suggested that perhaps metal detectors could help locate the graves. Pat Brown said they tried using detectors, without success. But, they may have used wooden pegs instead of nails.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Patricia Plunkett Bearden
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Secretary