

Transcript of
Nathan King Tape—
Remarks made at & after
1981 King Family Reunion

Note - This
was taped & later
transcribed by
Pat Bearden of
Newport, OR.

SIDE I:

In presenting extracts of the materials contained in the book The Kings Kept Going West, I wish to pause in the presentation to acknowledge the labors and the efforts of a substantial number of people who have guided me to fertile sources of information, encouraged me to start, and they have goaded or gently encouraged me to continue the efforts on the book.

First and foremost of the persons that I wish to acknowledge and thank is Bertha King, who in her own inimitable way, steered me into resources, supplied me with source material, and encouraged me continuously. Today she is basking in the many good wishes and congratulations on her 74th anniversary of graduation from Oregon State University. (In those days, it was known as Oregon Agricultural College). Many thanks to Bertha.

There's a long list of people for whose efforts I should acknowledge, but time is short, so I'll say thanks in detail in the book. Today, though, let me acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of Maxine Bell, genealogist, and clan member by two distinct lineages.

Also Margaret Fromherz, who did some searching while East in Massachusetts and also in New York. She went out to the Rufus King mansion on Long Island and she carried some material.

I also wish to acknowledge Inez King Herring, who ran up considerable telephone bills, filling me in and securing materials for me.

There are, as I have said, many helpers, and they will be acknowledged in the book. Thanks to everyone who helped.

When I started looking and researching, it was slightly discouraging to find so little interest, outside of those people that I have mentioned. As time passed by, enthusiasm grew and seemed to rub off on the other people. As time passed, the scope of the book seemed to broaden, and take on more depth. First it took me to research English records available near my home. Then I found out about Crozier's Armorial Bearings book, which was an unimpeachable source of family crests and etc.

That took me back to the period of the Crusades. Then I came across the history of the King name, which is, by the way, Celtic. Then I really dug into the history of those unique and fearsome, talented and interesting beyond description people who crossed Europe from the area north of the Black Sea and eventually affixed in England about 1000 BC.

(Note: pronounced "Kelt")

Anthropologists, archaeologists, and historians clear back to ancient Greece and Latinium (Rome, before the Caesars) all recorded the Celts' doings and feats. They listed the Celts by various names unique to them. In case of the Greek, Celtoi (?) and I can't even pronounce the name that the Latinium people had for the Celts that went down into the Poe (?) River Valley and settled there. But, there also the Celts were known as the Gauls.

Caesar wrote of the Celts in his Annals about England in the period 100 BC, pardon me, AD.

The Celts were skilled metal workers and artisans. The archaeologists' findings bear evidence of widespread skill and artistry. But more on that later.

The evolution of the name "King" in its various spellings was the name of the leader of a clan. The Celts were divided in two basic groups in the British Islands. They were known as the Gaels and the Cymrics. All the evidence is, the Kings of which we are dealing were descended of the Cymric branch. (Note: pronounced Kim'rick).

The Cymric branch of the Celts included people who still exist in the Brittany Coast of France, in Wales and in Cornwall, or as we say, the Cornish County.

The other are the Gaels, which is the Scottish Highlanders, the Isle of Man, or the Manx people, Erin, or the Irish people. If the name comes up about the Irish people, back in the middle ages or before, the comment that there were so many Irish kings. At one time there were 125 Irish kings at the same time--in other words, the head of a clan was called king. Their consuming pastime seemed to be spending their efforts in fighting, arguing, and interclan war. The Cymric Celts are not identifiable as a entity any more in Cornwall. The king from which our family descended is found having lived in Devon, Somerset and Cornwall. There will be a little bit more later about that.

Probably the earliest bearers of the name King to be mentioned in a documentary way is evidenced by the following as early as 1222 AD: In an extract from Doomsday Book of St. Paul in which is mentioned Hugh King as a tenant at Thorp; Robert King as a tenant at Artardly (?); William King as a tenant at Newstake; and William King son of Robert D Teahh(?). That smacks of something from the Normandy invasion.

In the English Calendar of the Closed Roles for the year 1308 AD are recorded the names of Richard the King and his cousin Harelind (?) King. About 1387 a King family was seated at Fowlscombe (?) parish of Ukborough (?), Devonshire. Evidence of this fact was found in a deed to a building and land which was executed that year and in that locality by one Roger King.

Devon is the first English County in which the Kings flourished and many King families also lived in the counties of Dorset, Somerset and Cornwall, and to this day they are associated with these localities more than any other part of England.

In Crozier's General Armory, a Registry of American Families Entitled to Court Armour (or in other words, to bear a coat of arms—display is the word they use) is an abstract on page 81 of Crozier's General Armory, "King, Massachusetts. William King, Salem, 1595 to 1651 (Ukborough (?), Devon)." This authoritative evidence would indicate that William King of Salem was a descendant of Roger King, who lived in Fowlscombe Parish of Ukborough, Devonshire, England in 1387. Further extracts from the manuscripts in the library of the New England Historical & Genealogical Society in Boston has the following: Philip Kinge (the spelling is Kinge) born 1557 died 1636. Inscription in his memory is found in the church at Launceston, County Cornwall, England. He married Thor Bethwin and had issue: John born 1593, William born 1595, Philip born 1598, Robert born 1609, and three daughters, Mary, Tileria, and Margaret. Notes were from researcher Major Hugh E. King.

Launceston in County Cornwall is close to the border of County Devon on the east and is not far from Ugborough (Ukborough?) in County Devon.

The Philip King referred to above as the father of William King, born 1595, could have been a descendant of Roger King that bought Fowlscombe Manor at Ugborough in 1387. A picture of Fowlscombe Manor is shown in one of the volumes of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register.

In the book Saints and Strangers there is a reference to William King of Salem starting on the Speedwell, the boat that tried twice to accompany the Mayflower in 1620. It was leaky and turned back twice. William King was referred to as being seasick and "feeding the fishes".

Referring to the maps, it is easy to understand why William King of Salem could have been married as earlier records show in the Abbey Church of St. Mary, Sherbourne, Dorsetshire, England. William King and Dorothy Haynes King (the way they spelled it in the record was Haynes) had been married three years when they first attempted to sail on the Speedwell in 1620. William King finally made it to Salem, Massachusetts, in 1635.

In going through my material I came across a note I'd made to myself: It's true the Kings kept going west, but sometimes their movement was voluntary, sometimes dictated by restless uncertainty, sometimes driven by political necessity, and sometimes fleeing ahead of advancing invaders, such as the Angles, the Saxons, and their allies sweeping the Celts to the west of Britain and into the hills of southwestern Britain and western Britain and the Scottish highland.

One of the people with whom I was discussing the book, The Kings Kept Going West, made the comment: "to achieve a fully comprehensive works of history, or to attain a degree in history, an individual must round out his approach to the project by becoming conversant with all of the components and the elements of history. To become immersed in the mores of the times in which a contemporary magnifying glass scans is to see the times and the people through the eyes of the economy, sociological forces, immigration patterns, religious tenets, the peers of the group studied, educational processes and demands, technological state of being in relation to our contemporary status, new senspilogical (?) concept as applied to the last 600 years of the homo-sapiens on earth, medical technological advances that are contemporary to our current frame of reference as compared to some of the "home remedy era" of our ancestors. Influences of modes of transportation or migration, education, health and domestic existence. To bring a richer and fuller understanding to the contemporary, recording of the happenings to our ancestors of the things that have historical significance. No one can do justice to such recording unless his recording of the events is screened through the awareness of the above-mentioned criteria, plus many other unlisted criteria."

Notes of the introduction to the book: The research of this book began in earnest in August of 1960 with a trip through Willamette Valley of Oregon as part of a return to my home in Toppenish, Washington, where I had been a part of a very interesting workshop at the University of Oregon in Eugene. While the stay was still only half over, I found myself on the road between Eugene and Corvallis near the turnoff to Kings Valley by way of Philomath and Wren. I stopped at various cemeteries and sites having names that rose up from the dim mists of my memories of conversations with the members of the King and related ancestors. The bits and pieces of information that came from this visit and consequent attendances to the King-Chambers-Norton clan picnics held on the Sunday after Father's Day, in June each year served further to spur me on to explore further, dig deeper and achieve the ever-widening challenge "for that bit more information". Many friends and clansmen became interested in my search. They joined the research by sending along information, photographs, and documents. Many of them were priceless, bearing the signatures of some of our nation's most famous people. The facts about the activities and contributions made by the many outstanding members of the King clan and descendants of those persons of clans that married into the King family, since William King came to Salem, Massachusetts, in 1835, (sic), served to spur my interest in assembling in one recorded research project all that I could possibly find and document with the aid of a legion of friends and relatives.

In the research and reading I also came across materials that intrigued me such as "how big is the family tree?" and exploding some misconceptions and postures about heraldry or coats of arms that the descendants of William King might or might not be entitled to display.

We will explore the philosophy and we will determine the attitude of the Kings about family history, heraldry and titles. In part of the research and reading I came across contributions of the members of the family and marry-ins made to the fabric of the "national tapestry". I decided to carry this one step further and trace the parallel history of the world and its events chronologically as they occurred. In noting the events there will be an effort to show where possible that these events may have had a definite bearing on the attitudes, pressures and philosophies which were "conditioners" influencing the decisions made which had both on social and economical impact on William King's descendants. Casual reading showed that at times the overt actions revealed in narratives about the various descendants of William King were definitely related to peer approval, economic conditions, political circumstances, and a basic instinct for survival.

Documentation became almost a fetish with the author as time after time he found that the material quoted dubious sources and questionable facts. Lineages that have been accepted as "gossipal" were discarded when more than one error in work-up revealed the fact or lineage to be erroneous or wishful thinking, or the result of a faulty memory.

As the bibliography will bear witness, the source of some of my information from the past comes from well-documented sources, id est Essex Historical Collection. Some of the information came from "vanity" books, articles or press releases or feature columns. The "vanity" articles did have the tendency to reveal what the subject of the article wanted revealed or what light he wanted history to regard him as in context with the times and his peers.

Down through the eleven generations including William King and since there has been a wide disparity in the attitude towards education, religion, politics, military service, economic necessity and all of the arts required in making and sustaining a living for themselves and their families.

(Note: tape contains considerable general information quoted from the Book of the Seven Mysteries of Life, by Guy Murchie, published by Houghton Mifflin Company of Boston, c 1978 by Guy Murchie, illustration by Guy Murchie, title: "How Big is the Family Tree?"--seven hand-written pages, not transcribed here because it is very general information regarding numbers of ancestors in one's past, etc. etc.)

Note: Appears to be an addition to original remarks, made a few days after King Reunion.

1980
In research and recording the fields of genealogy it never pays to assume that the last word is said and that the last bit of information has been discovered or found its way to the hand of the researcher. A few days ago when attending the Chambers-King-Norton clan gathering at Avery Park, Corvallis, Oregon, so much more information was handed to me by Maxine Bell who has been a magnificent source of information and guide in the techniques of research and genealogy. Many of the facts, leads and clues that lead to the assembly of the data for this book are due to her encouragement and unbounded enthusiasm. She had just come from the parade of the tall ships on the Charles River in Boston, commemorating the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the Winthrop fleet, 1630. We both share ancestors going back to Ann Winthrop, who married William Haskins (or Hoskins) I and sailed with her brother, Governor Winthrop's fleet.

Nahum King, patriarch of the 1845 wagon train, was the son of Amos King, born in New Salem, Massachusetts, in 1756. Amos married Hopestill Haskins, daughter of William Haskins IV.

Amongst the information that Ms. Bell returned with from her trip is the research data compiled in a tract by Major Hugh E. King, which was in the Reynolds Historical Genealogical Collection, Ft. Wayne Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, titled Genealogical and Biographical History of the King Family. Research compiled by Major Hugh E. King of Niantic, Connecticut, 9th generation from William King, the immigrant from England in 1635, published in 1955. From this new source of documented information, a lot of preconceptions I had about the total absence of information about William King's birthplace and his ancestors were swept away by documentation presented by Major Hugh E. King.

Documentation included excerpts from Burke's General Armory, Crozier's General Armory, attested to the authenticity of the coat of arms of William King of Salem. The authority is Burke's Armory of 1884, Fairburn's Crests, 1892, and Holmes' New England Families, 1923.

There is a quotation from the tract by Major King that seems appropriate at this point, this is the quotation from Thomas Gray: "The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power and all thy beauty, all that wealth, 'ere gave, await like the inevitable hour, the paths of glory lead but to the grave."

The coat of arms that William King of Salem was authorized to display is described below and then the terminology in heraldry for the colors: In the book under the title King, first, shield: sable on a chevron between three crosses crosslit are as many escallops of the field. Crest: An escallop, OR. Helmet, argent. Authority, Crozier's General Armory, a Registry of American Families Entitled to Court Armour. Published by New York Genealogy and Historical Society, in Holly (Hawley?) Books, Duffield & Company, New York.

Extract from page 81, "King of Massachusetts, William King of Salem, Massachusetts, 1595-1651, Uxborough (?), Devonshire, England".

"Sable" means black. "Or", gold or yellow, and "argent", silver or white. This King coat of arms dates back to the 14th Century, has no motto, as mottos had not been introduced at that time.

(End of Side I)

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SIDE II

"This is Side 2, which is very brief, but of an integral part of the text.

I will not list the dates of history because they are rather long, but you will find them in the book and they are pertinent to the parade of events as set forth in the book.

The next subject I wanted to deal with was some notes that I have about the Celts.

Some Europeans pronounce it "selt" but the British or English pronunciation is like the hard "K", "Kelt".

Now, I got some information from one of the research books: "Celts—an ancient Indo-European or Arian race which formerly inhabited a large part of Italy, Spain, Gaul (or France) and Britain. The descendants of this race still occupy Wales, Ireland, and the highlands of Scotland and part of Northern France. After spreading over a large part of portions of Europe, they appear to have been driven westward by the Teutons, Slavs and succeeding waves of migratory people. They were mentioned by Heridotus as occupying the Valley of the Ebro (?) River along with the Iberians in Spain. They were called Gaulae by the Romans and appear to have reached their greatest power in the 2nd and 3rd centuries BC. In Asia Minor they settled in a region known as Galatia. They eventually divided into two branches and spoke dialects widely different from each other known as Gaelic and Cymric. (Pronounced "Kemerick"). The highlanders of Scotland, the Manx, and the Celtic Irish represent the Gaelic, while the inhabitants of Cornwall, Brittany and the Welsh represent the Cymric dialect.

The sun was the subject of worship amongst the Celtic people in the former times.

Now it seems there are people who are definitely immersed into the life in Cornwall. Since the earliest records available to us at this time, about 1980, indicated that Roger King moved into an estate in Devonshire on or about the year 1387, the information that follows about Cornwall is directly tied into the descendants of Roger and then the name King is spelled in several different ways.

The descendants up to and including William King of Salem, 1635, seem to be

recorded and located in the community of Launceston, County of Cornwall. Reference is made to the first chapter of the book. Cornwall is a maritime county, in the extreme southwest of England, terminating in Land's End, the most westerly point of the mainland. It includes the Scilly Isles, 25 miles to the southwest. The county is bounded by Devonshire on the east, by the English Channel on the south and southwest, the Atlantic Ocean on the north and northwest. County seat is Bodmin. Falmouth, Penzance and St. Ives, all ports, are among the principal cities. The Devonian Range runs northeast to southwest through Cornwall, and Brown Willy (?), 1375 feet, is the highest point. The southern coast, a tourist resort area, enjoys sub-tropical climate.

Cornwall was the last section of southern Britain to be conquered by the Saxons. The old Celtic language of Cornwall, still spoken in the 18th Century, survives in the names of people and places. Many Cornish names recall the Arthurian legends. The ruins of Tintagel, supposed birthplace of King Arthur, still stand. (Lionesé, to whom a Christian) (???) supposedly lies submerged between Land's End and Scilly Isles.

Prehistoric antiquities are to be found throughout Cornwall in greater quantities than anywhere else in England. These include Cromlitches (?), gulmans, (?) and monoliths from the time of the Druids and the ruined cliff and hill castles and crosses.

The Celts, by Thomas Darcy McGee: "Long, long ago beyond the misty space, of twice a thousand years in Erin old there dwelt a mighty race. Taller than Roman spears, like oaks and towers they had a giant grace, were fleet as deers, with wind and waves they made their biding place, these western shepherd seers. Great were their deeds, their passions and their sports, clay and stone they piled on straith and shore those mystic forts, not yet o'er thrown. On cáirn-crowned hills they held their council courts, while youths along with giant dogs explored the elk resorts and brought them down. Oh, cion, thousand years of mist and change surround they name. Thy thenism (?), heroes no, no longer range the hills of fame. The very names of Thin and Gaul sound strange, yet thine the same. Thy miscalled lake and desecrated grange remains and shall remain. Oh, awe-inspired giant, shall we 'ere behold in our time one fit to speak your spirit on the wold or seize your rhyme when pupil of the past is mighty sold as in the prime. Of the fond, fair and beautiful and bold, they of your song sublime".

The Cymric note--a branch of the Celts of Britain--they succeeded the Gaels and drove them west into Ireland, into the Isle of Man and towards the north into the highlands of Scotland, while they themselves located in and occupied the southern portion of Britain. Later they were driven out of the lowlands of Britain into the mountainous regions of western England, into the mountains of Wales by the invasions of Saxons, Angles and Jutes.

Descendants of the Cymric are chiefly found in Wales at present. The definition of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes we will pass for the time being.

But some of the writers did refer to the Jutes as Fresians, there is another note, too, since Bede was an influence in the religious and historical imprint of the English people, a brief note is included here for interpretative understanding of the many factors bearing on the early Kings.

Bede, often called the venerable Bede, an early English theologian and historian, born about 672 died about 735. He was taken as a child to the monastery at Weremouth, Northumbria, and later moved to the monastery at Jarrow, where he remained teaching and writing and studying until his death. He became a deacon at 19, a priest at 30. He did work of importance in three fields: theology, science and history, sometimes combining his knowledge of all three. His allegorical expositions of the Biblical literature are still of scholarly interest and his studies in chronology were responsible for modern methods of dating time from the date of birth of Christ.

The Temporum Russian was his important work in chronology, while he presented the lives of saints in matriolosian (?) and in the accounts of the life of St. Cuthford. Much of his historical material was used later in the Anglo-Saxon chronicle. His most important single work in this field was the Historia Ecclesiastica Gentise Angloria, written in 731. His historical work was of special value because it was straight-forward and accurate, distinguishing carefully between actual knowledge and hearsay or other secondary sources.

Now I'm gonna read a note from the Gaelic branch of the Celts and it has particular bearing upon the Kings in America. It said: "It is from this torn and tumultuous land (referring to Ireland) that some of the King forebears came to America. Ann Winthrop, who married William Hoskins (or Haskins) I was the forebear of William Haskins II, III, and William Haskins IV, whose daughter Hopestill Haskins married Amos King of New Salem, Massachusetts. He was born 1756, and he was the father of Nahum King of the Terrible Trail, 1845. The Winthrops were represented as landed gentry from Ireland.

One of the persons I wish to acknowledge, maybe belatedly here, is Dean Sellers. He is descended from the Kings, in fact Nahum King's daughter married Heman Halleck, and it is from this union that Dean Sellers, now resident in Mesa, Arizona, and he has provided me with a great deal of information, particularly of the Hallecks and the King daughter who married into the Hallecks. I owe him a debt of gratitude for a rather large file that he loaned to me.

(1982) In closing this presentation, I would like to pass on some information which came into my hands of Friday, June 24, 1982.

I called the Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, who published the book The Terrible Trail, written by Keith Clark and Lowell Tiller. They had destroyed the plates from which the first and second editions were printed. The new technique would be from a master copy of the book that they retained in their file and using the photographic process, could produce a softbound copy rather than a hardbound copy, using the dust jacket of the original two editions for the cover motif of the softbound. The question was raised during the 1981 clan gathering at Avery Park as to whether or not we could promote another edition, which would be the third edition. I called Keith Clark and secured permission to go ahead with the project.

Some inquiries were made as to the financing of this project and the inquiries I made of the printers, Caxton Printers, Ltd., was based on 1000 copies. Based on 1000 copies, it would require publicity in genealogical publications that have wide circulation, but based on the number of inquiries I've had, as they say "in house" and from outside sources, and considering the number of names involved in the roster included in the book, I feel that the undertaking of 1000 copies accompanied by proper publicity would not be a high risk project.

I would entertain any suggestions at this point. It's going to take considerable amount of financing, or as they say in some circles, some money up front. I'd be interested in hearing the reaction of the people here today.

I appreciate your attention and I hope that this presentation has brought some of the answers to your attention that you may have carried around through the years. Thank you very much.

---taped by Nathan A. King
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