

King Folk eNews

King Family Reunion 2023

**Saturday, June 24,
2023**

noon to 4pm

Philomath City Park

299 S 23rd St

Pilomath,

Benton County, OR

**Presented by King Family
Pioneer Association**

**No potluck again this year.
Let's talk about bringing the
potluck back for 2024.**

**Please pay dues by mail.
See page 2 of this issue.**

**Bring your own lunch, and
lawn chairs.**

**Following a brief meeting we
will have a family heirloom
show and tell. It doesn't have
to date back to 1845, but it
should relate to Kings Valley
or Wren or be connected to a
King descendant.**



(Photo: Kings Valley Pioneer Cemetery, Kings, Valley, OR June 25, 2022)

Fred Lockley Interview with Ashnah Norton Plunkett, 650 N 29th Street, Corvallis, OR . June 20, 1925

My home is in Kings Valley, four miles north of Wren. It is on the Dallas road and is about four miles from the Polk County line. I was born there on Feb. 8, 1847. My father's name is Lucius C Norton. My mother's maiden name is Hope Steel (Hopestill) King. My mother's father, Nahum King, took up a donation land claim in Kings Valley in 1846. They named Kings Valley for him, because he was the first settler. Shortly after Grandfather King settled there his son-in-law, Roland Chambers, took up a place and my father, Lucius Norton took also took up a place there. No other settlers came into the valley that year. The next year James Watson came into the valley and bought a place. The first school in the valley was started in 1849, when I was two years old. In 1856 Captain Auger, who became a general in the Civil War, started a military post in Kings Valley called Fort Hoskins. The

King Pioneer Family Association

This family is made up of the descendants of Nahum and Sarepta King, Oregon Pioneers of 1845. **Annual dues are \$10.00.** These funds are used for family projects, and publication costs

- Please make checks payable to **The King Pioneer Family Association** and mail to **Charlotte Wirfs, 409 Sand Pointe DR, Central Point, OR 97502. Update any changes, address or email.**

All information published in King Folk is printed as presented. For that reason the information presented may not be completely accurate. Corrections and updates are published when they become known.

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following year they started a sutler's store. The first regular store was opened in 1868. I know that Roland Chambers and Mr. Runnels started a grist mill in Kings Valley in the early days.

In 1844 the Missouri River flooded Grandfather Nahum King's place, so he decided to sell out and go to Oregon. With his wife and ten children he went to St. Joe, where they joined a wagon bound for the Willamette Valley. They suffered a lot of unnecessary hardships, as they left the Oregon Trail to take a short cut now known as "Meek's Cutoff". They finally got to the Columbia River and reached The Dalles. They built a raft, on which they put their wagons and went down the Columbia to the Cascades. They took boats for Linnton. From Linnton they went to Tualatin Plains, not far from Forest Grove, where they wintered. The next spring they all went to Kings Valley. My grandfather did not like the place he took up, so he sold his squatter's right and took up a place on Mary's River. The town of Wren is located on his old claim.

During the Civil War they sent the California soldiers up to Oregon to see that the Indians didn't go on the warpath. A company of these California soldiers was located at Fort Hoskins. I wasn't much of a hand to go to dances. My folks didn't approve of them, but I went to a dance given in Kings Valley and was introduced to one of the soldiers. His name was Jim Plunkett. We were married on June 26, 1864. Not long after our marriage, my husband was ordered to Siletz 'till just before President Lincoln was killed. We moved back to Fort Hoskins in March 1865. The soldiers were ordered to Camp Harney in Eastern Oregon. My husband went there and I went to my mother's house. He received his discharge in January 1866, and came back to Kings Valley where he lived until his death in 1911. Sixty years or more ago, when I was married, we were almost holed up in Kings Valley during the winter, the roads were so bad. Now we have beautiful roads all through that part of the country.

You asked me a minute ago about my relatives. I went to a family reunion last Sunday. One hundred and fifty people of us gathered at the home of my brother, Wylie Norton, near Airlie. There should have been about 300 there but a good many couldn't come.

There were six girls and four boys of us, three of whom are still living. My brother Wylie lives at Airlie. Lucius lives at Beaverton, and I live in Kings Valley. My brother Wylie came across the plains in 1845. He was the second child. Isaac was the first child. He also crossed the plains. I was the third child, the first born in Oregon. Serepta, Cynthia, and Nahum the triplets came next. Serepta married Willard Price, a son of Larkin Price, who came to Oregon in 1846. The next child married Willard's brother, Dillard. Serena was the next child followed by Serelda. Then came Lucius, the baby of the family. I told you that when my grandfather, Nahum King, crossed the plains, he brought his ten children with him. There were 14 children, but only 10 came to Oregon. Amos the oldest son, was born in Ohio in 1822. He first settled five miles north of Corvallis. Daniel H Lownsdale took up a claim near Portland in 1845 and started a tannery, but decided it was too far out, so in 1848, he bought what is now Portland from Francis W. Pettigrove. My uncle Amos N. King, about 1850 or 1851 took up the claim that Lownsdale had first taken. It is now part of Portland and is known as Kings Heights.

My mother, Hope Steel King, was the second child. Steve (Steven King) settled near Blodgett. Harris post office was located on his place. The next child, Isaac, also settled in Kings Valley. Levisa (Lovisa) married Roland Chambers, whose first wife (Sarah King Chambers) died while crossing the plains. Abigail, the next child, married Price Fuller. Their old home place is six miles north of Corvallis. Lydia, the next child, married Jont Williams. They settled near Airlie. Sol was born in 1833. He moved to Corvallis in 1872 and started a livery stable. In 1876 he was elected sheriff of Benton County and was reelected for a number of terms. He bought 1200 acres just west of Corvallis. the Oregon Agricultural College (OSU) grounds now joins his place. Sol married Annie Allen (King, widow of Sol's brother Steven). Rhoda, the next child married John Phillips. One of my uncles, John King, died while they were camped on the Columbia River. His wife was sick and she also died, so they buried them in the same grave.

I have had nine children. My oldest boy, Lucius, lives at Hoskins. Wylie lives here in Corvallis. Frank is at Philomath and Ed at Summit. Bertha married J. E. Thompson. They have a store at Blogett. Sarah married J. A. Bottger. They live at Summit. Garfield is at Hoskins and Henry is on the old home place. One of my boys, Barton, died some years ago. I don't suppose many people in Oregon have lived nearly 80 years in one neighborhood, as I have. (editor's note: I found the name of Wyley and Wiley to be used throughout my research. Wiley seems to be preferred. This article was sent to me by Karen Phelps, 2nd great granddaughter of Ashnah (Norton) Plunkett.



Ashnah Plunkett, standing at left, is pictured with family members in her yard. If anyone has a better photo of this or can identify the date and the others in the photo, please send it to charwirfs@gmail.com It will be updated in issue #6.



An article and this photo were featured in June 14th, 1925 edition of *The Oregonian*, Portland Oregon, "Two Family Reunions Held. 150 Attend Gathering of Pioneer Norton and Plunkett Clan." Also celebrating Wylie and Nancy Norton's 60th wedding anniversary held June 7, 1925 at their home in Airlie. Earle Greig identified many of these folks. The photo with ID will be available for viewing at the upcoming King Reunion on June 24, 2023

Family Websites and related links

The King Pioneer Family Association has a web presence on three sites.

- > **King Folk Family Tree**, Ancestry.com, a public tree. You must be a member of [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) to view or be invited by our host, Char Wirfs, email: charwirfs@gmail.com
- > **Facebook group page**: Kings Valley Kin. Char Wirfs is administrator, email: charwirfs@gmail.com
- > **King Folk website**, kingfolk.co (note that it isn't .com) Davidson is webmaster, email: gidr9432@gmail.com
- > Related Links: **Kings Valley Community Trust**. This website is an active community website homed at Kings Valley Community Hall, the former Kings Valley Church.
- > **Benton County Historical Society and museum**:
bentoncountymuseum.org

Literary Arts Winner, Oregon Book Awards
A Heart For Any Fate, Westward to Oregon, 1845,
 fictionalized story of 16-year-old Lovisa King on
 the Oregon Trail, 1845. Linda Crew, 2005

In memorial: our cousin, **Ellen Craven** passed April 22, 2023 at age 89. See her obituary published in The Columbian newspaper, www.columbian.com/obits, May 4, 2023 .



Please print this page and send it in with your dues or bring it with you to the reunion. If you are not sure of your connection to Nahum, fill out as much as you can. We will figure it out for you and send you the information.

I'm a King Kid

My name is _____.

I'm the child of _____.

Who is the child of _____.

Who is the child of _____.

Who is the child of _____.

Who is the child of _____.

Who is the child of _____.

Who is the child of _____.

Who is the child of _____.

Who is the child of _____.

Nahum King is my _____ grandfather.