

# King Folk



Newsletter #34

King Family Association

April 2015

Greetings King Folk,

If you were at the family reunion last summer, you may have already met me, but for those of you who were not able to attend, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Traci Schilling Willey and I am your new President of the King Family Association. I am descended from Nahum King through his son, Isaac. Nahum is my fourth great grandfather.



I grew up in St. Helens, Oregon, but frequently visited family in the Dallas area where both my parents had graduated from high school. After I graduated high school, I attended Western Oregon University (then college) in Monmouth and graduated in 1991. Since that time, I've worked in retail as a manager until I made a career change a few years ago to work in libraries. I was active in an international, not-for-profit organization for more than ten years and

was president of the Salem branch of the organization for ten years. During my Tenure, I ran monthly meetings and helped organize annual events. Currently I am working at the Tigard Public Library as a Library Assistant and am attending graduate school online through the University of Washington to earn my Master in Library and Information Management (MLIS).

Genealogy has been of great interest to me since I was a child. In grade school, I found out my best friend is descended from Nahum King through his daughter, Lucretia. Both of my grandmothers encouraged my interest in genealogy and family history. I found out about the reunions and started receiving the newsletters in 2008 and have attended the reunion when I can.

My hope as President is to encourage more participation from the rest of the family. The same core group of people has been working hard to provide this newsletter and organize the reunion for many years. I hope that you will take the time to join the family Facebook page Kings Valley Kin and offer to assist our core group of officers.

Sincerely,

Traci Schilling Willey

## BITS AND PIECES

**REUNION...** Please note the change in reunion date, time, and location, July 11 at Fort Hoskins, 11 am to 2 pm. Parking is limited in the Fort Hoskins upper parking lot nearest the picnic shelter so, if you are able, park in the lower lot and walk up to the picnic shelter.

**CHECKS REMINDER...** Please remember to make checks out to KING FOLK.

**PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT...** We have received very few photographs this past year so there will not be a 2015 CD. We'd love to preserve your King family treasures in order to share with other family members. If you have old family photographs, news articles, letters, documents, or heirlooms, please contact Anne Trussell, [atru02@comcast.net](mailto:atru02@comcast.net).

**OBITUARY COLLECTION...** David Trask, our historian, has one of the most extensive collections of family obituaries on the west coast. Please help him expand this collection by sending him obituaries for King Family members and their extended families. [dltrask@aol.com](mailto:dltrask@aol.com)

**REUNION PHOTOGRAPHS ...** Thanks so much to Winnie Trump and Nigel Parkhurst for their reunion photographs.

**A NEW BOOK ...** Published this year was *Wood, Water, and Grass: Meek Cutoff of 1845* by James and Theona Hambleton. Detailed maps and present day photos take the reader on a reconstruction of the King Family's perilous journey through eastern and central Oregon one hundred and seventy years ago.

## Family News

We welcome Traci Willey, a long-time King Family member, as our new President and look forward to working with her.

This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to our hard working military. Did you know that there is a long history of military service in the King family that goes back to the Revolutionary War? We've had Kings in every branch of the US Forces and in the Canadian military, in time of peace and in time of war. We'd like to document the service of our many military members and their ancestors so please take a minute to complete the questionnaire.

You'll find some interesting articles in this newsletter. Besides learning a little more about Amos King's Revolutionary War service, Winnie Trump's *The Myrtle Avenue Fly Boys* will take you to the first B-29 landing on Iowa Jima. And David Trask has an interesting answer for his son, Ryan, who asked, "Was there a history of slavery in the King Family?"

### KING FAMILY DEATHS

Russell Stewart

September 10, 1926 – August 6, 2011

Betty Phelps Fallin Brummett

September 12, 1927 – October 9, 2013

Dale Price

May 13, 1946 – August 14, 2013

Michael A. Phelps

March 6, 1954 - December 29, 2013

Anne Elizabeth Lema

March 21, 1939 - August 17, 2014

Elmer E Plunkett

March 18, 1920 - March 1, 2015

# KING FOLK REUNION & PICNIC

## SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015

### 11:00 AM – 2 PM

## FORT HOSKINS HISTORICAL PARK

*(Heading north through Kings Valley, turn left onto Hoskins Road and follow the signs)*

How about a picnic? **Bring your own food & drinks** and enjoy a day at Kings Valley's own Fort Hoskins, a 130-acre site, offering interpretive displays, self-guided trails, and accessible restrooms. We've rented the Fort Hoskins picnic shelter for the day. It has electricity and water but no microwave or fridge. Limited parking is available near the shelter. If you need disabled access, come early and park in the upper lot. If not, park in the lower lot and walk from there.

Imagine what it was like when our own Luther King, James Plunkett, and George Erwin were here. See the renovations being done on the Commander's House. Walk the park trails. Do you or someone in your family geocache? Bring your GPS. There are some caches nearby.

(Need more information? See back page to contact officers.)



2014 King Family Reunion

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2014 REUNION MINUTES

*Patricia Plunkett Holler – Secretary*

About 70 family members and guests attended this annual reunion and potluck. Most stayed for the business meeting. President Mimi Stang presided. Officers were introduced. Earle Greig, Vice President, was unable to attend.

First time attendees were Jerry Gross and family, Char Kingsbury, Renee Dick, Bonnie Witham, Nicki and Delores Porter Dziggel, Margaret Price Moore, Calvin Ramsdell and his mother, Hazel Ramsdell. The Ramsdells brought Isaac King's family Bible to share.



Auctioned were a 1994-95 reunion t-shirt and a hardback copy of **A Heart For Any Fate** by Linda Crew.

Treasurer's report from Anne Trussell listed a balance of \$3953 with expenses of \$335 for the reunion, \$103 for insurance, \$50 school rental, and \$449 for the newsletter costs. She thanked everyone for sending dues and donations.

Bill Dixon & Earle Greig continue to work on the Kings Valley cemetery. A total of

\$1125 has been spent for improvements to headstones at the cemetery. It was voted to donate \$500 to the cemetery.

David Trask, Historian, reported that this is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first King reunion he attended. His obituary collection totals over 10,000 pages and he encourages everyone to continue to send obits, pictures of gravestones, death certificates, and other information to him. Help is needed to scan that collection to CD.

Anne Trussell reported that a new 2014 photo CD was issued this year. Please keep sending or bringing photos for scanning and sharing with the family. She also reported that the money approved last year for a headstone for the King children, Hannah, Dulaney, and James, who are buried at Darby Township Cemetery in Madison County, Ohio, wasn't needed because Darby Township had the cemetery repairs done themselves. Instead, a \$200 donation was sent to the township to offset the cost of those repairs.

Char Wirfs reported over 10,200 names on our Ancestry King Folk tree. She will send an invitation to view the tree (at no cost). Contact her. Our Facebook group site, **Kings**





**Valley Kin**, has many active members and anyone is welcome to join.

Mimi Stang announced that she does not wish to be considered for reelection as president. Other officers will continue. Char moved to nominate Traci Willey as president and to reelect the other officers. After some discussion, the officers were elected.

[Mimi only very recently advised the other officers of her wish to no longer serve as president. Since this Association meets only once a year and we have no bylaws that define how we are to elect officers, the officers served as the nominating committee. All the officers agreed that we would like to nominate Traci for the position of president if she were willing to serve. After some consideration, she allowed her name to be placed in nomination.]

David noted that Char served for 7 years as our president, and now Mimi has served for 14 years. He presented Mimi with a plaque honoring her for "outstanding service...with much gratitude."

Winnie Trump reported that there are still prints available of the painting commissioned by Lynee Carpenter of the King Family crossing the Big Blue River in May 1845. Contact Lynee for more information.



Note: These are not the complete minutes. Copies of the complete minutes are available at the reunion or from Secretary Pat Holler.



## MANY THANKS

*From Mimi Stang*

Dear King Family,

Each day in my office when I am at my computer I enjoy seeing the wonderful plaque that was presented to me at last year's reunion upon my retirement as King Family Association President. It was a wonderful surprise and so very much appreciated.



For those of you who did not see it, here is the inscription on the plaque:

*"For Outstanding Service This Award of Appreciation Is Presented to Mimi Stang, President, King Family Association, 2000 - 2014. With much gratitude from your Fellow Family Association Members at the King Family Reunion, June 21, 2014, Kings Valley, Oregon."*

I get a little teary-eyed whenever I read it and think of my wonderful 14 years with all of you.

When my oldest grandson was born in 1997, I did a little research on his Mother's family and soon discovered that she was a King from the Kings Valley Kings! I knew Char Wirfs and asked if it would be all right if I came to a reunion. Well, as the saying goes, "the rest is history." What a wonderful journey it was with all of you. I am

proud of all that we were able to accomplish together, especially the King Family Monument in Kings Valley Cemetery as it will be there for future generations to always know a little of the King family history and how they came to the valley.

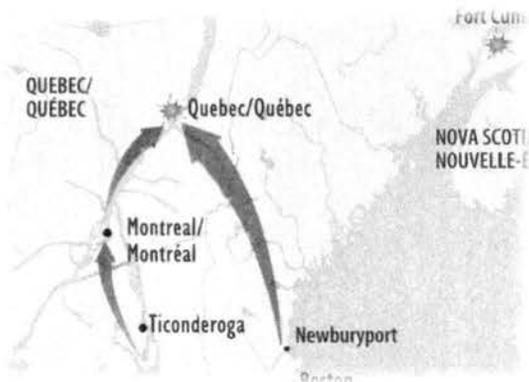
Even though I may not be working with you now, the King family will always have a very special place in my heart. My wish is that the wonderful King Family legacy will continue to flourish for many years to come.

## Military Tradition In the King Family

By *Anne Trussell*

Military service has a long history in the King Family. Freedoms have been fought for and, in some cases, died for by King descendants. Just how early this military tradition goes back is unknown. However, from pension documents, we do know that Nahum's father, Amos, fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary War.

Amos was living in New Salem, Massachusetts, when he first enlisted in June 1775. He was just nineteen years old, much the same age as our young soldiers of today. Joining Colonel Benjamin Woodbridge's Regiment, Amos arrived in Cambridge a few days after the Battle of Bunker Hill. He spent six months there, during the Siege of Boston, but saw little action. In late December, his company was dismissed and he returned home.



February 1776 saw his second enlistment, this time with the Massachusetts militia regiment of Colonel Elisha Porter. Amos saw a lot of new country during this enlistment when he participated in the Invasion of Canada. Marching north to support the regular troops, they went through Williamstown, MA, Bennington, VT, and Whitehall, NY, where they took boats to St Jean, Quebec, and on, to Montreal, where Amos was quite ill in June.

(It's likely that Amos had small pox, which was a huge enemy of the troops, possibly more so than the British. The army had recently begun inoculations but the process was so new that some troops caught the disease anyway, either from other troops or from the inoculation itself. ) Eventually the regiment marched south to Ticonderoga, NY, and Independence Mountain, VT, where Amos was discharged in October 1776 due to illness.

Amos volunteered again when a call came for troops to be raised from New Salem in April 1778. After a few weeks time spent as a hospital guard at West Point, he was sent to Cherry Valley, New York, joining Colonel Alden's 6<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment.

On November 11, 1778, Amos was in the Battle of Cherry Valley, often referred to now as the Cherry Valley Massacre, where hundreds of British soldiers and Iroquois attacked the town and massacred both soldiers and town inhabitants.

Amos was lucky. He was probably inside the fort and escaped unscathed but many did not. The officers were killed or captured as



*Cherry Valley Monument, Cherry Valley, NY*

they ran towards the fort from their billeting quarters inside the town. The inhabitants of the town were also killed or captured and the town was burned. On the third morning after the attack, Patriot reinforcements arrived and the British and Iroquois departed. Amos was discharged and home in New Salem by December 28, 1778.

One more short enlistment occurred in July 1779 when he volunteered to go to New London, CT, to protect the inhabitants. By the time his regiment arrived in New London, the enemy was gone so he was sent home.

Amos' military history is well documented in his pension papers. In fact, it is his own narrative within the documents. At 75 years of age, his memory was still excellent. His pension was approved on March 21, 1833, in the amount of \$76.66 per year. The pension documents can be found online, on fold3.com, or on the King Family CD's in the documents folder. If you have any corrections or additions to this, please let me know.

Nahum's 1812 military service is documented at the National Archives, as is his father's. Sadly, unlike Amos' 16-page pension file, Nahum's is a single form, which states "**King, Naham; Captain Strong's Company, Ohio Militia, War of 1812; Sergeant.**" Captain Aaron Strong was from Delaware County, Ohio. (Nahum and Sarepta were in Delaware County before they went to Madison County.) Strong's militia company served from October 7 to December 15, 1812. Unfortunately, where or how is unknown. There is no record of a pension or land bounty record for Nahum. Again, any additions or corrections would be much appreciated.

Many, many members of the King Family, past and present, have proudly served in the military, both for US Forces as well as Canadian. Perhaps there are other

countries represented as well within our family. Were you in the military? Were your King-related ancestors? We're gathering information on King descendants who were/are in the military. You'll find a form in this newsletter. If you'd like the military experience of your ancestors and/or yourself included, please complete a form for each person and mail to:

Anne Trussell  
2108 Stacia Way  
Sacramento, CA 95822

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### **Kings Valley Cemetery News**

*By Earle Greig*

A severe ice storm swept through Kings Valley last November, creating a horrendous mess at the Kings Valley Cemetery. The weight of the ice broke off entire tree branches, some of which were five or six inches in diameter. Fortunately none of the monuments were damaged even though some were struck.

It was necessary that the limbs be removed, which was a tremendous job that took the better part of three months. We had to cut the bigger limbs into pieces we could drag over to the road and short enough that they did not hang out of the trailer and drag on the pavement. A volunteer work party dragged limbs over to the road and loaded them onto a utility trailer, which was then hauled down to a Kings Valley burning area, graciously donated by Lou and Chris Baxter. If two volunteers worked until noon, they could haul three loads. If three volunteers worked, they could haul four loads. It is estimated that between forty and fifty loads were removed. The grass underneath survived and now the mower can get through again.

## Fort Hoskins Commander's House To be Renovated

In January, the Benton County Board of Commissioner's voted to spend \$108, 650 for a renovation of the Commander's House at Fort Hoskins. Chimney and roof will be repaired; siding and masonry will be added; porch re-done; windows and doors will be replaced. New paint will complete the project. Jeff Powers, Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Director, said, "We had a historic architect come in and do an analysis. The materials and the look will all be consistent with the 1860's."



*Commander's House  
Fort Hoskins*

According to the Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas, "The Commander's House was built at Fort Hoskins in 1857. After the fort was abandoned in 1865, the house was moved to Pedee, Oregon. Almost a century and a half later in the fall of 2012, it was moved back to its original location at Fort Hoskins Historic Park." You can read lots more about the

Commander's House Project and Fort Hoskins, our 2015 reunion location, at <http://afrana.org/projects/Commanders%20house.html>.

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## Music at Chemawa Indian School

Our very own Melissa Parkhurst, a descendant of Rhoda King Phillips Summer and a regular reunion attendee, records the history of Chemawa Indian School's musical life in ***To Win the Indian Heart: Music at Chemawa Indian School.***

The Oregon State University Press says "She explores the crucial role music was meant to play in the total transformation of Indian children, and the cultural recovery and resiliency it often inspired instead. Parkhurst chronicles the complex ways in which students, families, faculty, and administrators employed music, both as a tool for assimilation and, conversely, as a vehicle for student resistance—a subject long overlooked in literature on Indian education and the assimilation campaign."



## High School US History and the King Family

*By David and Ryan Trask*

When my son was taking US History in high school last year, he asked me two interesting and thought-provoking questions, as they might apply to our King Family. He was studying the Civil War and the reasons why it was fought. He asked whether I knew if any King family members had been slave owners prior to the War Between the States. At first, I thought the answer was no; after all, we have never heard of any of our King ancestors being slave owners nor have we



*Ryan Trask*

heard that any of our Kings lived in the South, nor did any live on large plantations. In the nearly 30 years I have attended our King Family Reunions, this question has never come up. So my answer was, "Not that I know of."

His second question was whether any of our King family members were descendants of slaves. I thought the answer to this question was an even more obvious "no." We all know that slaves in

the early years of this country were of African descent. How would any of our ancestors be slaves? This second question, I thought, actually showed the innocence of the younger, present-day youths. In their minds, a slave simply means anyone who was enslaved by someone else.

As adults, we associate slaves as Africans brought to the New World during fairly recent times. I mentioned this to him. He correctly pointed out, though, that prior to the exploitation of Africans for the slave trade, many other earlier civilizations owned slaves. The Greeks in the hundreds of years BC owned slaves. The Persians did. So did the Egyptians. Then the Romans did. Ancient history was full of wars and empires conquering each other, with the result that many humans have been enslaved over the last several thousand years. There are many Greeks, Persians, Egyptians, and people of Roman descent living today, whose ancestors were either slave owners or were enslaved. So, after some serious thought, I suddenly realized that these two questions were really very powerful, thought-provoking queries, and the answer to both questions could very well be yes. There may be King descendants alive today whose ancestors were either slave owners or slaves.

Since the Civil War began in 1861, one can say that about seven or eight generations have been born, and matured, to the present day. We do not know of any King ancestor who was alive at the time of the Civil War, or for the century prior, to have owned slaves. Furthermore, we do not know of any King ancestor who was a known slave during the same period of history. However, with the onset of each new generation, it becomes increasingly more possible that a King descendant married someone who,

in turn, was directly related to a slave owner or a slave. We know that slave owners sometimes bore children with their slaves and so mixture of race occurred during that time. So just because someone does not look like he or she was of African descent does not mean that person could not be genetically related to a former slave.

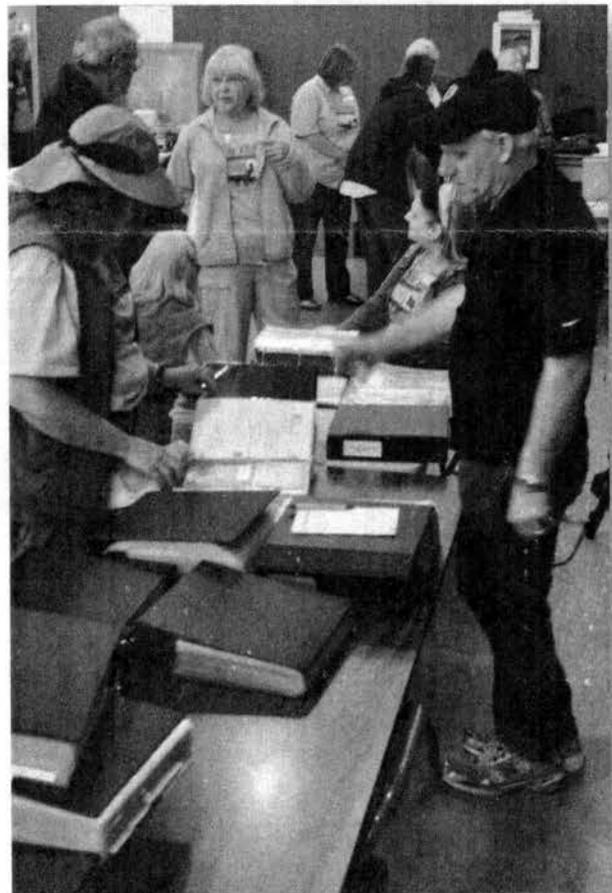
If a King descendant married someone who was directly related to a slave or a slave owner, then the offspring from this couple would be King descendants and could very well be related to an ancestor who was a slave or slave owner. As more generations are born, the possibility of this being the case rises dramatically.

The point of this discussion is that the long tradition of our King Family parallels the history of our country. Kings have experienced and have lived through every bit of our nation's history. This has included living through every war, every president, and every natural disaster that has become a part of U.S. History. Regarding slavery, it is very possible that King family members today, even perhaps some of the younger family members who have attended a recent reunion, may be directly related to a slave owner or to a slave who was alive around the time of the Civil War. The answer to Ryan's amazing and most powerful two questions, as simple as they seemed at first thought, is that we don't know.

And wouldn't knowing this be information worth noting and recording? If the answer is "yes" to either question, should we not discuss it? Should we be outraged if family members found out that a distant great-grandfather was a terrible slave owner? Should King family members be ashamed to know that they were descended from a poor, mistreated slave?

As the King historian, I have had the privilege to record so much of our history to share with future generations. We have an amazing family association and we have documented so much, with the help of so many family members, over the years. I, myself, possess over 10,000 pages of King family history.

I feel that obtaining such knowledge as to whether any of us are directly related to a slave owner or a slave, as negative as it may seem, should never be hidden or excluded from any family discussions, any more than should we exclude positive discussion. Such positive relations could



*David Trask*

someday include a King family member marrying into the family of Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, and a true American hero, or to the future first female president, or to the person who cures cancer. Having offspring who therefore would be related to such special people, would, indeed, make any future King descendant proud. On the other hand, we should never be ashamed to be descended from those before us, regardless of the past.

We have no control over how we got here or to the actions of our ancestors. We all have to deal with the times we are born into and all the issues at hand. During the last thirty years, we have discovered many secrets involving family members. These secrets were meant to remain secret to the grave. However, we have unearthed some of these stories that I am sure would make some of our ancestors roll over in their graves. Should we do this or should we let secrets lie buried?

I personally feel that we should not fear to find out about our ancestors. Finding out and documenting even negative information allows us all to know better who we are and why we are who we are. It is a major part of our destiny. I think it is important to know all we can about ourselves and about our past. To seek and to discover this knowledge is to appreciate the history of this country and the interactions our ancestors may have had with the making of this history.

If anyone knows of being directly related to a slave owner or to a slave, I think it would be of major value to all family members to discuss it. History is not always about good events. It is a recording of what happened for better or for worse. Learning about US History in high school allows us to learn about our family and about ourselves because it ties

our ancestors as well as ourselves to history in the making. It is good our younger family members remain inquisitive and interested in knowing and preserving the past.

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#### Editor's Note:

Reading Ryan and David's article brought to mind a newspaper article I ran across a few years ago. In researching John Howe, the maternal grandfather of Sarepta King, I found John's father was Samuel Howe, 1716-1790, who lived in Canaan, Connecticut. Searching Samuel's name at an online archive of old newspapers, the following article appeared. This was a paid advertisement in the Connecticut Courant (Hartford, CT) dated October 8, 1787.

*Ran away, on Sunday evening, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of the present month of August, from John Duncan, of Hermitage, in the district of Schenectady, and county Albany, in the state of New York, a Negro named CAESAR, about 36 years of age; a very stout fellow though of middle stature, his legs rather small in proportion --- has remarkable large feet--- speaks good English. He was born near New London, in Connecticut, and lived a considerable time with Ralph Isaacs, merchant in New London; about eight years ago was sold by said Isaacs, together with his wife, to one **Samuel Howe**, who brought them to Claverack, where Mr. Duncan bought them of said Howe. The same Negro lived some years with Seth Atkin in Suffield, Connecticut, before he lived with Mr. Isaacs.*

Most of us think about the slavery issue as related to the south and don't give a lot of thought to the many slaves of the north. Yet here it was, northern slavery, perhaps within our own family. Claverack, New York, is only 28 miles from Canaan, Connecticut, where our Samuel Howe lived and died.

There were LOTS of Samuel Howes in Connecticut at that time. The Howe

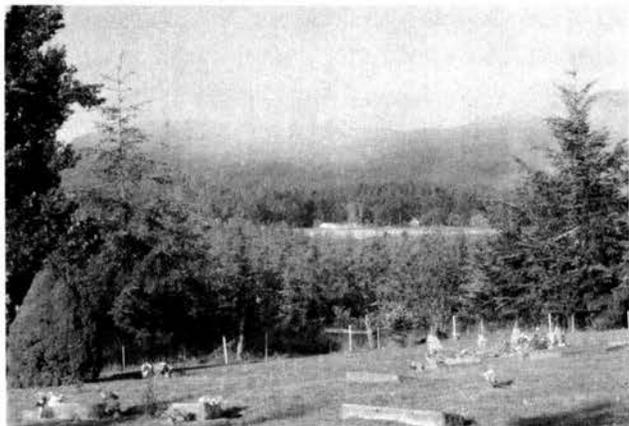
family was huge, with a “Samuel” in every family at each generation. More research is needed to determine if this “Samuel Howe” is part of Sarepta King’s family. But, in the meantime, as David and Ryan say, we need to keep an open mind and not set aside the negative research we discover but learn from it instead.

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## Kings Valley

Have you ever wondered when Kings Valley got its name? How early in Oregon’s history did it come to be called Kings Valley? With the advent of the Internet, we can do some easy searching through early Oregon newspapers. The following is from the Oregon Spectator, September 7, 1848, regarding an exploring tour taken to the coast during the summer of 1848.



*Kings Valley from the Cemetery*

“We passed over the coast-chain of mountains west, by way of the Yamhill path, to the ocean, following up the Yamhill waters to the divide or summit; thence down the streams which pour into the ocean to the coast. Pushing our way along the edge of the *Big Pond* to the *Celectse Bay* – swimming our horses, ourselves being conveyed in a canoe – still marching our onward way *capa*

*’tshuck*, until we found ourselves forty or fifty miles south, on the Yac-quin-na, Ac-quin-na, or the Accoon Bay; thence northeast to the Celectse river – up this stream, east, to the headwaters of the Mary’s, Yac-quin-na, and the Celectse rivers; from thence, east by north, to **King’s valley**, on the Luc-a-i-mute or Luc-a-mute.

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## King Family Online

We have two interactive King websites, **King Folk** on Ancestry.com and **Kings Valley Kin** on Facebook.

**King Folk** is a family tree containing the names and vital information of 10,260 people, all somehow connected to Nahum and Sarepta King. Many of these are their descendants. Photographs and obituary notices may be found attached to their records. You do NOT need an Ancestry subscription to access **King Folk**. Email Char Wirfs, charwirfs@gmail.com, and she will send you an invitation to join.

**Kings Valley Kin** is a Facebook group for the living descendants of Nahum and Sarepta King as well as anyone interested in news and anecdotes relating to the King family and/or to the Kings Valley area. There is no cost to join Facebook or **Kings Valley Kin**.

Items posted this year include Charlie Hinkle’s photos of Fort Hoskins, a 1925 birthday celebration for Wiley Norton, many family photos. Robin Blair posted a photo of Tracy Blair, grandson of Abigail King and Price Fuller.

You can also visit the King Family website maintained by Fred Farris, at:  
<http://www.all-oregon.com/king/kings.htm>

*Our ancestor, Nahum King, served during the War of 1812. Many King descendants have served our Nation since! This is the story of two of them.*

## **THE MYRTLE AVENUE 'FLY BOYS'**

Allen King Hill & Robert Whittier Hill  
Descendants of the Hill & King Families  
*By Winnie Trump*

The Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The United States declared war on Japan, a war that would not end until August 1945. Six of my King family first cousins went off to fight in the Pacific. Winifred King Hill had watched as both of her sons, Allen King Hill and Robert Whittier Hill (Bob) had enlisted to become fliers, one in the Army Air Corps and one in the Navy. Bob would be among those who would return home in 1945. Allen would not. It is Allen's story I will tell.

Both Allen and Bob were born in Eureka, CA, and grew up in the Myrtle Avenue area where they were well known and well liked. Both were active leaders and fiercely competitive participants in high school sports, graduating in 1940 (Allen) and 1943 (Bob). They also shared a lifelong interest in the outdoors, fishing rivers & lagoons and hunting ducks on Humboldt Bay.

Allen attended Humboldt State Collage before enlisting and would be based on Tinian during the war where he served as Central Fire Control Gunner on B-29's. Bob enlisted right after high school graduation and would serve to the end of the war as a Hellcat pilot based on Saipan. He would come home to earn a law degree at the University of Oregon and practice law for many years. Their parents were Chester and Winifred King Hill of Myrtle Ave., Eureka, Ca. Winifred

(Winnie), a petite and determined descendant of the Oregon King family (1845), Sol King's granddaughter, and Abe King's daughter, would play a prominent role in Allen's story.

Allen arrived on Tinian Island Feb. 1, 1945 (the last year of the war). He would target and fire bomb industrial mainland Japan (where the implements of war were being produced and stored) to help bring the war to an end. Allen would participate in ten night raids during March and April. These raids were to be conducted without lights. Imagine hundreds of B-29's flying at low altitude with no lights over unfamiliar territory! The distance from Tinian (Marianas



Islands) to mainland Japan was too great for the fuel B-29's could carry. A small volcanic island called Iwo Jima was needed as a refueling stop for American B-29 bombers. Quite accidentally Allen would become an unintended participant in the ongoing battle for Iwo Jima.

### ***EUREKAN IN FIRST B-29 LANDING ON IWO JIMA***

That's what the March 6, 1945 headline read in the *Humboldt Times* newspaper. Allen King Hill, a crewmember aboard the first B-29 to land on Iwo Jima (9 days after the famous flag-rising and 12 days into the battle), had made the news! His B-29, Dinah Might, was forced to make an

emergency landing on Iwo Jima, still occupied and fiercely defended by the Japanese. They had no choice! They had to land! The ground crew prepared the landing field, bomb craters, Japanese defenders and all! The pilot literally stood on the brakes of the big B-29 as it slid 3,000 feet down the runway, did a "180", screeched to a halt (to the delight of wildly cheering Marines), got repaired, refueled, and took off under enemy gunfire! This is what they had been fighting for! It would take 24 more days to capture the island.



Approximately 2 ½ months after Allen's sensational landing on Iwo Jima he was tortured and killed in a Japanese POW camp the night of May 25-26, 1945, but would be listed as "Missing in Action" until April 6, 1946. Details of his death would not be known until 1948. The following is the story of his mother's quest for truth and justice.

***"MISSING IN ACTION"  
TRIBUTE TO A MOTHER'S COURAGE***

Allen's mother carefully adjusted the "aviator wings" pin she wore on her coat

lapel. Clearly it meant something special to her. She had worn it for a very long time. It had been awarded for her son's WWII service as a B-29 crewmember. He had given his life for his country. The military had delayed sending it to her because her son was listed as "missing in action" and, she was told there was a possibility that he would be found alive. His plane had disappeared. She knew if he had survived a plane crash and could avoid capture, he could survive. After all, he was an experienced outdoorsman who had manned fire lookouts in remote mountain areas during summers as a teen, hunted ducks from a scull boat in the bay, fished, hunted deer and worked for the Forest Service.

She had a mission! Missing in action wasn't good enough! She was going to find out what had happened to her older son! She contacted every military source she could find. All led nowhere! Her persistence led to other contacts-families of other MIA's and POW's. Together they "left no stone unturned." Letters and phone calls were exchanged over many months. The result was that she could finally put together a timeline of some of Allen's movements, especially his incarceration at a POW camp in the Tokyo area. One of the detainees at the interrogation facility where Allen had been taken after the crash of his plane (he was the only survivor) had spoken to Allen and could positively identify him before he was transferred to another prison along with other fliers.

Now she knew that Allen had survived a plane crash and wasn't "Missing in Action." He was alive! Confirmation of Allen's eventual death would finally come in two letters a year later, April 6, 1946, one signed by the Adjutant General of the Army and the other signed by General Douglas MacArthur. But details of his

death would not be revealed until a war crime trial was conducted in Yokohama, Japan in 1948, three years after Allen's disappearance and death.

Allen had been captured, tortured and killed along with 61 other fliers as a POW at the Tokyo military prison where he had been held. He had been murdered! The details revealed at the trial were horrendous. His mother has suffered through them all. She knew what her son had endured. The journey to Justice had been long. She now had some closure and the sense that Justice would be carried out. His captors confessed and were sentenced to hang. But, unbeknownst to her, the sentences were never carried out. It seems that our government, wishing to repair its political and economical relationship with Japan, agreed to commute their sentences.

The aviator wings she had worn were indeed a testimonial to the ultimate sacrifice that her son had made as well as a tribute to her great strength, love and courage. She had worn them humbly. Winifred King Hill passed away before it was revealed that Allen's captors had been pardoned.

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**Luther**  
**Son OF J & E King**  
**Died**  
**Mar 25, 1839**  
**2 m 11 d**

Written on a Darby Township Cemetery headstone in Madison County, Ohio, these words are a mystery. Who was Luther King? Who were J & E King? Why is this same name and date entered in the King Bible as *Luther King, son of John King was born Jan 14 1836?* If you have suggestions or answers, contact Anne Trussell.

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