
KING FOLK

Newsletter No. 2

October 19, 1992

Citizens for Horner Museum



Citizens for Horner Museum is a newly organized support group formed by members of the volunteer advisory committee for Horner Museum and other concerned community members. The purpose of this group is to offer support to various organized efforts to keep Horner Museum at Oregon State University open. It has recently been suggested to close the museum as one of the state-wide budget cuts.

Those of you wishing to be kept informed on this issue may wish to join Friends of Horner Museum. You will receive discounts on museum tours, a newsletter (HMS Discovery) which comes three times a year, and a 10% discount on gift shop purchases over \$5.00. For information on how to join write to:

Friends of Horner Museum
Horner Museum, OSU
Gill Colliseum L-1
Corvallis, OR. 97331-4104

The museum is still open and efforts are underway to keep it open at least one more year and hopefully more. Lucy Skjelstad is museum director. Winter hours for the museum are:

Tue.-Fri.--10am to 5pm
Sat. --Noon to 4pm
Sun.--2pm to 5pm
Closed on Mon.

Oregon Trail Quilts Needed for Exhibition Project

A survey, research, and exhibition project is being conducted by Douglas County Museum of History and Natural History, Roseburg, Oregon and Mary Cross in preparation for the 150th Anniversary of the Oregon Trail in 1993.

Quilts made for people going over the trail, made while on the trail, or made after as a possible response to the trail experience are needed.

Also requested is any mention of quilts in diaries and letters written by those traveling the Oregon Trail. Information on quilts in private or public collections that pertain to the Oregon Trail are also appreciated.

From this information a special quilt show will be traveling to selected sites in Oregon during the 1993 celebration.

To respond or for more information, please contact Mary Cross, 805 NW Skyline Crest, Portland, Oregon, 97229; (503) 292-6350.

OREGON TRAIL
SESQUICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION



Wagon master, Rod Pelling, will bring a wagon train across six states to celebrate the first large migration to Oregon in 1843. The train will travel from Independence, MO. to Independence, OR. arriving Oct. 24, 1993. This is the authentic wagon train for the Oregon Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Another wagon train, sponsored by the Oregon Trail Coordinating Commission, will travel only Idaho and Oregon, ending in Oregon City, the official end of the Oregon Trail, declared by Congress.

Two other trains, which will be a division of the original Oregon Trail Wagon Train, would join in Keizer, make a stop in Salem and then travel to Independence. One would be a re-enactment of the original Barlow Trail train and the other of the original Applegate Trail. These two trains will travel together until they arrive in Soda Springs (near Montpelier in eastern Idaho), and then divide in two.

Independence Mayor, Marion Rossi, and committees are planning a week-long celebration when the wagons arrive in Oct. 1993. He hopes for a county-wide celebration and is looking for people to serve on committees, one to assist in statewide fund raising, and one to plan the Polk County celebration.

OREGON TRAIL CERTIFICATE

Another project organized for the Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial is issuing Oregon Trail Certificates similar to the one photocopied in this newsletter to anyone wishing to apply. To qualify for an Oregon Trail Certificate the applicant must prove direct descent from a person who traveled any part of the Oregon Trail by wagon, handcart, horseback, stagecoach, or on foot, between 1811 and 1911. A separate certificate will be issued for each ancestor proven. Couples may be included on the same

certificates. The cost for each certificate is \$10.00.

Complete instructions for applying for an Oregon Trail Certificate can be ordered from:

Oregon Trail Project
4620 Overland Rd. #206
Boise, Idaho, 83705-2867

It's always wise to enclose a self-addressed-stamped-envelope (SASE) with any request. Be sure to ask for the application papers and instructions for the Oregon Trail Certificate.

Kings Valley Precinct

King's Valley Precinct commences at the northern boundary of the county (Benton) and extends to Mary's river on the south, about eight miles in length and from the eminence known as Norton Hill, on the road to Yaquina bay, to the divide between the waters of the Willamette and Luckiamute, an average width of about eight miles, its actual boundaries being the county line on the north, Philomath precinct on the south, Soap Creek on the east, and Summit precinct on the west.

In an almost impenetrable jungle in the northwest, amid the Coast Range of mountains, the Luckiamute river rises and after flowing in an easterly direction, enters the northwest corner of the precinct and reaching near its center, there turns suddenly to the north, forming King's Valley, it ultimately leaving the precinct near the central northern portion.

King's Valley is about six miles in length with a width of about two miles, and in the days of its first settlement was considered second to none as a luxuriant pasture ground for stock, a notoriety which it still maintains as a grain producing section of the county.

In the northwest, running due north and south, in the bend of the Luckiamute, is a chain of hills, more or less open and mostly covered with fern, which affords most nutritious pasturage for cattle and sheep, besides which, a considerable portion is cultivable, yielding to

its highest points good winter wheat. Lying to the east of the valley and running north and south, is a high ridge that forms the dividing line between the waters of the Luckiamute and Willamette rivers which extends to a point within three miles of the North Fork of Mary's river, where a spur shoots off in a southeasterly direction, while the main divide turns abruptly to the west, joining the divide between the Luckiamute and the North Fork thus completely hemming in King's Valley with the single exception of the embouchure to the north.

On either side of the North Fork of Mary's river is some excellent valley land the extent capable of cultivation extending high up on the slopes, while the smaller valleys on each hand are fertile and fruitful.

In regard to the settlement of King's Valley precinct, the honor of first location within its boundaries is accorded to Nahum King who, with his family, arrived there in the year 1846, and located on the property now owned by the Chambers heirs and M. J. Conner. About the same time Rowland Chambers, Mr. King's son-in-law, settled, while Lucius Norton, and his two sons also settled in the valley. The next to arrive was James Watson, in 1847, who purchased from Sol King, the land now owned by his family. There came then, too, L. Vanbeber and family, who located about two miles east from Mr. Watson; while, about 1848, Mr. Hayworth and family fixed

King's Valley Precinct continued...

his abode on the farm now in the possession of Mr. Vanbebber. In 1850, Washington Patterson located where T. F. Alexander at present resides.

The first school was taught in the valley in 1849, in a log building, now among the things that were, that stood where the Evangelical Church is, this latter edifice being erected in the year 1877. It was built by subscription and is a frame building about thirty-six by fifty feet in dimensions.

In 1856, there was established on the place where S. P. Frantz now resides. the military station of Fort Hoskins, where a company of troops were quartered until about the close of the year 1863. The prime mover in its organization was Captain (now General) Auger. Here in 1857 a sutler's store was opened, and in 1868 a store was erected on the site of that now standing. It was kept by C. G. Nelson and after passing through various hands, is the property of William L. Price.

CHAMBERS GRIST MILL

This mill is situated on the Luckiamute and was originally built by Messrs. Chambers and Runnels and is still the property of the widow of the first named gentleman. Here is a store, blacksmith's shop, and post office.

KING'S VALLEY SAW AND PLANING MILL

This enterprise is located on the Luckiamute, on west the side of King's Valley, and was built in 1875 by S.P. Frantz and P.F. Stone. At the end of two years the latter sold out to Joseph Conner and in 1883 it passed wholly into the hands of the Frantz Brothers the present proprietors. The capacity of the mill is ten thousand feet per day, and gives employment to six men. There is a planer attached to it, the wood used being principally fir.

This information came from David Fagan's history written about 1898, pp. 457-458.



HOPESTILL (KING) NORTON
1815-1892

Hopestill King was the 5th child of Nahum and Sarepta (Norton) King. She was born on the 7th of February in 1815 in Madison County, Ohio. She married Lucius Carolus Norton, son of Solomon and Cynthia (Knapp) Norton, on October 7, 1839, in Franklin County, Ohio. The young couple joined her parents and brothers and sisters on the trip to Oregon Territory where they all settled in Kings Valley. Lucius and Hopestill Norton had 10 children. The first two sons were born in Missouri. Isaac was born on February 22, 1842. Wiley was born in Carroll County on March 27, 1844, at Big Bend, Missouri. Wiley was just past his first birthday when his family began their trip across the plains.

The third child of Lucius and Hopestill was Ashnah born the 8th of February, 1847, in Kings Valley, Oregon. In 1849 Lucius accompanied some friends, Wayman St. Clair, Wm. Blodgett and a Mr. Johnson, to the gold fields of California. Meanwhile, Hopestill remained on the farm with three small children. On May 9, 1850, Hopestill gave birth to tripletts, Sarepta, Cynthia, and Nahum. They were named for their grandparents. Unfortunately, one child, Cynthia, died 5 days later.

Three more daughters joined the family. Melinda, known as "Lennie", was born August 8, 1852. Serena was born on the 26th of June, 1854. Cerilda, nicknamed "Nell", was born on the 7th of July 1856. This last child died shortly before her second birthday in 1858. On July 15, 1858, the last child of Lucius and Hopestill was born, The child was name Lucius Carolus after his father.

A story passed down in the family relates that Lt. Philip Sheridan, of Civil War fame, was a familiar figure at the Norton home during the time that he commanded the military post, Fort Hoskins. Lt. Sheridan frequently went for horseback rides with the young ladies who visited the Fort. The Norton family water spaniel would often chase after the riders. The dog once frightened a horse which caused a young lady to fall, however, the young lady was not hurt..

Lucius Norton died on May 6, 1859, at age 40. Hopestill was left with 8 young children. With pioneer spirit, Hopestill proceeded to run a way-stop for travelers in the Coast range called Norton Station. Later a railroad station in the extreme eastern part of Lincoln County was named Nortons for the Norton family who lived nearby. A post office was established there in about 1895. Hopestill died at Norton Station on November 16, 1892, and was buried with other members of her family in the Kings Valley Cemetery.

Most of her children remained in the area of Benton and Polk County. Isaac married Olive Harris in Benton County on February 20, 1867. After Olive's death in 1897, Isaac married his second wife, Elizabeth Buffam, on 21 January 1899 in Benton County, Oregon. Wiley married Nancy Ann Zumwalt, daughter of Isaac and Sarah (Crow) Zumwalt, on May 18, 1865, Polk Co., Oregon. Ashnah married James Plunkett on 28th of June, 1864. Nahum married Margaret J. Mulkey on 20th of March 1873. Sarepta married Willard L. Price on December 4, 1870. Melinda married Dillard Price and March 3, 1872. Serena died at age 19 on June 9, 1873. Lucius C., Jr. married Mary Ellen (Ella) Patterson on 29 December 1883.

Name of Compiler Carole N. Putman
Address 1222 Marylhurst Dr.
City, State West Linn, OR 97068
Date 1992

PEDIGREE CHART

Chart No. _____

Wiley Norton

Father of No.
b. 27 Mar 1844
w. Carroll Co. MO.
m. 18 May 1865-OR.
d. 9 Jan 1833
w. Polk Co., OR.

James Emmet Norton

Father of No.
b. 29 Jul 1891
w. Benton Co., OR.
m. 2) 12 Jun 1929-OR.
d. 4 Oct 1960
w. Wasco Co., OR.

Nancy A. Zumwalt

Mother of No.
b. 25 May 1847
w. Tualitan Plains, OR.
d. 22 Jul 1930
w. Polk Co., OR.

Carole Anne Norton

b. 2 Aug 1932
w. The Dalles, OR
m. 18 Sept 1955
d.
w.

John U. Ross

Father of No.
b. 1876
w. IN.
m. 1902-OR.
d. 1960-OR.
w.

2) Mildred B. Ross

Mother of No.
b. 12 Jun 1903
w. Oregon
d. 23 Jun 1974
w. Newberg, OR.

Bertha M. Warren

Mother of No.
b. 1881-OR.
w.
d. 1959-OR.
w.

Ronald J. Putman

b. 1930 Spouse of No.
w. OR.

Lucius C. Norton

Father of No.
b. 26 Dec 1818
w. Madison Co., Oh.
m. 7 Oct 1839
d. 6 May 1859
w. Oregon
Hopestill KING

Mother of No.
b. 7 Feb 1815
w. Madison Co. OH.
d. 16 Nov 1892
w. Lincoln Co. OR.

Isaac N. Zumwalt

Father of No.
b. 29 May 1815
w. St. Charles Co., MO.
m. 22 Jun 1837-MO.
d. 21 Mar 1891 OR.
w. Polk Co., OR.

Sarah Crow

Mother of No.
b. 13 Jun 1815
w.
d. 8 Jun 1885
w. Polk Co., OR.

John W. Ross

Father of No.
b. 27 Nov 1853
w. Ohio
m. 1875
d. 1931-OR.
w.
1) Beulah Ballinger

Mother of No.
b. 1859-IA.
w.
d. 1938-OR.
w.

John Warren

Father of No.
b. 1840
w. Tydd, Eng.
m. 1874-NE.
d. 1924
w. Linn Co., OR.
Elizabeth Rowe

Mother of No.
b. 1855
w. Secor, IL.
d. 1943
w. Linn Co., OR.

Solomon Norton

Father of No.
b. ca. 1796
m. 1816-Oh.
d. 1845-III.
Cynthia Knapp

Mother of No.
b. ca. 1839
d. ca. 1839

Nahum KING

Father of No.
b. 1778-MA.
m. 1807-N.Y.
d. 1856-OR.

Sarepta NORTON

Mother of No.
b. 1791-N.Y.
d. 1869-OR.

Andrew Zumwalt

Father of No.
b. 1789-KY
m. 1813-MO.
d. 1867-OR.

Elizabeth Fraser

Mother of No.
b. 1792 KY.
d. 1878-OR.

Lewis Crow

Father of No.
b. 1778-PA.
m. 1799-KY.
d. 1854-IL.

Susannah Zumwalt

Mother of No.
b. 1784
d.

Jacob Ross

Father of No.
b. 1827-OH.
m. 1848-OH.
d. 1912-CA.

Catharine Baker

Mother of No.
b. 1833-OH.
d. 1900-NE.

Henry Ballinger

Father of No.
b. 1832-N.C.
m. 1856-IN.
d. 1926-ID.
Abigail Edwards

Mother of No.
b. 1839
d. 1874

Samuel Warren

Father of No.
b.
m.
d.

Mother of No.
b.
d.

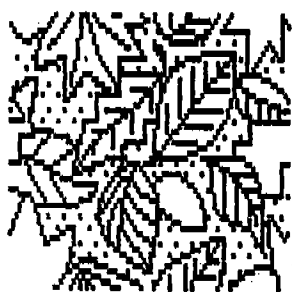
Lorenza D. Rowe

Father of No.
b. 1809-OH.
m.

Julia Ann Sifritt

Mother of No.
b. 1815-OH.
d. 1891

b. born
m. married
d. died
w. where



Mrs. Ollie Alcorn Interview by Mark Phinney

Historical Records Survey
Benton County Oregon
By Mark Phinney
Mrs. Ollie Alcorn
May 24, 1938

Mrs. Alcorn was interviewed at her home on the corner of 8th and Adams St. in Corvallis, Oregon, where she and her husband are passing their declining years. Mrs. Alcorn had not a great deal of information about the early times, and her recollections were supplemented some-what by information gleaned from her brother, Lincoln Allen of Kings Valley, Oregon. Mrs. Alcorn's recollections were so frequent that it did not seem best to write them separately.

My grandfather, Charles Allen, took a donation land claim in Kings Valley about 1846. His claim adjoined that of Rowland Chambers who built the mill at Kings Valley. He was not a member of the Kings Valley party, I think, but came about the same time. Grandmother Allen died in 1864 and was buried in the Kings Valley Cemetery, which was on Grandfather's claim and for which he gave the land. Grandmother's name was Hetty Ann. Soon after grandmother's death, grandfather sold out and moved to Washington, where he remarried and spent the rest of his life.

Grandfather's family, so far as I can recall them were: my father, Joseph W.; Dave Allen; Morris, who married a girl named Pitman; and Emily, who married a man named Bump. Emily's son, Clarence Bump, now lives on a farm near Kings Valley.

My father, Joseph Witham Allen, was born in 1846. My mother, Julia Ann Ritner, was born in Missouri in 1848. Mother's brother, Lew Ritner, is still living at the old place near Pedee, in Polk County. Grandfather Sebastian Ritner, was a German-speaking Swiss and never mastered English. He came to Polk County about 1845 and took out a donation land claim on the Luckiamute River at the mouth of Ritner Creek, just north of the Benton-Polk County line. Grandmother Ritner had been Sarah Woodling. She first married John Ritner, my father's brother, in Missouri. When father sent word he had a claim located for his brother, the family started west in 1852.

On the way across the plains, the Indians succeeded in stampeding the stock, including the oxen drawing the wagon. In attempting to stop his run-away team, John Ritner fell in front of them and was run over and killed by the wagon. Grandmother afterward married her brother-in-law, Sebastian.

My mother was a daughter of Grandmother's first husband,
(Continued on next page.)

Mrs. Ollie Alcorn interview continued

John Ritner. My parents were married in 1864. They passed their lives farming in Kings Valley and are buried in the Kings Valley Cemetery. Their children were: Tom, who runs Beaver Pool Hall in Corvallis; Hetty (Miller) of Albany; Sarah (Bush) of Kings Valley; myself; Lucy, who died in childhood; Lillie (Simpson); and Reatha (Simpson).

I was born in 1871. As a little girl I spent a good deal of time at Grandmother Ritner's. She used to tell me many things about her experiences, but I have forgotten most of them. Grandmother always

kept a large flock of geese. The soldiers from Fort Hoskins when riding that way, would often take advantage of a living target and shoot one of Grandmother's geese. As they always paid for what they killed, Grandmother was not greatly put out.

In 1894 I married W. S. (Bud) Alcorn, who had come from the east about 1890. We lived on a farm on the Luckiamute River above Hoskins, where our son, Dale, now lives. We have come to town to spend our declining days. Our children are Vernon, Irma (Mrs. Roche), and Dale.

KING FOLK UPDATE

There was excellent response to the King Folk, #1 and there are now 42 subscribers. That number continues to grow.

Still needed are write ups for the Family History page. One side relates back through you to Nahum and Serepta King and the other side consists of an ancestral chart of the person submitting the history. It would be helpful if these were typed and ready for printing, however that service can be provided. To date, Francis Rexford has submitted one for King Folk, #1, and Carole Putman is featured in this issue.

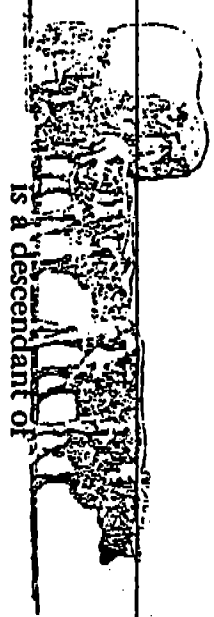
Subscriptions are \$5.00 per year. Payment can be made to:
Charlotte Wirfs
296 N.E. Gerlinger Ln.
Dallas, OR. 97338

Alice Beebe-Blowers writes to remind all of those who haven't filled out a bio sheet and would like to do so to send a SASE to her and she will mail you the form. This is separate from the King directory described in King Folk, #1; her address is: 9008 N. Olive Ln., Sun Lake, AZ. 85224.

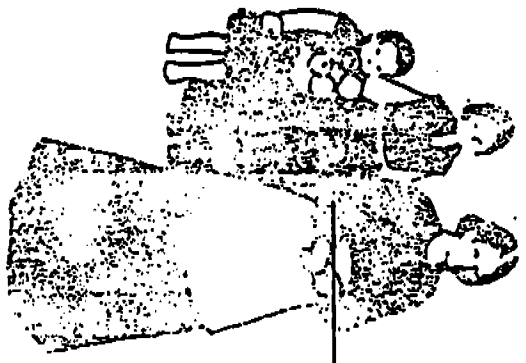
SAMPLE

OREGON TRAIL CERTIFICATE

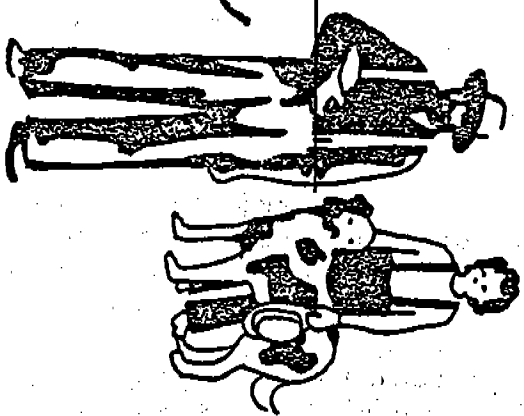
This is to certify that



is a descendant of



who travelled the Oregon Trail routes



Certificate No.

Trailmaster
Oregon Trail Project

Coming in the next issue of King Folk

Retha (Allen) Greig will be featured on the family history page. Retha lives in Philomath and has written a wonderful memoir of her girlhood days in Kings Valley. She lived in the Issac King home.

Part of the Nathan King book collection, now in the keeping of David Trask, will be published. It will take several issues to publish the entire inventory.

Excerpts from Nathan King's notes, also in the keeping of David Trask.

Thanks for all the info everyone is sending in. Your suggestions, contributions, and ideas are most helpful.

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KING FOLK is a quarterly publication which can be ordered for \$5.00 per year. Please make checks payable to Charlotte Wirfs and mail to:

Charlotte Wirfs
296 N.E. Gerlinger Ln.
Dallas, OR. 97338

Happy Holidays

Charlotte L. Wirfs
296 N.E. Gerlinger Lane
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