

King Folk



A newsletter for the King Pioneer Family Association about our pioneer ancestors,
Nahum and Sarepta (Norton) King, and their descendants.

Reunion Cancelled

The board has decided to cancel the 2021 reunion. I do not know if the reunion has ever been canceled for two years in a row. Now for some good news. The Corvallis Museum is now open! The Corvallis Museum is a second location for the Benton County Museum, they still have the original building in Philomath. The new location is located blocks from the Willamette River, and near a number of hotels and restaurants. Perhaps a location for a future reunion?

Of high importance this year is finding a new treasurer. Patricia Plunkett Holler graciously took on the position when the previous treasurer had to step down to deal with important family matters. Pat had stipulated she only wanted to do it for a year, then the pandemic hit. If you are interested please contact Patricia Plunkett Holler at lightandtruth1@gmail.com. I hope to see you in 2022!

Your President, Traci Schilling Willey, Isaac King descendant



Kings Valley Community Trust (the Trust) acquires and cares for facilities and lands on behalf of the greater Kings Valley community for rural education, community-building, and conservation purposes. The Trust owns the land housing Kings Valley Charter School (KVCS); a 10 acre parcel of agricultural land adjacent to the school; a residence adjacent to the school; and the historic church off of Maxfield Creek Rd. As an unincorporated rural community, Kings Valley offers few public places for residents to congregate. The Trust formed in 2013 to buy the property that

houses our rural school from the school district to ensure that our community would continue to have a rural school, which has existed since the late 1800s. The Trust follows in the footsteps of the Kings Valley Area Association, assuming the management and protection of the original "Evangelical United Brethren" church built in 1877. Community members participate to preserve the unique cultural heritage of Kings Valley and maintain public spaces for future generations.

Contact Us

Kings Valley Community Trust

23803 Maxfield Creek Rd

Philomath, OR 97370

kingsvalleytrust@gmail.com

541-929-2353

Luckiamute Meadows

The Kings Valley Community Trust has the opportunity of a lifetime to purchase Luckiamute Meadows, a 155-acre nature and agricultural preserve in the heart of our rural community. This land is right next door to our rural school--Kings Valley Charter School--and our community hall, both of which are owned by the Trust.

At its core, the story of "Together for Luckiamute Meadows" is about caring for our land, our kids, and our community, and ensuring that connection for generations to come. To purchase

Luckiamute Meadows, the Trust needs to raise \$400,000. With your generous support, we will reach our goal.



The Restoration of Luckiamute Meadows

Two decades ago, Cliff and Gay Hall purchased 155 acres of overgrazed land along Maxfield Creek and the Luckiamute River in Kings Valley, Oregon, not to farm it but to restore it.

So they set to work with the help of many conservation partners, both public and nonprofit.

Luckiamute Meadows Today

Today, this land is called Luckiamute Meadows, and is a wildlife haven of oak savannas, riparian areas, meadows, and productive agricultural fields. A place where birds and fish thrive and elk roam.

And thanks to the generosity of the Halls, Luckiamute Meadows is an outdoor classroom for Kings Valley Charter School, which is right next door. The Trust owns the school property.

Now the Halls are ready to retire from this labor of love and have offered to sell their beloved Luckiamute Meadows to the Kings Valley Community Trust so we can continue the Hall's restoration work and keep this land open to our rural school, other area schools, and our community.

Luckiamute Meadows is a story of restoration, conservation, community, and a whole lot of love for the kids.

With your generous support, the Kings Valley Trust will become the next stewards of Luckiamute Meadows and protect this special place for generations to come.

See LuckiamuteMeadow.org for more information.

KING'S VALLEY



How it was Named and by Whom Settled: A Story of the Forties

One of the prettiest and most productive localities in Oregon lies toward the headwaters of the Luckiamute. In the spring of 1845 there was not a sign of habitation in what is known as King's Valley, to relieve the monotony presented to the site by hill and dale as formed by the hand of nature. Late in the fall of 1845, the first appearance of civilization made its advent into the valley since which time it has become the abode of thrifty farmers, and from any elevated point it presents the most picturesque view, being surrounded by lofty hills, and the indentation made by the passage of numerous rivulets, makes a most romantic scene, that delights the eye to dwell upon.

King's Valley takes its name from the first and original settlers of the valley. Mr. King with quite a numerous family crossed the plains in 1845. He selected the locality so designated as the home for himself, his sons, and one son-in-law, and they built the first house and made the first improvements that were made in the valley named after old Mr. King. I have no notes or dates by which to assist me in sketching the history of this valley or the various incidents relating thereto.

My recollection of Mr. King's family inclines me to say there were three sons – Isaac, Amos, and Sol, together with sons-in-law, Norton and Chambers. Norton and Chambers have long been deceased, yet the mill in King's Valley originally built by Roland Chambers, still

remains as a memorial to his industry and handiwork. Amos King, one of the sons, lives in Portland.

'Tis pleasant to call to mind the friendly associations had with old Mrs. King almost half a century ago. At that time, she was a very active and industrious old lady. We lived about four miles from their residence, and she made frequent visits to us, walking the whole distance from home in the morning and returning in the same manner at night, and being a great knitter she kept her needles clicking nearly every step of the way. She must have been at least sixty years of age at the time. She was a good talker, too; a most agreeable conversationalist, and her tongue and needles were ever in incessant motion. Sol King, a citizen of Corvallis, and for years an efficient sheriff of Benton County, is one of the scions of the same family.

With the Advent of Mr. King into Oregon, came the best stock of cattle that had ever reached the valley up to that time. He was a lover of good stock, and when conclusion was made to come to Oregon, he made judicious selections of the best stock then obtainable in the western states. The "King" stock of cattle were for years the most sought for by those who wished to improve their stock, and they generally commanded better prices than any other in Oregon. They were a large breed of English cattle, good milkers and good for beef. The large steer exhibited years ago at the fair by Mr. Cross, and then taken to San Francisco – weighing over 3,000 pounds- was of the King stock of cattle. So far as my knowledge extends Mrs. King made the first cheese that was ever made in Oregon. She was an excellent hand at the business, and I can recollect with what a hearty relish I partook of some of her cheese in the spring of 1846.

King's Valley will always bring perpetual remembrance to the name of King. He made a very judicious selection for his abiding home, for King's valley is as well adapted to bring comfort and competence to the industrious as any other part of our adopted state. When the "Chambers mill" was built, it gave delight to them who could avail themselves of the advantages it brought them – by easy access – of procuring bread, which for many months was in a measure denied the early settlers. The conveniences of water in King's valley cannot be excelled, as there are several little streams meandering their way through the valley. To sum it all up no better homes can be found than in King's valley – "Juno" in Willamette Valley Tribune.

Weekly Oregon Statesman Salem, Oregon

14 May 1890; Friday; page 3

King Deaths and Burials Along the Oregon Trail

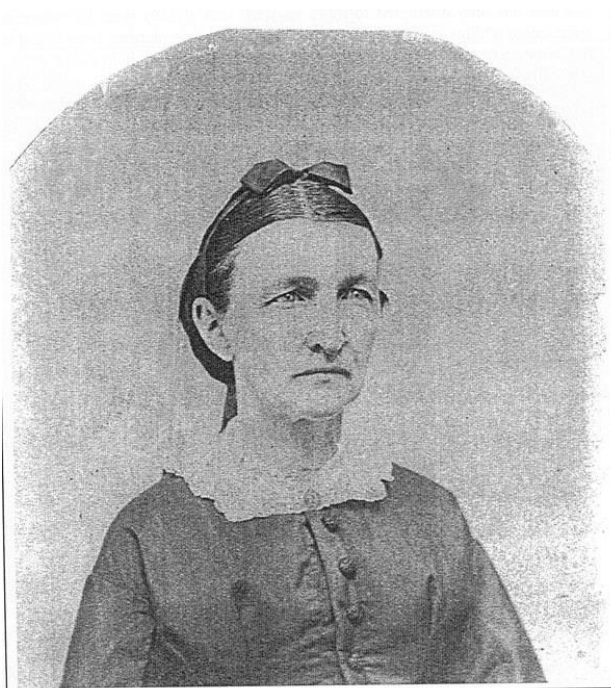
Charlotte Wirfs

Eye-Witness Accounts

These are the accountings of people who were there in 1845

Anna Maria Allen King (1823-1905) wrote about the illnesses and deaths of her family shortly after arriving in Oregon Territory in a letter dated April 1, 1846. The letter to her family was sent in hopes she could persuade them to move out west. She wrote that they had enough provisions of flour and bacon to get them through and then she spoke of the sickness and death that attended the family on the final part of their journey.

*"...I wrote to you from Fort Laramie. Whooping Cough and Measles went through our camp and then after we took the new route, a slow lingering fever prevailed....Listen to the deaths: **Sarah Chambers, John King and his wife, their little daughter, Electa and their babe, a son, nine months old and Dulaney C. Norton's sister is gone.**"* Sickness is indicated to be the cause of deaths, but she said nothing about how they died or where they were buried.

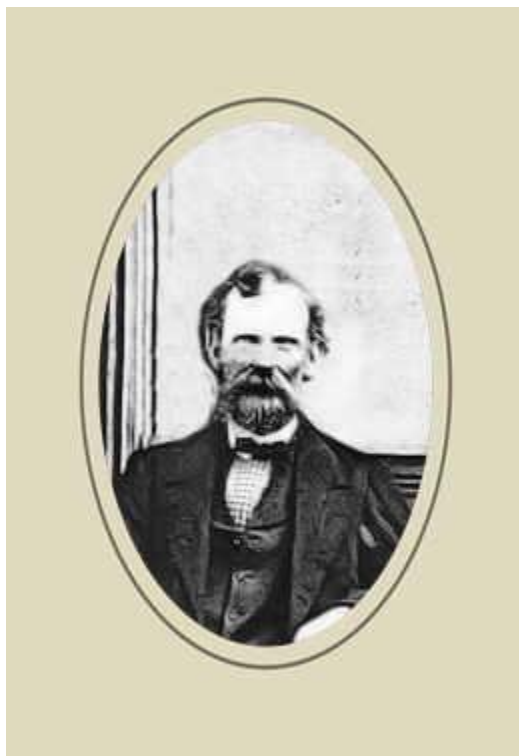


Earle Greig photo

Anna Maria(h) King, wife of Stephen (1822-1905)

1 - Anna Maria Allen King (1823-1905)

Many of us have visited the grave of **Sarah "Sally" King Chambers** (1823-1845) near Castle Rock Reservoir. It is one of the very few graves along the Oregon Trail that was marked by a memorial stone. The story goes that the grieving husband, **Rowland Chambers**, stayed behind to select a stone from the river bed, engrave it, and then catch up by horseback with the wagon train when he had completed the task. As to the deaths and burials of **John King** (1813-1845), his wife, **Susan (Cooper) King** (1815-1845) and their two youngest children, very little was ever said of them and the stories of their deaths have been confusing. Some speak of sickness and others talk of drowning. How did they die and where are they buried? No memorial stones were placed that we know of.



2 - *Amos King, (1822-1901)*

Amos King, (1822-1901) was age 23 in 1845. In later years he gives an account of the death of his older brother, **John**. From *Oregon Native Son and Historical Magazine*; May 1899; Native Son Publishing Co.; Portland, Oregon; p. 404 Amos describes what happened to the King party after they reached The Dalles, "They finally reached The Dalles worn and exhausted. Here a raft was constructed out of logs hauled from the hills by their poor and tired oxen. This conveyance accommodated their wagon and effects and ten people. Their oxen were driven down the river overland. Out of those on the raft only three were able to lend a helping hand and before reaching the Cascades two of them, a brother and his wife, died from mountain fever and they were buried at Wind Mountain. After reaching the valley they went to Forest Grove where winter was passed." Amos doesn't tell of an accident or of deaths by drowning. He speaks of Wind Mountain on the Northern banks of the Columbia. This is where the first landing of two where the raft came to shore after leaving the Dalles. It's about 45 miles and took them two to three days to complete. The place where John and Susan King were buried is now underwater.

One story survives and is told by the descendants of **Luther “Rattle Snake” King**, (1840-1913). Luther was five-years-old when he witnessed the deaths of his family and was left an orphan. This version simply states, *“When the emigrants were rafting down the Columbia River from The Dalles there was an accident near Cascade Locks. John and Susan and two of their youngest children were drowned. Five-year-old Luther survived and was raised by his grandparents (Nahum and Sarepta King).”* No mention of illness is told.

What do we know about **The Dalles, Oregon in 1845**? We know that there was little help for the emigrants arriving at The Dalles. There was no town there. The **Methodist Mission of Wascopam**, named after the Wasco tribe who helped build the mission, was there. It was located close to **Pulpit Rock** in present day The Dalles. In 1850 the US Government purchased it and established Fort Dalles. The mission was established in 1838 by Rev. Daniel Lee.

In mid September, the King Party arrived at the mission six weeks later than expected. Reverend Alvin Waller and his pregnant wife were there and they were not expecting the large number of travelers from the Meek’s Cut Off wagon trains. Supplies were brought to the mission regularly from Fort Vancouver, but they were not enough to accommodate the Meek’s Cut Off wagon trains which arrived six weeks later the wagons that had traveled the regular Oregon Trail route. These emigrants were extremely stressed when they began to stagger into Wascopam Mission in the fall of 1845. They needed food, supplies, and medical attention.



3 - The 1845 corner bastion at Fort Vancouver, a U.S. National Historic Site along the Columbia River in Vancouver, Washington

Word had reached Fort Vancouver that people and cattle which had taken Meek’s Cut Off, were in need of rescuing and **John McLaughlin** (1784-1857) sent extra supplies, boats, and men to the mission to help. In doing so, McLaughlin went against the orders of Hudson Bay Company Officers, operating out of Canada and London, England. They did not want Americans settling South of the Columbia River. England was hoping to get all the land in Oregon Country when the boundary issue would soon be finalized between the United States and Great Britain. American settlers would tip the occupation to the United States receiving the land, which is exactly what happened on June 14, 1846 when the current US/Canadian boundary was set at the 49th parallel. Fortunately McLoughlin was too much of a humanitarian and businessman to play politics in Oregon Country. After a few days of rest, the emigrants were left to their own devices to decide the best way to convey themselves and their belongings to the Willamette Valley. The King party chose to raft the river.



4 - Solomon "Sol" King (1833-1913)

Solomon "Sol" King (1833-1913), youngest son of Nahum and Sarepta King, and **Luther King** (1840-1913), oldest child of John and Susan King, were both youngsters in 1845 and they came to adulthood together under the care of Sol's parents, Nahum and Sarepta King. However both men loved to tell a good story. **Sol King** may have exaggerated a bit in the retelling. One example of exaggeration is that they put the cattle on one single raft with people, goods and wagons. That is not likely as no one else transported cattle that way. I'm not sure I would want to be present on a raft containing a restless herd of cattle. It was common to herd cattle down the South bank of the river by drovers and guides and swim them across to the Northern (or the Washington side) near present-day Hood River where they continued their journey west.

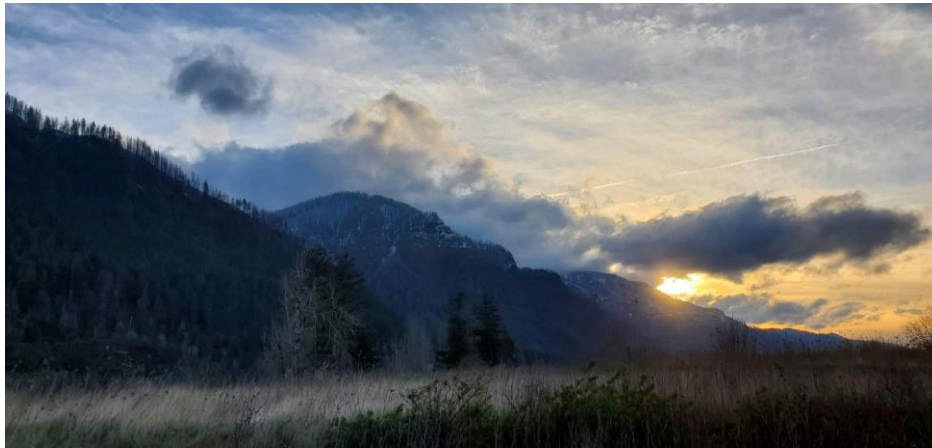
This is from "Interview of **Sol King**, published in King Folk Newsletter, #1, June 24, 1992. *"I was but a little shaver then, in 1845. We came by the way of The Dalles. Father, Mom, four brothers and two wives, sisters, Watsons and Chambers and their families."*

What did they find there? Many of the travelers arriving there were very sick and some died and were buried there at the Methodist Mission, Wascopam. Everyone was trying to decide how to enter the Willamette Valley. Those who built rafts felled pine trees that surrounded the mission. Oxen would drag the trees to the river's edge where they were rolled down steep banks into the water and lashed together. Men could be hired to help with that task as well as the task of herding cattle down the Columbia on the South side. The King party appeared to be able to do much of the work as they reported that they had good supplies. It's likely that one or more King men accompanied the cattle as drovers. It took about ten days to construct and load the rafts with disassembled wagons, supplies and people which all had to be evenly distributed for the

weight load. Sometimes one wagon was left assembled to provide protection or privacy and an animal was aboard to help the wagon on and off at the landings.

Let's continue with Sol's account. *"There were 13 wagons in the crowd and we rafted them and the cattle and all the rest of it down the Columbia. A pretty big raft it was—all made of green timber we cut down. It took us all morning to get it out into the current and all afternoon to get it back to shore again."*

Here is additional information to help make Sol's, as well as Amos's, accounts more meaningful. The first lap on the Columbia from the mission landing to the landing just above the Cascade Rapids Landing was 45 miles. This was located near Wind Mountain. Wind River empties into the Columbia here and the banks were wide enough in 1845 to make a landing. This first lap took two or three days. The rafts were beached at this landing and emigrants went ashore for at least one night. Generally speaking there were few mishaps along this lap. Bad weather, strong winds, whirlpools and eddies in the river made it difficult to land and launch the rafts. Sol did not exaggerate that part.



5 - View from Fort Cascades Historic Site, located where the Cascades Rapids once were. Photo by Traci Schilling Willey 2020.

Sol continues, *"And then we came to the Cascades."* That would be on the second lap of the Columbia to the landing at the very top of the Cascades Rapids. It was on the North shore of the Columbia where the river narrowed to 100 feet and there were steep rocky banks before the river broke into a three-mile tumult of rapids that were usually portaged. A few brave souls would venture the drop, but it was extremely treacherous to do so. It is here where most of the drownings took place. Rafts and boats would get caught up in whirlpools and people pitched into the wild water. It was all about heading the rafts ashore at the precise moment or the current would catch them, hurling them into the rocky banks or sending them down the rapids. Sol tells us that the King Party safely made that second landing, cattle and all. At this point the rafts were abandoned. Some were allowed to drift unattended through the falls. Local area men at the top and bottom of the landing would salvage and repair the rafts for reuse.

He continues, *"(And then we came to the Cascades.) We had to put the wagons together and cut a road of about six miles around the portage, 'til we could take to the river again."* What was that like? Not pleasant.

The three-mile portage took several days to get an average family and their belongings to the end as it often had to be divided into two or three trips. Oxen struggled in hub-deep mud and took hours to pull the reassembled and loaded wagons through the mud. People walked that portion and camped along the way.

Native Americans had built death houses there and sometimes the walls had broken down spilling skeletal remains out into the mud. Corpses of horses and oxen lay about.

Sol tells us that after the King family made the landing and assembled their wagons that they cut a six-mile new road around the portage perhaps avoiding the muck of the portage. He fails to mention they had a fatal raft accident while on the river or that anyone had been sick and died while they were there. Perhaps it was too personal to relate.

Sol continues, *“And then we got boats and came down the Columbia past where Portland stands. I forget what the town was called.”*

Portland didn't exist in 1845. A small settler's log cabin was there located about where Front and Washington Streets now exist. Fort Vancouver was well established on the North shore of the Columbia. The tiny town of Linnton, which was platted by Peter Burnett in 1843, was also there. Oregon City on the Willamette had been established. Both Linnton and Oregon City were outposts of Fort Vancouver. Linnton only had three buildings in 1845 and is probably the town Sol remembered. The boats he refers to were provided probably by John McLaughlin from Fort Vancouver. McLaughlin would have his employees man the boats if they were going to Fort Vancouver or he would rent them to emigrants for their use.

There were two river landings on the North side after leaving the Cascade Rapids Landing. One was at the bottom of the three-mile portage and the other was fifteen miles farther down river. That lower landing is most likely where employees met the emigrants and provided boats, barges, bateaux and help transporting people and cattle to the Fort where they could recover for a few days and take up supplies. Some emigrants were transported by boats from the lower landing directly to Linnton on the Willamette River, by passing Fort Vancouver, and Sol indicated that they were in that group, however they may have gone to Fort Vancouver first.

He continues, *“Then we got to the Tualitin Plains where Forest Grove Station is now and we camped for the first winter. All the lot of us crowded into one little log cabin. Oh, we lived pretty well. There was a gristmill nearby and the folks raised a little wheat and some potatoes and peas.”* What was that like?

Linnton Landing is just past the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia River, so officially the King party had reached the Willamette Valley and were now in what would become the state of Oregon. Their wagons were reassembled and loaded, cattle was collected and they made the last 14 miles over a steep grade, probably close to present day Cornelius Pass, and into the Tualitin Plains. The trail ended at a large campground on Gales Creek near present-day Forest Grove. There, emigrants found meager shelter and some work to help them get through the winter. The nearest settlement was 26 miles away at Oregon City, not that far a distance to visit after you've traversed the Oregon Trail. There they could purchase supplies, attend church, file a land claim, have a meal and a bath at a hotel, or perhaps find some work at the sawmill or gristmill.

Sol concludes, *“I tell you it was rough. The next Spring we came into Kings Valley and took up the old place.”*

Here's another account from *“A History of Nahum King, Biography of Solomon King”*, David Fagan, **History of Benton County, Oregon**; Portland, OR; 1885; pp 519-520. *“...They (the King party) were under the leadership of James McNary after leaving S. Platt. They arrived at what is now The Dalles in late Nov. (That date is incorrect. It was mid September), 1845. A raft was built to accommodate 13 wagons and 35 to 40 people and*

descended down the Columbia to The Cascades where they took boats and went to Linnton, finally wintering near Forest Grove.”

Neither of Sol’s accounts mentions deaths or burials. Both accounts mention that one single large raft was built, and they rafted to the Cascades and took boats to Linnton, wintering near Forest Grove in 1846. Sol also notes the difficulty maneuvering the raft when launching and landing. Usually the rafts that were built only held up to six wagons, but the King’s raft held 13 wagons. By that account, Sol’s description of it “being a pretty big raft” is accurate.

Sarepta Norton King, accounted for the deaths of members of her family in their Bible: Two deaths in that time frame is written in Nahum’s Bible: “Sarah King died Sept. 3, 1845. John King died Oct. 26, 1845.”

Nahum Amos King is mentioned in a file contributed for use in USGEN Web Archives compiled by Ila Wakely, Oct 21, 2007. She sites her source as an author: published by S.J. Clarke Publishing Company. “...on reaching the Dalles the party constructed a number of pine-log rafts, in which they descended the Columbia, making the portage at the Cascades, and then proceeding to Linnton in small boats. Although Nahum King is the title of the file, I do not think he ever gave an account of the journey.



6 - **Wiley Norton** (1847-1933)

Wiley Norton (1847-1933), son of Hopestill King Norton (1815-1892) and Lucius Norton (1818-1859), was a year old when he came to Oregon with Kings. He too was an eye-witness, but was not able to remember anything about the journey. His accounts could only have been from the stories he heard from his elders. From “Wiley Norton Observes 88th Birthday”; *The Sunday Oregonian*, Portland, Oregon; April 3, 1932: “...Mr.

Norton's parents arrived at Linnton on the Willamette River on Nov. 1, 1845. They arrived six weeks behind the original train." Also from "Two Family Reunion Held"; The Sun Journal, Portland, Oregon; June 14, 1925. "One hundred fifty attend Gathering of Pioneer Norton and Plunkett clan." "...100 wagons in the emigrant train. Wiley was age one. The family spent the winter at Forest Grove and moved to Kings Valley, Oregon."

Account from the First Generation Removed From the 1845 Journey



7 - *Ashnah Norton Plunkett (1847-1933)*

Ashnah Norton Plunkett (1847-1933) is the grandchild of Nahum King and daughter of Hopestill King Norton and Lucius C. Norton, who were members of the King Party of 1845. She gives a similar account to her Uncle Sol's account. From Impressions and Observations of the Journal Man, by Fred Lockly "Interview of Ashnah Plunkett", June 20, 1925, *The Oregon Daily Journal*, ...*"They finally got to the Columbia and reached The Dalles. They built a raft on which they put their wagons and went down the Columbia to The Cascades. There they took boats to Linnton. From Linnton they went to the Tualitin Plains, not far from Forest Grove, where they wintered. The next spring they all went to Kings Valley. My grandfather (Nahum King) did not like the first place he took up, so he sold his squater's rights and took up a place on the Mary's River. The town of Wren is located on his old claim..." "...One of my uncles, John King, died while they were camped on the Columbia River. His wife was sick and she died also, so they buried them both in the same grave."* Ashnah did not mention a drowning incident or the death of the two children.

Modern Day Accounts

In 1966, 121 years after the King party traversed the Columbia, authors of **The Terrible Trail: The Meek Cutoff, 1845, Keith Clark and Lowell Tiller**, wrote that *“John King died Oct. 26, 1845 by drowning in the Columbia River. His wife, Susan (Cooper) King died by drowning in the same incident. Electa or Electra King, their daughter, died the same day in the drowning accident on the Columbia River with her baby brother, age 9 months, name unknown. Luther King was the only survivor in his family of the drowning accident on the Columbia River.”* They listed their sources as the descendants of Rowland Chambers and Lucius Norton which they name on pages 163 and 164 of their book.

In 1966 we heard from another King family member, **Bertha Anna King** (1889-1987) of Corvallis, Oregon. She is the granddaughter of Solomon King and the great granddaughter of Nahum and Sarepta King. Her account probably came from the oral history of Sol King descendants. She was an early King family researcher and she turned her research into the Genealogical Forum in Portland, Oregon in 1962. These are hand-written records and early copies of two old letters and Nahum King Family Bible pages. **Pat Plunkett Holler** has copies of her records. Bertha wrote, *“John King died Oct 26, 1845 on Columbia River. He had been sick. Drowned? Susan and children also died except one, Luther.”* The question mark indicates to me that she had heard the version of John drowning, but in the oral history of her family she was told he was sick. She implied the other family members died about the same time probably of sickness or possibly by drowning. Bertha wasn't sure. She did not mention where they were buried.

In 1976 and in 1992, **Donna Wojcik Montgomery**, author of **The Brazen Overlanders of 1845, Revised Edition**, wrote that on October 26 1845, John and Susan King and two of their children named Electa and Boy *“died on a raft in the Columbia River.”* She notes that they all died on the same day, but she doesn't list the cause of death or where they were buried. Donna has an extensive bibliography at the end of her book listing Amos King and Lovisa King descendent.

Another account comes from “Back When in Benton County: “The Kings of Kings Valley, by **Kenneth Munford**; *Benton Bulletin*; July 16, 1980; Philomath, OR; Part 1, page 4. *“Twentysix people left St Joseph, MO May 12, 1845; 7 men, 7 women, 6 boys, 6 girls. One man, two woman, a baby boy, and a young girl died along the way. They spent their first winter at Gales Creek near present-day Forest Grove.”* I looked up the location of Gales Creek. It runs right by Forest Grove near Forest View Cemetery and SE Forest Grove. B Street crosses Gales Creek.

I leave my research here. I will tell you that my sources for this article that are not listed in the text are from the two books by Clarke, Tiller, and Montgomery. They have pages of sources listed in their books.

My Conclusion

If I were telling the story today about how **John King** and his wife and two children died, I would chose the version told by the descendants of **Amos**, one of the older King siblings who traveled the Oregon Trail. He knew John as his elder brother and the memory of that death stayed with him for many years. In all the interviews he gave during his life, he never wavered from the deaths by illness and the burial at Wind Mountain. He spoke of how and where they died and where they were buried. **Anna**, Stephen King's wife, also spoke of illness. **Sol King** never mentioned the deaths in his interviews, but may remember them as

dying from illness or drownings. **Amos** tells us where **John and Susan** were buried, **Wind Mountain**, Washington. When you pass by that remarkable landmark, take a moment and remember **John, Susan**, and **thier two youngest children. Luther King**, was age five and witnessed the trauma of his family's deaths in what he describes as a drowning accident while the raft was coming into The Cascades Rapids Landing near present-day Cascade Locks. He states the whole family died there, his Mom and Dad and two younger siblings. If that happened and the bodies had been recovered, they are probably buried together in a hastily-made grave along the North shore of the Columbia River, which may now cover their graves. A sad fact is certain, young **Luther King** stepped onto the raft at the Wascopam Mission Landing with his family and entered the Willamette Valley as an orphan and a survivor.

The deaths of the King family members towards the end of their long journey from Missouri to Oregon must have been an overwhelming loss to the entire family. It doesn't seem to be a subject those on the journey wished to remember. Family members died and were buried by the wayside as they traveled through Oregon Country on their way to the Willamette Valley. It was a very long time ago, 175 years to be exact, as I write this in December of 2020.

Historians Report

BY DAVID TRASK

With the last reunion being canceled, as well as for 2021, there has been less opportunity to freely exchange our research with one another. For those who remain committed to discovering more of our family's vast history, the internet has allowed some rewarding interactions. Zoom meetings have aided our board to conduct business and discuss other exciting areas of interest in furthering our knowledge of our family tree. So, despite the challenges of the day, our work does go on, sometime behind the scenes. My work has been affected in a chaotic way because of Covid and so my direct involvement with our genealogy has been less than normal, and the least in the 32 years I have been Historian. However, I wish to reiterate that I still possess and maintain the vast King Family Collection of family trees, obituaries, and other many pages of documents vital to preserving our family heritage. Please remember to send me copies of your research, regardless of whether you think I may already have it. I incorporate all of it into about 50 notebooks, adding to them all the time. We all look forward to resuming our reunions in the future.

OBITUARY COLLECTION David Trask, our historian, has an extensive collection of family obituaries. He's worked hard to organize and maintain it. Please help him expand this collection by sending him obituaries for King Family members and their extended families. dltrask@aol.com or David Trask, 1533 Nottingham Circle, Medford, OR 97504.

HELP! We Need A Treasurer!

Duties:

- Access to Umpqua Bank, either physical branch or comfortable with online banking
- Receive, record, and deposit dues and donations
- Pay outstanding bills for reunion, newsletter, and other projects as directed by the board.
- Financial reporting, balance bank statements, and report to president and board.
- Assist in maintaining database of members
- Oversee registration at reunions

Contact Pat Plunkett Holler lightandtruth1@gmail.com if you have questions.

About the King Family Association

King Folk is a newsletter published by the family of Nahum and Sarepta Norton King, Oregon pioneers of 1845. Annual dues are \$10. These funds are used for family projects, publication costs, and reunion costs. Please make checks payable to “**The King Pioneer Family Association**” and mail to Pat Plunkett Holler, 1029 S Pine St, Newport, OR 97365. All information published in “King Folk” is printed as it is presented. For that reason, the information may not be completely accurate. Corrections and updates are published whenever they become known. Please submit material for publication to Traci Willey, 8625 SW Morgan Dr. Beaverton, OR 97008 or tracij1031@gmail.com

Current Board Members:

President: Traci Willey tracij1031@gmail.com

Vice President and Webmaster: George Davidson gid1943@gmail.com

Treasurer: Pat Plunkett Holler lightandtruth1@gmail.com

Secretary: Sally Greig saldgal@gmail.com

Historian: David Trask dltrask@aol.com

Board Member: Char Wirfs charwirfs@gmail.com

Board Member: Art Seavy pintokidajs@gmail.com

FAMILY WEB SITES The King Pioneer Family Association has a web presence on three sites. First, Ancestry.com contains our “King Folk” family tree. Thanks to Char Wirfs for hosting and maintaining this tree and for our Facebook page. Second, we are on Facebook as “Kings Valley Kin.” Email Char Wirfs for an invitation to either or both sites. Third, George Davidson is our webmaster for our very own King Folk website, kingfolk.co