

# King Folk



Newsletter #35

King Family Association

April 2016

## Our Newsletter, *King Folk*

By Anne Trussell, Editor

The #1 issue of *King Folk* was written, published, edited, and mailed by Char Wirfs on June 24, 1992. Total cost was about \$64. It contained ten pages and included articles still relevant today, an 1880 interview with Solomon King, highlights of the 1992 reunion, a narrative on the history of the King and Rexford families including a family tree for Francis Rexford (a Lucretia descendant), a letter from Lowell Tiller, and a list of subscribers to the newsletter, nineteen in all.

Although those early articles are still relevant, our method of delivery to you, the reader, is antiquated and expensive. Our list is now over 200 names. The cost to print and mail those newsletters is nearing \$600. Publishing and mailing costs have increased dramatically since 1992.

We could email a PDF file to all who have an email address. We can (and already have) put the newsletters online on our new website. (Thank you Pat for scanning all the old newsletters. Thank you George for placing them online.) And we can still mail newsletters to those who don't have Internet access and/or would like a paper copy.

Here are your choices:

1. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, you will need to keep your dues paid up. We will no longer mail a newsletter to those without paid dues.

2. If you would like to receive a PDF copy of the newsletter by email and save the King Family Association printing and mailing costs, please let me know:

[atru02@comcast.net](mailto:atru02@comcast.net)

3. If you would like to read the newsletter and print it online at our website, **kingfolk.co**, and want to help save costs, please let me know so we can remove your name from the newsletter mailing list.

The King Family Association \$10 dues covers newsletter and reunion costs, maintenance, replacement, and installation of headstones and markers, and miscellaneous expenses related to the organization.

Your dues help the King Family Association to continue to preserve the legacy of Nahum and Sarepta King and their family.

King Family 2016 Reunion

Saturday, June 25, 2016

9:30 AM – 2 PM

College United Methodist Church, Philomath

## Bits and Pieces

**REUNION...** Please note the changes in reunion location and time, June 25, 10 am -2 pm at College United Methodist Church, 1123 Main St., Philomath. We will brown bag it. **NO KITCHEN.** Read Earle Greig's article for the specifics. It's going to be a fun and informative get-together. Thank you, Earle, for organizing this year's reunion. Thanks also to the Benton County Museum and the Benton County Genealogical Society for opening their doors to us and to the College United Methodist Church for use of their facilities.

**CHECKS and DUES UPDATE...** Your \$10 helps to pay for the reunion, the newsletter, and pays for repair and replacement of family headstones. Bank restrictions are tightening. Please make checks out to **Anne Trussell.**

**FAMILY WEB SITES...** The King Family Association has a web presence on three sites now. Ancestry.com contains our "King Folk" family tree. A big THANK YOU to Char Wirfs for hosting and maintaining this tree and for our Facebook page. We are on Facebook as "Kings Valley Kin." Email Char Wirfs for an invitation to either or both sites. George Davidson is our new webmaster for our very own King Folk website. Lots to see there. Lots of photos. Read his newsletter article and visit the site! THANK YOU, George.

**OBITUARY COLLECTION...** David Trask, our historian, has one of the most extensive collections of family obituaries on the west coast. He's worked hard to organize and maintain this. 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)

**KINGS VALLEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION...** The Kings Valley Cemetery Association has been around for a very long time but they have a brand new, very interesting newsletter, first sent out in 2015. Watch for the interesting stories of those who came before us and, please, help to support this worthy cause.

**A HEART FOR ANY FATE...** Linda Crew's wonderful book of the King family's 1845 westward journey is now available from Amazon as an ebook.

**DAR...** Has anyone qualified for DAR using Amos King as her patriotic ancestor? To date, we've had a few members who have tried but not succeeded. We're working on this. Stay tuned...

**WELCOME TO NEW KING FOLK...** Kathy and Claire Adams (Hopestill), Murray and Myrle Magness (Abigail), Maureen Scott (Lucretia), Pat and Arthur Seavy (Hopestill).

**OREGON ARCHIVES...** Take a look at *I Found It in the Archives*, an online presentation by the Oregon Archives. Among the fascinating people of Oregon's history, you'll find a granddaughter of Nahum and Sarepta, Rhoda Hallock, who had polygamy charges filed against her by Benton County when she was only fifteen years old.

<http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Documents/Found-it/found-archives-20.pdf>



## Greeting King Folk!

It's been a busy year for me as I am sure it has been for all of you as well. This June will see the family back at its usual date but another new location. This should be exciting with the Benton County Museum and the Benton County Genealogy library nearby.

Sadly, we had some family members leave us this year.

### **Rollin Albert Fishwood**

9 Nov 1948-17 Mar 2014

Rollin is descended from Isaac King, same as me. His mother was Lowanna Talbot, grandmother Lowella King and great grandfather Hollis King who was Isaac's son. Rollin died in a motorcycle crash on Highway 20 in Lincoln County.

### **Arthur Stewart Lyday Jr**

25 May 1924-21 June 2015

Junior, as many knew him, died in Kings Valley and was buried in the cemetery there. His memorial service was the same day as our reunion last year. There is a beautiful obituary listed online at Find a Grave <http://bit.ly/1R1Gws3>. He is a descendant of Lovisa King.

### **Merle Hawley Bowers**

28 April 1927-19 June 2015

Merle is a descendant of Hopestill King. She is also descended from Ashnah Norton and James Plunkett. She died in John Day, Oregon.

### **Malcolm Vere Grieig**

18 July 1923 - 19 Nov 2015

Malcom is a Price Norton King descendant. His grandmother was Dora Price Allen and great grandmother Sarepta "Sis" Norton Price. Sarepta was a daughter of Hopestill King and Lucius Carolus Norton.

### **Dorothy Turner Brown**

25 Dec 1929-30 Dec 2015

Dorothy is a granddaughter of Adella "Della" King who is a granddaughter of Stephen King, son of Nahum King.

## **Frances Janell Davidson**

8 April 1946- 13 Jan 2016

Frances was the wife of George Davidson, our new web master. She was born in Philadelphia, MS, and died in Arizona. George is descended through the same line as Merle. They share Hopestill King, and Ashnah Norton and James Plunkett, but diverge from there.

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well and I look forward to seeing you all at the reunion this year.

Traci Schilling Willey  
President

## **King Military Project**

**By Anne Trussell**

The 2015 newsletter included an article about Amos and Nahum King's military background. Amos fought in the Revolutionary War and Nahum was in the War of 1812. "Who else in Nahum's family followed in their footsteps?" we asked. Thank you for your answers and for sending military service information on yourself and your King ancestors. Information is still being gathered so, please; if you haven't already done so, send the information by email or by regular mail. You can find the questionnaire and instructions on our website.

King military service stretches far and wide. Stephen King was in the Cayuse Indian War in 1847-48. Four Kings were in the Civil War; six in WWI; fourteen in WWII, one in the Korean War, three during the Cold War and the Cuban Crisis, seven during Vietnam, and one in Operation Enduring Freedom. One of our members participated in three tours of Vietnam, in Desert Storm and in Somalia. Another was sent to Los Angeles during the Watts Riots. More detailed information will follow in the next newsletter.

## 2016 King Family Reunion

We will hold this year's reunion at the **College United Methodist Church, 1123 Main St. Philomath.** In the same complex is the Benton County Museum, which is housed in the big brick building built by the United Brethren Church.

**GETTING THERE:** Drive west through Philomath. The Methodist Church and the Museum are on the north side of Main St. Lots of additional parking behind the museum.

**MEETING ROOM:** Located at the north end of the long hall in the Methodist Church. It will be open from 9:30 am – 2 PM. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

**NOTE: WE WILL “BROWN BAG” IT THIS YEAR. NO Kitchen available.** There is a Subway and a Safeway store with a deli counter located at the 53<sup>rd</sup> St shopping center, about 2 miles east of Philomath. Donuts and coffee will be provided in the morning. Nigel and Dee Parkhurst are bringing soda, water, and ice.

**TOURS:** Irene Zenez, Executive Director of the Museum, has graciously offered to let us tour the new building where thousands of items are stored and preserved. Of special interest will be numerous items donated by our King Family. These include Hopestill's Bible and Oxen bell. Both came across the plains in 1845. Other donations include a spinning wheel, quilts, a rope bed, Sol King's pump organ and much more. (Ask about the empty trunk that the Kings left in the desert.) Mary Gallagher and a volunteer will be available to lead tours starting at 9:30 AM. They can each take ten members. The last tours will leave at 11:30 AM. If you want to be in the 9:30 tours, please arrive at 9:15.

**SPECIAL REQUEST:** If you know of an item donated by the King Family, please submit

that information to our treasurer, Anne Trussell, when you make your dues payment. The museum will locate the item and have it on display with the others.

**ADDITIONALLY:** The museum itself opens at 10 AM and we encourage everyone to browse through the displays on the first and second floors.

**AND FINALLY:** Please take a moment to visit the Benton County Genealogical Society in the little annex house on the west side of the museum. They have an impressive collection of books and research guides. Sign in and visit with Dave. He was raised on a cattle ranch near where our pioneer ancestors camped at a spring now known as “Wagon Tire.”



Sol King's Pump Organ

**KING FAMILY REUNION**  
**Fort Hoskins Historical Park,**  
**Benton County OR**  
**July 11, 2015**

This was a different sort of reunion, held outside under the gazebo at Ft. Hoskins. It was a beautiful sunny day, and sixty-seven family members and guests registered today. Our president Traci Willey presided, and she welcomed a number of first-timers. (Many were from the Norton family.) We even had some visitors from Montana and Maryland!

There was a tie between Art Dixon (aged 90) and Earle Greig (turning 90 in a few weeks) for the oldest person present. The youngest was an 8-year old from the Norton family. One family member, Nicole Dziggel, was celebrating her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday by attending the reunion. And Wiley Norton celebrated his birthday yesterday. We sang happy birthday to them all.



Our Treasurer could not be here today, but she reports that we have just over \$4100 in the treasury. Our Historian, David Trask, also was absent. He and his wife are back East touring colleges with their son Ryan.

Char Wirfs, who also could not be here today, is heading up a committee to decide which King family gravestones need work next. Our first priority in years past was for those of the first generation. The committee will do an inventory of needed repairs, etc. (Contact Char at [charwirfs@gmail.com](mailto:charwirfs@gmail.com).) Isaac King is a different issue. He is buried on his Donation Land Claim which is now in private ownership. We may decide to put a stone in the Kings Valley Cemetery as a permanent memorial to honor Isaac, who has many descendants. Please email our president, Traci Willey, at [traci1031@gmail.com](mailto:traci1031@gmail.com) with questions, ideas and concerns concerning this project.

We have not decided where next year's reunion will be held. One possibility that has come up is to rent the Methodist Church's meeting room. It is located next door to the Benton County Museum in Philomath. Attendees were asked to let the Board members know if they have other ideas for possible future reunion sites. Consensus was that we definitely want to continue having the annual reunions! Someone suggested that we might possibly also have some type of off-season get-together for indoor research.

Someone asked why this reunion did not take place at the Kings Valley School as it has for the past many years. There are several reasons, but in general cleaning up the school gym in time for our reunion is a lot of hard work. We always had to clean it thoroughly (custodians apparently wait to do their cleaning in the late summer before school reopens) besides setting up the tables and chairs, and we also cleaned the kitchen for our potluck. Then we had to clean up again after our reunion. We also had to purchase liability insurance for reunion day. A stalwart group of family members always went to the gym a few days ahead of our reunion to do the cleaning work. So, we decided to hold a brown-bag picnic at Ft. Hoskins this year. It cost \$195 to rent the park facilities for today, but we will get a \$100 refund back if we leave the park clean after the reunion. Someone remembered that years ago this reunion was held at Avery Park in Corvallis.

Earle said he inquired and learned that the park facilities rent in four-hour increments, 8-12 Noon and Noon to 4 PM, etc.

President Traci noted that we are collecting email addresses, and we would like to be able to send out at least some of next year's King Folk newsletters by email instead of paying for paper, printing and postage.

All the remaining green t-shirts that we had on hand were sold today. Will we do more shirts? Please let Traci know if you are interested, and we will consider making another order of shirts. King Family Photo CDs are for sale today—individual years from 2007-2012 and 2014. (There was no CD made in 2013.) \$5 each + \$3 for mailing. Contact our Treasurer, Anne Trussell, to purchase them, at [atru02@comcast.net](mailto:atru02@comcast.net).

Art Seavy displayed a signature quilt that he brought. It was from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and some of the signatures were from the Plunkett family.

President Traci introduced the officers: Vice President Earle Greig, and Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary. (Absent, Anne Trussell; Treasurer, Historian David Trask and Past President Char Wirfs.)

Someone asked how long these reunions have been held. No one knows for sure, but we do have a picture from 1888 of a Chambers family reunion, so we know that reunions have been held for way over 100 years. This year is the 170<sup>th</sup> year since the King Family came to Oregon in 1845.

A list of the King children were read, and descendants of each one were asked to stand:

Lucretia King – 3 present; John King – 2 present; Hopestill King – 31 present; Isaac King – 2 present; Lovisa King – 3 present; Soloman – 5 present; Rhoda Ann King – 1 present

Thank you to Vangie Greig who worked at the registration table today. After the business meeting ended, Sally Greig took a group photo of those in attendance.

*Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary*



**KING FAMILY ASSOCIATION**  
**Board Meeting/Work Session**  
**June 27, 2015**

Present: President Traci Willey, Vice President Earle Greig, Treasurer Anne Trussell, Secretary Patricia Holler and Past President Char Wirfs.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss a number of concerns that have come up over the past year or so during this time of transition.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Char reported that our Facebook page, Kings Valley Kin, is evolving into a KV community page, not just for the King Family.

Do we want to think about incorporating as a non-profit organization? We do not need by-laws. Our bank balance us currently \$4166.43. Discussion, no decision.

George Davidson has set up a new King Family website located at [www.kingfolk.co](http://www.kingfolk.co). (Note: NOT "dot com!") We will pay him \$100 toward set-up costs.

The last newsletter contained 16 pages and cost a total of \$513.74 to produce and to mail out. (\$330.93 for printing, \$138.10 for postage and \$44.71 for materials. Consensus was that, starting in 2016, the newsletter will contain an announcement that unless dues are paid, no further newsletters will be sent. Then, we will stop sending the newsletters to unpaid recipients in 2017. This does not mean that the person will be removed from the mailing list, but they just would not receive a newsletter.

In the meantime, we will try to get the newsletters posted online, probably on George's website. Other expenses paid out this year were \$500, donation to the KV Cemetery Association; \$200 to Jeff Hiltz for stone repairs, and \$65 for thank you plaque for immediate past president Mimi Stang.

Delegating: suggestion to put notice on Facebook asking for a volunteer to computerize the spreadsheet that Anne maintains regarding membership & dues, etc.

Committee for gravestones: Char & David. Will compile list of first generation Kings, 2<sup>nd</sup> generation, etc. for those that have never had stones.

Perhaps we should place a stone monument in the KV Cemetery for those who are buried on the Isaac King cemetery on his DLC. That site is privately owned and inaccessible for the most part.

Char is working on getting a stone for Malinda Norton placed in Jacksonville Cemetery this year. She will also start working on a list of family stones that need repairs.

We then worked together to come up with a proposed 2016 budget for the King Family Association:

Reunion	\$100
Newsletter	\$600
Cemetery repairs	\$500
Website	\$100
Workshop	<u>\$500</u>
Total:	\$1800

Traci suggested that we continue to have the traditional picnic reunion during the summer, and then have a workshop later in the year. (David should be in on the workshop planning.) This year's reunion will take place at the Ft. Hoskins Historical Park instead of at the KV School. Idea for next year: at the College United Methodist Church in Philomath, which is next door to the Benton County Museum.

Nigel Parkhurst has maintained the King Folk Directory for many years, and paid for cost of printing copies. Since privacy concerns are such a high concern these days, he suggests that he continue to provide updated copies for the officers, but will no longer make extra copies to be sold to other family members. He will send the copies to Traci, and we will begin reimbursing him for the cost.

Discussion about whether we should offer to pay for the cost of a Y-DNA test for a direct descendant of Nahum King. The oldest living descendant would be the best candidate. There are three possibilities on our list, and Traci said she would write letters to ask if one of them would consent to taking the test, at no cost to him.

Traci said she wants to ask for "deputy" volunteers to work with each officer, and she plans to make the announcement at the reunion.

David Trask (who was not able to be at this meeting) says he prefers that his Family Historian status be informal; he prefers not to be an "officer."

Char Wirfs has maintained the King Folk extended family tree on ancestry.com at her own expense for some years now. Consensus was that the King Family should pay half the cost as a token of reimbursement to Char.

Traci suggested that we consider organizing a work party of King Family members at the KV Cemetery—perhaps in September.

Previously, signers on our bank account were Mimi Stang and Anne Trussell. Mimi's name has been removed from the account, so now Anne is the only signer. No decision was made, but this matter needs to be further discussed, because it is not good to have only one signer.

*Patricia Plunkett Holler, Secretary*



## Sarah King Chambers Grave

On June 22, 2015, seven members of the Northwest Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association did clean-up and repairs of Sarah King Chambers' gravesite near the Beulah Reservoir in Eastern Oregon. From *Northwest Trails*, the newsletter of this OCTA chapter "After walking up to the gravesite and looking it over, we decided how we were going to cement two of the posts in the ground. They were loose ones on the north end of the enclosure. The sight of Gail, Jenny, and Jim running up the hill with a wheelbarrow full of tools and cement would have been a great video for YouTube. They were magnificent. Jenny mixed the cement while the rest of us enlarged the holes and cleaned them out, and then we set them. It will really enhance the gravesite for future generations." Thank you, NW-OCTA and Gail & Muriel Carbiener, Jenny Miller, Kim Boddie, Jim & Sallie Riehl, and Billy Symms.



## New King Folk Website <http://www.kingfolk.co>

A new King Family website is now active for all to review. You may see a brief description of the children of Nahum and Sarepta King, sign a guest book, and add or correct any posted information. Please do not pass up the Photo's Link with over 1,000 photos that have been posted for your use of people, places, grave markers and other documents. See wonderful material to update your family tree or to just browse. Please contact the webmaster George Davidson, email [webmaster@kingfolk.co](mailto:webmaster@kingfolk.co) to submit and/or correct any information and photos. We would love to hear from anyone connected to the King Family Group.

## When Are We Considered "*the Old School*"?

By David Trask

King Family Historian

You know you are part of the "Old School" when others consider you a part of history. It was 31 years ago I attended my first Kings Valley Reunion. At that time, I presented my very short family tree, as best I knew it. I was barely in my 20's, and my branch of the Kings had settled in Southern Oregon in 1877. I knew no one at the reunion, other than Mrs. Leona Lyday, whom I met several months earlier, when I drove through Kings Valley for the very first time.

In those days, no GPS, no Google map, just a State of Oregon road map. I was actually able to read the map very well, without reading glasses. I just had to avoid blinking as I passed through KV, and fortunately, I saw the general store. I stopped there, and introduced myself to the young female clerk and asked if she knew of any King descendants who were of the same family for whom KV was named. She laughed and said she was a descendant and I should talk to her grandmother, Mrs. Lyday down the highway.

I did, and she invited me to the reunion to be held a few weeks later. I was going to medical school in Portland at the time, so I returned on reunion day with my one notebook page of notes that I called my family tree. I had very little hope that anyone would be able to tie my family into the King family tree. To my surprise, I was the honored guest that day. People knew of my branch, but did not know what happened to it, since the King name in my branch had died out, and my name was not King.

I am descended from Isaac King, through his son, Alfred, and his daughter, Francis (Fannie Margaret King), my great-grandmother, who married Aldon Trask, my great-grandfather. At that reunion, Nathan King, the unofficial historian at that time, designated me the "Junior Historian" because of my interest in genealogy. This came up to a vote of the members present, and it was unanimous. I was honored, although as I have learned subsequently, no one really has ever volunteered for the job since. Upon Nathan's death, the Kings Valley Family Association asked if I would be the unofficial historian. I agreed, and each year, I have continued in this capacity, always being given the nod of the group at each reunion.

Recently, the officers have asked me if I wanted to continue as an officer and therefore subjected to a vote of the people, or to volunteer in a true unofficial manner and not be officially elected. As I thought this over, I thought it is really touching to be given the ok from the 60+ family members present at each reunion. I am and have always been honored by this. On the other hand, I have always said, we are all historians, in our own right, and if anyone else ever wanted to be given the title of "Unofficial Historian", this would certainly be ok with me. However, I feel that this position, just as with the other officers, should be put up to the same kind of vote. I would only accept the honor, though, if the motion is unanimous.



If anyone disagrees with me having this position, I am more than open to having someone else take it. I certainly do not want to have to campaign for the position. Let it be known that I have access to birth and death certificates of many of our relatives, and I certainly would not want to have to bring up dirt on any of my competitors! I just might find out someone wasn't born in this country, or may not even be who they say they are! Then it might get ugly.

Seriously, I remain honored to hold the position, and I have faithfully maintained the family collection of obituaries, birth and death certificates, and family trees, and my one notebook page of notes I carried to me to that first KV reunion has expanded to over 10,000 pages of information. The majority of it remains as hard copies, and I have yet to find time to get it all digitalized. However, having arrived in KV over thirty years ago, remember, I was of the new school at that time, and that was when computers were in their infancy (remember DOS????). Now, I need my son to explain how to utilize 21st century technology to even make a phone call, thus leading to the title of this article. At what point are we now of the "Old School"?

For me, it is now, and I see the cycle, having been truly of the "New School" at the time I met Nathan King over 30 years ago. At least I knew what a computer was, and for those of you who remembered Nathan, he typed everything on a manual typewriter, using copy paper to make simultaneous copies of every letter he wrote. At that time, he was of the "Old School." Now I know how he felt.



So during these last thirty-plus years, I have seen the knowledge of the King family explode, and the documentation and confirmation of many names and dates compiled and consolidated for many to enjoy and use in their own research. Much of what people are searching for is on the Internet, and so I get bypassed a lot these days. That is ok, as more data still gets added to our own King Folk website. I will remain the custodian of the hardcopies of the collection. Someday, it will be passed on to another "unofficial" and hopefully "New School" historian.

Since I began my journey into the world of the King Family, I have added one more to the next generation. My son, Ryan, will be 17 at the time of this newsletter. I can say that my wife and I have done well, as he knows everything, certainly more than we know, and I am amazed at how much I don't understand about everyday situations, even though I see many of the same ones all the time. In the eyes of the young, experience is measured by one or two situations, unlike reality, where we all learn that experience only really comes with a lot of time. Certainly, it only takes a 17 year old son to make one realize that the torch is being passed, and one truly becomes of the "Old School" when one realizes that the next generation is now set to take over, for no matter how much wiser we get as we get older, the "New School" will never acknowledge this until the next generation matures, and the "New" becomes the "Old".

Funny how the cycle works, repeatedly, over and over, and yet, it is only when you get there that you realize it. And funnier yet, you always know when you are there. It is plain as day. Incidentally, for better or worse, I think I have been the King family historian about as long as anyone in the past. That truly makes me a part of history.

*David M. Trask*

## Descended from Strong Women: Grandma Max's Story

By Traci Willey

I am descended from Nahum and Sarepta (Norton) King through Isaac King and his wife Almeda VanBebber. Their daughter Melvina King had Myrtle Winifred Ramsdell, whose daughter was Maxine Ellen Greosser, who had Jo Ellen Brill Schilling Venneri to me, Traci Jo Schilling Willey.



Grandma Max, as I now remember her, was born on 8 March 1921 in Dallas, Oregon. Her father was Randall Harold Greosser and he was 29 years old, her mother was 23. I like to think her early years up until she turned four years old were happy ones. She had two older sisters, LaVetta Mary, born 27 August 1917 also in Dallas, Oregon, and Lois Fauvette, born 8 December 1918 in Aberdeen, Washington. On 29 March 1925, her mother, Myrtle, died of complications due to tuberculosis.

During her mother's illness Grandma Max and her sisters had stayed with their grandparents, Oscar and Melvina (King) Ramsdell. They continued staying with them after their mother's death until one day, according to Grandma Max, he kidnapped them from a street corner. The Ramsdells took him to court to sue for custody. The Ramsdell lost but Judge Airle G. Walker had the following words for the children's father.

*I am very frank to say that I have not liked the attitude of the applicant, R.H. Greosser, in this case. I think he is subject to severe criticism for the escapade in which he forcibly took the children from the home of the grandparents after having brought this suit. Neither was I impressed with his attitude on the witness stand. He was argumentative and at times nearly belligerent, and this decision, which the Court is making, surely is not influenced by any sympathy for the petitioner herein.*

In the meantime Randall Greosser had remarried Mary Alice Funk. Life was not easy with their new stepmother. Grandma claimed that her stepmother cut her mother out of any family photos she could find. I had never seen a picture of my great grandmother until a few years ago when someone brought a photo of her to a family reunion.

Grandma Max never graduated from high school. She married Elwood Brill on 30 July 1941 in Kelso, Washington. They settled in Dallas, Oregon and had three children Jo Ellen, born in 1946, a son, Rolland Leroy, born in 1947, and in 1949, another daughter, Donna Deanne. But tragedy struck again when Elwood was killed while working on 23 April 1960. The story told is that he had parked his logging truck and got out, leaving the engine running, when the parking brake failed and the truck began to roll, and he chased after it. The truck lost speed going up an incline and then began to roll backward. Elwood, unable to get out of the way, was crushed between an embankment and the truck. The death certificate states a slightly different story. On a county road about a mile southwest of Falls City, Oregon, Ellwood lost control of the logging truck when the brakes failed and was killed when he jumped from the truck. Death was caused by a fractured skull and a crushed chest.

A widow at age 39, Grandma Max was left with three children ages 14, 13 and 11, to raise. A little more than a year later she married Edward Arthur Hewitt on 1 June 1961 in Falls City. They were married for only eight years when Edward died of a heart attack on 2 June 1969. He died just four months before my birth. With all of the children grown and on their own, she waited until 13 September 1972 to marry Esten Ray Clontz. But this marriage was to be the shortest yet.

Apparently, she felt he had misrepresented himself and, upon learning certain things about him after they had married, she had their marriage annulled on 25 February 1974.

She had gone back to school and earned her certificate of equivalency on 17 June 1966. She worked as a postal delivery driver and later at the front desk for Capital Manor Retirement Center in Salem where she worked until she retired. On 21 July 1993 she decided to give marriage one more try with Joseph Martin Blaumer. They honeymooned in Hawaii. It was her last marriage and a happy one, too. When she passed away on 4 February 2011, both her daughters were by her side.

## Benton County Genealogical Society

Below are web links to many of Benton County Genealogical Society's online items of interest for researchers:

### **Benton County Genealogical Society**

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbentgs/>

### **Benton County Genealogical Society Library shelf list**

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbentgs/booklist.html>

### **Benton County Oregon Gen Web page**

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbenton/>

### **Benton County Historical Society and Museum**

<http://www.bentoncountymuseum.org/>

### **Benton County Bibles web page**

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbenton/FamilyBibles.htm>

### **Benton County Newspaper Index to Surnames mentioned in selected Corvallis newspapers 1865 - 1925**

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbentgs/newsproj.html>

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### **Allen K. Hill 1923-1945**

In the 2015 King Folk newsletter, Winnie Trump wrote an article about her uncle, Allen K Hill, who died in WWII. Here is his photograph.



## **King Family History: Can you help us?**

It seems like we can't watch television these days without seeing an advertisement for DNA testing. Are you wondering what it's all about? Why all the excitement over these DNA tests? For those of us who are interested in family history, these tests offer a new tool to help connect to our family's past. Three different DNA tests are available for family researchers: the autosomal; the mitochondrial; the Y-DNA test. Whichever you choose, you should test the earliest living generation in your family.

The autosomal test allows both men and women to use the DNA inherited from our ancestors in family research. We each inherit about one-half of our DNA from each parent. It's a random one-half, creating a unique DNA signature for each person. The autosomal DNA test, besides matching a person to other family members who have taken the test, will also provide ethnicity. This test works best going back to 4-5 generations in our families.

Ancestry is one of three companies that offer this particular test. At the present time, we have at least sixteen King descendants who have autosomal DNA matches on Ancestry. These sixteen people descend from Nahum and Sarepta's children Saretta, Lucretia, John, Hopestill, Isaac, Lovisa, Abigail, Solomon, and Rhoda.

Mitochondrial DNA is passed from a mother to all of her children. The mitochondrial DNA test can be taken by both men and

women and will test back through the female line.

The Y-DNA test can only be taken by males because only males have a Y chromosome. Y-DNA is passed from father to son, to son, to son, almost unchanged. Two men with an exact Y-DNA match (or a close match) will share a common ancestor.

This is where we're hoping for some help from you. We're looking for a direct male descendant of Nahum King who would be willing to take the Y-DNA test on behalf of our King Family. (The King Family Association will pay for the test, which will be done through FamilyTreeDNA, and will administer the results.) He must have a straight patrilineal descent from Nahum, through men with no intervening women. His name can stay anonymous if he wishes. The results will be included and compared in a King Y-DNA project that, at present, has 383 King participants from the US and abroad. That project is available at: [https://www.familytreedna.com/public/KING\\_FamilyTree\\_YDNA\\_Project?iframe=ycolored](https://www.familytreedna.com/public/KING_FamilyTree_YDNA_Project?iframe=ycolored)

Who were Nahum's ancestors? When did they first come to America? Where did they live before they came "across the pond?" The results of this test could help us to eventually connect with our early King family and answer some of these questions. If you or someone you know is a direct-line male descendent of Nahum and is willing to take this test, please contact Anne Trussell ([atru02@comcast.net](mailto:atru02@comcast.net)) or one of the other officers.

## Death of a Young Wife and Mother in Jacksonville, OR

Compiled by Charlotte Wirfs

Last fall, September 2015, Malinda Norton Price finally received a marker for her grave when the King Family Association had a stone made and placed in the City Section of Jacksonville Cemetery. Charlotte Wirfs and her grandson, Derek Trip, were present when the stone was placed. Malinda was only 30-years-young when a fever stole her life while her family was living in Jacksonville, Oregon. She left a mourning husband, Dillard Price, and three small children, Laura, George, and Fred. The family buried her and soon left Jacksonville moving back to Kings Valley and leaving Melinda far from family and friends in an unmarked grave.

A remarkable letter written by a compassionate Jacksonville neighbor to Malinda's sister, Ashnah Norton Plunkett, has survived. It describes Malinda's illness and the burial preparations which took place in November 1882 in Jacksonville Oregon. We have kept the punctuation and spelling just as Mrs. Simpson wrote it.

*Letter from Mrs. S.J. Simpson*

*November the 23rd, 1882*

*Jacksonville, Oregon*

*My Dear friend, your letter of the 19th is now before me and its contense duly noted & do truly sympathize with you with all my heart & would do all within my power to give you comfort in your sad affliction by first beging of you to try to become reconciled unto the will of our Heavenly Father. It seems that it is His will to call your dear sister from our midst by a short spell of sickness which was only 12 days.--when they arrived here it was a very stormy time & continued so for several days & they thought it best to rent a house and stop here until spring & they got a very comfortable house & bought a new stove and seemed to be getting along very well. Then Mr. Price saw a chance to make something with his team & and started out to the fort with a load of freight at this time they seemed all well except the youngest child little fredie and he only had the diareah but she came over to see me & I told her what to do for him & and it soon cured him & and she went over to a place to get some milk one day and was caught in a hard shower of rain before she got back and she got quite wet & I think that was that was the first cause of her last sickness for she took a chill that same night & the fever was very high all day & she only had 3 chills but very high fevers after the chills & we thought it was the ague so I told her she had better see a doctor or get some medicine but she said she thought she would be better & when I found the fever continued & was of the remitting form I urged her to have a Dr. but she give up to try MCclains liver Pills (illegible line) chance with her by this time she was getting very weak as she could not eat anything & at this time had been*



sick a week & we sent for Mr. Price & he got home just 5 days before she died & as soon as he came inquired for the best Dr. & he got him to call and see her immediately and the Dr. said he would have her up in a few days he thought--but he failed & and when he found her so low he seemed to do all he could to save her but it had then run into typhoid fever & she was too weak to wear it out & when it went down she could not rally, but sank into the cold embrace of death--I tried to have hope for her until her last breath although she was speechless for about 24 hours before she died & the last word was to her kind husband-- he asked her if she wanted water and she said yes--that was the last word she ever spoke-- but her husband was by her constant & would often give her water & wet her parched mouth & tongue & my dear friend I was there constant after she was taken bad & even before & you may be assured that all was done for your Dear Sister that we could do-- the Dr. said that by using stimulants we might be able to keep her alive until she could rally & I rubbed her in Brandy & was trying to do all I could for her but at 12 o'clock on Thursday the 9th she passed away without a struggle & and left that dear little family around her bedside to mourn her departure--O my friend I never witnessed a more touching scene in all my life although she would not speak she would seem to want (illegible) drew her last breath with her hand in her husband's hand & she looked at him for as long as she could see and closed her eyes after her last breath herself & it was over with the poor soul but during her sickness she made no request about her children or about anything any more than to say that she thought if Dilard was there to help her up and down she would soon be up & around again--& no man could be more attentive than he was after he did get home. I and my family were the first ones that they got acquainted with here--& some of us were passing often & I really took a liking to them & one of my girls went to stay with her as soon as she was taken down with chills & some of us was there near all the time until he came home--and he had plenty of good wood and water handy & he got her a nice new bedstead & a stand table for her & went & bought her a nice bed vessel-- to use without getting out of bed--and she seemed as comfortable as she could be made although we had to turn her in a sheet for the last 2 or 3 days--& all during her sickness I never heard her complain of anything only weakness & she seemed to get weaker every day until she died--him and the 2 eldest children took her death very hard indeed--he seemed to regret that they were so far from her people & he thought it was not possible for any of them to get here in time to see her--as I have now given you the details of her death I will now try to tell you how we had her dressed & put away--which is just as well as I could possibly do for one of my own--I have a married daughter (line illegible) my next oldest daughter is nearly 18 & the girls thought that her nice new brown dress would do & and would make her look more natural to her family so we made her a full suit of underclothes & trimmed them nice & and put her dress and a nice pair of sandals (low shoes) & white gloves & her nice white lace necktie & I combed her hair and tried to fix it as she wore it when she was well & I put in the nice big hair pin little Laura said you gave her & I saved a large lock of her hair and when the girls finished dressing her I thought I never saw a prettier corpse she looked as peaceful as an angel. She had a very nice coffin and although it was not generally known all around that she was dead, there was a good turnout for her funeral--& there was a very nice man to officiate & he spoke with much comforting to the bereaved family & friends & now my Dear friend all we can do is to watch over her last resting place & mourn with those that mourn & prepare ourselves to meet her again in a better world than this you spoke of coming out next spring if you do I hope to see you then--but I will plant some roses by her grave this





*week for you and her mothers sake & some evergreen and weeping willow--hoping to hear from you again I remain your friend Mrs S J Simpson Ps I saw your husband today they will all start home in 2 or 3 days all is well PS I will inclose a bid of the embroidery her under clothes were trimmed in the wide was of her skirt & was tucked also--& please divide those with your mother--her husband made me a present of a nice dress and also one a peace to my 2 daughters--which we will keep in remembrance of our dear friend your Sister--*

*This letter was found among the things of Ashnah Norton Plunkett.*

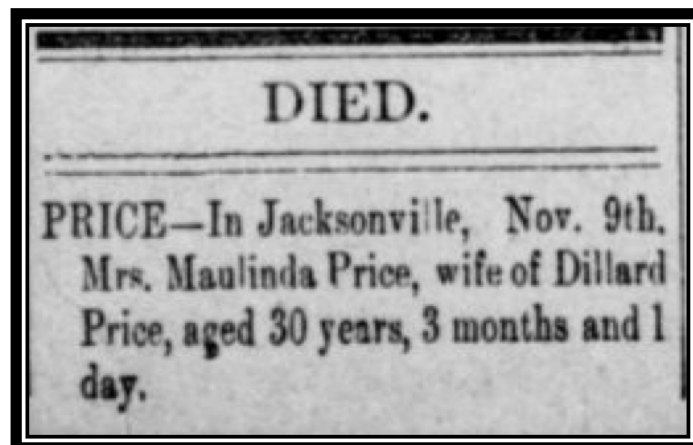


As to what happened to Malinda's original headstone? It seems likely that Dillard Price would have purchased a headstone for Malinda before leaving Jacksonville. After all, he spent money while she was ill, he bought her a coffin; he purchased a plot; he bought and gifted three dresses, one each to Malinda's three caregivers. Certainly he would have purchased a headstone for her too.

Jacksonville Cemetery has been overgrown and uncared for at different times over the years. It is now beautifully maintained. Perhaps her stone was misplaced or vandalized during one of those unkempt times. She was buried in a lot that contained 12 graves and she was #12. Soon after her death, the cemetery keepers started putting 10 graves into each lot. As years went by, the exact spot of her grave was uncertain although she is correctly listed in the cemetery records with a notation of her exact resting place.

Because a stone was ordered for her in the summer of 2015, the exact spot of her burial was pinpointed and her marker was placed in the correct position. It meant that another marker had to be relocated and placed in its correct position. Her story was also given to the Friends of Jacksonville Historic Cemetery. This group gives tours of the cemetery as well as staging dramatizations of many of the people buried there. Perhaps someday soon, Malinda's story of dying as a young wife and mother and the kind deeds of the residents of Jacksonville who helped ease her passing and who gave comfort to the family of four she left behind, will be told.

From the David Trask Collection  
*Oregon Sentinel*, Jacksonville, Oregon; November 11, 1882; page 3:5



## WWII Military Service, Robert “Bob” Price

By Charlotte (Price) Wirfs

Robert Edgar Price, known by his parents as “Bobby” and later as “Bob”, was born in Kings Valley August 12, 1916 at the home of his Uncle Arthur Price. His parents, Cecil and Minnie (Read) Price, were living on a farm near Elkins in Polk County and were visiting at the home of Arthur and Rena (Frantz) Price at the time Bob chose to greet the world.

When WWII broke out in 1941, Bob was married to Marilynn (Matlock) Price in Monmouth, Oregon, living in a small, two-bedroom Cape-Cod-style home which he built. He worked with his Dad and brother, Claire, running and managing a small sawmill and a building supply business named Price’s Lumberyard. Monmouth had been his home for most of his life and his intentions were to eventually take over the business from his Dad and become a skilled cabinetry maker. Those plans were interrupted when he gave the next three years of his life to the US Navy. Like so many young people all over the US, his life took a whole new direction that year.



He enlisted as Carpenter’s Mate, 3rd Class, in Salem, September 25, 1942, and arrived a short time later at Farragutt Naval Training Station in Idaho. The station was under construction while he was there. Boot training was completed November 17, 1942, Co. 17 at Camp Ward. He was assigned to Ship’s Company at Farragutt November 18, 1942.

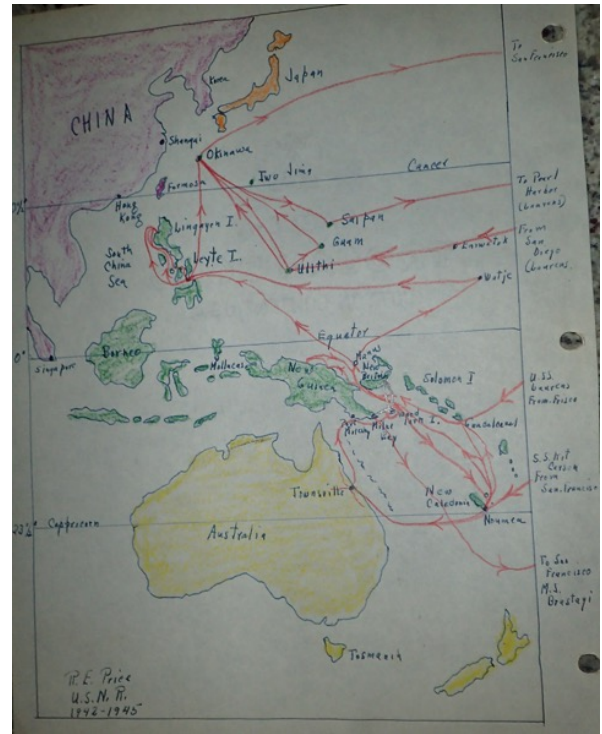
For the next three years Bob would not live as a civilian--not until he discharged at Bremerton, WA, as a Carpenter’s Mate 1st Class, October 7, 1945, arriving home in Monmouth the next day. He spent those 3 years traveling the South Pacific between west Coast USA, as far South as Noumea in New Caledonia, and as far North as Okinawa, crossing the Equator twice. His main staple while he traveled was mutton, and he never ate another bite of mutton after he was discharged.

He spoke of being very seasick the first few days at sea and searching for a place with fresh air on deck where he could rest. He would get his sea legs sometime during the third or fourth day at sea. He also spoke of coming into San Francisco in tattered

remnants of a once-new uniform, arriving with his shipmates, unshaven, needing haircuts, and generally disheveled, carrying bits and pieces of gear in tattered sea bags. They “deplanked” and strode across the yard passing by lines of new recruits who were being severely dressed down for having one violation of the dress code. No one remarked about their dress as they passed by.

After leaving Camp Ward he eventually arrived at Port Huenema, CA Feb. 4, 1943 and went to sea aboard the US Kit Carson, a Liberty Ship, sailing from San Francisco after being assigned to Argus Unit 1, February 24, 1943. The ship arrived at Noumea, New Caledonia, April 21, 1943. In a month he boarded L.S.T #390 soon arriving at Townsville, Australia where he was assigned to Task Force...Detail 2, Wave 1. He was now a Carpenter’s Mate, 2nd class.

Late in June he boarded the USS Sands, a ship as old as Bob which in May 1943 was transferred to the 7th Amphibious Force and traveling with an LST (landing craft) convoy. Bob arrived for duty on Woodlark Island July 1, 1943 where he remained until March 22, 1944. He worked in the carpenter's shop while occupying Woodlark and lived in a two-man tent built on a wooden platform raised three feet off the ground, sleeping in a Navy-issue cot, eating in a nearby mess hall. The tents were erected in a random pattern and consisted of about 5 to 7 tents per group, the groups arranged throughout the jungle around a central mess hall. Latrine and washstands were located at the edge of the clearing. Each tent had two individual-size foxholes dug just outside the door. They became friends of the natives who lived in thatched-roof bungalows in small villages around the island. Trails through the jungle connected campsites and native villages. The natives warned the men to be watchful of salt-water crocs while walking on these trails. These large crocs were fond of dragging animals and people into the water and stashing them in logs along the murky depths where the carcasses could "ripen" for future croc feasts. Working uniforms were khakis, but men often wore only shorts and sneakers when not on duty.

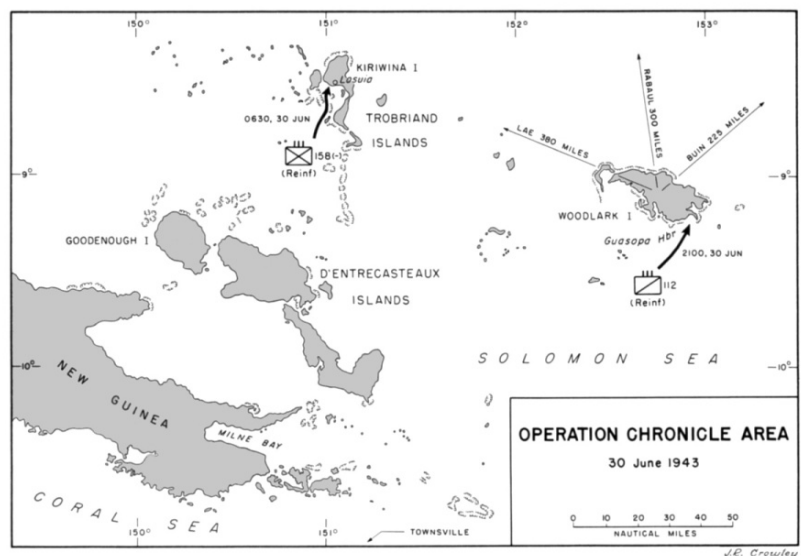


Bob often wrote letters home to his wife, parents, and friends that would have tiny sections cut out by censors. The location of Woodlark Island was kept secret, but the family located it after Bob made a remark in one of his letters about the Oregon State bird.

Woodlark Island is located several hundred miles North and East of Milne Bay, New Guinea, and US occupation of the island started July 1, 1943. Initial landing was made from USS Sands by Argus Unit No 1 of the US Navy. It continued until March 22, 1944 with a skeleton crew remaining to operate the airport as an emergency landing field and weather reporting station. Argus Unit No. 1 was a primary radar-warning unit with aircraft interceptors at their disposal. Gasmata and Rabaul were directly north. New Britain, New Guinea, Australia, The Solomons, Gaudacanal, and New Georgia formed the perimeter for this defense post.

While at Woodlark Island Bob did some woodcarving out of ebony and made gifts such as walking sticks and letter openers for family members. He also constructed cruise boxes, and ring boxes for his peers. Bob's great grandson, Derek Trip, has one of his creations, a 10-inch letter opener carved in the shape of a large knife. He also designed and made a canvas, sling-back chair that he enjoyed while living there. Off duty pass times were swimming, movies, and reading.

After leaving Woodlark Island he sailed on the M. S. Brastagi and returned to the States where he was reassigned to an Amphibious Training Base in San Diego June 17, 1944. He was assigned to a boat group and was



MAP 5



badly bruised when a cable broke as a boat was being hoisted to the deck. Bob was catapulted into the ocean and remembers being fairly certain he was going to die on impact.

The remainder of his enlistment was spent on board A.P.A. #153 USS Laurens, which was a Haskell-class attack transport acquired by the Navy in September 1944 for the purpose of transporting troops to and from combat areas. He boarded her at Astoria September 14, 1944. He remained at sea traveling to San Francisco, San Pedro,

Guadalcanal, Lae New Guinea, Oro Bay, Finch Haven, Noumea, Guadalcanal, Florida Island, The Philippines, Manus Island, Maffin Bay, Lingayen Gulf, Pearl Harbor, Ulithi Island, and Okinawa, finally arriving at Treasure Island August 1945. He was crossing the International Dateline on August 6, 1945, when the Atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and he was on leave in Cottage Grove on VJ Day.

Bob and his family kept letters written to each other between 1936-1946. Many letters contained photographs. Bob also kept a journal of his travels and drew a map depicting where he traveled during WWII. I was born in 1948 and have enjoyed reading the letters and viewing the photos. Because of that collection, which my Mom gave me, I was able to put together the WWII experiences for Bob and his family.

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**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 "**Anne Trussell**" and mail to Anne Trussell, 2108 Stacia Way, Sacramento, CA 95822.

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