

King Folk eNews

King Reunion 2023

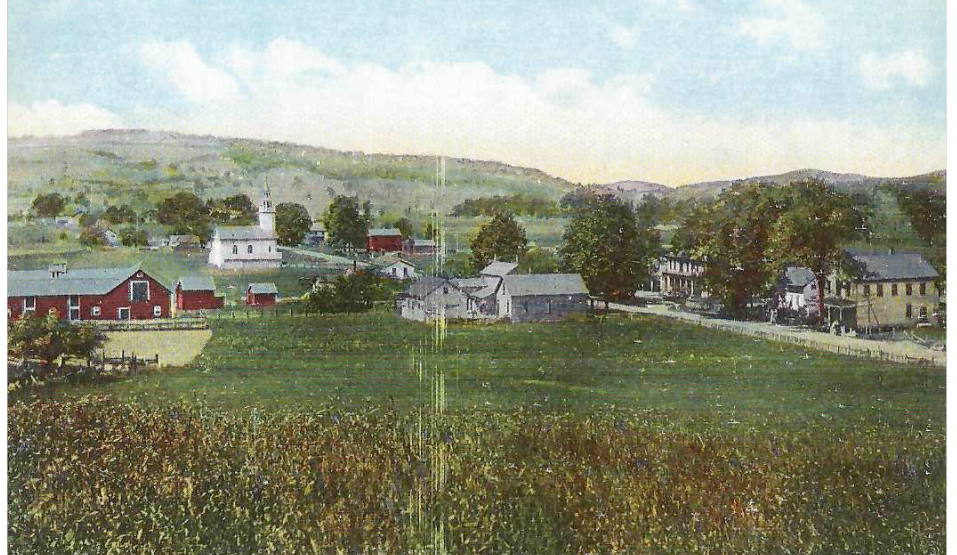
That's Next Summer!

Would you attend a family history workshop in the spring of 2023? It would be an all-day event held at Kings Valley Community Center which is the old United Evangelical Kings Valley Church. David Trask, our historian, will be there. Please email charwirfs@gmail.com if you want to attend.

In This Issue

This issue and the next are about Nahum King's father, Amos King (1756-1839). Learn more about the items from Daniel Frommherz (1947-2019) that were given to the King Pioneer Family Association at the June 2022 reunion. There were two Bibles and one wallet that is reported to have been carried by Amos King during the years he served in the American Revolution. The Bibles are the Luther King Family Bible and the Abraham Lincoln King family Bible. George Davidson took photos of the items, some of which are included in this newsletter. More information about Amos will be presented in the next issue as well as an article by Anne Trussell about the burial place of Amos and family members.

"730" View from the East, West Lebanon, N. Y.



Home of Amos Nahum King (1756-1839)

West Lebanon, Columbia County, New York

One source states that Amos King was born in New Salem, MA about 1756. He had no record of his age. Research done by Daniel Frommherz states that he was born in the home of Amos Nahum Foster, his namesake. Shortly after he served in the American Revolution he moved his family to Canaan, Columbia County, New York. The year was about 1786. In 1810 some rural areas outside of Canaan became incorporated as New Lebanon. He is recorded as a resident in the census records between 1790 through 1820. The above photo taken about 1911 is from Anne Trussell's post-card collection and shows that the area where Amos lived and died remained rural.

Recent research has brought to light that Amos may have had two wives, Hopestill Haskins King who bore him 6 children and Miss Bassett who bore nine more, Horace King (1811-1885) being the youngest. To date facts have not been found to verify this information. The King Pioneer Family Association has verified records from Nahum King, OR pioneer of 1845 but much is left to research on his ancestors and their families.

King Pioneer Family Association

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

- Please make checks payable **King Pioneer Family Association** and mail to **Charlotte Wirfs, 409 Sand Pointe DR, Central Point, OR 97502**
- **All information published in King Folk is printed as presented. For that reason the information presented may not be completely accurate. Corrections and updates are published when they become known.**

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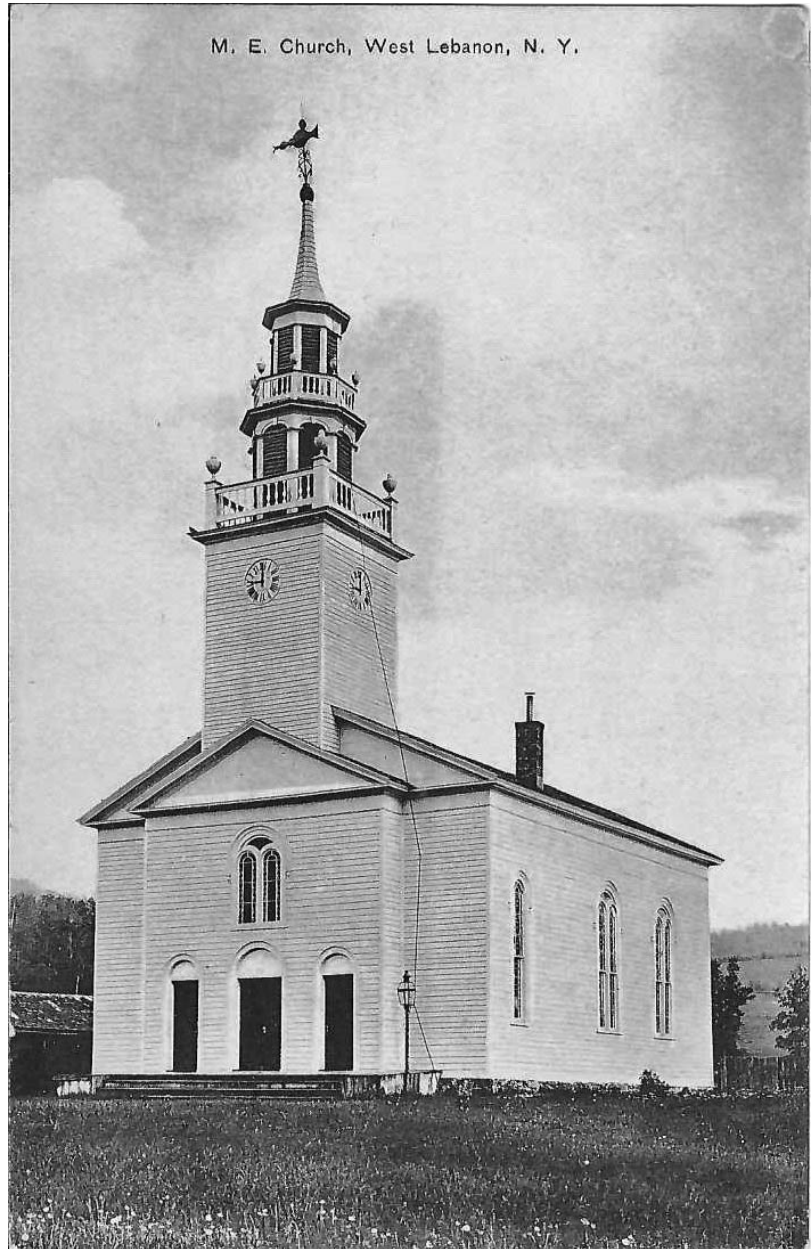
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Amos King was attending the Methodist Evangelical Church in West Lebanon, New York when he died. The church published a lengthy obituary stating he died of cancer. It is one of several obituaries that have been found. This photo was taken in 1909. Amos passed away shortly after this church was built about, 1838-39. It is possible he was able to attend services here before his demise. His will was probated and he names his children and grandchildren as his heirs. Photo from Anne Trussell post-card collection.

Pocket Book of Amos King “A Revolutionary War Relic”

Char Wirfs

Daniel Lewis Frommherz brought an ancient wallet to the 2011 reunion that once belonged to Amos King, who reportedly carried it throughout his service in the Revolutionary War. Amos is the father of Nahum King, Oregon pioneer of 1845. He remained in New York where he died in 1839. During the meeting Daniel told the story of how he obtained the wallet in a package that was mailed to him in 2009. Daniel passed away in 2019 and left the wallet and two Bibles to the King Pioneer Family Association and they were delivered to the 2022 reunion by Stewart Fromherz, Daniel’s brother. Here is Daniel’s story.

Included in the package was a one-page, type-written copy which gave brief accounting of the wallet. It had been taken from a note, hand-written by John F. King, son of Luther King and grandson of Amos King. Nahum and Luther King are brothers. The note read:

“This old pocket book was carried by my grandfather, Amos King, all through the War of the Revolution. It was at the Battle of Bunker Hill and the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga, also at Cherry Valley Massacre and various places. During the seven years it was carried between 1776-1783 the old continental Bill that is in it has been kept for more than 100 years. It is dated 1776 and was paid to grandfather for his services when he was discharged from the Army.”

The next portion had been added by John F. King’s granddaughter, Harriet King Peterson Woods, affectionately known as “Kingly” by her family. It refers to the wallet and the hand-written note by John F King. It reads,

“This is the property of Harriet King Patterson Woods, now of Bronxville, Worchester County, NY.”



Inside of the wallet when it’s opened. The continental bill it contained was gone when Daniel received the wallet and there was no explanation of what had become of it. Photo by GeorgeDavidson.

The final portion of the one-page, typewritten account of the wallet was added after the death of Harriet by an unknown family member. It reads,

List of Descendancy:

Amos King, Born 1756—Died 7 July 1839

Luther King, Born 8 November 1806—Died 10 December, 1881

John F. King, Born 26 August 1830—Died 4 April 1909

Emeline F. King, Born 8 August 1858—Died 17 Feb 1932

Harriet King Peterson Woods, Born 1 February 1888—Died Spring 1976

Jean Mary Woods Kelly Born 11 March 1913—Died

17 April 1999

Dean Wood Kelly Born 1 December 1938”

Dean is the man who sent the wallet and information to Daniel in 2009.



Outside of the wallet shows crackling of the leather.
Photo by George Davidson.

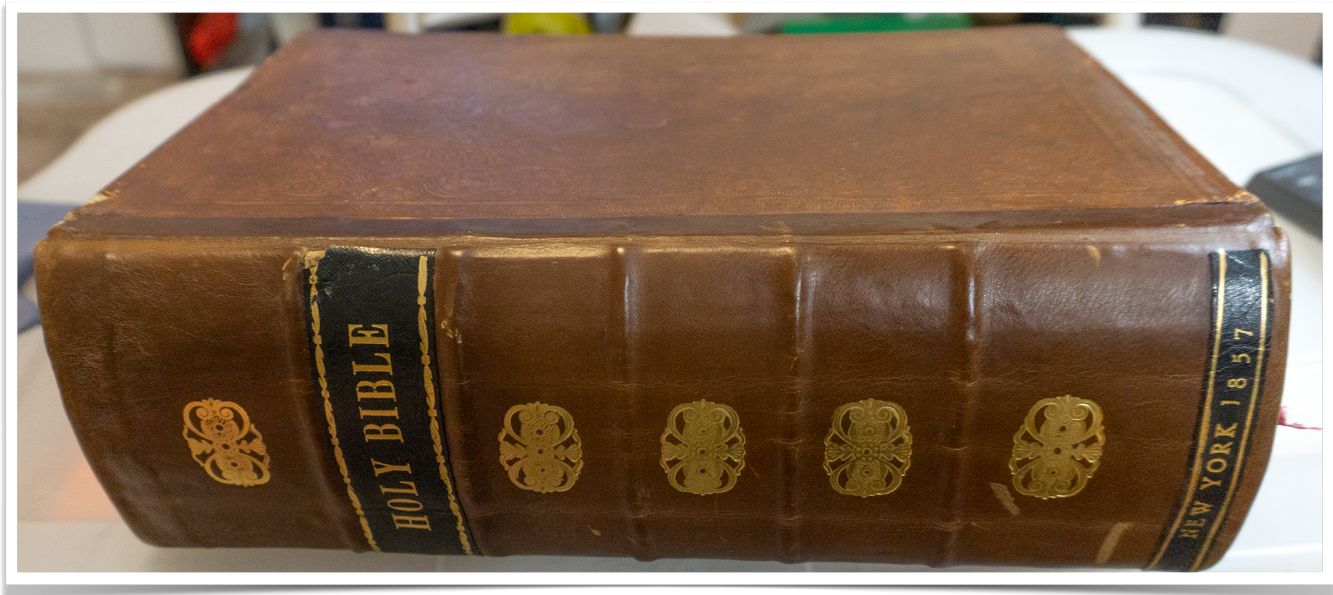
Daniel continued telling the story of how he obtained the wallet and information. First he learned of an old letter dated Jan. 9, 1904 sent from John F King in Hillsdale County, Michigan to Sol King of Corvallis, Oregon. John was the grandson of Amos King and he and his wife, Roxanna, had traveled by train from his home in Michigan to visit the King family living in Oregon. Following the trip, John wrote to his cousin, Sol King.

This letter started Daniel on a search for living descendants of John F King, which led him to Dean Woods Kelly, third great-grandson of Luther King, son of Amos and father of John F King. At that time, Dean, lived in rural central Washington. Thus began a friendship of Daniel and Dean that eventually transferred the ownership of the wallet, as well as the Luther and Emeline King Family Bible, the one-page account of Harriet Woods and family, old photos, and various papers and news clippings to Daniel.

Our historian, David Trask, has the Rev. War pension records of Amos King and a type-written transcript of them done by Patricia Holler. He also has a copy of the 1904 John F King letter that Daniel referred to, which was in the Bertha King collection for many years. There is also a copy of the biographical interview of John F King, resident of Hillsdale, Michigan, dated 1888, which Daniel also used in his search for Dean. Those pages are from a book, Hillsdale County, Michigan, Portrait and Biographical Album, published by the Chapman Bros. of Chicago. Here is an excerpt from the interview:

“Luther King, father of our subject (John F King), was a native of the same place as his son (New Lebanon, Albany Co., NY), The paternal grandfather, Amos King, was a native of the vicinity of Boston, Mass. and served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War being present at the Battle of Bunker Hill and one of the regiment who later were mainly instrumental in the surrender of the British General Burgoyne. His grandson, John F, has a relic which he preserves with great care, in the shape of a Continental note of \$6.00, which was received by his honored grandfather (Amos King) as part payment for his services in that conflict.”

Although the wallet is not mentioned in the interview of John F King, it probably did hold the Continental note, the note being more noteworthy than the wallet. The interview also mentions the immediate family of John F King, wife Roxanna; and two daughters, Emma F, married to Russell Peterson; and Hattie E. married to Everett L Ranney. From that information Daniel was able to trace the line to a living descendant, Dean Woods Kelly.



Restored cover and binding of Luther and Emeline King Family Bible. Restoration & photo by George Davidson.

Dean Woods Kelly was impressed with the information Daniel had collected on the King family and with the research Daniel had done in order to contact him. He decided to give his King family possessions, which had been carefully handed down to him through his Grandmother Harriet Woods to Daniel as he had no living relatives who were interested in family genealogy.

The package arrived at Daniel's home in Sept. 2009. Among other items, it contained the wallet, family photographs, and the Luthor and Emeline (Campbell) King family Bible, published by the American Bible Society, New York, 1857. The Bible was in fragile condition and has since been rebound, thanks to George Davidson. Tucked inside the wallet Daniel found some news clippings which contained the obituary of Amos King from the *Christian Advocate and Journal*; July 7, 1840; New Lebanon, NY. The obituary was published in the *King Folk Newsletter*, #29, April 2010, published by the King Family Association of Oregon, p. 12. Daniel said that the Continental note was not included and he would ask Dean where it might be.

In conclusion Daniel stated that the Revolutionary War pension records (recorded in Amos's own words) state that he was present at the Battle of Cherry Valley. No direct mention is made of any other battles. Research is being done to determine if Amos was present at the Battle of Bunker Hill or was a part of the regiment who was instrumental in the surrender of General Burgoyne, both described in the 1888 biographical sketch and in the hand-written accounting of the wallet by John F. King.

The news clipping of the obituary of Amos King that was published in the *Christian Advocate and Journal* in 1840 was sent to Benton County Sheriff, Sol King, by his Uncle, Luther King, age 79, of Hillsdale, Michigan. It was published in the *Corvallis Gazette-Times; Corvallis, Benton County, OR*; November 28, 1884; page five. The obituary states that Amos died in 1840, but his probate records state that Amos King died in 1839.

More on Amos King...Obits, Will and Probate of Amos King, and a Biographical Interview from his Youngest Child, Horace King

From Research Notes of Anne Trussell

Additional Obituaries

Pittsfield Sun, Berkshire County, MA; Aug. 8, 1839.

“Died at New Lebanon, Mr. Amos King, in his 84th year of age.”

In the probate records of Amos King Edward U Graves of Albany, New York, stated that the death notice of Amos King was published in *The Albany Evening Journal* on June 16, 1840. (Someone may want to look that notice up)

Albany Argus; Albany, New York; Tuesday, August 27, 1839; page 3.

“Died at New Lebanon, on the 7th July, Mr. Amos King, in his 84th year of age. Another of the few remaining stars of the Revolution has descended below the horizon. Through a long and valuable life, there was not a revolution in his principles.

Destroyed Records

In 1855 also records of births, marriages and deaths of New Salem were destroyed by fire and none of such records are available, save for the period of 1843 to 1850, copies of which years are on file at the State House in Boston.

Will and Probate of Amos King

Amos's will is dated April 5, 1839 and was witnessed by John ?, Thomas Kirby, and Wm Kirby. John Kirby was named as executor and was asked to keep the document safe until needed. It was recorded August 15, 1840 in Abstract of Wills, Columbia County, NY; Vol. 6, page 48.

Heirs of Amos King named are: **No living spouses.** Sons: 1. **Naam King (Nahum)**, living in some town in Franklin Co., Ohio; 2. Son, **Isaac King** deceased. 3. Daughter, **Lydia Sherman** (deceased); 4. Daughter **Louisa (Lovisa) Sherman** (deceased); 5. Son, **Luther King** of Columbia Co. NY. 6. Son, **Hiram King**. 7. Son **Horris (Horace) King**. 8. Daughter, **Betsy Warne**, wife of Orlan Warne; 9. Daughter, **Hopestill “Hopy” Johnson**, wife of Franklin Johnson. 10. Son, **William King**, (deceased).

Grandchildren: Isaac's children, (all Kings) **Edward, Amos, Prudence, and Janette.** Lydia's children, **Ira Sherman and Sally (Sherman) Johnson.** Lovisa's children, **Marshall and Lydia Sherman.** William's children, **Emeline King and William King**, living in some town in Ohio. These children are step children of John Hand of Licking Co., Ohio

Interview: Portrait and Biographical Album of Johnson and Pawnee Counties, Nebraska; Mrs. Desire Jane King, Widow of Horace King; Chapman Bros., Chicago, 1889

“...Amos King, the father of Horace, was a native of Massachusetts, and was born in the year 1756. He settled in Columbia County, New York shortly after the close of the Revolutionary War, through which struggle he had passed, bearing arms in defense of his country, entering the ranks when he was about 16 years old. His first wife died after a very brief married life, and he was subsequently married to a Miss Bassett, of New York, who presented him with nine children. Horace King was the youngest of nine children, seven of whom came to years of maturity. By his first marriage there had been six children born....”

Stories of the Luckiamute River Valley

***King Folk eNews* will continue featuring different people, events, photographs, and places related to the Luckiamute River Valley and surrounding area in upcoming issues. These can be recent stories as well as historical anecdotes.**

This story comes from **James “Jim” Larkin Price** who was interviewed by Mark Phinney in 1936 and 1938. He was living at Kings Valley, OR

“Mr. Price, a brother of Willard Price and descendant of the KING and NORTON families is now farming, the James Watson claim which he owns.”

“The KING party, which first settled here, spent the winter of 1845-46 in Yamhill County. Their first winter was principally boiled wheat and venison. The next winter in Kings Valley was not much better. The house in which I live was built by James Watson in 1852. The lumber was sawed locally and all dressed by hand. The doors and windows were all handmade. When I had occasion at one time to cut an opening for another door, I found the walls were of boards two inches thick, grooved on both edges, with narrow strips driven tightly into the grooves after the boards had been nailed to the frame vertically. Except for the new roof and foundation, the house has had no repairs and is practically when it was built.

The main living room of the house was plastered. This plaster had only two or three small breaks until I was obliged to pick up the house a few years ago to renew the floors and foundation. This work racked the house enough to cause most of the plaster to fall from the walls. I have been told by those in a position to know that this is probably the oldest plastered house in the Willamette Valley. The house costs Watson \$2400.00 in gold besides the labor of the three members of the family for six months. The barn, 60' x 60', was used as the workshop in preparing the material for the house, so the barn must have been built in 1851 or earlier.

The barn is well built, too, and is still in first class condition. The original thrashing floor is still sound. This floor was laid with two-inch material, tongued and grooved, and on it the wheat was tramped out by horses. The joists supporting the mow where the grain was stored before a thrashing are 13' x 22'. The whole frame is of hand-hewn timbers put together by wooden pins instead of nails, and the mortices are still tight.

You will notice that both the house and the barn are almost square in ground plan, and that they are low in comparison to their width. The reason for this is that the settlers had been threatened by storms in their Eastern homes and had not been in this country for long enough to know that there was no danger from winds here.

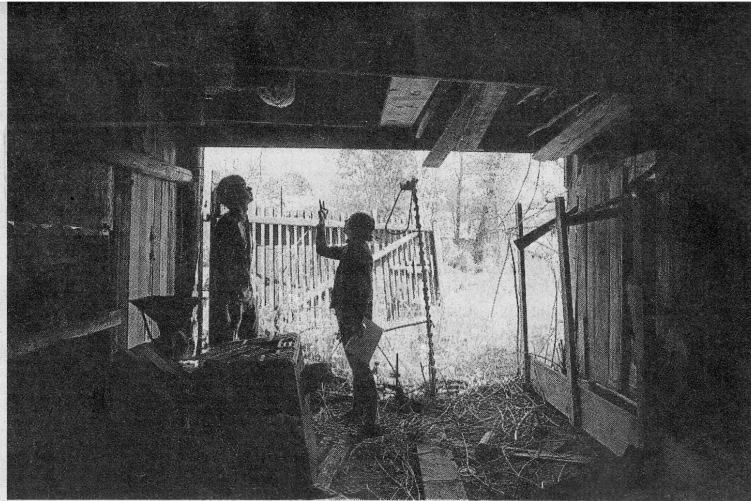
The house has been photographed, measured, and blueprinted by representatives of a Federal bureau, and is said to be one of the best designed and best preserved old houses in the state.”

In the next interview in May of 1938 “Jim” spoke of his ancestors. “...I do know my grandfather, Larkin Price, crossed the plains in 1846. He spent the first winter in The Dalles and then settled in the Waldo Hills region of Marion County. Some years later he came to Kings Valley..

...Larkin Price left Virginia and settled in MO before coming to Oregon. The present generation has the understanding that he left the East to avoid the unpleasantness of the approaching struggles over slavery and states' rights. It is known that some of the relatives remaining in MO were on one side of the Civil War, and some on the other...”

Keeping a part of history

Watson-Price Barn, built in 1848, reflects pioneer construction but needs some fixing



Photos by BETH NAKAMURA/THE OREGONIAN

Brandon Spencer-Hartle (left) of the Historic Preservation League of Oregon and old barn aficionado Gina Drew discuss details of the Watson-Price Barn. The 60-by-40-foot barn and an adjacent farmhouse are on the National Register of Historic Places.

By ERIC MORTENSON | THE OREGONIAN

KINGSVALLEY — Time sits heavily on the Watson-Price Barn. Oregon was a territory when it was built in 1848, and the Civil War was a future worry. It was old enough during the Depression to be included on the Historic American Building Survey, a make-work project for unemployed architects. It turned 100 when the headlines said Dewey beat Truman.

One hundred and sixty-three years old, now, and every year shows. This is not some stone Roman remnant that lasts forever. It's a hand-hewn wooden barn in wet western Oregon. The south side sags. Blackberry vines conspire to climb it. Half the roof has been cloaked in metal sheets long enough that the tin rusted. The remaining wooden shakes handle the weight of raindrops and sunbeams, a

good many of which seep through cracks and holes. Anything heavier might cave it.

The barn and an adjacent 1852 farmhouse are on the National Register of Historic Places, but a listing on paper doesn't shore up what time works to bring down.

The Historic Preservation League of Oregon this past week included the Watson-Price Barn on its inaugural list of the state's 10 most-endangered historic places. In kind euphemism, the league notes it has "structural threats."

But there it stands. Its owner, Michael Moore — the seventh generation of the pioneering Kings Valley family to take up residence on the 230-acre farm — is determined to ensure it will be around when his daughters are old enough to appreciate it.

"Total restoration would be my main goal," he says.

He's found allies. Gina Drew, a Portlander with an affinity for old barns, stumbled across it, researched it and nominated it to the historic preservation league's most-endangered list. Oregon has 11,444 barns built before 1960, and Drew believes we lag behind other states in preserving that heritage.

"A lot of times they were built before the house," Drew says. "It's honoring that, and the stories they can tell."

Bridging a divide?

Brandon Spencer-Hartle, the historic preservation league's field programs manager, says preserving old homesteads can be another way to bridge the urban-rural divide. City dwellers have

Please see **BARN**, Page E6

Article: "Watson/Price Barn, Built in 1848"; The Oregonian, Portland, OR; May 27, 2011, Living Section. Note that this barn and house are about 170 years old. They are listed on the national Register of Historic Places and the barn is named as one of Oregon's most-endangered historic places.

James "Jim" Larkin Price stated in his interview that he was a third generation of an Oregon pioneer family through Larkin and Harriet (Simpson) Price and also through Lucius and Hopestill (King) Norton who arrived in Oregon in 1845. He states in his interview that his family believes they are related to General Sterling Price of the Confederate Army, but no one had been able to confirm that relationship. In recent years research has discovered that Larkin's father was a slave owner in Patrick County, Virginia. Larkin left Virginia as a teenager to join his older brother, Fantly R. Price, who had settled in MO. Both brothers were early Oregon settlers.

Announcements

Carol Anne (Norton) Putman (1932-2020) passed away November 21, 2020. Carol was a long-standing member of KPFA and was an early King family researcher. She compiled [A Norton Family Branch, James Norton and his Descendants, New York-Ohio-Oregon, 1988, 1989, and 2007](#) in a 34-page-booklet and shared them at our reunions.

Daniel Lewis Frommherz (1947-2019) passed away August 13, 2019 in Eugene, Oregon. He was an avid King Family researcher and contributed much on the early family genealogy dating back to William King of Salem, MA. Daniel wrote an article about Amos King's wallet which was published in King Folk newsletter and will be featured in our next issue of King Folk eNews.

Joan "Jo" L (Price) Larsen (1934-1922) passed away June 13, 2022. She was residing with her son, John Larsen, and had just renewed her membership to KPFA a few days before her death.

Ruth Alice (Price) Stellmon (1947-2022) passed away July 9, 2022. She is the half sister of Joan "Jo" (Price) Larsen. Their father was Louis Elmer Price (1912-1982) who was a second great-grandson of Nahum and Sarepta King. Our condolences to the family for the recent loss of two loved ones.

Next KPFA board meeting will be a Zoom meeting, Date TBA. Members are invited to attend. Please email tracij1031@gmail.com if you wish to attend. She will send you an invitation.

Bass Drum played by James Plunkett during his service at Fort Hoskins, Benton County, OR. Lusterware pitcher belonging to Sarepta (Norton) King, a gift her husband, Nahum, had purchased for her at a Hudson Bay Store after arriving in Oregon Country in 1845. Still belonging to Jim Price. These items are on display at the Benton County Historical Society Museum, 411 SW Second ST, Corvallis, OR.

bentoncountymuseum.org

Photo by Char Wirfs, June 2022.

