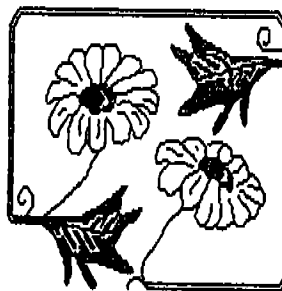

KING FOLK

Newsletter No. 3

April 20, 1993

The Allen Connection



Retha Allen Greig is featured in this issue of King Folk. She lived many years in Kings Valley and has written a wonderful memoir of early life there. Her family lived in the Isaac King home which is still standing, although unoccupied. Today Retha resides at Philomath, Oregon and takes an active interest in family matters.

Recently, Retha has organized her family history and has finished several hand-printed charts which were used to type her ancestor chart included in this newsletter. She has a collection of Kings Valley photographs as well as knowing much oral history. If you haven't met Retha, you may want to get to know her. She is an intelligent, pretty lady with a gentle sense of humor, who would love to become acquainted with you. Retha's birthday is Dec. 6 and she will be 90-years-young this year.

Her address is:

Retha A. Greig
~~1933 Applegate St. Apt. 2~~
~~Philomath, OR. 97370~~

1998 update: Write or call Charlotte Weir (see K.F. No. 15) on how to get in touch with Retha.

The date for the upcoming King reunion is always the Saturday following Father's Day which will

be June 26, this year. It has been held at Kings Valley School from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. A flyer will soon be mailed giving you more information or notifying you of any changes.

Speaking of changes, some of you know that I have a new address. In late Feb. my family and I relocated to Ruston, Louisiana. That explains why this newsletter is late in being mailed. We had a successful move with everything arriving in excellent condition with the exception of several African Violets. We are all unpacked except for those few last boxes that we never know what to do with and those have been neatly tucked into the attic.

We've already had several visitors from the North and others have already made plans to visit in the next two months. Louisiana is lovely. Come on down.

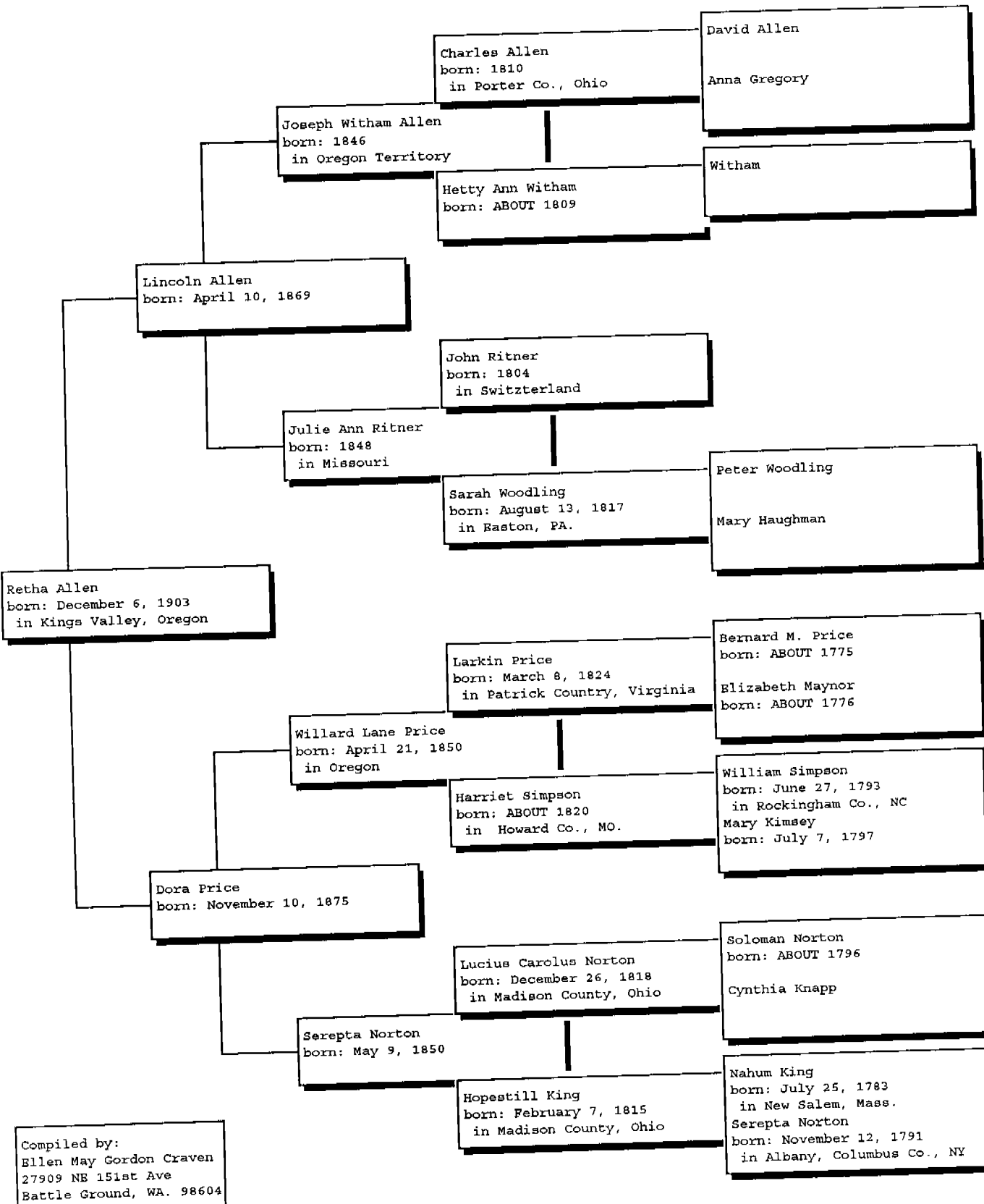
Ancestors of Retha Allen Craven

Parents

Grandparents

Great-Grandparents

2nd Great-Grandparents



The Allen Family of Kings Valley

By Retha Allen Greig

Ours was a family of four sisters: Naomi, born 1897; Ethel, 1901; Retha, 1903; and Mabel, 1906. We were born and raised in Kings Valley, Oregon. The valley was named for the several King families who took up their Donation Land Claims there.

When I was two years old my father, Lincoln Allen, bought a large part of the Isaac King D.L.C. We lived in the Isaac King house until we were grown.

The house was large and well built. Every piece of lumber in it was hand hewn. The old square-cut iron nails were used throughout. There were secret passageways in it (to what purpose I never knew). Flush with the floor upstairs was a trap door with handle and hinges of thick leather. We children would open the door and lower ourselves down between two floor-to-ceiling built ins, a clothes press, and dish cupboard. At the bottom we would edge our way on between them, then past the back and side of the fireplace. This brought us to a low, narrow door. We opened the door and, presto, we were in a ground floor room without coming down the stairs. All this was done in near darkness, our only light being from the open trap door above.

The windows were six feet in height. It was three feet from the floor to window sill and three feet from window top to ceiling, making the walls twelve feet high. There were hooks in the ceiling of one room for lowering the quilting frames or to pull them up out of the way.

Back of the house was a built-on room called the "cellar". It's double walls and ceiling were sawdust filled for insulation. The room stayed cool in the hottest weather. Dairy products and fresh meat were kept there. When the fall butchering of fifteen to twenty hogs was done, the rendered out lard was put into four and five gallon earthen jars to be stored in the cellar. The hams, shoulders, and sides were salted, then when ready, were hung in a tight building and smoked over a slow fire of oak and applewood. The pork trimmings were made into sausage.

Other things were stored in the cellar, smaller stoneware jars of green tomato and, or pear preserves, cooked down so thick and rich that they kept without sealing. Pickles and sour kraut were in the big jars. Sweet, ripe grapes were placed in wooden boxes between layers of grape leaves. They would keep so well that we always had grapes for Christmas and the New Year holidays.

Hopestill, daughter of Nahum and Serepta Norton King, married Lucius Norton. They named one daughter Serepta, hence a second Serepta Norton. That Serepta married Willard Price, son of Larkin and Harriet Simpson Price. Dora, their daughter, was my mother.

In addition to grandmother Serepta, I knew one other of Hopestill's daughters, Ashney Plunkett. We used to visit Great Aunt Ashney. I can see her at her big carpet loom. I think she made the rag carpets for most of the Kings Valley folk. The loom and Aunt Ashney's operation of it fascinated me. She would feed the long, many-colored rag strips into the loom, then with a quick movement of her hands and feet and an almost-deafening "Clack, clack!" of the loom, the ugly rag strips became beautiful carpeting and hall runners. It seemed like magic.

One of Aunt Ashney's granddaughters, Anna Hawley, lived nearby. We visited often and talked about the similarity of our growing-up years. We knew very few of today's conveniences and pleasures. Radio and television were yet to be invented. I suppose there were cars in the cities, but there wasn't in the country. Horses were used for any traveling and the roads were muddy in winter and dusty in summer. We walked to school. There were no school buses. As we grew up we both had to do our share of the necessary work, such as filling the lamps with coal-oil, trimming the wicks, and washing the sooty chimneys. We both had to carry water for house-hold use. Many gallons of it were needed for the Monday clothes washing.

When the warm, spring weather came, there was a big, extra wash day when winter blankets and quilts were done. On that day two saw horses were set up in the back yard, a stout pole was crossed from one to the other and the big, black, iron kettle was swung from the pole. The kettle was filled with water, a fire built under it and soon blanket-and-quilt washing was under way. The soap used was made from wood-ash lye and cracklings from the fat rendering. The kettle had also been used for both the rendering and the soap making. A large iron kettle was almost indispensable in those early days. Every settler owned one or shared one with a neighbor or a relative.

The noon meal on that outside wash day would likely be apples from the store room and fire-toasted bread covered with brown sugar. Quite often there would be a sprinkling of ashes mixed in with the sugar. (The bread had a way of falling off the toasting sticks to the fire side.) The noon meal on the regular wash day was different. That day we had little, white, navy beans cooked in their own iron pot. A big piece of smoked ham or a meaty ham-bone was always boiled with the beans. If the early garden was ready, there would be a red-leaf lettuce salad.

The church was important to the Kings Valley people. When the Sunday sermon was over, the men would gather in the church yard and council over serious affairs or visit about ordinary things. The women hurried home to bring out the previously prepared food for the family or the relatives who might be staying over. Easter Sunday, when the church meeting was completed, everyone trooped to the broad top of Chambers Hill for outdoor singing, games, and a pot-luck picnic meal.

Christmas was delightful. A big tree was set up in the church. It was decorated with strings of pop corn, tinsel, and ribbons. After a program of mostly Christmas carols, Santa would come in with bags of candy and nuts for the children. The church ladies saw to it that no child was ever left out.

Most of the families in the valley were large. They married back and forth until it was difficult to know just what the relationships were. Cousins married cousins. Many of the pupils in the Kings Valley school were related.

Since my father and mother were both pioneer descendents, we heard many stories of the plains crossing and settlement of the new land. One story was about Hopestill. She was alone in her very early Kings Valley home. She sat down to rest from some heavy work she had been doing and dropped off to sleep. Suddenly, even though she was asleep, she sensed something disturbing. On opening her eyes she saw a large, half-clothed Indian in her doorway. He was standing there, arms akimbo, regarding her steadily. Hopestill was alarmed but not frantically so. She had been told that Indians believed a sleeping person to be in communication with the spirits and must not be awakened lest the spirits be offended and some important message broken off. The Indian was patiently waiting for her to waken by herself that he might ask for food. Hopestill prepared a meal and took it outside to him. The Indian ate the food, gave his glance of appreciation, and went on his way. Although it hadn't been really frightening, the circumstance was alarming enough that the telling of it was passed on down to succeeding generations.

There is a pioneer cemetery in Kings Valley. Many of the early settlers are buried there. Rowland and Lovisa King Chambers and their descendents. Gravestone after gravestone is carved with early settlers names: King, Norton, Chambers, Allen, Price, Frantz, Rice, and Maxfield--pioneers all. An association has been formed to take care of the cemetery. This upkeep is paid by contributions from people with Kings Valley connections.

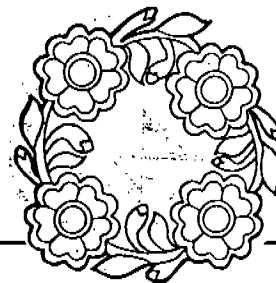
Great grandfather Allen gave the land for the pioneer section of the cemetery from his own D.L.C. A memorial marker is in the fore-ground of the pioneer portion of the cemetery for Nahum King. His actual gravesite is unknown unless it has been located since my last information.

On a hillside of the Isaac King farm, under some oak trees, is the Isaac King burial plot. Several adult Kings and King babies are buried there. There is also a Zumwalt grave, possibly two. I cannot remember for certain. When we were children we used to gather the spring wild flowers for the babies's graves.

Norman Chambers, a descendent of Lovisa, now owns the Isaac King farm. The old house is still standing but is in terrible condition. It has been vacant for a number of years with the doors left open to the weather. Winter damp has decayed the floors until they have broken through in places. It is a shame it couldn't have been preserved that future generations could see how well men of those earlier days planned and built. When it goes, another link with our pioneer heritage will be broken.

signed

Retha Allen Greig



Kings Valley Cemeteries

Retha mentioned several of the cemeteries in Kings Valley. The main cemetery is located on land given by Charles Allen and consists of the pioneer section, the IOOF section, and a newer section. It is maintained by the Kings Valley Cemetery Association who hold work days in May of each year to cut grass, weeds, and poison oak and ready the cemetery for the many visitors on Memorial Day. Burials still occur in Kings Valley and the association is active throughout the year. Donations are always appreciated. If anyone can give me the name and address where donations can be mailed, I will print it in the next newsletter. I have an address for W.P. Eddy, clerk. However, that may need updating. The next issue of King Folk will include part of a 1986 reading of the Pioneer section of the cemetery.

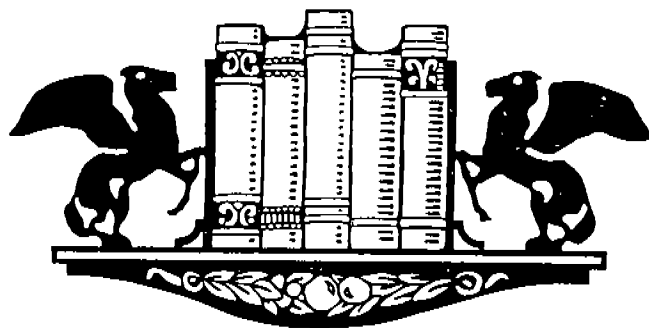
In 1951 the Daughters of the American Revolution read the Isaac King Cemetery which Retha mentioned as being located on her father's property. The DAR recorded that the cemetery is located on Isaac King's Donation Land Claim on a knoll several rods from the old orchard, which was close to the original house. It's off the county road between Kings Valley and Wren.

Lillie M., daughter of A.J. and A.J. Zumwalt; died September 30, 1870; aged 2 months and 29 days.

Ellen, daughter of I. and A.J. King; died November 30, 1857; aged 2 years, 6 months, 9 days.

Isaac King, born November 23, 1819; died November 23, 1866; aged 47 years.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS



Inventory of Library of Nathan A. King as transferred to
David Trask, June 24, 1989 at Kings Valley, Oregon.

U.S. before Oregon

1. *Historic Salem, Massachusetts*, David Little, 24pp, soft-cover, Bromley & Co., Boston. (Fromherz).
2. *The Pilgrim Story*, William Franklin Atwood, 79pp, soft-cover, Memorial Press, Plymouth, Massachusetts. (Fromherz).
3. *A Guide at a Glance of Historic Boston*, 48pp, soft-cover, Rawding Distributing Co. (Fromherz).
4. *The Families of the Pilgrims*, Elder William Brewster, 10pp, soft-cover, Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, (Fromherz).
5. *Families of the Pilgrims*, William Bradford, 8pp, soft-cover, Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. (Fromherz).
6. *Chambersburg*, pamphlet, Chambersburg, PA. Chamber of Commerce.
7. *New England Marriages, Prior to 1700*, Clarence Almon Torrey, 1009pp, hard-cover, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
8. *Mayflower Descendants and Their Marriages for Two Generations After the Landing*, John T. Landis, 37pp, soft-cover, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore. (Nathan A. King, Sr.)
9. *The Complete Book of Emigrants 1607-1660*, Peter Wilson Coldham, 600pp, hard-cover, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore. (Nathan A King, Sr.)
10. *Vital Records of New Salem, Massachusetts to the End of the Year 1849*, 283pp, hard-cover, The Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
11. *Genealogies of Long Island Families From New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Vol. I, Albertson to Polhemius*, Henry B. Hoff, 787pp, hard-cover, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).



Inventory of Library of Nathan A. King, Sr., p. 2

12. *Genealogies of Long Island Families From New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Vol. II, Para to Young*, Henry B. Hoff, 812pp, hard-cover, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
13. *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Vol. I, Covering Families Francis Eaton--Samuel Fuller--William White*, edited by Lucy Mary Kellogg, 247pp, hard cover, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth, Mass. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
14. *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Vol. II, Covering Families of James Chilton--Richard More--Thomas Rogers*, edited by Robert M. Sherman, 409pp, hard-cover, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth, Mass. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
15. *American Surnames*, Elsdon C. Smith, 371pp, soft-cover, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
16. *Saints and Strangers*, George F. Willison, 513pp, hard-cover, Reynal and Hitchcock, New York. (Nathan A. King, Sr.) (Nathan notes that this book is out of print and valuable).
17. *A Diplomatic History of the American People*, Thomas A. Bailey, 973pp, hard-cover, Appleton Century Crofts Division of Meredith Publishing Co., New York. (Nathan A. King).
18. *Vital Records of Norton, Massachusetts to the year 1850*, edited by Henry Ernest Woods, 405pp, hard-cover, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston. (Nathan A. King).
19. *Chambers History, Trails of Centuries*, William D. Chambers, 198pp, hard-cover, Press of Scott Printing Co., Muncie, Indiana. (Mrs. Minerva Mueller bequest to Nathan A. King, Sr.).
20. *Ohio Guide to Genealogical Sources*, Carol Willsey Bell, 372pp, hard-cover, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
21. *Early Ohio Settlers Purchasers of Land in Southwestern Ohio, 1800-1840*, Ellen T. Berry and David A. Berry, 372pp, hard-cover, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
22. *Early Ohio Settlers Purchasers of Land in Southeastern Ohio, 1800-1840*, Ellen T. Berry & David A. Berry, 129pp, hard-cover, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).



NORTON RELATES EXPERIENCES OF PIONEER TRIP TO OREGON

By Ed. C. Dunn
Sept. 12, 1929

About one mile south of Lewisville I called at the home of W. Norton. Mr. Norton is quite an elderly man, with a long white beard, and when he came to the door in answer to my rap I knew I had found another real pioneer. He has lived on this place for the past 36 years.

"My father," he said, "was Lucius Norton. Leaving Big Bend, Carol County, Missouri they crossed the plains to Oregon in 1845. There was in the family two of us boys and father and mother. We started for Oregon the first day of March, and owing to the fact that we took the wrong road a time or two and were lost quite a number of times, we spent nine months on the road, arriving in Oregon the first of December.

"We spent our first winter on the Tualatin Plains. From there we moved to Kings Valley, where my grandfather Nahum King was already established. I have been in Oregon ever since that time.

"Our train was made up entirely of oxen. We had no trouble with Indians. I think I am the only member left of that train. When we reached The Dalles our provisions were nearly gone. I remember that mother traded one of our blankets for some flour the first day we were there.

"I have one sister living, Mrs. Ashnah Plunkett, and she still lives in Kings Valley. I was 85 years old last March and my wife 82. She was a daughter of Isaac Zumwalt, who came to Oregon in 1846. They spent two years on the Tualatin Plains and four years in Salem, after which they moved to this place, and my wife has been here since.

"Mr. Zumwalt raised 12 children, and my wife and her youngest brother are all that are left of the family. The old house built by Mr. Zumwalt is still standing and much of the hand-hewn lumber seems quite sound yet."

Coming in the next issue of King Folk



Please write in about the Oregon Trail attractions you have attended and give us your impressions. There is no way we can attend all the events scheduled and this would be a great way to review the celebration. Most of you still need to mail me your ancestor chart and your family history page. It doesn't need to be typed as we can do that for you.

Look for the description of Nahum King's grave and the first part of the Kings Valley Pioneer Cemetery listing. Nathan King's library will continue.

KING FOLK is a quarterly publication which can be ordered for \$5.00 per year. Please send ideas for articles, queries, or material you would like to have included to this address:

Charlotte L. Wirfs
3810 Ridgemont Dr.
Ruston, LA. 71270

Make checks payable to Charlotte L. Wirfs.



OREGON TRAIL EVENTS May 1993

May 1 to Oct. 31: Sherman County Oregon Trail by bus. Experience the trail by school bus. Moro-John Day River, Columbia River, Deschutes River. Friday-Sunday by appt. Lunch. Hiking option. Moro, (503)565-3209 or (503)565-3274.

May 11: "Life Along the Trail"--Oregon Trail Lecture series. Oregon City. (503)657-6958.

May 15: "Voices From the Oregon Trail"--Musical. The Dalles. (503)255-3385.

May 15: Heritage Museum Open House--Oregon Trail exhibit. Independence. (503)838-4989.

May 16: Oregon Trail Exhibit Grand Opening--Crates Point. The Dalles. 800-255-3385.

May 25: "Trail's End: Barlow Road & Oregon City", Oregon Trail Lecture Series.

May 27 to Dec. 31: End of the Oregon Trail Preview Center. Oregon City. (503)557-1235.

May 29 to May 31: Baker City Celebrates the Oregon Trail. Baker City. (800)523-1235.

Charlotte L. Wirfs
3810 Ridgemont Dr.
Ruston, LA. 71270

