

King Folk

Newsletter No. ²⁰~~29~~

April 22., 2001



Newsletter

The first *King Folk* was published in June 1992. The idea of publishing a newsletter was a result of the discussion at the King Family Workshop/reunion that year. The group was still considering the possibility of publishing Nathan King's notes and files into a book, which had been his goal.

As the discussion progressed, the folks gathered there began to realize we had a large collection of family stories and data on most of Nahum's and Sarepta's children and their families. We had names of Nahum's and Sarepta's ancestors, but there were too many undocumented items to be able to make a book about the family before arriving in Oregon in 1845.

A newsletter would be a less ambitious project and the goal would be to publish articles and pictures of the family from the time they arrived in Oregon. Perhaps the time would come later for us to publish a larger volume.

Twenty newsletters later we have come to a good ending place. There is enough of the original gathered material left to publish one or two more following this issue. *King Folk*, as a newsletter, will come to an end, but perhaps will be reborn as a web-page. What possibilities we would have there! It may become a place to post pictures, family sheets, more articles, recent research, a chat room, and e-mail listings. The 20 to 22 issues could then be bound into a collection and made available at cost to all those interested.

King Folk Reunion

Sat. June 23, 2001
9:30am to 4:00 pm
Kings Valley School Gym
(located **behind** the school)
39088 Kings Valley Highway

The morning session is a workshop. Bring paper, pencils, books, and family info and photos to share.

A copy machine will be available and coffee and doughnuts served.

Lunch at 12:30 pm

Bring a main dish and another item of choice (dessert, salad, or munchies) to share.

Include your eating & serving utensils.

Coffee and iced tea served.

We have plenty of folding chairs, but could use some card tables to set out the lunch.

General Meeting

1:30 pm

Discussion this year:

Election of Officers

Kings Valley Cemetery

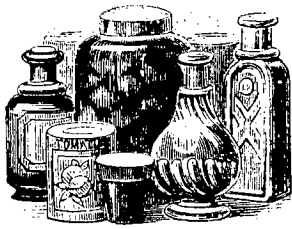
Time and location of next reunion.

Web site

New King Information

Clean up and go home

3:45 pm



**Back When in Benton County
The Kings of Kings Valley
Part 16
Anna Maria and Solomon King
By Kenneth Munford**

Published in the *Benton Bulletin*, Nov. 5 1980, Philomath, Oregon p. 3)

Solomon, who became the best known of the King family in Benton County, was an energetic lad of 12 when he came to Oregon in 1845. His sister-in-law, Anna Maria, wrote home that only she and Sol escaped the "slow, lingering fever (that) prevailed" among the two dozen people in their wagon train.

Sol stayed with his parents, Nahum and Sarepta King, after the other brothers and sisters had left home. After a brief stay in Portland with brother Amos, they returned to Benton County. By that time, the best land in Kings Valley had been claimed. Nahum went a few miles south and staked out his donation land claim next to George Wren's. Nahum's claim of 640 acres lay north and west of the present village of Wren. He built a house on the pleasant slope in the southwestern part of the claim--south of present highway US 20 and Gellatly Creek, which runs through the property.

In 1852 Sol's brother, Stephen, died, leaving Anna Maria a widow with three-year-old son Charles. A year later Sol and Anna Maria were married. To them were born Anna, Lucy, Eli, William, Abe (Abraham), and Scott.

In June 1852, Sol bought the home place from his parents. His father died the next year. His mother, after a time, went to live with her daughter, Lovisa Chambers.

Sol began to acquire additional property, buying part of the Wrenn and Byrd claims and in partnership with another man, a sawmill on the Spour claim.

In 1872, the Sol Kings moved into Corvallis, having purchased the Corvallis Livery, Feed, and Sale Stable on Second Street between Madison and Monroe. They operated this business for 14 years, but gave it up after the barn burned.

In 1876, Sol ran for county sheriff. The Gazette praised him for his struggle "to manhood thro' the pioneer difficulties" and said, "For his opportunities, no man, for generosity and whole-souled help, to those in need, has more to rise up and call him blessed than Sol King." He won election that year and four more times at two-year intervals, serving as sheriff from 1876 to 1886.

With Wallis Nash, T Egerton Hogg, and others, in 1880 Sol became one of the incorporators of the Oregon Pacific Railroad, which built what are now the Southern Pacific branches through Philomath and Wren to the coast and through Corvallis and Albany and up the North Santiam canyon.

In 1891, Sol and Anna Maria moved to a farm north of Corvallis, between Dixon creek and present Walnut Boulevard. The way to their place became known as Kings Road--now Kings Boulevard.

Through the years, they made money buying and selling property, in the livery stable, in short-horned cattle, in a dairy, and in general farming. One biographical sketch says they "prospered exceedingly."

Anna Maria was 83 when she died in 1905. Sol had just passed his 80th birthday when he died in 1913.

Next week: Memories of Sol's youngest grandson

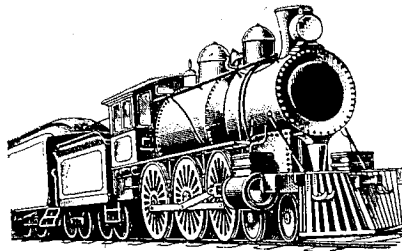


SOLOMON KING



A history of the substantial men of Benton county were sadly incomplete without due mention of Solomon King, who has been a resident of Oregon since his twelfth year, and who has in the meantime been identified with its business, political and agricultural upbuilding. Distinguishing features have characterized the western career of this honored citizen, chief among which is the fact that he has served as sheriff of Benton county for a longer time than has any other man who has held the office. Born in Madison county, Ohio, near Columbus, February 26, 1833, he is a son of Naham King, who was born in New York state, and there married Serepta Norton.

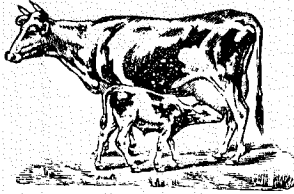
Naham King was a man of resource, and withal was an interesting personality, achieving success in the greater part of his undertakings. Soon after his marriage he removed with horse teams from New York state to Ohio, where he settled on a farm, and from where he enlisted in the war of 1812. At a later period he moved from Madison to Franklin county, Ohio, and from there to Carroll county, Mo, in 1841. His farm was a fertile one, well improved and profitable, and he made money through the sale of general farm commodities. Fourteen children were born into his family, and these were educated to the best of his ability, and in time some of them married and had homes of their own. There was a strong community of interest existing between the various members of his large family, and all relied upon the superior judgment of Naham King, whose strength of character and success inspired confidence. It was not surprising therefore that when the father made up his mind to cross the plains all of the children should accompany him, share in his enthusiasm, and aid him by every means in their power. In 1845 the family band started out as well equipped as any which undertook the hazardous venture, having five wagons with from three to five yoke of oxen each, and thirty-five head of fine Durham cattle. The entire party consisted of sixty-five wagons, under the command of Captain Tevalt and Stephen Meek, and they were more than six months on the way. From Boise City they went by what was known as the Meeks cut-off, and in consequence lost their way and had to retrace their steps a long way. This unnecessary delay entailed severe hardship in more ways than one, for they ran short of provisions, and wearied their cattle exceedingly. From The Dalles the party came down to the Cascade Falls on a raft, and here transpired the first real sorrow in the family, for John King, the oldest son in the family, together with his wife and two children, died on this trip down the Columbia on a raft of pine logs. The rest of the band came from the falls to Linnton by boat, the cattle being driven over the trail, and on to Washington county. All wintered on Gale creek, near Forest Grove, and in the spring of 1846, Naham King went on a tour of investigation, finally settling in the valley in Benton county which has ever since borne his name, and of which he was the first settler. This valley is six miles long and from a mile to a mile and half wide, and is all open and fertile land, and here Mr. King took up a claim of six hundred and forty acres, while his son-in-law, Lucius Norton, took up a similar amount, and another son-in-law, Rowland Chambers, took up the same amount. Two of the sons later took up six hundred and forty acres each, and Stephen, one of the sons, and Mr. Chambers, put up a grist mill.



In the spring of 1849 Mr. King moved to Portland for a year, and then settled on a claim of six hundred and forty acres near Wren's Station, where he lived until his death in 1857, at the age of seventy-three years. He became prominent in political and other affairs, and helped to elect the first senator to congress. His wife, who survived him until 1863, dying at the age of seventy, was the mother of fourteen children. Of these, John dies coming down the Columbia; Stephen, who helped to erect the grist mill and served throughout the Cayuse war, died in November, 1854; Isaac died in the fall of 1866; Amos N. died in Portland in 1902, having been interested for many years in a tannery, and also in building and contracting; Solomon; Rhoda married Eli Summers and lives in Heppner, Ore.; Lydia married John Williams of Portland; Abigail married B. Fuller, now deceased; Eliza married Rowland Chambers; and Hope married Lucian Norton. The other children died young.

Twelve years old when his father and rest of the family crossed the plains, Solomon made himself useful during the trip by driving his brother-in-law's ox-team for more than half the way, and in other ways contributed to the comfort of the homeseekers as only a young, strong and enthusiastic boy is capable of doing. When he first arrived in King's valley there was no sign of a schoolhouse, and when plans were finally made for the education of the rising generation he helped to hew the logs and put in the slab benches. He himself imbibed some knowledge at this primitive educational center, but for the greater part was dependent on his own resources for his practical all-around education. He worked hard to improve the land and place it on a paying basis, and when twenty-one years of age had saved enough money, and had bright enough prospects to justify him in taking a wife in the person of Maria King. Thereafter he assumed the management of his father's farm until 1872, and then moved to Corvallis, where he engaged in the livery business for fourteen years. While there he became greatly interested in politics, and was elected sheriff of Benton county on the Republican ticket in 1876, being successively re-elected five times, and serving in all ten years, the longest time any incumbent has held that office.

His term as sheriff expiring, Mr. King soon after bought a farm near where the college is now located, and lived thereon until 1891. He then came to his present farm one and a half miles from Corvallis, where he has prospered exceedingly, and added to his original purchase. Until recently he owned a thousand acres of land, but the greater part of this has been divided among his children. His money has been made with Short-horned cattle and general farming, and he has also conducted a very successful dairy business for several years. Of the six children born to himself and wife, Annie is the deceased wife of W. B. Kinder, the latter living near Lebanon; Eli married Miss Tomkins and lives on the home farm; William G. married Alice Bird and runs a sawmill at Burns, Ore.; Abraham married C. Bussey and lives near Corvallis; and Scott is with his father. Mr. King is well known fraternally, and is identified with the



Ancient Order of United Workmen. Of unquestioned integrity, great common sense in all of his dealings, and of indefatigable energy, Mr. King commands the respect and good will of all who know him, and is richly deserving of the financial success which has come his way.

From:

Portrait and Biographical **RECORD** of the Willamette Valley, Oregon
Containing Original Sketches of many well known Citizens of the Past and Present
Published by Chapman Publishing Company, Chicago, 1903

Yakima Herald-Republic

Yakima, Washington

Friday, June 21, 1968 ★

Section B

123rd clan reunion planned for Oregon

Cousin

TOPPENISH — Many Yakima Valley families will journey to Corvallis, Ore., this weekend to attend the 123rd anniversary clan reunion of the Chamber - King - Norton families, according to Nathan King, Toppenish.

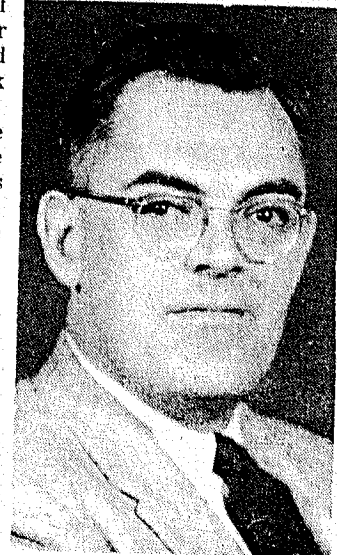
King, who is writing a genealogical history of the clan, said that the reunion commemorates the 1845 passage over the Oregon Trail from St. Josephs, Mo., to Fort Vancouver, Oregon Territory, of the wagon train in which the three families played a vital role.

The reunion will be held in

Avery Park at the edge of Corvallis on Marys River Sunday. A meeting will be held at 10 a.m. followed by a potluck meal.

Many Yakima Valley people are descendants of the Chambers-King-Norton families of the wagon train, King says. Some of their surnames are Beebe, Brown, Fromherz, Herring, Chambers, Maines (Mains), Williams, Tucker, Fuller, Phillips, McAllister and many others.

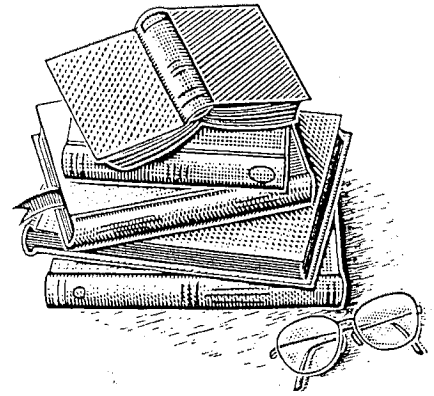
Patriarchs of the three families that traveled West together were Rowland Chambers, Nahum King and Lucius Norton. Callings of the descendants of the three basic names have taken the bearers all over the United States and the world, he said.



NATHAN KING

June 25, 1999

From *Bulletin of Gen. Forum of Oregon* Vol 48 #4 page 170



The History of Nimrod O'Kelly

Condensed version.

O'Kelly had taken a land claim of 640 acres holding half section in name of his wife who had not yet arrived.

Jeremiah Mahoney, seemed to disbelieve in the existence of his wife and move on to the land and camped there with his family.

O'Kelly considered Mahoney a squatter, so he loaded his gun and went to meet Mahoney. No words, no quarrel, no fuss--he intended to kill him and he did. Then went directly to Corvallis and delivered himself up to "justice."

June 1852 At the trial he was sentenced to be hung.

1852 - Petition was brought in by Benton County folk: Mulkeys, Phillips, Kings, Nortons, Pattersons, Vanbebbbers, Watson, Blodgett, Stone.

1853 - Case was appealed. He was resentenced to be hung on June 9 1854.

Since there was no jail in Corvallis, the sheriff, Wright, told him to go home but to be on time when wanted for his hanging.

1854 - O'Kelly appeared in town the night before his hanging. Looked over the "arrangements" as he didn't want them to do a poor job of it.

June 9, 1854 O'Kelly ate breakfast and went to the spot made ready for him.

At the last hour a reprieve came from Gov. Davis.

He was sent to prison. Sheriff brought him to Portland. On the way the wagon broke down near Oregon City. Since O'Kelly didn't want to wait for the wagon repair, he walked on to prison. He couldn't get in because they didn't believe his story until the Sheriff finally arrived.

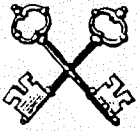
Aug. 1855 - After 10 months, he was pardoned and returned home. His family was there. However the family of Mahoney had been awarded possession of his claim.

O'Kelly then **walked all the way to Washington** and put his case before the General Land Office and **won his land claim back.**

When he died he willed his land to the Catholic Church, although his family did get a portion to live on.

Doc. Territorial Government
No. Documents including records of Provisional
5509 Government 1843-1859

Signers of Petition for O'Kelley reprieve (1852)



To the Honorable John P. Gains
Governor of Oregon Territory

The undersigned citizens of Benton County Oregon Territory your petitioners respectfully show unto your Excellency that at a Special Term of the district court for Benton County began and held at Marysville in said county on the day of June A.D. 1852 one Nimrod O,Kelley was Indicted Tried and convicted of murder in the first degree--and by said court condemed to be hung on the 29th day of August Instant-----all which facts will more fully appear by the record of said trial and conviction forwith presented unto your Excellency in connection herewith your petitioners would show unto your Excellency the following facts. The prisoner and convict is on the age of 71 years feeble in mind and boddy that unassisted he had to prepare for his trial in a few days after he was arrested and that on the trial of the cause it was testified by one witness that the prisoner had said substantially that had he the prisoner received a letter from his family previous to the Killing of Mahoney the Killing would not have happened.. Your petitioners say that they verily believe that this evidence Induced the Jury to find the prisoner guilty of Murder in the first degree they further show that since the trial aforesaid it has come to light that in the same conversation in which he used the expressions sworn to as above he gave the following explanation to wit that if he had received the letter as aforesaid Mahoney and others would have left his claim and ceased to trouble him wherefore in consideration ~~of~~ the prisoners age and infirmities and in that he would not have been convicted of Murder in the first degree had the whole of said conversation come to light during the trial as it had since and as your petitioners think said O,Kelley does not deserve death they pray that your Excellency will suspend his execution until the next session of the Legislature of this Territory in order that his punishment may by act of the said Legislature be changed from death to imprisonment.

J.L. MulKey X	(5 more	King	Blodget
John D. Mulkey	names too	Solomon King	William
Mulkey	faded to	Nahum King	Cloe Patterson
Margaret Mulkey	read)	Lem Stone	John Lassshiviler(?)
Mulkey	S Phillips	Sarepta King	Washington Patterson
David B. Mulkey	John Phillips	Stephen King	Lucius Norton
Albert B. Mulkey	Charity Phillips	Anna Maria King	Hopestill Norton
			James Watson
			Isaac King
			Lazarus Vanbeber
			Martha Vanbeber

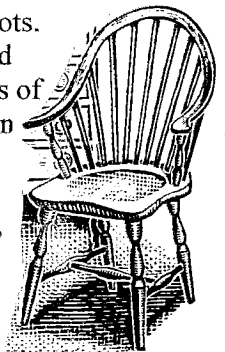
From the Pages of
Two Years in Oregon, by Wallis Nash. Published by D. Appleton &
Co., New York, 1882
Chapter XVI

p. 186 ...But in the early days, from 1846 to 1851, when the tide of settlement ran first this way, their experiences were widely different.

Listen to the tales some of these men tell--not old men yet by any means; the vigor and power of life still burn in most of them, for the dates are but thirty years back. But what a different life these pioneers led then!

Let me sketch the scene and its surroundings where these "jottings round the stove" are made. It is rather a dusty old room, and a rusty old stove in the middle, and rather a dusty and rusty company are gathered round it. Winter-time is upon us; the rain falls in ceaseless drizzle, and the drops from the eaves patter on the fallen leaves of the plane-trees round the house. The time is after the noon dinner-hour; no work presses, for the fall wheat is all in, and there is a sense of warmth and comfort within, which contrasts with the dim scene without, where the rain-mists obscure the hills and fill the valley with their slowly driving masses.

Five or six of us "sit around"--mostly on two legs of the chairs, and our boots are propped up on the ridge round the stove. We don't go much on broad-cloth and "biled" shirts, but we prefer stout flannel shirts and brown overalls, with our trousers tucked inside out knee-high boots. Tobacco in one form or the other occupies each one. Carpets we have no use for, and it is good that the arm-chairs are of fir, as the arms are so handy for whittling, there being no loose pieces of soft wood by. But we are all good friends, and I, for one, do not wish for better company for an hour or two "around the stove"....



p. 189 (interview of **Sol King**, This interview was published in the Corvallis Gazette, Dec. 31, 1880.)

... "you came over the Plains yourself, didn't you?"

"Yes, I was but a little shaver then, in 1845. We came by way of the Dalles."

"What sort of crowd had you?"

"Well, there was my father, Nahum his name was, and my four brothers, all older than I was, and there was the Watsons and the Chambers and their families in the company. We crossed the Plains all right and got to the Dalles. There were thirteen wagons in the party, and we rafted them down the Columbia."

"How on earth did you make a raft big enough?"

"Well, we just cut the logs in the woods on the edge of the river, and rolled them in and pegged them together with lighter trees laid across. It took us about all the morning to get out into the current, and all the afternoon to get back again. But, after all, we got to the Cascades."

"How did you get past them?"

"We had to just put the wagon together, and cut a road for ourselves, six miles round the portage, till (p. 190) we could take to the river again. Then we got boats and came all right down the Columbia and up the Willamette past where Portland now stands."

"Where was Portland then?"

"There was no Portland, I tell you--just a few houses and cabins. I forget what they called the place. Anyhow, we got pretty soon to the Tualitin Plains, where Forest-grove Station is now, and there we passed that first winter in Oregon."

"Was it rough on you?"

"Well, no--not particularly. All the lot of us crowded into one little cabin; but we lived pretty well."

"What did you live on?"

"Well, there was a little grist-mill near by, and the folks had raised a little wheat and some potatoes and peas. We got no meat at all that winter. The next spring we came on into King's Valley and took up the old place--you know where I showed it to you--under the hill."

"Weren't there plenty of Indians there?"

"Indians! I should think so; about two or three hundred Klick-i-tats were camped in that valley then. Good Indians they were, tall, and straight as a dart."

"Who was the chief?"

"A man they called Quarterly. When we came in and camped, that Indian came up to my father, and said, 'What do you want here?' My father said, 'We have come here to settle down and farm and make homes for ourselves.' 'Well,' says the Indian, 'you can; if you don't meddle with us, we won't hurt you.' No more they did; we never had a cross word from them."

"Was that country theirs?"

(p. 191) "Well, no; it belonged properly to the Calipooyas, and these Klick-i-tats had rented it off them for some horses and cloths and things for a hunting-ground."

"Plenty of game?"

"Just lots of it; elk and deer plenty, and the bunch-grass waist-high. The Indian ponies were rolling fat; good ponies they were too."

"What sort of houses had these Indians?"

"The Klick-i-tats had regular lodges: sticks set in the ground in a circle and tied together at the top, and covered all over with the rush mats they used to make. Good workers they were, too. They and the Calapooyas fell out once. I mind very well one day the Klick-i-tats came running into our camp to say there was ever such a lot of Calapooyas coming in to attack them. They sent off their women and children to the hills, and then drove all their horses down to our camp. Strange, wasn't it, they should think their stock safer with five or six white men? There must have been several hundred of those Calapooyas."

"Did the fight come off?"

"Not that time; they made it up with some presents of horses and beads and things."

"What become of those Klick-i-tats?"

"All that's left of them are gone to the reservation away north on the Columbia. They had their big fight with the Calapooyas down there by the Mary River bridge, out by Wrenn's school-house, just before we came into the country. The Calapooyas were too many for them, for they were, I should say, three to one. That was quite a battle, I should say.--But here comes one of the early settlers. Why don't you ask him about it?"...

(Pp.192-194 is an interview with a "slender, gray-haired minister" from Pennsylvania who came to Oregon in 1852)

(Pp. 194-197 is an interview with "Bush" Washington Wilson, a Benton County Clerk for 30 years. He came to Oregon "around the Horn", settling where Corvallis now stands.)

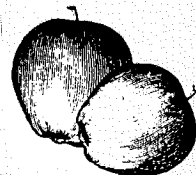
(p. 197 begins an interview of Lazarus VanBibber of Kings Valley)

... "--But here comes Uncle Lazarus."

Just then the door opened, and a quaint figure entered. Let us sketch him. A broad-brimmed, low-crowned, brown beaver hat (and when we say broad-brimmed we mean it--not a trifling article of fifteen inches or so across, but a real, sensible sun-and-rain shade, of two feet or thereabout from edge to edge); an old blue military great-coat covered him; while a mass of snow-white hair and beard framed in a ruddy face as fresh as a winter apple, and a pair of bright blue eyes twinkled keenly, but with a hidden laugh in them, from under the broad brim.

"Sit down, uncle," cried some one, and the old man came to an anchor with the rest of us round the stove.

"Talking of old times, uncle," we said. "You came in pretty early, didn't you?"



"Well, I guess it was in 1846," said he, in a plaintive, slow voice. "We came over the Plains, the old lady and I, from Illinois. We had a pretty good ox-team, and we got through safe."

"Did you have any fighting, uncle?"

"Well, no; there was too many in the company when we started, and they did get to quarreling, so I jest left them with one or two more--any day rather fight than have a fuss; so I thought we'd jest take our chance with the Injuns, though they was pretty bad then. We were nigh to six months on the road."

"Which way did you come into Oregon?"

"By Klamath Lake and Rogue River. The worst piece on the whole journey was that Rogue River canon (canyon); you know where that is?"

"Yes, uncle, came through it at a sharp run on the California stage a month ago."

"Well, there warn't no stage then--no, nor road either. You know it is about eight miles long, and I calc'late you might go a quarter of a mile at a time on the bodies of the horses and oxen that had died there. No man got through without leaving some of his cattle there. Tell you, sir, when you once got into the place, seemed like there was no end to it, and you jest got to face the music; for there warn't no other way."

"How did this country strike you when you got through?"

"Well, the old lady and me jest thought lots of it. We took up our claims in King's Valley--you know the place--jest the nicest kind of a place, with lots of grass and a nice river. You had all the timber you wanted on the mountains close by, and jest lots of deer and elk."

"Pretty lonely, though, wasn't it?"

"Well, it was kinder lonely, but we had lots to do, and the time passed very quick. The country settled up quick, and we had all the neighbors we wanted."

"Any trouble with the Indians, uncle?"

"No; the Calapooyas would thieve a bit, but fifty of them cusses would jest scare from five or six of us settlers with our rifles. And the Klick-i-tats were good Injuns, and never troubled us any. Those were good old times, boys." And the old man rose to go with a sigh.

Think of the change the old gentleman has seen--for he lives there yet! Now, his white farmhouse, with good barn and out-buildings, fronts on a well-traveled road, leading past many a neighbor's house, and to the church and village. The woods on the hill-sides have disappeared, and the ruled furrows of the wheat-fields have replaced native grass; the elk and deer which found him food as well as sport have retired shyly away into the far-off fastnesses round Mary's Peak and in the "green timber", and the fleecy flocks have usurped their place. The thievish Calapooyas and good Klick-i-tats have lost their tribal connections, and their shrunken remnants have been shifted away north to the Indian reserve. As you stand on the hill above his house, and the regions over the gentle outlines of King's Valley, dotted with farms and lined with fences, it is but the noble forms of the distant mountains that could identify the scene with that which he scanned with way-worn eye as he halted his weary oxen after his six month's journey from distant Illinois.

(p. 200 is the end of Chapter XVI)



You know you're taking genealogy too seriously if...

- ...you decided to take a two-week break from genealogy, and the U.S. Post Office immediately laid off 1500 workers.
- ...you address everyone you meet as "cousin".
- ...your house leans slightly toward the side where your genealogical records are stored.
- ...to put the "final touches" on your genealogical research, you've asked all of your closest relatives to provide DNA samples.
- ...A magical genie appears and agrees to grant your any one wish, and you ask that the 1890 census be restored.

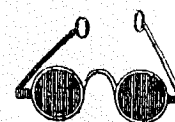
George Newberry, son of Sol King

Many families have a missing link, a black sheep, who has been kept in the background of the genealogy. Such is the story of Sol King's son, George. Florence A. Gross has preserved the story for all of us in her 1996 publication, Come Hell or High Water, My first 25 Years Memoirs. It is the only written record we have that loops George Newberry into the King connection. Even his Oregon death certificate list his parents as "unknown". His nearest of kin is listed as "Miss Gay Webb, no relation". He is buried at the Garden of Faith, Lot 90, space 1 in Medford, OR. It seems that even George wished to keep his heritage a mystery.

George W. Newberry was born May 24, 1885 at Corvallis, OR. He was divorced at the date of his death, Dec. 5, 1955, at Medford, OR. As far as we know, he had no children. Because of this wonderful "King" family story told by Florence Gross, we can include George as a King cousin. Sometimes a story like this is all that is needed to make a genealogical connection.

George Newberry in our Family

By Florence A. Gross



Since I was one of, if not the worst, old Ford haters, I never learned to drive. But as circumstances would have it, we did have an old "Dort" car given to us by our great-uncle, George Newberry. It was a much later model than the Ford, but Pop never wanted to drive it. Soooo, it just sat tempting us kids to "try it out". And that is exactly what we did when the folks were in town. The boys were pretty good at handling it and I even tried it once! I was driving down the lane when I got confused and turned the wheel opposite to the direction I wanted to go-- I careened into the fence and came to a dead stop with the front wheels in the garden and a fence post or two pulled out. I was pretty well "shook up". The boys got me out of my predicament, fixed the fence and got the car parked back in its usual spot. I am sure the car was scratched up a bit. I don't think the folks ever knew of our "horsing around with that car--for sure by that time we were old enough to know better! I never did get into the driver's seat of a car after that until I learned to drive our '38 Chev after Louis and I were married.

Who was George Newberry? I am not sure that his birth records show that he was the son of our great grandfather, Sol King, by an Indian woman. Her name must have been Newberry as that is the name that George was known by.

No one ever talked about George except my mother. In recent years, before Aunt Bertha passed away, I questioned her about George. She told me, as my mother had also said, that Sol and Great Grandmother King raised George with their family and as far as most people knew, he was their son. He was actually a half brother to my grandfather, Abe King (my mother's father).

My mother and the other older daughter of Abe used to go over to Sol's to help with housework when needed. Bertha said that my mom (Lucy) became "sweet" on George--so the folks wouldn't allow her to work there anymore. They informed her that George was actually her uncle.

When George was a young man, he had an unfortunate riding horse accident which left him blind. I am not sure how many years he was blind, if he attended blind school or what, but anyway, after Sol passed away his legitimate half brothers (either Uncle Scott or Uncle Eli) asked George to "get lost". So he left and was never considered to be a part of the King heritage. He became educated and established a business college in Medford, Oregon.

It was from Medford that George used to come to visit us at least once a year. He always had a chauffeur, drove late model cars, dressed in business suits, very handsome and neat, cheery and very thoughtful of all of us. He always brought treats. Mom was his best friend in the King family. We were always very happy to see him come. We never knew if he had married or not, but later we have found a wedding announcement, (George W. Newberry and Mildred E. Pratt,

married May 24th, 1911 at home, 1091 East Morrison Street, Portland, Oregon.). Mom never talked about that to us. She told us that his mother was an Indian woman and that George came to Mom to prove that he was really part Indian when the government was allotting allowances to all Indian descendants.

I asked Aunt Bertha for more details on George, but she didn't seem to know any more than I had learned from Mom. It was a hush-hush chapter in the family and I am not sure that the younger Kings even knew about him until these later years.

The following obituary was located by King family historian, David Trask of Medford, Oregon. David is also a King descendant.

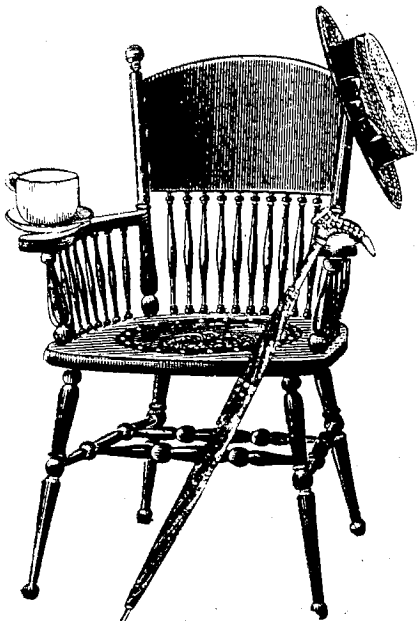
George W. Newberry
 May 24, 1885--December 5, 1955
 Obituaries

Funeral services for George W. Newberry, 70, of 334 North Holly Street, who died Monday will be held in Conger-Morris Chapel at 2:30 pm Thursday. Father Robert Tomisser of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church will officiate. Committal will be in Memory Gardens Memorial Park.

Honorary pallbearers will include Earl Miller, Lee Mellish, Michael Beck, Thomas Flynn, Leland Knox and Athur Hardy. Active pallbearers will include Frank Runtz, Alva Perkins, Noble Vincent, Larry Schade, Anthony Capello, and Eston Humphry.

Mr. Newberry was born May 24, 1885, in Corvallis, Oregon. He came to Medford in 1919, and owned and operated the Medford Business College since then. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Lions Club.

The *Medford Mail Tribune*; Medford, Oregon; Wednesday, December 7, 1955; page 13, column 5.



G. W. NEWBERRY, BUSINESS DIRECTOR
 MEDFORD BUSINESS COLLEGE

SUCCESS is finding or making that position which enables you to contribute to the world the very greatest service of which you are capable. It is the diligent, persevering, resolute cultivation of all the faculties God has endowed you with, and doing it all with cheerfulness, scorning to allow difficulties or defeats to drive you to pessimism or despair.

It is the capability and the willingness to serve one's fellows, and its choicest fruits are the good will and esteem of the community.

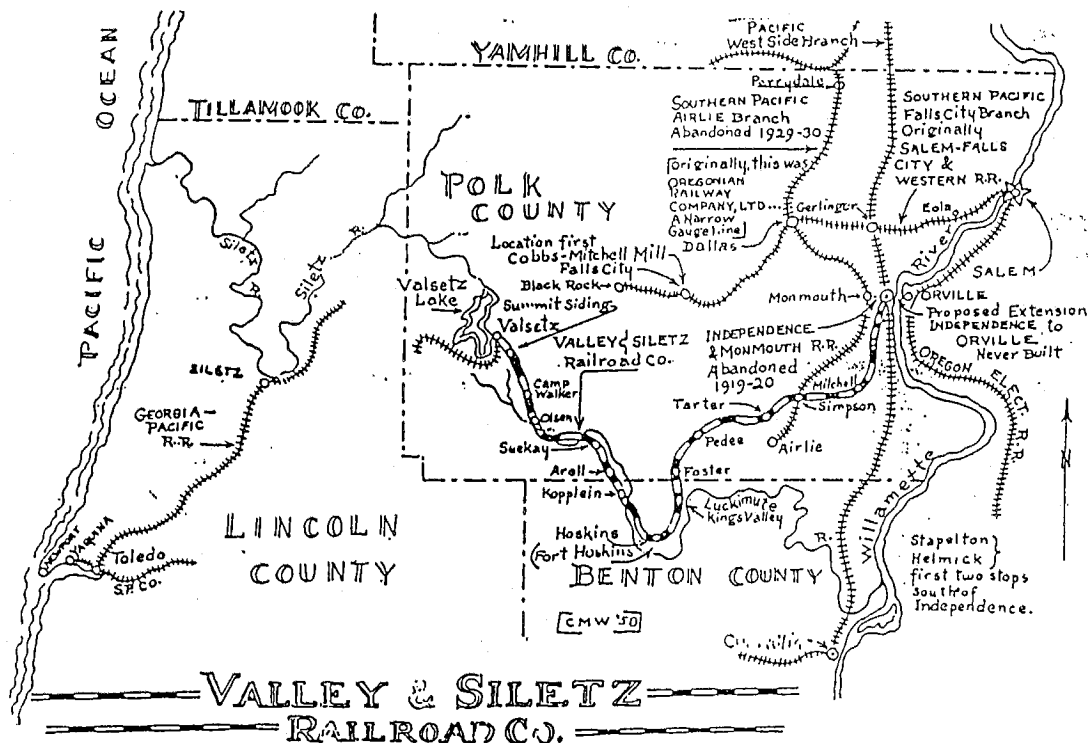
9	Name: Charles William "Bill" King	
	Born: 1909	in:
M	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
10	Name: Albert Warren King	
	Born: 1912	in:
M	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	

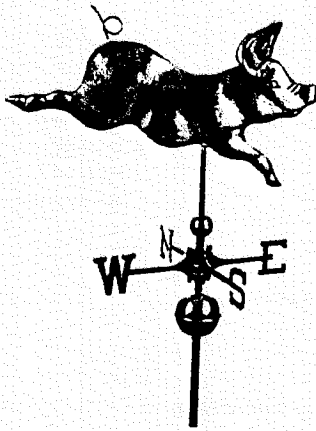
Valley & Siletz Timberland Excursion

August 31, 1958

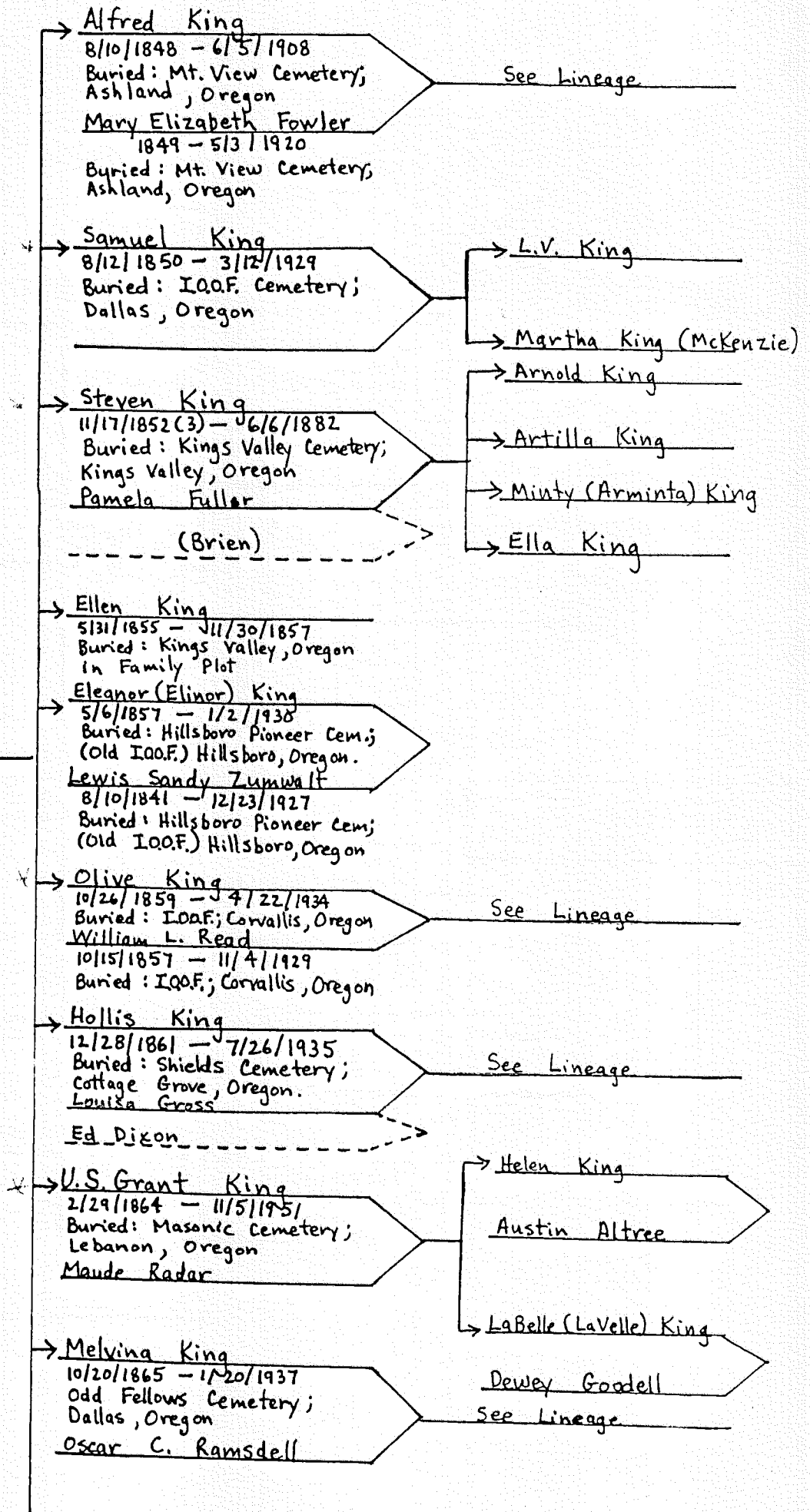
HOSKINS — In addition to the railroad installations at Hoskins available for inspection and photographing, there will be a steam threshing show. A. B. Moser and sons have arranged an old-time steam threshing bee which will be in progress during our lay-over at Hoskins. The Moser farm is approximately 1000 feet from trainside, on the other side of the covered bridge. The show consists of steam tractors and threshing equipment, collected and restored as a hobby. Train will depart 10 minutes after continuous whistling by the diesel locomotive.

WESTERN RAILROADER — Issued in connection with this rail adventure is a special souvenir edition of The Western Railroader. Extra copies are available on the train at \$1.00 each, and contains a complete history of the Valley & Siletz, locomotive and passenger motor car rosters, photographs, and map. Answers to a great many questions that will arise during the day may be found in this history of the line written by Edwin D. Culp of Salem, Oregon. The map used in this program is through the courtesy of The Western Railroader.

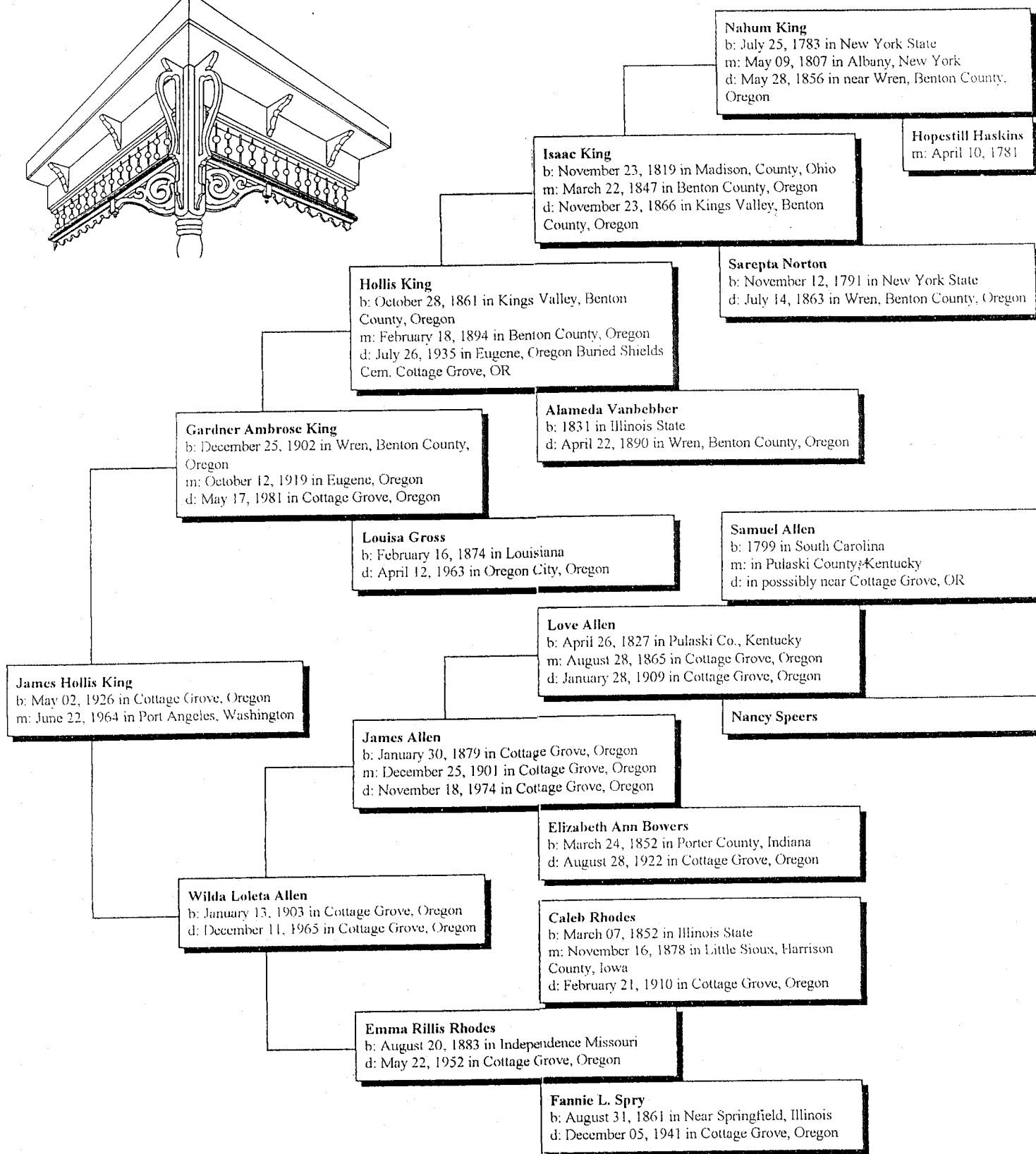
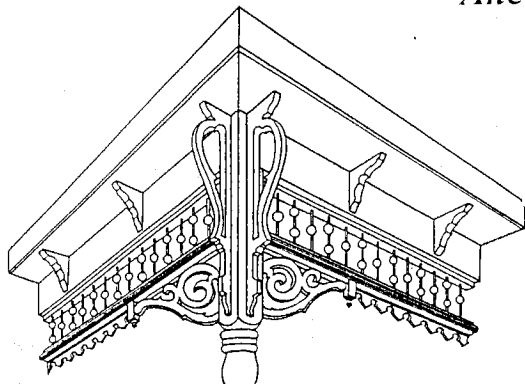




Isaac King
 11/23/1819 - 11/22(23)/1866
 Buried: Kings Valley, Oregon
 in Family Plot.
 Almeda Jane VanBibber
 ca 1831 - 4/21/1890



Ancestors of James Hollis King



King Folk

King Folk is a bi-annual newsletter published by the Family of Nahum and Sarepta (Norton) King, Oregon Pioneers of 1845. Subscriptions are \$6.00 annually. A contribution of \$4.00 can be made at the same time, to be used to repair tombstones and for costs related to the annual reunion. Subscriptions are due Jan. 1, 2001, but reminders will be passed out before that time. Please make checks payable to **King Folk** and mail to Anne Trussell, 2108 Stacia Way, Sacramento, CA 95822

All information published in **King Folk** is printed as it is written or presented for publication. For that reason, the information may not be completely accurate. Corrections and updates are published whenever they are known. Please submit material for publication to Charlotte Wirfs, 15109 Second St. NE, Aurora, OR 97002, email charw@teleport.com

The King Reunion is held on the first Saturday following Father's Day weekend in June at Kings Valley School. It is made up of the descendants of Nahum and Sarepta (Norton) King, Oregon pioneers of 1845 who settled Kings Valley, Benton County, OR in the spring of 1846. Current officers are:

President, Charlotte Wirfs, (503) 678-2837, charw@teleport.com

Vice President, Jim King (541) 942-5494, jimking@juno.com

Secretary, Patricia Bearden, (541) 265-7117, pbearden@actionet.net

Historian, David Trask, (541) 734-3250, DLTRASK@aol.com

Please send queries to David Trask, 691 Murphy Rd. Suite 115, Medford, OR 97504. Note that David collects obituaries of the descendants of Nahum King. He can look one up for you. Please mail copies of family obituaries to him.

Charlotte L. Wirfs
15109 Second St. NE
Aurora, OR 97002

To

