

# King Folk

Newsletter #25

Published April, 2006

## King Folk Reunion

**Saturday, June 24, 2006**

9.00 A.M. - 4.00 P.M.

(Kings Valley Charter School Gym)

39088 Kings Valley Highway

**The morning session is a workshop - Please take King Family material to share. You might discover a new relative or be able to assist someone else with their King Family research. A copy machine will be available. Coffee & donuts served.**

### Lunch at noon

**Please take a main dish and another item of your choice. (dessert, salad, or munchies) Also, take your own table service. Coffee, soda pop and bottled water will be provided.**

**General Meeting at 1.30 P.M.**

### INFORMATION

(SEE BACK PAGE FOR OFFICERS & ADDRESSES)



*2005 Reunion picture - Courtesy of Nigel Parkhurst*

Another issue of the King Folk newsletter is coming your way, thanks once again to Earle Greig. Many of us come up with ideas but it is Earle who takes charge and puts it all together for us. Thank you, Earle, for all your efforts on our behalf and for creating such a wonderful newsletter.

Please be sure to save the date of Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, for this year's King Family Reunion at Kings Valley School. You will find the school looking a bit different as a new addition was just recently finished. We will be in the back in the gym as usual. There is more information on the reunion and some special guests who will be with us, elsewhere in the newsletter.

Last year at our reunion we enjoyed having Linda Crew with us to show slides and talk about how she came to write her book, A Heart for Any Fate – Westward to Oregon – 1845, based on the King family's trek to Oregon. I know that many have bought multiple copies of her book, especially those of us wanting them for our grandchildren. We hope that Linda will join us again this year to give more of you the opportunity to meet her and to purchase an autographed copy of her book.

At last year's reunion, our King Family Historian, David Trask, brought an 1847 King family infant tombstone that he had rescued from the Locke Cemetery in Benton County many years ago. David hung on to the tombstone always hoping to have it replaced. Our members at the reunion agreed with him and voted to spend \$500. for a new stone to be placed in the cemetery. Please see the articles by David and Anne Trussell, elsewhere in the newsletter, that tell this wonderful story.

There is also an article in this newsletter about our previously unknown Canadian King family connection. Margaret Lyndon Schilsky and Peter and Anne Lema, have graciously shared a great deal of information. Margaret and Anne are first cousins, great granddaughters of Margaret Halleck Lyndon, the daughter of Lucretia King Halleck and a granddaughter of Nahum and Sarepta King; I know you will all enjoy learning about how we came to discover this Canadian connection.

I hope, too, that this will encourage others of you to share your special stories about finding your King family connection or family remembrances. We would love to have them for future issues of the King Folk.

See you all in June in Kings Valley!

What's happening???

We have received much interesting and informative correspondence since June, 2005.

Mimi Stang and Anne Trussell located a King Family picture at the Benton County Museum. This picture identified some of their family which permitted research in various states and finally ended in Canada. See the picture and read their story in this issue.

At the reunion in 2005, the membership voted to purchase a marker for the infant son of Amos Nahum King and Malinda (Fuller) King. The marker is ordered and will be installed soon. David Trask has been involved in this project for a number of years. His informative article is included in this issue.

The Benton County Museum is moving forward in their fund drive to build a new facility on their property on Second Street. This will house the Horner collection.

The Benton County Park located on the old Fort Hoskins property is planning a one-hundred-fifty-year celebration on July 28-29, 2006. Items of interest may include a progress report concerning the officers house that was moved to Pedee, Oregon many years ago. This house was donated to the Park and may someday be moved back to the park. Phil Sheridan may have been one of the officers who occupied this very house. Earle's G.G. grandfather, Larkin Price, lived in this house about one hundred years ago.

Linda Crew, author of "A Heart For Any Fate; Westward To Oregon, 1845" has received many honors and excellent press since she met with us last year. Several new books have been published since last June about the history of the area and about early inhabitants. These authors as well as authors of previous publications have been invited to attend our reunion. This might be your opportunity to purchase new books for your collection.

Lowell Tiller, author of "Terrible Trail: The Meek Cutoff, 1845" has indicated he will attend if his health permits. Judy Juntunen has been working for years on her new book, "The World of the Kalapua, A Native People of Western Oregon". This excellent book was published recently. Marlene McDonald has a new book about Blodgett, Summit, and Devitt. Marlene and Audrey Theurer have both accepted our invitation. They have numerous other books to their credit.

Robert Moreland contacted us from his home in Seattle. Bob went to high school in Kings Valley. He sent snapshots and pictures of the other side of the grist mill as well as deeds naming the many owners of that property starting with Rowland and Lovisa Chambers. Pictures and portions of his letter are reproduced in this issue.

Ellen Chambers contacted us to report the death of her brother, Robin Chambers. Our sincere condolences, Ellen.

Note: Obituaries are one of the important items that our historian, David Trask requests every year. They are a vital part of our historical information.

## OUR KING FAMILY CANADIAN CONNECTION

By Mimi Stang with added notes by Anne Trussell

In the spring of 2005, Earle Greig and I went to the Benton County Museum in Philomath to see the wood gristmill auger there that was from the original Chambers gristmill.

While there, I asked staff member Mary Gallagher, to show me what they had on the Kings and then, almost as an afterthought, on the Hallecks. Nahum's daughter, Lucretia King, married Heman Halleck – they came to Oregon in 1853. Mary went to the computer and entered the Halleck name and up popped information about a photo album that had been donated to them by the Southern Oregon Historical Society when some of the photographers were recognized as being from Corvallis.

Mary got the photos out and as I went through them, some of the names rang a bell with me. And, then, lo and behold, there was a photo of the Halleck sisters and their only brother (Amos Nahum King Halleck). Amos, by the way, is my daughter-in-law's line that first brought me to the King family. In this picture of the sisters Margaret Halleck had a last name that was not familiar: Lyndon. Anne Trussell and I knew her only as Erwin, wife of George Erwin. (They had all disappeared after the 1870 census and her divorce from George). I wrote down all the names from the albums.

I came home and e-mailed my "find" to Anne – she started searching for Margaret Lyndon and found her on the 1880 census in Salt Lake City! That was a surprise. She was listed with her sons from her marriage to George Erwin, her new husband Charles Lyndon and their son, William Lyndon. So, that was definitely a "Bingo!" But then, searches of later census records failed to find them again. So, what happened to them? We thought we had another dead end.

A few weeks later at the Oregon State Archives I was looking up some delayed birth records in Benton County for a patron. One name caught my eye: Rhoda Pittman Turner. Margaret's sister, Rhoda Halleck, married a Pittman. I pulled the record and there was Margaret Lyndon's name again. She was listed as a midwife in the 1898 Benton County birth of Erma Rhoda Pittman Turner. Margaret was Erma's great aunt. Margaret's address was given as AL. Alabama? Alaska? Finally I figured out that meant Alberta, Canada.

Anne and I were off and running again! Margaret and her new family turned up on a number of Canadian censuses. Anne took it one step further when she found a reference to the ranch that had been their homestead in Alberta, Canada, and contacted the current owners (it's now a dude ranch). They put her in touch with the Anne and Peter Lema of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Anne Lema is Margaret Halleck Lyndon's great granddaughter (and Nahum and Sarepta's ggg-granddaughter) The Lema's were thrilled to connect. After learning of the size of our King family, Peter said, "For years, the family joke has been: Peter has a thousand relatives and Anne has around a dozen or so. Well, now things are balancing out...."

As is often said, "the rest is history." The Lema family has sent material that was printed about the Lyndons, their ranch, established in 1881, and their early days homesteading in Alberta, as well as information on the family. As some of the earliest homesteaders in Alberta, they were quite prominent. And, the Lemas are now proud members of the King Family Association. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they could attend a King Family reunion sometime?



*photograph - courtesy of Mary Gallagher & the Benton county Museum*

The photo above is one of the pictures located at the Benton County Museum. Earle was there and got to see the excitement this generated. Just imagine all five children in one picture as well as finding a new name that would permit research to proceed.

Identification is as follows: The sister in back (left) is Margaret Halleck Erwin Lyndon. The sister in back (right) is Sarepta Halleck Rexford Harlan. Amos Nahum King Halleck is the brother front (center). The two sisters in front are Rhoda Halleck Pittman Pyburn and Sarah (Sally) Halleck Edelman Pyburn.

Can anybody out there identify which is which? Sometimes Halleck is spelled Hallock.

The following article appeared in the *Corvallis Gazette* on Friday, May 30, 1879.

DIED:

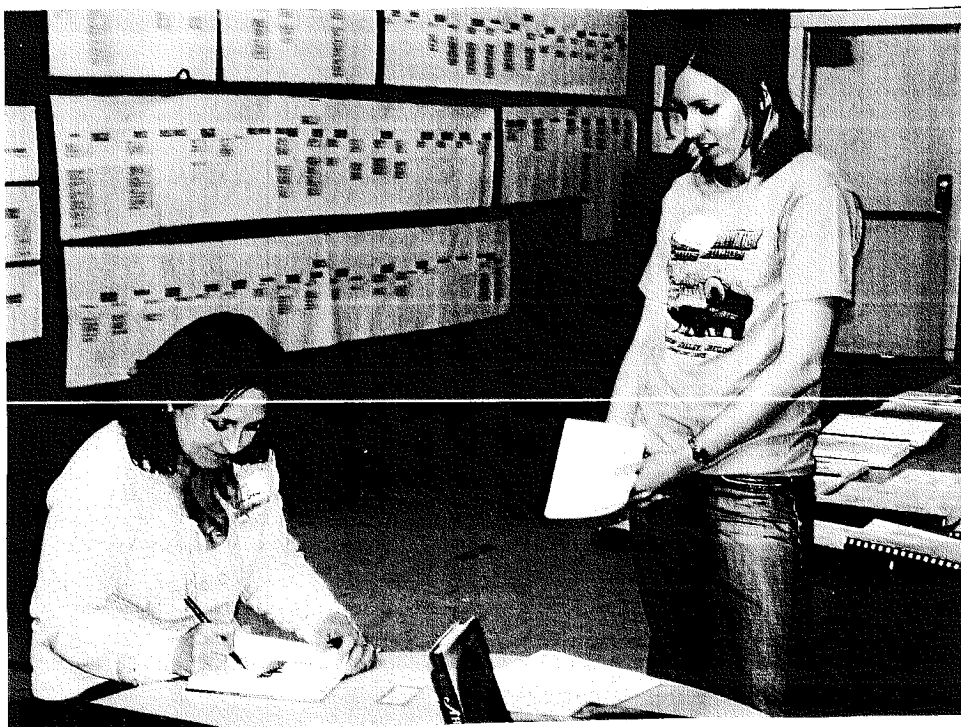
In Kings Valley, May 24<sup>th</sup>. 1879, Alice, daughter of Rowland and Lovisa Chambers, aged 11 years, 9 months and 12 days. Disease - diphtheria.

In Kings Valley, May 26<sup>th</sup>. 1879, Annie, daughter of Rowland and Lovisa Chambers, aged 14 years 2 months and 20 days. Disease - diphtheria.

Thus within two days of each other were these sisters called into the Spirit world. While living, they were the joy of their mother's home and only the inmates of that home can realize the severity of this heavy affliction. The remembrance of one thought brings consolation - they died prepared. Alice desired "to depart and be with Christ which is better," and Annie felt in death's hour that all was "well". May the living heed well the voice of Providence that they too may die the death of the righteous.

Anne Trussel found another article about these deaths in the WPA interview with Julia Price.

"Father, (Rowland Chambers) had seven sons and seven daughters. The last two (Anna and Alice) died of diphtheria in 1879. May Day picnics were common. These were grand occasions and every little girl had to have a new dress. My two sisters who died of diphtheria in 1879 (May) were buried in the dresses they had gotten for the picnic."



Linda autographing her book

- Nigel Parkhurst Photo

Linda received numerous awards in the past year in recognition of her fine book. One of them included a selection by Dan Hays of the *Salem Statesman*. Dan chose her book, "A Heart For Any Fate - Westward to Oregon, 1845" as one of the best ten books written. Dan reported "It is just a coincidence that all but one of the books are by Oregon authors".

Earle Greig reports that last years newsletter included a nice picture of the Chambers Grist Mill and dam. He was pleasantly rewarded to hear from Robert M. (Bob) Moreland of Seattle. Bob formerly lived on the grist mill site in a house that was located approximately where the original Rowland and Lovisa Chambers home stood. Bob sent a rare photo of the back side of the grist mill as well as a picture of the house. Bob also included an interesting three page letter and permission to include any or all in this issue of "King Folk".

Bob tells us that he went to high school in Kings Valley and mentions Jr. Lyday and Bob Allen. He goes on to mention playing in the old grist mill where he found an old dirty flour sack with the inscription "Eider Down Flour". He gave the sack to his mother and is not sure what she may have done with it. He suspects that if she washed it, the printing would have vanished.

Bob goes on to say that the mill was still grinding grain when he lived there. However, farmers started taking their grain to Philomath because they could leave it there and it would be ready when they returned from shopping in Corvallis.

Bob talks about cutting grain with a hand scythe, sewing sacks and raising turkeys. The turkeys were rounded up and kept in the grist mill every night because of coons and other predators. It was Bob's chore to get up every night and stoke the brooder fire to keep the turkeys warm.

He also sent us the title search book listing all prior owners of the grist mill property. This is fascinating and includes such familiar names as Chambers, Norton, Price, and others.



Note: Some of us remember taking grain to the grist mill. I can't say for sure that I remember "Eider Down sacks. I sure think I do.

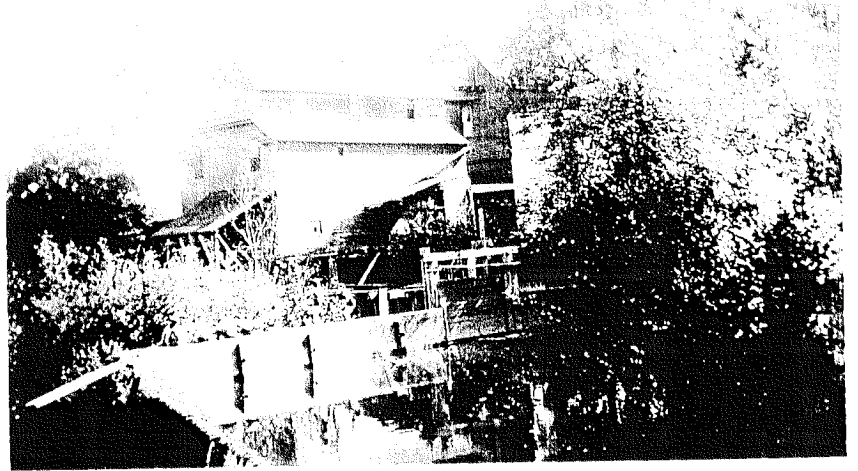
Flour sacks were a prized possession and were used for aprons, dish towels, table cloths, etc. Now, who out there might have one of those flour sacks that they would be willing to donate to the Benton County Museum?

*The picture on the left is another "high water" photo Bob took from the South side of the river.*

*Thanks Bob*

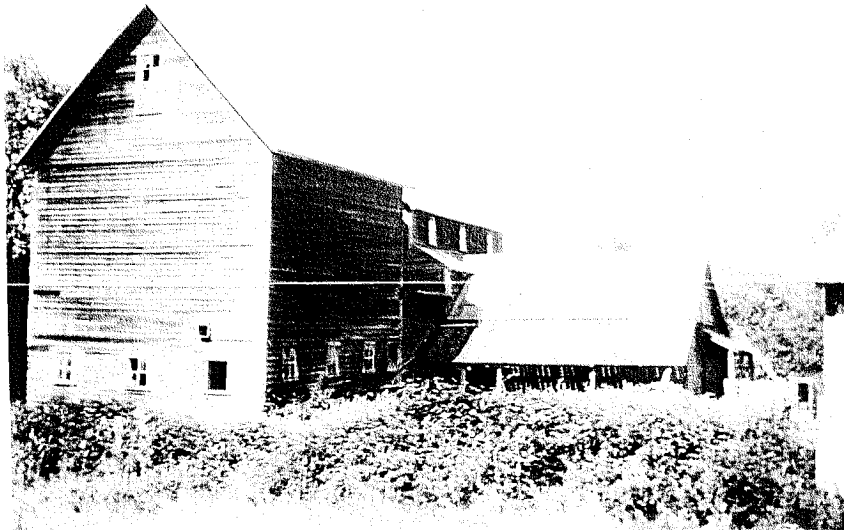


The house on the left was probably built where the original Rowland and Lovisa Chambers home stood. The road in front runs directly to the Kings Valley Highway. This house burned a number of years ago.



The snapshot, above right, was taken from the dam. Most pictures were taken from this location.

*These three photographs - Courtesy of Robert Moreland*



The snapshot above was taken from the same side of the Luckiamute as the house above left. If walking down this road from the highway, the first building you would have come to was the home, above left. The next building you would have come to would be the little shed at right angles to the grist mill. This was the dock where grain was received for milling. After grinding, this dock is also where the finished product would be picked up. The taller storage building is the last structure along this little road. The tall building with the windows under the eaves is the actual mill where the grinding was done. It is closest to the dam and the water power.



*Remember our Ashah & James Plunkett farm that is now a Benton County Park?*

*There has been much progress here since we met a year ago. Many of the trails have been extended and new ones built. The old barn is being expanded as a teaching facility and as a rental for special occasions. Mary Simpson, of the Parks Department, has sent us a press release that we are going to print in its entirety. Note that the project engineers are our good friends at Endex Engineering. Also note that the project completion date is June 1. Be sure you drive in and check it out when you come to this years reunion. Earle*

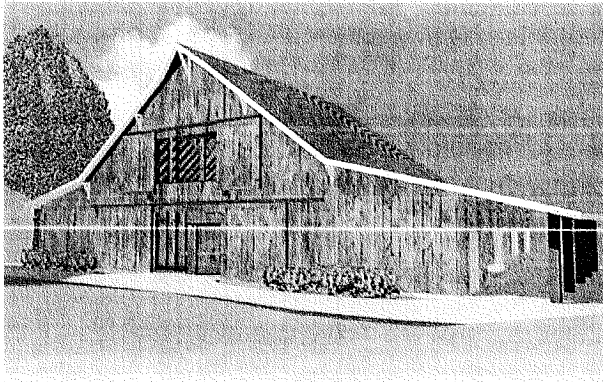


## **Bezell Forest Education Center Construction Project Update**

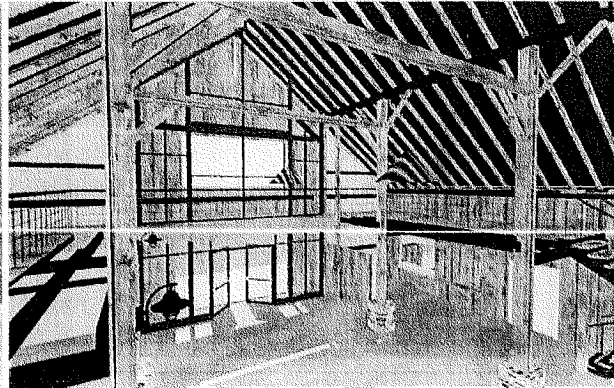
### **Background**

- Fred Bezell designated Benton County to be the beneficiary of his 586-acre property in Kings Valley prior to his death in April of 2000. He gave the land to the County to create a memorial forest to honor his beloved late wife, Dolores May (Anthony) Bezell. He trusted that the Benton County Parks Department would be a good steward of the property, as he had been over his 35 years of ownership. He envisioned public hiking trails, and active demonstration and environmental education programs that would encourage others to become better caretakers of our important natural resources. [Source: Bezell Memorial Forest Stewardship Management Plan]
- A series of public meetings were held during the design process, at which broad support for the project was indicated. A stakeholders group comprised of area educators was also surveyed to determine project design features and components.
- The Bezell Memorial Forest Management Plan (July 2001) and Education Program Plan (in final draft) will be utilized to guide use of the facility to increase learning opportunities for our region.

**Project Description:** Renovation of the existing barn into a year-round facility available for forest education activities that will include upgrades to parking, accessibility, etc.



South view



Interior view looking south to main entrance

**Project Architect:** Lori Stephens, Broadleaf Architecture, 541-753-4794, Corvallis, Oregon

**Project Engineer:** Endex Engineering, 541-754-9517, Corvallis, Oregon

**Project General Contractor:** T. Gerding Construction, 541-753-2012, Corvallis, Oregon

**Project Contacts:** Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department

Jerry Davis, Director, 541-766-6871

George McAdams, Community Project Coordinator, 541-766-6871

**Project Mobilization:** October 24, 2005

**Completion Date:** June 1, 2006

**Source of Funding:** Federal (Title III) Funds available to Benton County for Forest Education

**Project Design Goals and Elements:**

- Forest Education Center – the barn will be used primarily as classroom space for forest education school groups.
  - Benton County resource – a rentable assembly area for gatherings, reunions, weddings, etc.
  - Retain history and feel of barn – salvage barn where feasible. Maintain the simplicity and openness of the original barn. Provide enclosed areas where light can penetrate through exterior barn planks.
  - Low impact construction and maintenance – reduce, reuse, and recycle. Reuse the existing barn framework and planks where practical. Recycle what is not used. Reduce the use of new materials that consume non-renewable resources.
  - Salvaged exterior planks will be treated and re-applied as siding. Other planks will be used for sound deadening and to maintain character on the interior of the assembly and classroom areas.
  - Minimal, natural exterior landscaping.
  - Pervious, natural path from parking lot to barn entrance.
- 

*David Trask has been involved for years in an attempt to get a proper monument for the "infant" son of Amos and Malinda King. Below is his interesting report.*

I have been collecting obituaries of our family members now for over 25 years. I also like to have photographs of the grave of our family members as well, to document all we can regarding our deceased family. In the mid 1980's, I visited the Locke Cemetery in Benton County. One of the markers I was looking for was for that of the "Infant son of A.N. & M. King" who died September 8, 1847. This was the son of Amos Nahum and Malinda Fuller King. Amos was a son of Nahum and Serepta King. This burial would had to have been one of the earliest of a King descendant in the Oregon Territory, and possibly the earliest in Benton County. He was also born in the Oregon Territory, one of the first Kings born here. I found the grave marker, lying against another marker. It had obviously been placed there, and the cemetery was in fairly good repair. I took several photographs of the marker, and left.

Around 1990, I revisited the cemetery. I noted that the marker was not where I had last seen it. Also, the cemetery was notably grown up with weeds and blackberry vines. I could tell that someone had been cutting back the blackberry vines, and a small cat had been used to move some rather large piles of freshly cut vines, weeds and tree and shrub branches. I searched the entire cemetery, but did not find the infant King marker. As I was preparing to leave, I went up to the largest pile of debris. I happened to accidentally kick what I thought was a rock. I could tell it was a flat stone, either a brick, or part of a grave marker. I dug it out, and miraculously, it was the infant King marker. It was next to where the cat had been working, and I can only imagine, that if I had not stumbled on it on that Saturday, that possibly on the next Monday, that cat would have scooped up the marker along with the other debris, and it all could have been hauled away.

I took the marker for safe keeping. I informed Charlotte Wirfs, our leader at the time. We agreed to present the marker to the membership for ideas on returning the marker to the cemetery on the condition that it be secured so as not to lose it again. The other idea was to replace it with a new marker, and keep the original for the significance it held for the King family. Over the years, the topic was presented to the membership. The consensus has been to not allow the marker to ever be lost or vandalized, and so I have been the keeper of it all these years. At the last reunion, the issue was again presented to the membership, and we agreed to replace the original marker with a similar, but new marker, and to attach a plaque stating that the marker was being placed near the original grave by the King Family Association.

David

Anne Trussel ran across an article that was printed in the New York Herald Feb. 18, 1851  
Her interesting report follows: Thanks Anne

### Hopestill King New York Front Page News

On May 9, 1850, Hopestill King Norton gave birth to triplets, Cynthia, Sarepta, and Nahum in Kings Valley, Oregon Territory. Cynthia died a few days later and is buried in Kings Valley Cemetery. Sarepta "Sis" and Nahum "Bub" survived and lived for many years after. Do you think they knew their birth made the front page of the *New York Herald*?

In the early days, everyone was interested in the west, especially those easterners who stayed behind. News out of the Oregon Territory made the front page of the *New York Herald* on Saturday, February 8, 1851, in a column titled "**Interesting from Oregon.**" It is here that we find our own Hopestill King Norton and her triplets. This article discusses curious facts that the 1850 census agent, Mr. O'Neil, discovered about the Oregon population. Reported by the Oregon Spectator, it said "One family in King's Valley, Polk County, the mother of which had three children at birth, about five months previous, two of whom are still living, the other having died a short time before his visit." Imagine! No telephone, no telegraph, no cell phone, no email, yet news of the birth of the Norton triplets in a tiny, isolated valley on the west coast made it across the United States and onto the front page of a New York newspaper.

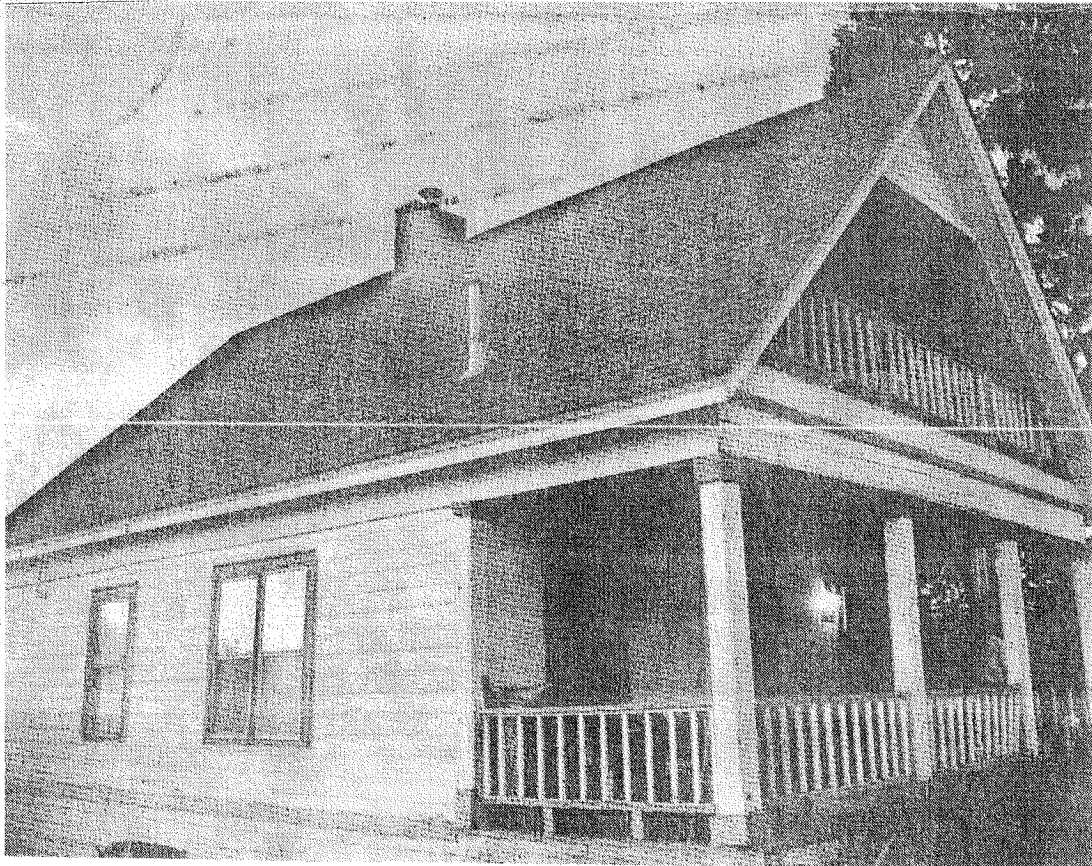


Photo of the Fort Hoskins officers home *Courtesy Robin Camp-Theresa Hogue-Gazette Times*

**"King Folk" is a newsletter published by the family of Nahum and Sarepta King, Oregon Pioneers of 1845. Annual subscriptions are \$10.00 due January 1st. These funds are used for publication costs and various projects such as cemetery restorations. Please make checks payable to "King Folk" and mail to Anne Trussell, 2108 Stacia Way, Sacramento, CA 98522.**

**All information published in "King Folk" is printed as it is presented. For that reason, the information may not be completely accurate. Corrections and updates are published whenever they become known. Please submit material for publication to Earle Greig, 4441 N.W. Elmwood Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330 or e-mail (see below).**

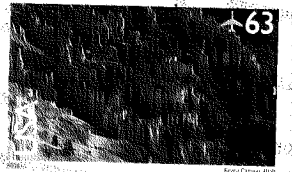
**The annual Reunion is held in June on the first Saturday after Father's Day at the Kings Valley Charter School.**

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