

KING FOLK

Newsletter # 30

King Family Association

Published April 2011

KING FOLK REUNION
SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2011
9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

KINGS VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL
38840 KINGS VALLEY HIGHWAY
(IN THE GYM AT BACK OF SCHOOL)

The morning session is a workshop. Please bring King family material to share. Pictures are especially wanted and may be scanned to our CD. (see info. in newsletter) Perhaps you will discover a new relative, or be able to assist someone else with their research. A copy machine will be available to use free of charge. Coffee and donuts provided.

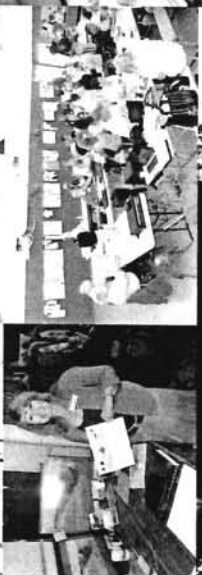
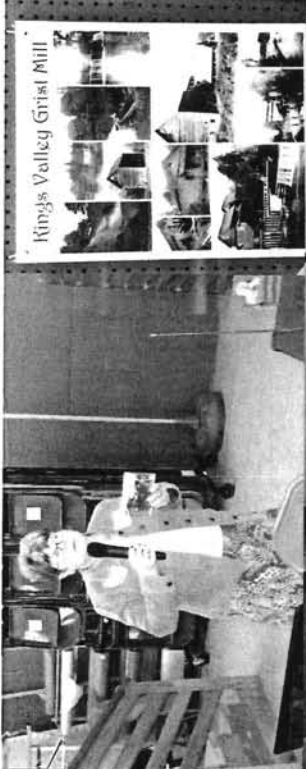
POTLUCK LUNCH AT NOON

Please bring a main dish and one other item of your choice (dessert, salad or munchies). Bring your own table service. Coffee, soda pop and bottled water will be provided. There is refrigeration in the kitchen but only a small microwave for reheating.

BUSINESS MEETING AT 1:00 P.M.

(Need more information? See back page to contact officers)

See next page for candid shots from 2010 reunion compliments of Nigel Parkhurst and Winnie Trump.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER – APRIL 2011 – MIMI STANG

Greetings King Family members. I feel honored to be the president of the King Family Association - I am so pleased to be a part of such a wonderful family. Working together, we have accomplished a great deal these past years.

Our reunion will once again be the Saturday immediately after Father's Day, June 25th, at Kings Valley Charter School. We welcomed a number of new members last year which is always special – they add so much to our family knowledge. And it is always great to see the “regulars” as well. See the front page of the newsletter for complete information.

We still hope that many of you will join us for morning session so we have the opportunity to visit and share as we are often overwhelmed at noon. I would like to stress again that we are set up and ready to go by 9 a.m. The morning is the time to have your photos scanned to our CD's, to purchase reunion T-shirts and other materials, to share information with fellow King family researchers and to look through our Historian David Trask's fabulous family notebooks. We have a copy machine for you to use. Our potluck lunch begins at noon followed by our annual business meeting.

Last year I addressed the topic of our finances and the fact that our number of dues paying members had decreased by 25 from the previous year – we previously had 92 dues paying members but only 67 paid dues in 2009. I am very pleased to announce that in 2010 our number of dues paying members increased greatly and we were back at 90 by the end of the year. That is indeed good news. We only ask \$10 a year per family and like most membership groups we rely on dues and donations to fund our organization. This newsletter printing and postage, rental of the school and AV equipment are paid from our dues - dues and donations combined have allowed us to fund benches, kiosks and the King monument at Kings Valley Cemetery, the Lydia King Williams marker at Salem Pioneer Cemetery, and the King infant marker at Locke Cemetery.

There are so many great articles in this year's newsletter – the history of the King Family reunions by Char Wirfs is especially wonderful. Did you even know that you are a part of something that started 124 years ago? What a legacy. And the recollections of Kings Valley is also just outstanding. Historian David Trask's articles are filled with family information. Also news of what your King Family board is doing: CD's, Ancestry.com, etc. I am sure you will enjoy reading them all.

As always, I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the reunion. If it is your first reunion, please let us know so that we can put you in touch with others in attendance that are connected to your family. And be sure to spend time looking through our Historian David Trask's wonderful family notebooks.

BITS AND PIECES --- PART I

King Family Reunion T-shirts – We have reordered and restocked our King Family reunion T-shirts as we had run out of a lot of sizes. The cost is \$10.00 at the reunion, \$15.00 if mailed. The color is Serene Green. Sizes are Adult Small, Medium, Large, X-Large & XXLarge. Send a \$15.00 check made out to “King Folk” with your order to Mimi Stang, 1290 Valley View NW, Salem, OR 97304, if you want one mailed to you.

Checks Reminder – Please remember to make checks out to “King Folk.” The Chase Bank where we have our checking account will not accept checks made out any other way – save our Treasurer, Anne Trussell, the trouble of having to send a check back to you to be reissued!

Inventory of King Family Reunion Items – Pat Plunkett Holler, our King Family Association Secretary, has taken on the huge task of gathering minutes, agendas, photos, etc. of past reunions. She has made great progress – everything she has collected to date she has scanned and we now have a CD of the information. Pat has also scanned all 28 issues of the *King Folk* Newsletter and 27 parts of *Back When in Benton County* that contained King Family information. Pat is especially in need of minutes, etc. from pre-1981 reunions. Please get in touch with her at Lightandtruth@msn.com if you can add anything to her collection. What a wonderful gift this is to us – thank you, Pat!

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Query Update from 2009 King Folk Newsletter

In our 2009 newsletter we published a photo of a Chambers grave in the Eureka Cemetery in Newport, Oregon. On the stone were: Chambers: May R, 1861 – 1910, Robert A., 1915 (in the center – no death date) and Samuel, 1857 – 1939. Who was Robert A. Chambers - Samuel and May did not have a child by that name. After puzzling over this for about a year we finally have an answer.

David Trask was able to get an obituary through the Knight Library at the U of Oregon. They found an obituary for Robert in the *The Yaquina Bay News*, dated April 6, 1916. That solved the mystery and with that in hand (and the correct death date) Mimi Stang was able to find a death certificate for him at the Oregon State Archives.

Robert A. Chambers died as an infant. He was the grandson of Samuel and May Rebecca Jeffries Chambers, not their son. Robert A. Chambers parents were Raymond A. and Beatrice I. Saunders Chambers. Interestingly, the date on the stone of 1915 is not correct! The death certificate shows that infant Robert Chambers, born January 23, 1916, died March 31st, 1916, age 2 months and 8 days and was buried on April 1st, 1916, in the Eureka Cemetery in Newport.

Another query listed in that newsletter concerned Cecil King, son of George King, who died in Okinawa. After further research, our Historian David Trask, concluded that this Cecil King was not of “our” Kings. Nice “sleuthing”, David.

King Family Deaths Recently Reported

Elizabeth Smith Flansburg – 17 October 1912 – 15 July 2009

Pauline Price Allen - 3 October 1916 - 28 September 2010

Jackie Schweitz Farris - 4 June 1953 – 6 October 2010

Maxine Groesser Blaumer – 8 March 1921 – 4 February 2011

Jackie Farris was our King Family webmaster for many years and at the past two reunions had taken on the task of scanning photos for our CD's. She was so proud to be a King and especially a descendant of Stephen King. At last year's reunion, when the roll was taken of each King ancestor, Jackie proudly stood as the only descendant present from Stephen. See photo below. She was a special person and we miss her a great deal.



King Family CD, 2010 - The 2010 CD is packed full of goodies. Besides an index and a five-generation King descendant report, the 2010 CD contains 259 photographs, King Folk newsletters, *Back When in Benton County* (#1-27), and King Family reunion info (1968-2009): news articles, minutes, invitations, photographs, notes, sign-ups, and a transcription of a wonderful presentation made by Nathan King at the 1981 King reunion.

The photos are of many different King families (Arnold, Groesser, King, Lyndon, Plunkett, Price, Simmons, Wood to name just a few) and of life as it was in Kings Valley. Look in Levis Pizer's collection for some marvelous old logging photos. Check out

Maxine Bell's collection for a fantastic January 1919 photograph of the Harris Mill cookhouse with water running out the door and logs jamming up at the dam. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2010 King CD: Maxine Bell, Robin Blair, Julie Heinzl, Peter and Anne Lema, Tim Moore, Levis Pizer, Carole Putman, Francis King Ramsey, Pete Roberts, Ethel Sheppler, Maxine Sprick, David Trask, Anne Trussell, Ted Walker, Rose Wall, Char Wirfs, Bill Wood. Thanks to Winnie Trump for allowing us to use her 2009 reunion photos. And special thanks to Pat Plunkett Holler for scanning all the newsletters, *Back When's*, and reunion information.

All CD's, 2007-2011, will be available at the reunion. If you can't make it to the reunion and would like one (or more), email, call, or write me: Anne Trussell, 2108 Stacia Way, Sacramento, CA, 95822; 916-452-0541; atru02@comcast.net. Charlotte Wirfs began this valuable project in 1980 and we welcome her back. Thanks, Char, as I pass the hat to you.

Photo Scanning Project

Charlotte Wirfs will be scanning photographs and other family articles and documents at the reunion this year and producing the 2012 King Family CD. Up until now, the scanning was done by our late family member, Jackie Ferris, who passed away in 2010. Anne Trussell and Earle Greig produced five CDs from 2007-2011 and will continue to assist Charlotte. These CD's will still be available at the reunion or by mail.

Besides photographic prints, Charlotte has the ability to scan slides and negatives. These can be converted into photographic images for the CD. Some of you may only have negatives or slides and have not had them scanned. If so, please bring them to the reunion or send them to Charlotte for scanning.

Here are some other items to consider scanning: post cards, prints, hand-written documents, slides, negatives, high quality photo copies, stories, news articles, diaries, old letters and envelopes, transcripts of court documents. This year we are interested in scanning photos of headstones from any cemeteries where King relatives are interred.

We will also photograph your King-related family heirlooms and artifacts, such as textiles, tools, utensils, hair wreaths, china, knick-knacks or any other piece of historical interest. We prefer to photograph these at the reunion, but we can arrange to come to your home or meet you at a designated place to photograph them. The best way is to photograph them yourself or have someone do it for you and email or mail them to us.

All items that we scan may be placed on the King Family Photograph CD, posted on the Ancestry site, King Folk, published in King Folk Newsletter. By allowing the King Family Association to photograph or scan your items you will be giving us permission to share them through our publications and internet postings.

Thank you once again for contributing to this project.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2011 REUNION MINUTES

Patricia Plunkett Holler - Secretary

About 60 family members & guests attended, enjoyed visiting and a great potluck.

Earle Greig, Anne Trussell and Mimi & Ted Stang visited the farm owned by Andrea Davis that is located on Tatum Road in Kings Valley, just across from the Luckiamute River near the site of the old Chambers grist mill. The farm is on land that was once owned by Lovisa King and Rowland Chambers. Andrea makes and sells various kinds of jams from fruit she grows on the farm. She sent two jars of jam to be auctioned today.

Mimi asked all descendants to line up by families after the meeting for a photo opportunity. She also asked all first-time attendees to stand and introduce themselves. Bill Wood & Chris Olson (descendants of Lucretia King) attended from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. They reported that they picked up Lucretia Pittman's ashes from the Oregon State Hospital where she died in 1951. They placed the ashes in the Kings Valley Cemetery yesterday. (Note: see story of Lucretia's ashes by Bill Wood elsewhere in the newsletter).

Julie and Ed Heinzl from Redding, California, and Kellie and Lawrence King came from Springfield, Oregon (descendants of Lucretia and also the Ritner family).

From Nebraska, Bruce Schindler and Vesta (descendants of Abigail). They live 30 minutes off the old Oregon Trail in Harlan County, Nebraska.

Other first timers were Dan and Barbara Norton from Memphis, Tennessee. Also Del Brown with Cindy and Logan from Portland (descendants of Isaac) and Diana Norton Chung (descendant of Hopestill) attended with twin sons, Jonathon and James Chung.

Mimi welcomed back Tom Hudson from LaMesa, California, who was absent for a few years due to illness.

Nigel Parkhurst called out the name of each of Nahum & Sarepta's children and asked those present to stand and be counted. Once again, Hopestill's descendants had the largest number in attendance, 16.

Last year we approved the purchase of a marker for Lydia King Williams grave in Pioneer Cemetery in Salem, Oregon – it has now been installed at the cemetery.

Treasurer Anne Trussell reported a balance on hand of \$2,148.94. We appreciate those members who send in a donation as well as paying their \$10.00 dues as that helps us with our special projects.

Earle Greig gave an update on happenings at the Kings Valley Cemetery. He and Bill Dixon continue to work on maintenance of family graves. They hope to place a paver

stone wherever the King Family has unmarked graves.

Historian David Trask thanked Daniel Frommherz for his work on the King family's "ancient history." David continues to gather obituaries and death certificates for King family members which he keeps in 3-ring notebooks. Suggestions have been made that David's collection should be scanned and put onto a CD. Mimi stated that is something we hope to have done professionally.

Mimi introduced Charlotte Wirfs, former president of the King Family Association. Char brought a beautiful quilt that she had made and Sherrie Fish brought a quilt made by Sarah Plunkett Bottger (descendant of Hopestill King/Ashnah Norton Plunkett. Char noted that Sarah's quilt is almost identical to one made for her by Minnie Price in 1962.

No officer elections were held today as the current officers were elected in 2008 for six year terms ending in 2014.

MORE BITS AND PIECES

FORT HOSKINS PAINTING FOUND

Portrait of the Past by Bennett Hall
Corvallis Gazette Times – Sunday, February 20, 2011

This story in the Corvallis Gazette Times should be of interest to our King Family since Fort Hoskins is also a part of our King Family history. I have included excerpts from the article but also have available the entire article for those of you interested. It is quite fascinating reading and I thank Earle Greig for bringing it to my attention.

On Sunday, March 13th, this entire article with the photograph of the painting also appeared in the Salem, Oregon, Statesman Journal newspaper.

It was always thought there were no surviving photographs of Fort Hoskins for the archaeologists to work with. However, last fall, a painting surfaced "from about 1860 that shows the fort in its heyday."

This story goes all the way to Maine – to a Dr. Newell Augur – who is the great grandson of Christopher Colon Augur, who was the first commander of Fort Hoskins. He visited Fort Hoskins in 2008. Later he went to Arizona for a niece's wedding and "hanging in the den of his brother's house was an old oil painting that had been in the family for generations." The family thought it was Fort Lewis. But Dr. Augur, who had just so recently visited Fort Hoskins, knew right away that it was Fort Hoskins. A copy of the painting has been sent to Benton County and will be used for further restoration of the site.

KING FAMILY ON ANCESTRY.COM

I am very pleased to tell you that our King Family data is now on Ancestry.com. Although some of us had thought about doing it, we needed a little push to make it happen. And, our wonderful Char Wirfs provided that push last fall. We took the data from Mimi Stang's 8,700 person database, turned it into a Gedcom file and uploaded it to Ancestry.com. Since then we have been working to update, correct errors and best of all, add photos, obituaries, family stories, etc. It is definitely a work in progress and probably always will be but we knew that we needed to get our King family information to a place where it would be more readily available to other researchers. And in this digital age, Ancestry.com seemed like the logical place for it. For those of you with Ancestry.com subscriptions you can find it as a family tree called "King Folk." Or you can just enter a name, such as Nahum King and scroll to the Public Member tree, "King Folk." If you are not a subscriber to Ancestry.com you can ask Char Wirfs at charwirfs@gmail.com for a special invitation to the site.

MESSAGE FROM LINDA CREW – author of *A HEART FOR ANY FATE*

Linda is not able to be with us this year but sends greetings to her special King Family friends. She notes that you can go to her website: www.lindacrew.com and order books directly from her (and have them autographed). *A Heart For Any Fate* is also available from Amazon.com and in local bookstores. Be sure to check her website for announcements of dates and places where Linda is speaking.

MEEK'S CUTOFF – THE MOVIE

We have been hearing about this movie (filmed in Eastern Oregon) for a couple of years, and, finally, it seems to be available - it was shown in February at a film festival in Bend and in March at a fundraiser in Salem. A trailer on the Internet says that the official release date is April 8, 2011. The synopsis with the trailer states: "*Meek's Cutoff*. The year is 1845, the earliest days of the Oregon Trail, and a wagon team of three families has hired the mountain man Stephen Meek to guide them over the Cascade Mountains. Claiming to know a short cut, Meek leads the group on an unmarked path across the high desert, only to become lost in the dry rock and sage. Over the coming days, the emigrants must face the scourges of hunger, thirst and their own lack of faith in each other's instincts for survival." Not quite the facts as we know them but hopefully, a good story.

SOL KING'S WATER TANK

From WPA Historical Records Survey, Interviews. Found on Pioneers of Benton County, Oregon, from Benton County Genealogical Society website. Interview with Johnson Porter whose grandfather was Johnson Mulkey, one of the first settlers in Benton County. "Some time in the seventies Sol King had a livery stable on Second Street near Madison. It was so much trouble to have to take his horses to the river for water that he built a tank at his stable and arranged with Pitman's Planing Mill nearby to install a pump and supply him with water. This proved so convenient that one and another of the people living there made arrangements to be supplied from the livery stable tank, and what had begun as a private arrangement grew into a public water system. Later a company was formed and a pump installed adequate to supply all who desired it. It took a good many years of talk and agitation before a system was built to bring mountain water to town."

Kings Valley Grist Mill



See Story Page 16

LUCRETIA'S ASHES

Bill Wood

Why is it that we wait so long to become interested in our family roots? My grandfather, Jake Wood, lived with us from my age of six until I left home at twenty-two. During that time he never spoke of his family and I did not ask even one question about his parents. During his last few years I did try to acquire information from my father, Dean Wood, but he did not even know the names of his grandparents on Jake's side of the family. They say that a long journey begins with a small step. I finally took one small step and it eventually led me on many interesting and exciting discoveries. One of the most interesting was finding my great grandmother, Lucretia Pittman. Lucretia was the great granddaughter of Nahum and Sarepta King.

That first small step was to write to the Social Security Administration and ask for a copy of my grandfather's original application for a Social Security card. That started my journey. The information on the card was both interesting and illuminating. I found that he applied for the card in 1942 while he was working at the Blue Mountain Mill in Dayville, Oregon. More importantly, listed were the names of my great grandparents, Owen Wood and Lucretia Pittman. With the help of Ancestry.com it did not take long to see that I was part of the King Family. My line was from Lucretia to Rhoda Halleck (Hallock) to Lucretia King to Nahum and Sarepta.

Even with all this information, all I really had were lists of names, places and dates. I knew that Lucretia was born in Kings Valley and had died in Salem. She had been married twice and had six children but who was she really and what was her life like? Once I came into contact with the King Family I did receive much information from Mimi Strang, Anne Trussell, David Trask, and Daniel Frommherz. I most likely annoyed them with all my emails and questions but they were patient and generous with their time. In fact, it was an email from Mimi that opened the door for me to gather much more information about Lucretia. She mentioned that Lucretia had died at the State Hospital in Salem and that hundreds of patients had been cremated and many ashes had not been claimed by family. Lucretia had several children still alive when she died in 1951 so I did not expect for her ashes to be there but I thought maybe I could get some information so I called to see what I could find out. Much to my surprise the ashes were still there and they were willing to send not only her ashes but her medical records. I just had to get though a little red tape (a small amount actually) and they would mail the ashes and records directly to me.

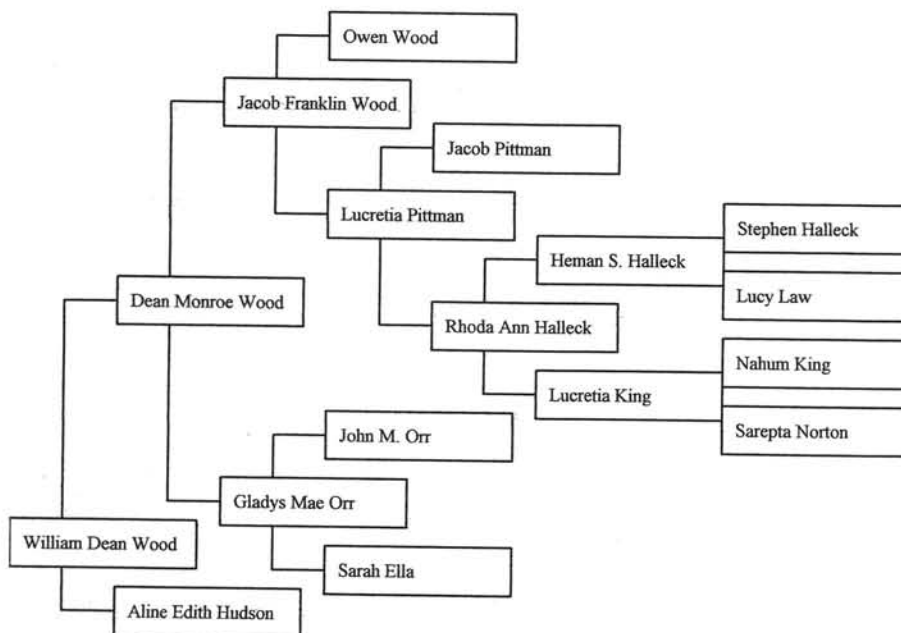
Information from Ancestry.com and most importantly the medical records provided me enough information that I felt that I knew her to a certain extent. I believe that she had a difficult life. Her first husband, Owen Wood, died and left her with six small children in 1900 so she had to live with her mother until her second marriage. She did work as a cook in a lumber camp to provide for her children. She lived a long life and for a time she lived with her son Carl and then finally with her son Edwin. Edwin had her committed to the hospital when she was about 88. From the records it seems that

Lucretia had been suffering from dementia for three years before she was committed. She was a small woman, five foot one inch and weighted 110 pounds. She chewed tobacco from the age of seven so her teeth were in very poor shape. By the time she was committed she was deaf, her eyesight was poor and she was very confused. Lucretia was uncooperative but that could be understandable because of her poor health. She was missing a finger on her left hand because of a wood chopping accident and she was scarred on her left side and on both thighs with 2nd and 3rd degree burns from a hot water burn during her youth. She entered the hospital with one dollar and one set of clothes. In spite of the many hardships that Lucretia endured Edwin described her as “very jolly” while he was a child.

It became clear to me that Lucretia had endured a difficult life and the least I could do was to place her ashes in a peaceful and familiar place. It was an easy decision; the Kings Valley Cemetery would be perfect. I called Marcia Gilson, at that time (maybe still) the President of the Kings Valley Cemetery Association and made arrangements to put her to rest. I would like to give a big shout out to Sharon Engeliem and the Capital Monument Company for producing and placing a marker for Lucretia at a reasonable price. The night before last summer’s reunion my wife, Kris, and I buried Lucretia’s ashes near her grandmother. It was very heartwarming and satisfying for us and hopefully for Lucretia too. One small step had returned Lucretia home.

(Your editor, Mimi Stang, also experienced retrieving cremains (ashes) from the Oregon State Hospital – an uncle who died there in 1945). I was amazed when I called and found out they were still there – 65 years later. The list of unclaimed cremains is now online – perhaps other King family members will find that they have loved ones there as well. However, you do have to be able to prove that you are a direct descendant.

Ancestors of William Dean Wood



ROWLAND CHAMBERS FAMILY BIBLE

By Char Wirfs

The Rowland Chambers Family Bible was first recorded by Mark Phinney in 1939. He compiled Historical Records Survey for Benton County, Oregon, July 7, 1939. A copy should be on file with the Oregon State Archives. My copy, which I found May 3, 1979, came from: Early Pioneers, DAR G-B2, A9, A1, Part IV, page 41, Oregon Historical Society of Portland, OR. When Mark Phinney recorded the Rowland Chambers Family Bible in 1939, it was owned by Mrs. Alexander, 239 N. 9th Street, Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon. Mrs. Alexander is Rebecca Chambers Alexander, wife of Asa Alexander and daughter of Rowland Chambers and Lovisa King Chambers. She lived in Corvallis until her death at age 91 in 1951. It is unknown what happened to the Bible after she spoke with Mark in the summer of 1939.

In March 1979 the Rowland Chambers Bible resurfaced. It was advertised in that month's edition of The Bulletin, published by the Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon, Inc. Mrs. Mary Osborne of Sacramento, California, had placed the ad and wanted to return the Bible to the Chambers family in Benton County, Oregon. Her address and phone number were given. I placed a telephone call to her on March 4, 1979, and she told me what she knew about the Bible. She had purchased the Bible in an antique shop in Sacramento, California, in 1969 for \$20.00. She had kept it for many years as it have been a special Bible to her, but it bothered her that it was separated from the original owner, specifically the family of Rowland Chambers. Now she was wishing to return it to the family, so she advertised in the March 1979 edition of The Bulletin. Her ad described the Bible and an offer to sell it for the reimbursement of the price she paid for it. She told me that she sold it on March 2, 1979, to Mrs. M. S. Bell of Eugene, OR. Mrs. Osborne stated that the records were kept in a clear and pretty handwriting, that it was a "Domestic Bible, leather covered, 1866" and that there were old photos (mostly unidentified) in the Bible – some tin types and one of an older woman who she thought may have been Lovisa. There also was a lock of reddish hair, tied with a ribbon. She said that she had copies of the information written in the Bible and the photographs and she would send them to me.

When the copies arrived the information was almost identical to Mark Phinney's copies of the information. Since then two of the pictures have been identified as James Chambers, and the one of the older woman is Sarepta Norton King. The other photographs were of children and infants and none were identified. This led me to believe that the Bible Mark Phinney reported in his survey in 1939 and the Bible Mrs. Osborne purchased in Sacramento, California, for \$20.00 were the same and that somehow it had made its way to a Sacramento antique shop. Maxine Simmons Bell, a King family descendant, was the person who had purchased the Bible from Mrs. Osborne so the Bible had indeed been "returned to the family."

The question remained, "How did the Rowland Chambers Family bible end up in an antique shop in Sacramento in the first place?" I told the story to several people and sent out some inquiries to a few of my Chambers connections – one day an explanation arrived in the mail. It came from Peggy Chambers Hall, daughter of Raymond Allen Chambers and Isabelle Beatrice Saunders Chambers. Peggy's grandfather was Samuel Chambers, son of Rowland and Lovisa Chambers. She suggested this idea of how the Bible got to Sacramento. In a letter dated October 16, 1980, Peggy told a story that her father told her.

Vera "Leah" Chambers Scott of Corvallis was the daughter of Lincoln and "Cora" Chambers and Rowland Chambers was her grandfather. Leah was a first cousin to Peggy's father, Raymond, and one day she was visiting in Newport, Oregon, where Raymond lived. Peggy states this must

have been in the early 1920's. Raymond wasn't home when she arrived and during the visit with Isabelle, Leah asked her if Raymond might want the Chambers' Bible. Isabelle told Leah she would ask him. As it turned out, he did want it, but Leah never followed up on her offer and left town without mentioning it to him. Leah never spoke of the Bible to Raymond again.

Perhaps it was given to Rebecca Chambers Alexander instead, because Peggy said that Leah later moved from Corvallis to California. She lived in Pasadena, but her son and his family lived in Sacramento. Her son died in 1973, but Leah's granddaughter was still living there (in 1980) and had moved Leah into a personal care home.

Peggy wrote "When I first started writing to Leah about five years ago (1975), she sent me quite a bit of Chambers family info., but never answered me as to where she got it. Since then her health has gone downhill, a broken hip, perhaps a stroke, as her letters are rambling now and she repeats herself. She recently moved to a retirement center. Perhaps, at one point, the family cleared things out during the care-giving process and the Bible may have gone too."

Vera Leah Chambers Scott died in Sacramento in 1981. If Rebecca Chambers Alexander had the Bible in 1939, it could have made its way to Leah and her family in Sacramento any time after that. It certainly could have showed up in a Sacramento antique shop in 1969 when Mrs. Osborne purchased it.

We will never know for certain, but the explanation seems plausible. It is a story that repeats itself in families all the time. A family heirloom loses its value as time passes and miles separate individuals. It may get passed to the next generation and loses more identity. Eventually, someone falls ill and has to be moved from their home. Some possessions are kept, others get passed to distant family members or sold in estate sales. It's not uncommon to see a family records Bible turn up at an antique shop or flea market.

In 2003 Maxine (Bell) told me at a King Family Reunion that she had given the Rowland Chambers Family Bible to a Benton County museum. This is the Bible that is now part of the collection of Benton County Historical Society and Museum in Philomath, Oregon. I placed a telephone call on November 22 (2010) to Mary Gallagher, who is in charge of collections at the museum. She confirmed that it was the Bible that Mark Phinney described in his 1939 survey.

MESSAGE FROM DAVID TRASK – KING FAMILY HISTORIAN

We added several hundred more obituaries of King descendants and their spouses to the collection. Although I have not counted lately, we must be approaching nearly 3000 obituaries. That is a lot of information about our deceased family members. We also have added copies of about 70 death certificates. I have a personal interest in researching children of family members who died early in life. We were able to add obituaries of more children family members this past year. As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, we were able to accurately document who Robert Chambers was and answer a query about him presented in a past newsletter. His obituary and death certificate were found showing that the year of death on his grave marker, 1915, was not correct. Such an inaccuracy led to a mystery of who he was until his obituary was located showing he actually died the following year, on March 31, 1916, at the age of two months.

We had the obituaries of eleven year old Alice and fourteen year old Annie Chambers, daughters of Rowland and Lovisa King Chambers, who died May 24 and May 26, 1879,

respectively, both of diphtheria, but we added another version of their sad and shared obituary. On that note, we added the obituary of their eleven month old infant nephew, James Roland Alexander, son of Rebecca Chambers and Asa Alexander and grandson of Rowland and Lovisa Chambers, who also died of diphtheria on June 27, 1879. Another child obituary added was that of Baby Chambers, child of John and Mary Chambers and grandchild (was not identified as boy or girl) of Rowland and Lovisa Chambers. This infant was born and died on August 4, 1896. The only son of John and Mary Chambers, Delmer Chambers, aged nearly four years, died January 18, 1882, and his obituary was found. No cause of death was given for him. Opal Ruth Norton, daughter of Effie Ramsdell and Cleve Norton died at age fifteen in The Dalles, November 5, 1918, of pneumonia secondary to the Spanish Flu per her obituary. Finally, Mamie Jacqueline Conaway (Conway), fifteen year old daughter of Effie Ramsdell Norton (who remarried after Cleve was killed in a sawmill accident) and Barney Conaway, died April 27, 1938, committing suicide by ingesting strychnine. She was despondent because she was not allowed to go to Newport with her friends, according to her very sad obituary.

Also of note, extensive time, money and effort was spent to see if any obituary could be found for Nahum and Sarepta King, in various newspapers around the State of Oregon, in print at the time they died. Nothing could be located. Unfortunately, there were no known surviving copies of numerous dates of some of these newspapers that may have carried an obituary for one or another of them. Also, no obituary could be found for children Chythia and Cerelda Norton, children of Hopestill and Lucius Norton, nor for Luella Norton, daughter of Isaac and Olive Norton. They are buried in Kings Valley Cemetery.

One notable obituary I have obtained, is that of James K. Polk Chambers, son of Rowland and Sarah King Chambers. He died August 16 (per his obituary) or August 17 (per his grave marker), 1883. He was a professor and he was not even 40 years old. We now have obituaries for both of Rowland's and Sarah's children as well as all fourteen of Rowland and Lovisa's children.

Finally, I have three queries for anyone who may have information on the following three children: First, Infant Price, whose parents were Arthur J. and Emma L. Price, died May 9, 1901. There would be no death certificate, as it was not until 1903 that they were available. Also, no obituary has been found. Second, another Infant Price, son of James and Rovia Price, died August 13, 1910. We have his death certificate but no obituary could be found. If anyone happens to have or know of an obituary for either of these family members, please let me know. Both are buried in Kings Valley Cemetery. Finally, Infant Margaret Plunkett, died 1914 and is buried in Blodgett Cemetery. She may have been related to Edgar Plunkett. We cannot find her at all in the Oregon Death Index for years 1912 - 1917, nor can we locate evidence she died in Washington or California. All the 1914 Corvallis Gazette newspaper on microfilm was searched one by one with no mention of her. Does anyone have any definitive information on her? We would if she could have been stillborn, but what goes against this is that she has a name. She is buried with several other Plunkett descendants who are King descendants, so she must be one of our family members. We could have died out of state, but who knows where. Because she is buried in Blodgett, one would have to suspect that she had some ties in the area and one would think some mention of her death would have appeared in the Corvallis newspaper. I would appreciate any leads.

Recollections of Kings Valley

Recently, three good friends sat down together and took a trip down memory lane, to Kings Valley during the pre-WWII days. They talked about the gristmill, prohibition, basketball, searching for artifacts at Fort Hoskins, and the local dances.

Discussing the prohibition era (1920-1933), they said the gristmill owner was still operating the gristmill and taking most of his product to the Portland area for distribution because of the larger market. A product during the bootleg era was primarily known as "mill run." Local farmers had wooden or metal granaries where they stored their grain. They took their surplus grain to the mill for grinding into mill run. The mill operator would grind the grain (wheat, oats, or barley). It was sold as livestock feed. It was not pre-cleaned. What went into the grinder went into the flour sack, including husks, etc.

Speaking of flour sacks, the Kings Valley brand names have long been forgotten except for Robert Moreland, who mentioned finding a flour sack in the mill with the brand name "Eider Down." Those flour sacks went on to live many other useful lives: dishtowels, tablecloths, dolls, stuffed animals, quilt backs, underwear, curtains. Here is what Leone Lyday had to say about the gristmill and flour sacks:

...I can remember the old gristmill operating. It was not painted red like the painting, but had a natural wood finish. Old flour sacks had the name of the owner printed on them. Maxam once owned and managed it, so the name Maxam would be around the area where the mill was on the 1929 map. Farmers took their wheat into be milled and the mill took a percentage. Empty flour sacks were bleached to remove the writing and used to sew undergarments, dish towels, and quilt backs. The writing never completely bleached out. The 100-pound-sugar sacks were a coarser weave and lighter fabric than the flour sacks and were used for dish towels and quilt backs too."

According to local stories, the mill operator was also a distributor of moonshine, which he would package at the gristmill and then stash away between gunnysacks of feed. He would sneak it into Portland where it ended up in honky tonks and nightclubs. One time the mill operator learned about an imminent raid by the federal revenue agents. He promptly closed the gates to the turbine and lowered all the whiskey to the bottom where he tied it to the turbine. Then he flooded the turbine again so the whiskey was not visible. The revenue agents searched diligently because they were positive something was going on. They searched every nook and cranny but did not see the whiskey, now anchored below water level. After they left, the whiskey was hauled back up and put on the truck with sacks of mill run all around it, stacked and on its way to market. (The original power at the mill was a water wheel. The wheel was later replaced by a turbine, which is much more efficient. Same water, more power.)

Prohibition ended in 1933. The mill changed hands and was purchased in 1936 by John and Dora Moreland. Their son, Robert Moreland, described his life there in a 2005 letter to Earle Greig:

The mill had an electric generator so we had lights most of the time. Some of the farmers brought grain to be ground when we first were there but later

took it to Philomath because they could take it there on the way to Corvallis and pick it up on the way home.

We had a small barn with a stall for one cow so we had milk and sold cream. We cultivated some ground and were able to grow enough hay. I sowed the grain by hand and mowed it with a scythe and then raked it by hand. We also had a garden and some apple trees. There were wild blackberries that we picked. There was a bee tree but we left it alone. It was interesting to watch the bees flying around. Someone cut it down later.

I went to high school there starting with my junior year when we moved there. I filled out a form and put Junior for my grade so the kids called me Junior. There was another Bob (Allen) so we were distinguished as different Bob's. Mrs. Chambers (this would be Rita Chambers, Norm Chamber's mother) took her daughter to grade school and, on the way home, would pick me up and take me to the high school which was close to their house.

One year there was a man living in a cabin near the store and he trapped beavers for their hides, which was permitted for one year. He stored the hides until the value went up because there were so many being trapped at the time. (According to Jr. Lyday, his grandfather, Bud Price let only one man trap beavers on Price Creek. This would be John C Tolle.)

We raised turkeys in the lot next to the storage building and herded them into the building at night to keep them safe from animals and humans. When they were small they had to be kept warm by a brooder stove. I had to get up during the night to check the warmth and tend to the fire. One year there was a large tree came down the river and I chopped the bark off for the brooder stove. The bark burned evenly and slow so it did not have to be replenished too often.

When the electric power lines were being put into rural areas, I worked at clearing the right-of-way between Kings Valley and somewhere north until it got too far to drive.

Bill Eddy and Jr. Lyday remember playing basketball with Robert Moreland in the mill. They had basketball hoops. Audrey Theurer says in her book *Kings Valley: The Middle years*, "They used a barrel hoop nailed high on the wall for a basket and played on the slippery floor in their work shoes." Lots of boys were there in twos and threes, shooting baskets. No basketball games. Just hanging out together in a nice, empty building.

Another activity was digging for artifacts at Fort Hoskins. Bill Eddy and Earle Greig remember digging for broken clay pipes, pottery shards, and more at the fort dump. This was possibly the ash dump because it was where the ashes from the barracks were placed. It was easy digging and easy to shake the ashes off whatever they found. In fact, Aunt Net (Nettie Kibbey Frantz, wife of Doc Frantz) kept a little shovel for the many Frantz relatives to use to dig for "treasures." No one remembers what happened to those treasures they found.

Getting together for a dance was a social pastime. Kids went along and were eventually bundled up and put to sleep behind the benches that went around the dance hall. Some of the music at these dances was provided by: Ed Turner, drums; Ed's wife, piano; Ed Johnson, violin; Blackie Blackwell, Banjo; Bruce Miller, fiddle; Lois Hazeltine Lovell, piano. Dances were held at places like Walter Norton's chicken house (upstairs), the Summit Grange Hall, The Rat's Nest near what is now Beazell Park, Kings Valley

store (upstairs), Johnny Thompson and Karl Bush's barns, the Plunkett barn at what is now Beazell Park, and the old Blodgett store.

Thanks to Bill Eddy, Earle Greig, and Jr. Lyday for this wonderful trip into the past. What recollections do you have of Kings Valley? Bring them with you to the reunion, send them to Earle Greig via regular mail or email, or phone one of us. We'd love to hear from you.

SADDEST OBITUARY FROM HISTORIAN DAVID TRASK

David said he often has requests about what is the saddest obituary he's collected. Here are two he has shared: THOMAS ALLISON PARISH (July 14, 1880 – December 8, 1929) Thomas was a descendant of Abigail King Fuller.

"Thomas Allison Parish, 49, of Portland, was accidentally shot and instantly killed in Dayton, about 3:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon, by his brother, William E. Parish, at the Parish home near the north approach to the Dayton bridge. William was on the porch loading a 22 single barrel pistol, which broke like a revolver; the shell stuck a little and to close the barrel he hit it against a porch post and it was discharged. Tom was working on his auto a few feet away and at the discharge he turned around and faced his brother. 'I did not hit you did I?' William asked. Tom did not answer but slumped down in the arms of his brother who hastened to him. The other brother, Milo, who was behind the house, came quickly and Dr. W. H. Burnard and Coroner Macy were called. An inquest was found unnecessary. The shot struck the brother in the back two inches below the shoulder. Coroner Glen Macy, who was called to the scene pronounced death instantaneous and that the heart had been pierced." The Dayton Tribune, Dayton, Oregon, Wednesday, December 11, 1929, Page 3, Column 6.

David says, imagine someone working on a project, and being killed instantly, never knowing what was going to happen. Also imagine the effect on William and his life afterward. Both brothers are buried near one another in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Dayton, Oregon. William died in 1937, and has a simple grave marker. Thomas has no grave marker.

A second sad obituary: CLEO MARIE TURNER (August 9, 1905 – May 18, 1909) She was a descendant of Stephen and Anna Marie Allen King.

"A Fatal Runaway. A little girl was killed last night in a runaway accident at Wren, on the Corvallis & Eastern between Albany and the bay. Mrs. Turner, a daughter of Mr. Tom Casey, and four-year old daughter were driving when the horse became frightened and ran away throwing both out, the little girl landing on her head, crushing her skull, and dying soon afterwards." The Albany Democrat, Albany, Oregon, Friday, May 21, 1909, Page 3, Column 6.

2011 King Reunion Celebrates 124 Years

Charlotte Price Wirfs

The first recorded gathering of the King/Norton/ Chambers family was in 1887 at a Thanksgiving dinner party held at the Rowland and Lovisa Chambers's home in Kings Valley. Before that there were probably many gatherings, but this is the first that we can document. The guests gathered behind the Kings Valley store for a group portrait. Seated front and center were two honored sisters, Lovisa King Chambers and Hopedill King Norton, both Oregon pioneers who traveled the Oregon Trail in 1845 with the extended families of Nahum and Sarepta Norton King. The large clan followed the Meeks Cut Off which added hardship and extra time to their journey, arriving in Willamette Valley in late November. In the spring of 1846 they reached their final destination and named the grass-covered valley after the patriarch, Kings Valley. The year of 1887 would have been the 42nd anniversary of their arrival. Many of the children pictured in the Thanksgiving portrait were 2nd and 3rd generation-born Oregonians. The large legacy of the families of Nahum and Sarepta King was by then well established.

A year later, the dinner party was repeated—same holiday, same location—only this time the group gathered in front of the Rowland Chambers home for the group portrait. Again the sisters, Lovisa and Hopedill, held an honored position and were seated as relatives, young and old, gathered around them. Over the years different individuals have identified members of the folks pictured in the two photographs and we even know that the youngest family members in 1888 were Lawrence Chambers (the baby seated between the sisters) was the son of Henry and Barbara Major Chambers and his infant cousin, Raymond Allen Chambers, son of Samuel and “May” Chambers, born September 27, 1888. Baby Raymond was not pictured in the photo as he was snuggled warmly inside the house as his older relations braved the brisk November weather for the family portrait.

Both the 1887 and 1888 photographs can be found on the Ancestry.com King Folk family site and on the King Family Photographs CD, 2008 and 2009. The 1888 picture taken in front of the Rowland Chambers home was published in Oregon Ghost Towns, by Lambert Florin, Superior Publishing Company, Seattle, 1970, p. 59.

The next two photographs of a King family reunion were taken in the front yard of the “old Miller House”, a home still standing in Kings Valley, built by Arthur and Hettie Allen Miller about 1900. By the 1930's when the photos were taken, the Millers had moved on to live in Linn County. It is not known who lived in the home when the reunions were held there. One photo is dated June 14, 1933 and is labeled Chambers/Price reunion. This is probably because in the 1930's Julia Chambers Price was president of the King family reunion.

Mark Phinney working for the Work Projects Administration interviewed Julia for the Historical Records Survey of Benton County, Oregon. He stated that "Julia Price is a widow and lives in her own home at Twelfth and Van Buren Streets in Corvallis. She is still active, in good health, and takes a deep interest in stories of the early days. She is president of the Chambers-King Reunion which meets at the old Chambers home in Kings Valley on the third Sunday of each June." By the "old Chambers home", we assume that Mark meant to say the "old Chambers farm" as the photograph clearly shows the "old Miller house" for the gathering.

Both photos taken in the 1930's show long tables of picnic food placed in the front yard of the house. Behind the tables are neat rows of vintage cars parked beyond the wood-rail fence that fronts the Kings Valley Highway. Large, black-walnut trees provide refreshing shade for the family members gathered there. The photographer must have stood on the upper balcony of the home to capture the scenes. "June 16, 1935: Eighty descendants gathered beneath the big black walnut trees on the old homestead place ... The oldest living daughter, Ordella Chambers Randall, was crowned Queen of the Clan in an impressive ceremony. Queen Ordella is 80." Some listed as attending are Lydia Chambers Maxfield, Julia Chambers Price, Retha Allen Greig, Maravene Chambers, Mable Allen Sousa, Tip Maxfield, Leone Price Lyday, Roy Taylor, Cecil Price, Hattie Price Graham, Don Graham, May Maxfield, Roll Maxfield, Charlie Maxfield, Addie Maxfield Taylor, Laura Plunkett Price, Willie Price, Rita Marks Chambers, Chester Chambers, Norman Chambers, Frank Ritner, Rena Ritner, Minnie Read Price, Ordella Chambers and Clair Macy Price.

These photos are also featured on the King Folk ancestry.com family site and the 1933 picture is on the King Family Photo CD, 2009 and the other 1930's photo will be on the 2012 CD.

It is not known when the reunions were moved from Kings Valley to Avery Park in Corvallis. Perhaps as Julia Price aged, her granddaughter, Ethel Graham Raw, a long-time resident of Corvallis took over the leadership of the reunion and she may have moved them to Corvallis. Julia died in 1943. The family met at that park for many years on the third Sunday in June. Patricia Plunkett Bearden Holler and Charlotte Wirfs remember attending those reunions as youngsters. Both women remembered it as a wonderful opportunity to play with distant cousins, having free range to roam the park, and visiting the bear held in a pit there.

Nathan King's smiling face beams from the page of a news article dated June 21, 1968, as he announces the gathering of the 123rd King/Chambers/Norton Family Reunion to be held at Avery Park in Corvallis on Sunday, June 23rd. Nathan derived the 123rd date not from the first reunion but from the date the Nahum King extended family left St. Joseph, Missouri, traveling the Oregon Trail in 1845. The article was published in the *Yakima Herald Republic* newspaper. Nathan, a resident of Toppenish, Washington, stated that there were many King descendants living in

central Washington. It is in that article when Nathan tells of researching for a genealogical book he hoped to publish titled, The Kings Kept Going West.

Years later Nathan made lengthy remarks concerning his book at the 1981 King genealogical work shop he held at the Kings Valley School the Saturday before the Sunday reunion. Patricia Holler attended that workshop and taped his remarks which she later transcribed. That transcription can be found on King Family Photographs CD, 2010. Nathan gave recognition to the early family historian, Bertha King, for starting him on his research for the book he still hoped to publish. He also credited various family members who had contributed information and pictures towards his project. 1981 was the first year the family met on Saturday at the Kings Valley School as well as on Sunday for the picnic at Avery Park. These Saturday workshops continued for several years before they eventually became the reunion date that the family still adheres, meeting currently on the first Saturday following Father's Day weekend in June.

In 1988 the location of the Sunday potluck had to be moved to Willamette Mission State Park as Avery Park was not available on the third Sunday in June. At the previous Saturday workshop in Kings Valley that year, Carole Norton Putman was asked to take notes of the proceedings. These short notes became the first official set of minutes recorded during the family reunions. Carole described the group as a small gathering headed by Bill King, who had been elected president at the 1987 business meeting. Those attending were listed as Bill and Gladys King, Jim King, Carole Putman, Jesse and Maxine Bell, David Trask, Joy Chambers and three of her family, and Pat Plunkett Bearden. They ended the day by taking a stroll behind the Kings Valley Store to view the remains of the old grist mill built by Rowland Chambers on his donation land claim.

In 1989 president Bill King changed the reunion dates to meeting at the Kings Valley School on Saturday and joining the Fromherz family reunion at Avery Park on Sunday. He explained that the Fromherz family, from the branch of Sol King, was moving their reunion from McMinnville to Avery Park so that the older family members could attend both reunions. It was then when the Sunday gathering for the King/Norton/Chambers reunion was changed to meet officially at the Kings Valley School on the first Saturday following Fathers Day in June. Members who normally attended either of the King Reunion or the Fromherz reunion were invited to attend both events. That meeting format continues to this day.

Other King-related family reunions of note have been held over the years. One of the larger reunions was that of Plunkett family who met at Johnnie Thompson's Lake on the side of Mary's Peak. That reunion ceased when Sarah Plunkett Bottger and Johnnie Thompson passed away. The most recent Plunkett gathering was held in the early 2000's when the dedication for the Bezell Memorial Forest was held at the old Plunkett farm in Kings Valley. Both the Plunkett and Bezell families held reunions that day.

The other long-standing reunion was the Fromherz reunion, a branch of the Sol King family. That reunion began in McMinnville, Oregon, following the funeral of patriarch Adolph Joseph Frommherz, Sr, on November 15, 1950. After that, Florence Fromherz Gross organized a reunion held in her McMinnville home back yard until Bill King requested to have it moved to Avery Park in Corvallis. That reunion is still active.

From the year 1992 records of the King Family reunion and those in leadership or who have worked on various projects have been well documented by long-time secretary, Patricia Plunkett Bearden Holler. She has carefully recorded and preserved the minutes of each meeting in the King Family CD 2010. Among the many projects started (and some completed) at recent King family reunion brainstorming meetings are: a massive obituary collection; a King Folk newsletter; The Kings Valley Cemetery reading and renovation project; several large data bases listing descendants of Nahum and Sarepta King; several tombstone replacements; a website; a double-sided memorial marker to the King family of 1845 placed at the Kings Valley Cemetery, the formation of the King Family Association; a King Family Directory; a photo scanning project resulting in the creation of 5 CDs. The newest project is the placing of one of the family data bases on Ancestry.com King Folk family site which is a public site. (See page 9)

The spring of 2011 marks the 166th anniversary of the combined families of King, Norton, Chambers traveling the Oregon Trail from Missouri to Oregon Territory and the settlement in Kings Valley. The current King Folk data base lists over 9000 names of those brave people and their descendants. In current times the living family members have scattered over the globe, but each year for a few hours they each have an opportunity to gather in Kings Valley, Benton County, Oregon on the first Saturday following Father's Day.

Hope to see you there!

1887



REUNIONS 1888 AND 1933



“King Folk” is a newsletter published by the family of Nahum and Sarepta Norton King, Oregon Pioneers of 1845. A donation of \$10.00 per year is asked to help with the publication costs and other King Family projects. Please make checks payable to “King Folk” and mail to Anne Trussell, 2108 Stacia Way, Sacramento, CA 95822.

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The annual King Family reunion is held in June on the first Saturday after Father’s Day at the Kings Valley Charter School in Kings Valley, Oregon.

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