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# KING FOLK

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Newsletter No. 6

Jan. 10, 1994

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## What's New?



Carole Putman sent a copy of a letter she had received from Lucy Skjelstad, director of Horner Museum on OSU's campus in Corvallis. She told of a full inventory being conducted that would last many months and when completed decisions would be made as to the future of the collections. To date there were no plans to move anything from OSU. Here is an excerpt from her letter:

"...We understand the concern of families and we are trying to work closely with them regarding items of family heritage.

Under normal circumstances we would routinely process short-term loans to other museums for special exhibits (such as the Norton trunk), but unless we can return to being a museum with adequate staff, such requests probably will be impossible.

Any chance to mention this problem to your state legislators would be greatly appreciated, as we feel that this collection, owned by the state, is a problem that goes beyond OSU's Measure 5 financial problems."

Lucy added that she will keep Carole informed of collection status updates.

Jessie Bush (23251 Hoskins Rd. Philomath, OR. 97370) wrote this note:

"...I went to the King reunion and enjoyed it very much. I have been trying to find out if Anna Marie Allen (born 1823) is a

sister to Charles Allen (born 1810-Ohio), and Drucella Allen Witham (born 1825) and Hiram Allen (born 1806-Indiana)."

How about it? She states that all of them were born in a different state. The only information I have on this subject is found in King Folk, No. 3, Apr. 20, 1993, p.2. The ancestor chart of Retha Allen Greig indicates that the parents of Charles Allen (born 1810-Ohio) were David Allen and Ann Gregory Allen. This would mean that at least Charles isn't a brother. Does anyone else have information to add?

I too have wondered who those "folks" were who Anna Marie Allen King wrote to in the spring of 1846 (letter published in King Folk, No. 5, Oct. 1993). What were the names of the family members Anna was hoping to coax to the west coast? Did any of them come? What happened to her parents John and Anna (Bangs) Allen? Please drop a line to Jessie and myself if you can tell us about Anna's family.

Incidentally, I did discover the name of the eastern newspaper that published Anna King's 1846 letter. It was The Advocate of Plains City, Ohio. It was also published in the Corvallis Times, June 21, 1905, Corvallis, Oregon.



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## What's New? continued, p.2

Bill and Gladys King wrote to tell how much they enjoyed attending the King and Fromherz reunions. They also had an opportunity to participate in the Meek Cut-Off Tour with a bus load of 42 others in Oct. 1993. Places of interest which they enjoyed were the Interpretive Center in Baker City, the 1845 Wagon Train exhibit at the High Desert Museum in Bend, and the new Native American Museum in Warm Springs. They also celebrated their 60th anniversary Sept. 7, 1993. We send our warmest wishes to this fine couple.

Nadine Long of Ocean Park, WA. tells this charming anecdote in her Dec. letter: "...I really don't know very much about the King family and would really like to learn more. I can remember my grandmother, Bertha Plunkett Thompson, telling me about her Grandmother Hopestill Norton's triplets. They were so small that their grandmother, Serepta King, could put her wedding ring over their wrists. Also they kept them warm on the oven door." Nadine is the great grand daughter of Ashnah Norton Plunkett. Her mother was Minnie Thompson Harmsen. She was raised in the Blogett area, attending the one-room grade school there, and then Corvallis High School and OR. State Univ. Her grandfather, Jack Thompson, owned the store in Blogett for many years before her mother had it (for about 10 years).

Jim King of Cottage Grove was able to visit the Sarah King Chambers grave near Vale, OR. this summer and got some pictures of it. He requested help recovering two of his notebooks that he left on top of the piano at the King reunion three summers ago. Soon afterwards someone telephoned him to tell him that he'd found them. Jim told the man to please correct any errors he found and bring them to the next reunion. Unfortunately, Jim didn't remember the caller's name

and he still hasn't recovered the notebooks. He does however have duplicates of them (wise man), but is curious about the "errors" mentioned and would like to get that information. Please write to Jim if you can help him: Jim King, 118 N. I. St., Cottage Grove, OR. 97424.

Retha Greig of Philomath sent photographs of the Ritner family trapunto bedspread that was on display at Benton Co. Museum this summer as part of the Oregon Trail Quilt Exhibit. The coverlet is now owned by a Ritner descendant, Elma McKillip of Cloverdale, OR. Retha and son, Earle Greig, delivered it to the museum and returned it to Elma recently. Nettie Edwards Graves, also a Ritner descendant, helped in displaying the coverlet when she provided historical information that was shown with this lovely old "white work" bedspread.

The coverlet was a wedding present to John and Sarah Woodling Ritner in 1838. It had been made in Switzerland by a Ritner family member and mailed to John and his new bride in America. Sarah treasured it and carried it on her lap whenever their Oregon-bound wagon forded rivers in 1852. John was killed on that trip and Sarah came on to Oregon with her four daughters to stay at her brother-in-law's home (Sebastian Ritner) located near Kings Valley on Ritner Creek. Sebastian had arrived in 1845 on the Meek's Wagon Train. As a widow, Sarah Ritner was allowed to file her own DLC adjacent to Sebastian's.

Sarah married Sebastian in 1854 and added four more children to her family, three sons and another daughter. As the years passed the combined family grew to a large scale which the Greigs, Elma McKillip, and Nettie Edwards represent. Sarah would have been pleased that her descendants worked to display the bedspread she so treasured.



# Kings Valley Pioneer Cemetery

The Kings Valley Pioneer Cemetery has been read several times since the Works Progress Administration, County and Historical Records Survey of Oregon was done by Mark Phinney in 1938. Phinney wrote that the earliest grave (1850) is that of Cynthia Norton, child of Lucius C. and Hopstill King Norton. He reported that settlement of Kings Valley was in the spring of 1846 and that the cemetery is located on a hill rising about 75 feet above the Lucklamute River between the villages of Hoskins and Kings Valley. The site is on the Charles Allen Donation Land Claim. Whether it's beginnings were that of the Allen family burials or that it was intended as a public cemetery is not known. "There is no plat on file or no records of lots or burials," he states. "Since there is no organization to care for the graves and so many of the old families are no longer represented in the neighborhood, the old cemetery is badly neglected and overgrown."

He tells of a "well-cared-for rural cemetery" adjoining the pioneer cemetery which was owned and managed by the Odd Fellows Lodge. It was the cemetery used by the community at that time and which is still in use today.

Ruth Price Moore, daughter of Arthur Price, grew up on her parents' farm in Kings Valley and read the old cemetery in 1946. At that time she reported it being badly overgrown and difficult to read.

When Patricia Bearden, Charlotte Wirfs, Katherine Johnson, and Art Lyday

read the cemetery in 1981-1986, it was in very good condition, thanks to a small group of Kings Valley residents who mowed and maintained the cemetery each spring. Art Lyday and his family were an active part of this group. Art had added wooden crosses painted white to mark graves he knew existed from his experience with the graveyard during his long lifetime. Many of the graves he had even helped dig, although he had forgotten the names of many occupants. Art enlivened (so to speak) the methodical task by recounting oral history and his own recollections of the people buried there.

The group recorded and mapped 19 rows and 244 markers. There were 245 markers if one counts the DAR memorial to Nahum and Serepta Norton King, who are buried on their DLC near Wren, OR.

Kings Valley Cemetery Association continues to manage the Pioneer Cemetery and donations can be made to:

Kings Valley Cemetery

W. P. Eddy

2620 SW 53rd ST.

Corvallis, OR. 97333

The graves are widely spaced in row one and there is a long gap as well as a jog downhill between graves #9 and #10 in row two. Graves #18 and #19 in row three are separated from the others and #19 is located near #10 of row two. There appears to be no other graves in row two after #19.

## Kings Valley Pioneer Cemetery

compiled by

Patricia Bearden, Katherine Johnson

Art Lyday, and Charlotte Wirfs

Jan. 24, 1981-Jan. 2, 1986

Row 1: Beginning at top of the hill.

1. William H. Burgett, son of Wm. & R.J. Burgett, b. Jan. 12, 1861, d. Jan. 9, 1863.
2. Benjamin F. son of Wm. & R.J. Burgett, b. Dec. 8, 1858, d. Dec. 16, 1860.



Row 1 continued

3. Wm. Franklin, son of B. & P. Wood, d. July 22, 1854, age 5m.
4. Elisabeth Wood, wife of J. Wood, d. Jan. 15, 1855, age 51y. 10 m. 3d.
5. James Wood, d. Oct. 4, 1874, age 98y. 10m. 28d.
6. H. H. Gasber, 2nd Lieut. 4th Infantry, who died at Fort Hoskins, Oct. 12, 1859. This stone is erected by his comrades. (Note: the name is misspelled as this man's name is Garber. It is believed that this grave has been victimized by robbers.)

Note: Art Lyday reported Memorial Day 1981 that there is an unmarked grave somewhere near grave #6. It is the grave of Tony Shay, mail carrier. Art said that he helped with this burial, however he's not sure of the spelling of Shay.

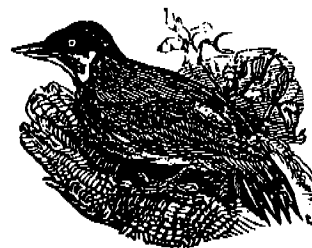
Row 2:

7. Baby Fogg. (Note: Art Lyday related oral history that this child was born out of wedlock and Rev. Fogg and his wife took the baby in. It died not long after.)
8. Serena Norton, June 9, 1873, age 18y. 11m. 17d.
9. Benjamin F. Watson, d. Sept. 17, 1858, age 5y. 7m. 28d. Son of J. & M. Watson.
10. Stone, but no marking.
11. Arthur O. Carpenter, b. Mar. 8, 1858, d. April 4, 1862.
12. Andrew Kinney, d. Jan. 13, 1885, age 81y.
13. Michael McGraph, d. Nov. 16, 1899, age 55y.

Row 3:

14. Cynthia Norton, d. May 14, 1850, age 6d. (Note: Art Lyday reports that this is the oldest grave in the cemetery and Cynthia is one of Lucius & Hopestill Norton's triplets.)
15. Cerilda Norton, d. May 5, 1858, age 1y. 9m. 28d.
16. Lucius C. Norton, d. May 6, 1859, age 40y. 4m. 10d.
17. Hope S. Norton, 1816-1892. (Note: Hopestill Norton.)
18. A. Chas. A. Fowler, 1861-1925.  
B. John M. Fowler, 1859-1929.
19. A. Philena Fowler, b. Oct 4, 1825, d. Nov. 28, 1901.  
B. George M. Fowler, born Dec. 25, 1852, d. Nov. 1857.  
C. Cordellia J. Fowler, b. Dec. 25, 1852, d. Nov. 1857.  
(Note: The dates of the last two graves need to be checked to see if an error has been made.)

In row 4 graves #20 & #21 are close to #'s 14, 15, 16, & 17 of row 3 and #'s 22, 23, 24, & 25 are located between #18 of row 3 and #12 of row 2. Row 4 takes a slight jog downhill after grave #25. Number 26 & #27 of row 4 are below #'s 12 & 13 of row 2. In the 1980's a broomstick and holly tree were found between rows 4 and 5 above graves #'s 28, 29, & 30 of row 5 and below grave #20 of row 4.



Row 4.

- 20. A. Samuel Huffman, 1826-1854.
- 21. B. Chloa, daughter, 1852-1854. (Note: Art Lyday related oral history of these deaths. Huffman had a farm near Wren, OR. He had rabies and his daughter, Chloa, got it from him by drinking from his glass of water. He became so sick with the disease that he was placed between two mattresses and smothered.)
- 21. Lucretia Hallock, d. May 14, 1860, age 53y. 10m.9d.
- 22. Luther William Cooper, b. April 16, 1879, d. Sept. 12, 1953.
- 23. Murl Cooper Ray, b. June 25, 1892, d. Jan. 1937.
- 24. White cross of unmarked grave placed by Art Lyday in 1981.
- 25. " " " " " "
- 26. " " " " " "
- 27. " " " " " "

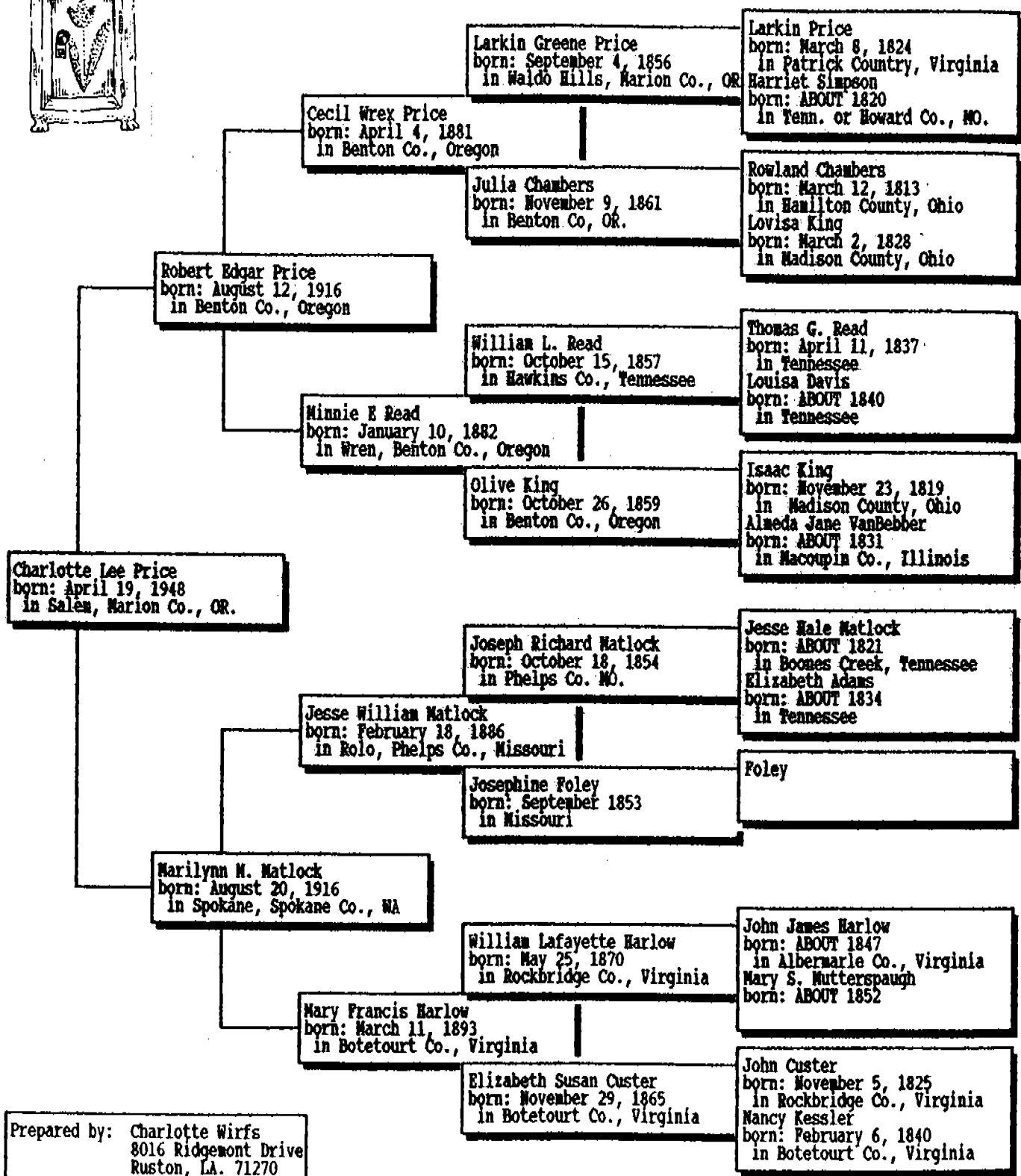
Row 5:

- 28. James Watson, d. June 2, 1861, age 53y. 3m. 3d.
- 29. Mary E. Watson, dau. of J. and M. Watson, d. Jan. 31, 1865, age 18y. 1m. 11d.
- 30. Mary Watson, d. Feb. 11, 1873, age 62y. 2m. 27d.
- 31. Infant child.
- 32. " "
- 33. " "
- 34. Emma Long
- 35. Irena Long
- 36. Phebe Long, d. 1860.
- 37. Fannie Long, 1870-1880.
- 38. Mary A. Cooper, d. Oct. 3, 1877, age 29y. 1m. 16d.
- 39. Ida Cooper, b. Jan. 31, 1884 and d. April 1884.
- 40. Ora Cooper, b. Jan. 8, 1890, d. Oct 1892.
- 41. Edith Cooper, born 1899. (Note: the stone was broken off and buried. In 1946 Ruth Moore compiled a list of this cemetery and listed Edith Cooper dates as Jan. 8, 1890-Oct. 1892.)
- 42. Barbara Ellen Cooper, b. Nov. 23, 1861, d. May 26, 1908
- 43. Willard Cooper, b. June 18, 1885. d. March 27, 1911. Son of Charles S. and Barbara Ellen Cooper. Woodman of the the World emblem on the stone.
- 44. Pearl M. Townsend, 1894-1908. At rest.
- 45. Dad, Merl C. Jones, 1910-1979.
- 46. Metal marker with no inscription.
- 47. Grace M. Mathany, d. Nov. 3, 1897, age 18y. 1m. 0d.
- 48. Metal Marker with no inscription was replaced by a white wooden cross in 1981.

To be continued in King Folk, No. 7 March 1994.

Ancestors of Charlotte Price Wirfs

Parents      Grandparents      Great-Grandparents      2nd Great-Grandparents



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## The Price Connection

by

Charlotte L. Wirfs



The Price connection to Nahum and Serepta King has many fastenings which all lead back to brothers Fauntleroy (also known as Fantley) and Larkin Price, sons of a Virginia planter. The Price bothers (like so many others in the 19th century) spent a lifetime moving across the continent.

The Price names have been entwined with the Simpsons' as these two families moved from North Carolina and Virginia, to Tennessee, to Missouri, and finally to Oregon. James and William Simpson were born in North Carolina in the late 1700's. About 1804 they moved with their parents to Tennessee. There they married sisters, Elizabeth and Mary Kimsey. Before 1833 they were living in Johnson Co., Missouri.

It is at this point that the oldest Price brother, Fantley, married Gilla Simpson, daughter of James and Elizabeth Simpson. The date was Feb. 25, 1836 in Johnson Co., Missouri. Perhaps Larkin came to Missouri to be near his older brother, but he also took a Simpson girl for a bride. Larkin Price married Harriet Simpson, daughter of William and Mary Simpson, Feb. 9, 1845 in Platte County, Missouri.

It was the spring of 1846 when William Simpson left Missouri bound for Oregon country. With him went his extended family and Larkin Price. They made up a wagon train, captained by William's son, Benjamin Simpson. James and Elizabeth stayed behind and so did Fantley and Gilla Price. James never made the Oregon journey, but Fantley and Gilla started out in 1851.

The William Simpson clan settled DLC's in the Waldo Hills, east of Salem, Or., near Sublimity. Most of Larkin's children were born there where he farmed, raised horses, and served as clerk of Rock Point school district in 1858 and in 1870. Harriet died there about 1867. Her parents, William and Mary Simpson and her brother, James Simpson, are buried there in the Lone Fir Cemetery. Perhaps Harriet rests with them.

Fantley and Gilla and seven children arrived and settled a DLC near Ballston in Polk County. Fantly died there Nov. 1, 1873 and is buried in Salt Creek Cemetery, Polk Co., OR., with a son, also named Larkin. Gilla is buried in Kings Valley Cemetery as she was living with a daughter, America Ann Williams, at Airlie, Polk Co., Oregon when she died in 1890. Four of their 11 children were born in Polk Co., OR.

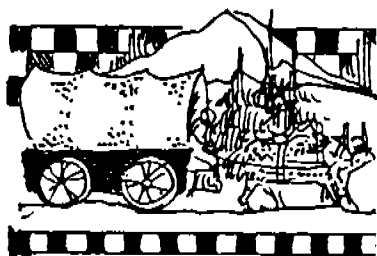
Following a severe winter that killed much of his livestock, Larkin moved his family to Pedee, Polk Co., OR. in 1870. He married Sarah Gilliam of Pedee, Aug. 24, 1872. This couple separated and Larkin was living in Kings Valley at the time of his death in 1910. He is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery there. Most of his nine children settled in the area surrounding Kings Valley.

Among the King connections are Larkin's son, Willard Lane Price, who married Serepta Norton, daughter of Lucius and Hopestill (King) Norton. They started the Kings Valley Store which has burned twice and is still managed by Price descendants. Another son of Larkin's, Anson Dillard, married Melinda Norton, another daughter of Lucius and Hopestill (King) Norton. A third son of Larkin's, Larkin Greene Price, married Julia Chambers, daughter of Rowland and Lovisa (King) Chambers. Sometimes children of those marriages married each other. An example is Cecil Wrex Price and Minnie E. (Read) Price, who were second cousins relating to Nahum King through their mothers; Julia (Chambers) Price and Olive (King) Read, daughter of Isaac King and Almeda (VanBibber) King Zumwalt. There were others, and in this way so many King descendants have double connections into Nahum and Serepta (Norton) King.

The grandchildren of Larkin Price are dead - the last two being Minnie Price, daughter of Willard Lane Price, and William "Willie" Price, son of Larkin Green Price. But if all the other Price-King descendants could be accounted for, they would count well into the hundreds. They represent only a fraction of the living descendants of Nahum and Serepta (Norton) King, Oregon pioneers of 1845.

Charlotte L. (Price) Wirfs  
Jan. 6, 1994

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## Highlights from Journals of 1993 Wagon Train

By Patricia Plunkett Bearden, Maxine Belle,  
and Carol Putman

Three King cousins participated in Wagon Train '93 this summer. Patricia Plunkett Bearden, Carole Putman, Maxine Belle and husband, Jesse Belle traveled 34 miles over a portion of Meek Cut-Off Trail of 1845. The reenactment of the original crossing was sponsored by the Bowman Museum and the Prineville/Crook County Chamber of Commerce, both of Prineville, OR. Meek's Cut-off was an experimental expedition led by Stephen Meek, who believed he could get the immigrants to the Willamette Valley on a shorter

route than the "old road". Nahum & Serepta King and extended families of Norton, Chambers, and Fullers were among the travelers who took the road that proved to be a "most sorrowful way".

Carole and Patricia kept written journals of the three-day event and Maxine taped her memoirs. These family members thoroughly enjoyed this adventure and shared some special experiences.

During the next few issues of King Folk, excerpts from their journals will be published so that others may catch the flavor of life on the 1993 Oregon Trail.





Tuesday, 6 July 1993

...Drove to Prineville and got some lunch, and a sandwich for tonight.

Found the lot behind the fairgrounds designated for wagon train parking. There were just a few cars already parked, and some trucks with horse trailers attached.

Two older fellows were there waiting for the shuttle van--Bus from Gresham, and Don from Beaverton. They said the shuttle should return pretty soon. So, we chatted and waited. And waited--for an hour or so. A few more people came along, so more of us waited for quite a long time.

It was warm and I realized that I didn't have any hat along except for my prairie bonnet. So I made a quick run to a small grocery store a few blocks back up the street, and found a white, baseball cap with a colorful picture on the front, for only \$1.00 because it had rain damage, a small water spot. Back to the parking area to wait longer. Eventually the minivan showed up and seven people and a ton of gear piled in and away we went! An thus began our adventure....

Patricia Bearden

... I left my Honda in Prineville, Oregon, and rode the shuttle to camp. Met Pat Bearden when she arrived. It was mid-afternoon in a beautiful grassy, sunny meadow that we set up our tent....

Carole Putman

... All cars and trucks had to be driven back to Prineville. This was quite a trip because there was mostly forest service, logging roads, and the forest service orders were that no vehicles could be left in the forest, not even those of the National Guard. The first night was in the forest, in a rough area with downed logs and trees. It was a chore to find a spot to set up. Horses and draft animals had to be separated and the didn't get along. Jesse left for Prineville with a caravan of people taking vehicles that weren't supposed to be in the forest. These were left in a parking lot at Crook Co. Fairgrounds. Eleven people were involved and he returned at 11:30 pm to find me under my pup tent, which had collapsed....

Maxine Belle

....We traveled east through part of the Ochoco National Forest--lots of juniper and pine trees, and green grass and wild flowers everywhere. Beautiful country!

We arrived at camp, about 42 miles by road east of Prineville, about 4:30 pm. Carole was already there, having come out on the first shuttle bus. Maxine and Jesse were also there. They drove out in their pickup/camper, and were disappointed to learn that they had to take their rig back to town.....

...We got the tent set up with no trouble--in grassy Grey's Meadow. It was nice and sunny and warm.

Everyone has name tags with the name of "their" pioneer, along with their own name as an alias. My name is Rhonda A. Richardson, and Carole's is Ellen Smith. Someone had their

Terrible Trail book along. Rhonda is not listed in the Meek Cutoff roster. Ellen was born in 1842, so she was 3 in 1845.

We enjoyed meeting a young pioneer, age perhaps six or seven, whose family was camped near our tent. His trail name was "Absalom", which he could not pronounce, so it came out something like "Absablom."...

Patricia Bearden

To be continued in King Folk, No. 7, March 1993.

**Here's a quote from...**

...Quilts of the Oregon Trail, Treasures in the Trunk, Mary Bywater Cross, Rutledge Hill Press, 1993, Nashville, Tenn. (soft cover, 174 p., \$9.95).

"Those who came this journey (the Oregon Trail) should have their pillows covered with dark calico and sheets colored. White is not suitable."

This beautifully illustrated book shows color photographs of quilts made by the pioneer women who traveled the Oregon Trail. The book is well researched, containing information of interest to all readers. What a fine tribute to the people who dared to populate Oregon Country.

King Folk is a quarterly publication that can be ordered for \$6.00 per year. Please make checks payable to:

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