
KING FOLK

Newsletter No. 10



January 15, 1995

More About Charles King Home

By David Morgan

Charles King was my grandfather. His father, my great-grandfather, was Stephen King, who died when Charles was three years old. Apparently he was raised by Sol King, Stephen's brother, who married Anna Maria, Stephen's widow and mother of Charles. Charles inherited his father's claim. As you know, Charles married Susan Robinette and they raised three children: Anna, Edward, and Adella. Charles bought the King house. After he divorced Susan, he later married Margaret Barnes who was to become my grandmother.

Charles and Margaret had a daughter, Ethel Jane, born in 1899. She was my mother. She was not only born in the old house on Mary's River, she was raised in it and lived there until her death in 1977. Ethel married Victor Morgan (my father) who had board and room at the house while he worked in the woods as a logger. Ethel inherited the place. She and Victor raised the three of us: Roy King, born 1920; Thelma Marie, born 1925; and myself, David Dale, born 1929. We were all three born at home in the room our folks used as their bedroom, which is just off the living room. Ethel lived there alone in later years, but would not leave. It was her home.

I heard about her having to go outside to

go upstairs, presumably before the addition. She never said. She and her mother, Margaret King, ran the post office that was in a building we used as a garage. The mail boxes and etc. were still there as I grew up. The postal station was called Elam. There were old showcases in the same building as the post office. I do not remember who ran the store there (if I ever heard). The building was torn down many years ago as it was in bad condition.

I was asked to attend the recent open house held there by the McKees, which I gladly did and enjoyed telling visitors what I could about the house. It looked much different with the old pantry, woodshed, and porches removed. The McKees were trying to make it as original as possible. I don't remember it that way, but I do have pictures showing the house when my mother was a baby. The house was changed when we were children. The porches that were there when I grew up were full length on each of three sides.

I was surprised at the amount of visitors at the McKee's open house. I saw several relatives and many I did not know. Many people go up that way to see the covered bridge. To get a bus in there is difficult and would require coming in through Blodgett. I believe there is still a weight limit on the bridge they would have to cross.

This is about all I have to add about the Charles King second family and house. I do remember members of his first family and remember Edward, Anna, and Adella and their children. Anna never married.

What's New

By Charlotte Wirfs



Martha K. Littlefield wrote to tell us of her family history and to send two articles pertaining to her King connection. She wrote: "I am Amos N. Kings great granddaughter. My grandfather was Nahum Amos King and my father was Richard Ray King." She also states that Amos N. King and his wife, Melinda (Fuller) King, as well as Nahum Amos King and his wife, Martha Jane King, are buried in the King plot at River View Cemetery in Portland. Martha requested that more information be printed in King Folk about the Portland King branch. She says, "There aren't many of us left."

Included in this issue are reprints of the two articles Martha sent. They are from The Journal, "Impressions & Observations of the Journal Man", by Fred Lockley, June 4 & 5, 1928, Portland, OR. I carefully reprinted the information exactly as it was published in the original articles, even though I noticed names, dates, and historic information differed from other sources. As you read the articles, you may also notice the differences. One explanation for this is that much information was preserved as oral history and was only recorded by writers or historians like Lockley. Traditionally oral history, when handed down through generations, gets embellished and changed with each telling. Another thing to consider is that the writers sometimes report the information differently than it was told. Also, many times printers made mistakes or typos when the information was type set. Keep those things in mind whenever you read or hear information that comes from a long time ago. One thing is certain, the thread of the report is usually true.

I did notice that Fred Lockley used the spelling of Sarepta (Norton) King as "Serepta." I couldn't help but wonder if that's when the two spellings may have become confused. Perhaps Lockley interpreted the spelling as "Serepta" when he heard the name spoken. Because his articles are used as a resource, the spelling was passed on by those of us who later searched for family information.

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Jax Zumwalt wrote to say that he was able to provide more information for Ellen May (Gordon) Craven in response to her article in King Folk, No. 9, pp.2-4. He mailed me copies of the information he sent to Ellen on Oct. 28, 1994. He also enclosed reprints of the obituary of Lazarus VanBebber (VanBibber) from Corvallis Times Weekly and Semi Weekly, Feb. 8, 1896. Lazarus was my great-great-great grandfather and like you, I always appreciate when information can be exchanged.

Glenva (King) Chotard wrote to comment about the article on "Charles King House at Harris" in King Folk, No. 9. She states, "My cousin, Alice, who is Maxine Belle's sister, and I had our picture taken in a wicker baby buggy on the front porch of my great grandfather's (Charles King) house. Makes me very sad that someone in the family doesn't still own that beautiful piece of property on Mary's River." We all can relate to Glenva's comment, but thank goodness, if someone who is not a King is willing to own and restore the property (like Aaron and Naomi McKee), we could not be more pleased. In that way such people become part of the King connection.

Carole Putman mailed an article from Vet's News, 1994: "Fort Hoskins", by Michael Gallagher, Chair of Fort Hoskins Task Force. It gives some history of Fort Hoskins and explains the task force, which is a volunteer organization that's been charged by the Benton Co. Board of Commissioners with pursuing the purchase, preservation, and development of the historic Fort Hoskins site as an educational and recreational park. The park will contain an interpretive center that will display some of the artifacts recovered from the site; foot trails providing interpretation of the archaeological site in 1976-'77; development of the community and natural history of the area; and a picnicking & recreational area overlooking the historic site and the valley.

Mr. Gallagher urges that if you have questions, would like more information, or if you'd like to volunteer to help, please call or write: Jerry Davis, Director
Benton Co. Parks Dept.
360 S.W. Avery
Corvallis, OR. 97333
(503) 757-6871.

You can make financial contributions to Fort Hoskins Trust Fund and mail it to the above address. All contributions are tax deductible.

Kenneth Munford sent a clipping of an article he wrote that was printed in the Corvallis Gazette-Times, Mon. Oct. 24, 1994, "Horner Museum Artifacts being Inventoried". He described some of the artifacts that were inventoried during the year the museum was closed. One of those artifacts is Jim Plunkett's marching drum. This has interest to the Kings as Jim married Ashnah Norton and settled in Kings Valley after he served as a volunteer at Fort Hoskins during the Civil War. Kenneth states, "The plan (of the museum) is to open parts of their collection to the public again on a limited basis."

Thanks to all of you who write or send me information to include in King Folk. We need more ancestor charts and family histories so if you haven't sent your write-ups to me for publication, please do so. I realize that not everyone has done an ancestor chart, but family histories alone are welcome.

The news in Louisiana is that my house has just been put on the market and I will be leaving Feb. 5 to search for a new home in Oregon, probably in Albany or S. Salem. I had been living in Oregon with my daughter, Carolyn, who is a junior at Oregon State University, from late Sept. to Dec. 31, 1994. That is why this issue of King Folk is delayed. When I'm in Oregon, I'm away from my files and computer. Future issues of King Folk will also be delayed while my husband and I relocate. Please continue to write to me at my Louisiana address or my temporary Oregon address: 105 N.E. Conifer Blvd.-Apt. C, Corvallis, OR. 97330. I will resume publication of King Folk in April or May, 1995. The reunion will be held at Kings Valley School, June 24, 1995 and notices will be mailed in April. My husband and I are glad for the opportunity of living and working in Louisiana, but we're both looking forward to our return to Oregon.





Kings Valley Pioneer Cemetery
Continued from King Folk, No. 9, Oct. 1, 1994

213. White cross and small metal marker. The paper inside is crumpled and the ink has worn off.
214. White cross and small metal marker with no name.

Row 16 is short. Grave #214 is located below grave #198 of row 15.

Row 17:

215. A. Lizzie E. Boothe, 1861-1914, Erected by the Women of Woodcraft; courage, hope, remembrance (on front of the stone).
B. On the back of the same stone is F. A. Chenoweth, 1819-1899.
C. Elizabeth, his wife, 1833-1911.
D. Robert, 1865-1883. At rest.
Note: three small rectangular stones rest against the main stone with Robert, Father, and Mother. A lilac tree is planted nearby.
216. Thomas C. Alexander, 1880-1950.
217. Mae M. Alexander, 1880-1909. Mother.
218. Byington Frantz, 1860-1950, Father. There is an elk head emblem on the stone.
219. Laura B. Frantz, 1867-1908, Mother.
220. Son of Byington & Laura Frantz.
221. Edith Seifert, d. Jan. 6, 1907, age 9y. 11m. 13d. Our darling.
222. A. Seifert: Clarendia, 1866-1939.
B. Seifert: Herman, 1866-1943.

A lilac tree planted near grave #222 marks the end of row 17. The lilac tree is just below grave #213 of row 16. Row 18 curves up toward the empty part of row 17.

Row 18:

223. Hope. In memory of James Chambers, d. Aug. 17, 1883, age 11m. 10d.
224. Winnie, dau. of T. F. & F. A. Alexander, d. Feb. 22, 1885, age 9y. 10m. 4d. Shed not for her any bitter tear, Nor give the heart to vain regrets, Tis but the casket that is here, the gem that filled it sparkles yet.
225. T. F. Alexander, b. Nov. 27, 1844, d. Feb. 16, 1892. A place is vacant in our home which never can be filled.
226. Dora A., wife of Edgar Plunkett, Feb. 14, 1874. At rest, Jan. 12, 1907.
227. John F. Read, June 28, 1870. At rest, May 27, 1890.
228. Otto P. Read, Feb. 3, 1876. At rest, Dec. 24, 1907.
229. Read, Delilah Read, Aug. 9, 1840, Jan. 14, 1919.
230. Walter P. Read, 1877-1945. An Elk's Lodge emblem is on the stone.
231. Lillie Nelson, 1899-1904, Nelson.

232. White cross, Otto Harbin, 1887-1899.
233. A. Mother on square granite stone and small metal marker:
Amanda M. Winniford, d. Sept. ?, age 75y. 9m.
B. Winniford, Alexander Findley, June 11, 1834, Apr. 4,
1918.
C. Winniford, Amanda Melvina, Dec. 9, 1848, Sept.
9, 1924. Note: this is the same person as #232A.
Another sq. granite stone is placed aside with Father.
234. At rest: Nora A. Winniford, b. March 17, 1892, d. March
16, 1910.
235. Florence E. Winniford, July 30, 1881. At rest, Sept. 19,
1901. Note: the top of this stone is lying next to the
base.
236. Mary Amanda, wife of Perry Eddy, d. March 20, 1905, age
40y. 14d. We trust our loss will be her gain, and that
with Christ she's gone to reign.
237. Mary Eddy (infant), b. Mar. 25, 1895, d. April 5, 1895.
Our darling one hath gone before, To greet us on the
blissful shore. Note: the baby has a separate marker
next to her mother's. Both names are on big metal marker.

Grave #237 of row 18 in below grave #180ABCD of row 14.

Row 19:

238. Charles A. Ward, b. Sept. 5, 1865, d. July 8, 1884.
239. Basil Ward, b. June 12, 1826, d. Oct. 16, 1890.
240. Sarah J. Ward, Dec. 18, 1846, Dec. 28, 1942. Note: this
grave is followed by empty plots before the next grave in
the row.
241. White cross with no name. Note: This grave is followed by
more empty plots.
242. White cross with no name.

D.A.R. marker to Nahum & Serepta (Norton) King.

Note: this is the marker for two individuals that are not
buried in this cemetery. They are buried on their DLC near
Wren, Benton Co., OR. There the graves were marked with
simple stones. The marker in this cemetery was intended to
replace those simple markers, but because of ownership
rights was placed in this cemetery:

In honor of service N.S., U.S.D., 1812, in the war of 1812,
Nahum Amos King.

A. Nahum A. King, 1783-1856.

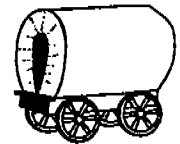
B. Serepta King, 1791-1869.

Oregon pioneers of 1845 after whom Kings Valley was
named. Buried near this spot.



Back When in Benton County

By Kenneth Munford



The Kings of Kings Valley Part 1 Kings Valley

Reprinted from the Benton Bulletin,
July 16, 1980, Philomath, Oregon.

Kings Valley in northwest Benton County, Kings Boulevard in Corvallis, and Kings Heights in Portland take their names from members of the King family who came to Oregon by covered wagon in 1845. There were 26 of them when they left St. Joseph, Missouri, on May 2: 7 men, 7 women, 6 boys, and 6 girls. One man, two women, a baby boy and a young girl died on the way.

The others spent their first winter in Oregon on Gales Creek, near present Forest Grove. During the winter the menfolk & older boys went hunting--not only for game, but also for land. They felt sure that the U.S. Congress would grant them free land when the Willamette Valley became part of the United States. Eventually their faith proved well-founded. The provisional claims they staked out that winter and spring became donation land claims

We do not have a record of the route the Kings took on their land-hunting trip. If they followed the old Hudsons Bay Co. pack trail that skirted the western foot hills of the valley, they would have found settlers on the Yamhill River River who would soon found the towns of Lafayette and Dayton. The three Applegate brothers had settled two years before along Salt Creek. Nathaniel Ford and his relatives had settled Rickreall the year before.

After crossing the Little Luckiamute, the hunters may have followed an alternate pack trail south up the Luckiamute. After passing present Pedee, they came up over a rise and looked down into a pleasant little valley where no one had settled or claimed land.

Nahum, patriarch of the King clan, like other leaders in other times and places may have declared something like, "Boys, this is the place!"

Open grassland surrounded by dense forest along the meandering river looked good to them. It had adequate water and fuel, rich soil, and abundant building materials. It was well drained so that they would not suffer the floods they had experienced in Ohio and Missouri.

Next week: Nahum and Serepta Norton King



Interview with N. A. King

By Fred Lockley

Reprinted from "Impressions and Observations of the Journal Man", The Journal, Portland, OR., June 4 & 5, 1928.

Mr. and Mrs. N. A. King live at No. 617 Salmon St., directly west of the Multnomah Amateur Athletic club building.

"My father's name was Amos Nahum King" said Mr. King when I visited him recently. "They turned the name around when I arrived, and called me Nahum Amos King. I kind of think they figured that giving me two old-fashioned Bible names might have a good effect upon me. Come on to the window here and I'll show you where I was born. I was born in a log cabin about 100 yards north of here, not far from the corner of Stout and Yamhill streets. Our log cabin stood just to the right and a little north of that second big clump of bamboo. Speaking of bamboo reminds me that my wife gathers the bamboo sprouts every day or two and we eat them in place of asparagus. My wife will be glad to gather you a mess of them--they are delicious. Father bought out the squatter's right to what was supposed to be a full section of land, but some of the neighbors cornered in on his claim, so he really didn't get much over 500 acres. I was born on this claim on Feb. 17, 1855.

"My father, Amos Nahum King, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on April 30, 1822. His father, Nahum King, was born on July 25, 1783, and died on May 28, 1856. The maiden name of father's mother was Serepta Norton. She was born Nov. 12, 1771, and died on July 14, 1864. Father was one of twin children. When father was 18 years old he moved from Ohio to Missouri. He ran a ferry across the Missouri for several years. A big freshet washed his ferry away, so he decided to come to Oregon and follow his trade as a tanner. With his father and mother, his three brothers and five sisters, he came across the plains in 1845. One of his brothers took the mountain fever and died. His wife, who had nursed him, died a few days later. They buried them beside the Old Oregon Trail. When they reached The Dalles they cut pine logs and made a large raft, on which they put 10 wagons. They had a pretty strenuous time coming down the Columbia, for it was late in the season and for most of the way they had a cold rain. They put in that first winter at Forest Grove. Next spring they went down into Benton county and took up donation land claims west of Corvallis in a little valley near the foot of the Coast range.



"My grandfather, Nahum King, being the first settler there, gave his name to the valley, so it has been known ever since as King's Valley. The valley is about six miles long and two miles wide. When my grandfather took it up it was considered one of the best stock-raising districts in the country. Since that time it has gained a reputation for big wheat crops. It is almost surrounded by hills. Shortly after my grandfather settled there with his sons, his son-in-law, Rowland Chambers, took up a place, and Lucius Norton and his sons settled in the valley. In 1847 Jim Watson came in there and bought the place that my uncle Sol King had taken up. Two or three years later the Pattersons moved in there. Governor I.L. Patterson is Mr. Patterson's grandson, and he spent his boyhood there.

"My father took up a claim on the Willamette River about two miles below Corvallis. He sold the squatter's right to this place and in the spring of 1849 came down to Portland, and bought a claim west of Portland. My father was an expert tanner, so he started a tanyard. He had a machine that looked like a cider mill, in which he ground up hemlock bark. He built wooden tanks large enough to hold a steer's hide when spread out, and for the next 10 or 12 years he ran a tannery. He had enough vats to cover nearly an acre of ground. In those days you had to have a good many, because the hides, to be properly tanned, had to stay in the ooze from the hemlock bark from six months to a year. When you wanted to tan a hide for sole leather you had to let it stay in the vat at least a year. Nowadays, by chemical and mechanical processes, they can tan a hide in 24 hours. If you will dig down in the football field of the Multnomah club you will find those old tanks of my father's as good as ever. When they filled in that place they didn't bother to take the tanning vats away--they just hauled earth in and buried them.

"That enlarged photograph on the wall is a picture of my father, and it is a good picture, too. That other enlarged photograph is my mother. Her maiden name was Melinda Fuller. She weighed 336 pounds, and her weight wasn't all fat, by any means. Mother could pick a 50-pound sack of flour up by the ears and hold it out at arm's length without any trouble. She was one of the strongest women I ever saw. If anybody got gay with her she could slam them into the middle of next week. She was awfully good-hearted and jolly, but she believed in having her children do what she told them to do, and after we had felt the weight of her hand a time or two. We generally minded. Mother was born on May 25, 1814. Father and mother were married on March 8, 1846. My mother was living on Tualatin Plains at that time.

Interview with N. A. King, p.3

"I forgot to tell you that father bought our claim on the hillside here from Apperson and Balance. Father's claim ran from Lovejoy south to Canyon Road. Chapman street was its eastern boundary, and it ran pretty near out to the poor farm, where the golf links are now. If you will look up Vol. 1 of The Oregonian you will see they had an item about my father in that issue. My father had the only tannery in the Pacific Northwest. He cut out his tan vats with a broadaxe. He ran the tannery by horse power.

At first he used home-made tools, but later he bought a curry knife, for \$15.00. He said it was the same kind that he could get back east for \$2.50. People came from as far as Jacksonville to buy leather from father's tannery. Cobblers and shoemakers couldn't ship leather in from the East, as it took so long and the freight was so high.

[The following day, June 5, 1928, the second part of the interview was printed. It tells of the days Amos N. King ran a freighting business on the Willamette River, and of his tannery.]

To be continued in King Folk No.11

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

