
KING FOLK

Newsletter No. 4

July 15, 1993

What's New?



Thank you for all the letters and the good wishes you've been sending. Many of you have news to pass on to the group.

Alice Blowers has completed the King Families Directory and is charging \$2.50 for each copy. Please make checks payable to her and mail your orders to:

Alice Blowers
9008 N. Olive Lane
Sun Lake, AZ 85224

Donna Montgomery may soon be publishing The Brazen Overlanders of 1845, the third edition. She needs a photograph of Rowland Chambers, Sol King, or any other member of the 1845 wagon train. I sent her the only photo of Sol I have, which is a snap shot of him as a very old man. I also sent a photo of Serepta Norton King. If any of you have pictures please write to Donna or telephone her:

Donna M. Montgomery
3938 SE 28th Ave.
Portland, OR. 97202-3502

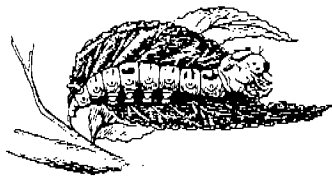
Donna has a few books left from the second printing which can be ordered from her for \$38.50 plus \$1.50 postage. She will be happy to autograph your copy. I'd like to share with you a portion of her letter as I cannot phrase it better..."I didn't learn until last winter about the misspelling of Nahum's (King) name and I feel bad. Nobody told me and I sure wish they had. I've tried to have things correct in the book as a memorial to those courageous

people and feel really bad when I find I've made such a blatant mistake. It will be rectified in any future publication."

I know Donna feels badly about that for she's mentioned it to me more than once. I don't know about the rest of you, but I guess I didn't notice it. Sometimes I'm so used to different spellings of the old-timers' names that my eyes skip over it. I do understand her feelings and certainly appreciate her explanation.

Patricia Bearden sent an article describing a three-day trip along 30 miles of the lost wagon train of 1845. The trip is offered through Prineville's Bowman Museum beginning July 7, 1993. The wagon train plans to travel ten miles per day through Crook County, OR., following the 1845 Stephen Meek route as closely as possible. Joining Patricia are Jesse and Maxine Bell as well as Carole Putman. There may be others of our clan going too, but I don't know about it at this time. Hopefully our cousins will keep diaries of the trip and allow publication of them in our next issue of King Folk.

Continued on page 2



What's New? continued



Florence Gross mailed a copy of her newsletter, *From the Heart*, and mentioned that all Kings were invited to the *Fromherz* reunion Sun. June 27. It was held at Avry Park in Corvallis. Hope some of you attended.

Bill and Gladys King provided the coffee and punch at the King reunion and helped organize and clean up the kitchen. Francis Rexford picked up and returned the key to the facility. Pat Bearden took notes during the meeting, which will be included in this issue. Carole Putman presided over the meeting. Thanks for taking care of details.

Bill and Gladys, as well as many of you, mentioned how much they enjoyed reading Retha Greig's article in the last issue. Bill is a cousin whose lineage goes back to Nahum and Serepta King through Sol King. Bill remembers Sol, his grandfather, would drive his rig over for Sunday dinner. Bill's father is Abe King, born 1860 at Wren, OR. Of Abe's eleven children Bill, Warren, and Dorothy Young are all who remain living. Bill's oldest sister, Bertha, lived to be almost 98 years old. Many of us remember her.

Retha Greig attended the reunion and enjoyed all the goings on, although she was glad not to have gone on the field trip to her old girl-hood home. The home is in such poor condition, the sight would have been too heart wrenching. That was a wise call, Retha. We can all relate to that. If you didn't get a chance to speak with Retha, or would like to write to her, here is her address:

Retha Greig
1933 Applegate St. Apt. 2
Philomath, OR. 97370

Joy Chambers sent the name and address for us to send donations to the Kings Valley Cemetary Association. She reports that the association has regular meetings and has a man that mows the cemetary. The community volunteers

time to prepare the cemetary each spring for Memorial Day visitors. You can show your appreciation by mailing your comments and donations to:

Kings Valley Cemetary Association
W. P. Eddy
2620 SW 53rd St.
Corvallis, OR. 97333

Thanks Joy for that information. By the way, you were missed at the reunion. Hope you are well.

Norman Chambers writes to say that the weather is lovely in Maui, HI. He too enjoyed Retha's article. Norm also lived on the Isaac King property and added information to expand Retha's memoirs, which I will include in this issue. Norm's King connection is through his father, Chester Chambers, and grandfather, John Chambers. I'm assuming, since Norm didn't give me all the details, that his lineage goes back to Nahum through Rowland Chambers and first wife, Sarah King. Please correct me if I'm wrong, Norm.

Leland and Barbara Drew have asked if any or us have photographs of Isaac King or his children: Alfred King, Samuel King, Stephen King, U.S. Grant King, Melvina King Ramsdell. They also would like a picture of Almeda Vanbebber King Zumwalt, Adeline Zumwalt Hussey, or Sarah Dickens Zumwalt. The Drews attended their first King reunion last summer and contributed greatly to our Vanbebber records. Please write to them if you'd like Vanbebber information or if you have any photographs:

Leland and Barbara Drew
4180 Randolph Ave.
Oakland, CA. 94602-1314

Some of you know that I'm collecting photographs of King's Valley and the families who lived there. I'd be more than happy to share the skills I've learned. I (continued on page 3)

can take a picture of your original photographs so you can have a negative and a 4"x6" print for a cost of \$1.50 each plus postage. If you need a photo of someone, write to me. You may get lucky and I might have it.

David Trask collects obituaries and is very happy to share them with you. In return he asks us to mail him copies of obituaries of any family members (spouses and children included) and photographs of grave markers. His address is:

David Trask
691 Murphy Rd. Suite 115
Medford, OR. 97504

Lowell Tiller attended the reunion and brought his new book, The Terrible Trail, second edition. The paper back sells for \$14.95. "How times have changed", he writes. "It was originally \$4.00 and a hard cover." Kieth Clark co-authored the book and was also present at the reunion, so some of you got both autographs. To order a copy send \$14.95 plus \$2.00 postage to:

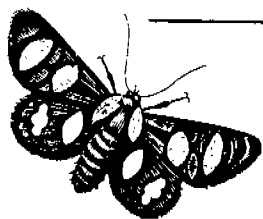
Lowell Tiller
12308 NE Russell St.
Portland, OR. 97230

Please make checks payable to Lowell Tiller.

Earle Greig sent me a copy of the news paper article, History Runs Deep in Kings Valley, from Benton Bulletin, July 1, 1993. A reporter was present at the reunion and went with a group of family members to view the Isaac King/Lincoln Allen home which Earle's mother, Retha, wrote about in King Folk No. 3. Anyone wishing a photo copy of that article can send a SASE to either me or David Trask.

Mary Margaret Davis sent her ancestor chart. She relates to Nahum and Serepta King through Rowland Chambers and Sarah King Chambers. Her mother is Ramona Jane Chambers Morris. Her grandfather is Rowland King Chambers. Her great grandfather is James Chambers, who came to Oregon as an infant in 1845. His mother, Sarah, died on that trip and is buried along the trail. Rowland soon married Sarah's sister, Lovisa, and the settled on a DLC in Kings Valley. Both Rowland and Lovisa are buried in the Kings Valley Cemetery, and Sarah's grave was illustrated in King Folk No. 1. It's located near Vale, Oregon.

Thanks for all the great letters. Life in Louisiana is fine, but I do miss the Northwest. Right now it's 98 with a heat index of 113 and I'm thinking of how nice a walk along the ocean would be.



Nahum King Grave

In 1951 The Daughters of the American Revolution wrote this description of Nahum King's grave:

"This grave was originally marked with two large native boulders, as was his wife's grave beside him, near the edge of the grove, on the hillside back of their house on their Donation Land Claim near Wren (Benton County, OR).

This place is the first house on the left, just beyond the Y formed as the road from Wren joins the Corvallis-Newport road (Highway 20).

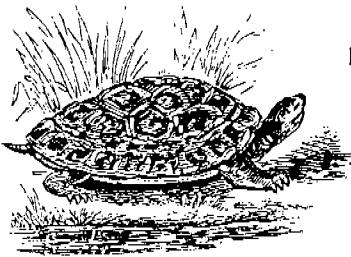
Nahum King came to the valley that bears his name, in 1845, stayed a year

and went to Portland for a year and returned to take a claim near Wren. Most of the rest of the large family are buried in the Kings Valley Cemetery close to the Isaac King DLC.

Bible records show that Nahum King was born July 25, 1783, died May 28, 1856. His wife, Serepta Norton King, was born Nov. 12, 1791, died July 14, 1864.

At the present time, the old house is gone. Relatives showed us where the old house 'should' be."

Memorial stones for Nahum and his wife have been placed at Kings Valley Cemetery by the DAR when attempts to put them at Wren failed.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1993 KING FAMILY REUNION

June 26, 1993
Kings Valley School

Patricia Bearden

Vice President, Carole Norton Putman, presided over the annual meeting, in the absence of President, Charlotte Wirfs, who's temporarily living in Louisiana. Forty-two people were present during the meeting, plus a number of other adults and children were outside.

Subscriptions to the family newsletter, "KING FOLK", edited by Charlotte Wirfs, are \$6.00 for next year. Secretary, Janie King, collected subscription money, and will forward it to Charlotte. Consensus: We are very pleased with the newsletter. Good work, Charlotte!

Carole introduced a guest, Jax Zumwalt, historian of the Zumwalt clan. David Trask brought some of his notebooks to share with us. We passed around sign-up sheets, and everyone introduced themselves and briefly told where they fit into the King family.

Alice Blowers announced two items for sale: A booklet of King descendant biographies, \$7.50, and an address directory of descendants, \$2.50. The first booklet consists of photocopies of biographical information on individuals as submitted to Alice, and it has an especially informative section written by Retha Greig. Retha Greig was in attendance.

Bill & Gladys King are celebrating their 60th anniversary this weekend, and two other couples in the Fromherz family are celebrating 55th & 56th anniversaries. Florence Gross, said there will be ample cake at the Fromherz reunion at Avery Park in Corvallis tomorrow!

Janie King asked if anyone has or has ever seen a photograph of Nahum King. None is known.

Anyone who wants to may send donations to the Kings Valley Cemetery Association to help with maintenance of the cemetery.

Carole reminded us that Charlotte would like to have copies of our ancestor charts for future issues of KING FOLK. They do not have to be typed.

There is a "wonderful" exhibit on the Oregon Trail and the Meek Cutoff at the High Desert Museum in Bend. It will remain on display until June, 1994, and several who had seen it called it a "must see."

Question asked: Why are some plots in the Kings Valley



Cemetery well kept, while others aren't? Answer: the cemetery caretakers now the cemetery just before Memorial Day, and then on-going maintenance is up to the family.

Question: Florence Gross asked what happened to \$300 donated by "Aunt Dorothy" in memory of Nathan King? No one present knew anything about it, but David said there is a marker in memory of Nathan in Riverview Cemetery in Portland, although he is buried elsewhere.

Francis Rexford announced that an "Oregon Trail Certificate" is available from the Idaho Genealogical Society for \$10.00 to anyone able to prove descent from a pioneer. For info: Oregon Trail Project, 4620 Overland Road #206, Boise, ID. 83705-2867.

Maxine Bell said the Sons & Daughters of Oregon Pioneers is an old organization, founded by the real pioneers. Membership is open to any descendant of ancestors who were here before Oregon became a state in 1859. She said someday she would like to see a family member (high school girl) chosen as Miss Oregon Pioneer.

Keith Clark, author of The Terrible Trail, was present. The book, originally published in 1966, was just republished in a new edition, available in paperback for \$14.95.

Question asked: What are the characteristics of a King descendant? Florence Gross said, "Someone who is really out to get an education and to do things for other people."

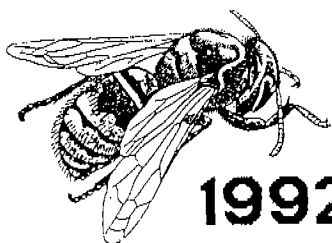
Idea for next year: put the potluck food on a table in the outer room, to make it easier for people to serve themselves without all ending up together in the small kitchen.

After a wonderful (as usual) feast, Maxine Bell enticed most everyone to participate in a game, "Crossing the Platte." She explained that the Platte River is not deep, but wide, with islands here and there. Crossing the river consisted of moving from island to island, while heading for the opposite side. She asked participants to imagine what it must have sounded like, and everyone was to choose a sound to imitate at the appropriate times as she narrated our "journey" across the river. In the ensuing din, oxen lowed, horses neighed, crows called out overhead, dogs barked, babies cried, and mothers moaned, while the leaders cracked their whips to keep the procession moving along.

The whole group gathered in the school gym for a group picture, taken with David's camera. He says if the pictures turn out, he will make copies available to those who would like to have them.

A reporter from the "Benton Bulletin" was present and spoke with several family members.





1992-'93 King Folk Subscribers

Patricia Bearden
 Colton Beebe
 Jesse & Maxine Bell
 Alice Blowers
 Donna Brathovde
 Bonnie R. Brown
 Dorothy Turner Brown
 Lynèe Carpenter
 Mrs John Chambers
 Norman Chambers
 Rose Marie Chambers
 Teresa Chione
 Joe & Glenda Chotard
 Ellen Chambers Daily
 Robert D. Davidson
 Joe & Mary Margaret
 Davis
 Leland & Barbara
 Drew
 Albert & Margaret
 Fromherz
 Earle Greig
 Malcolm Greig
 Retha Greig
 Florence & Louis
 Gross
 Pat Hanahan
 Ann K. Herring
 James & Kathryn Hood
 Maxine Hewitt

Bill & Gladys King
 David King
 Geraldine King
 James King
 Richard & Janet King
 Robert & Janie King
 Stephen King
 William James King
 Joan Larsen
 Allan & Martha
 Littlefield
 David Morgan
 Ruth Moore
 Tim Moore
 Neil & Lavern Moyer
 Kenneth Munford
 Carol King Nelson
 Orville Olney
 Marilyn Price
 Rick Price
 Rod Price
 Carole Putman
 Norm & Nita Read
 Francis L. Rexford
 Roy and Debbie
 Russell
 Lyle & Reva Simmons
 Maxine Sprick
 Roy & Marietta Taylor

Lowell Tiller
 David M. Trask
 Dean & Donna Trask
 Evelyn Maxfield Tucker
 Charlotte Wirfs
 Jax Zumwalt
 Louis E. Zumwalt

This is the last 1992-'93 King Folk you will receive. The above is a complete list of subscribers. Dues of \$6.00 should be mailed soon if you want to continue your subscription. Please check your address label on this newsletter. If your name has an "x" by it, then you have paid your 1993-'94 dues. If not please mail them to:

Charlotte Wirfs
 3810 Ridgemont Dr.
 Ruston, LA. 71270

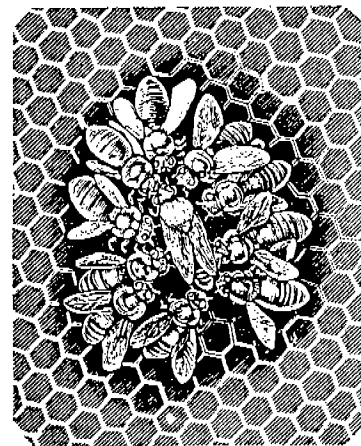
Please write if you paid your dues and there is no "X" by your name.

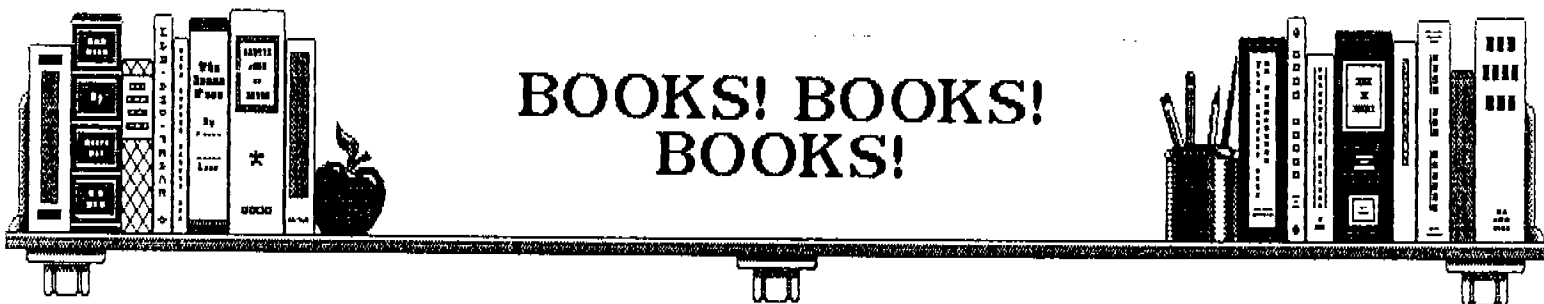
Oregon Trail Exhibit Features Lost Wagon Train

"Wandering Wagons: Meek's Lost Emigrants of 1845," an exhibit chronicling the first attempt by overland travelers to blaze a shortcut across the Oregon desert, will open to the public in the Earle A. Chiles Center on the Spirit of the West at The High

Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon on Saturday, March 20, 1993. It will run through June 5, 1994.

In addition to "Wandering Wagons," the Museum has two permanent exhibits related to the Oregon Trail. (503) 382-4754.





BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!

Inventory of library of Nathan A. King, Sr., June 24, 1989
continued from King Folk No. 3

GENERAL OREGON

23. *Governors of Oregon*, George S. Turnbull, 107 pp, hard-cover
Binfords & Mort, Portland, Oregon. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
24. *Fire and Ice, The Cascade Volcanoes*, Stephen L. Harris, 316
pp., soft cover, Pacific Press, Seattle, Washington.
(Nathan A. King, Sr.).
25. *Historically Speaking*, Polk County Historical Society, 38
pp., soft cover, Monmouth Herald. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
26. *Transactions of the 3rd Annual Reunion of the Oregon
Pioneer Association*, E. M. Waite, 88pp., soft cover
E. M. Waite. (Inez King Herring bequest to Nathan A. King,
Sr.).
27. *Tales Out of Oregon*, Ralph Freidman, 248 pp, soft cover
Pars Publishing, Portland, Oregon. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
28. *A Touch of Oregon*, Ralph Freidman, 234 pp, soft cover,
Pars Publishing, Portland, Oregon. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
29. *Oregon For the Curious*, Ralph Freidman, 154pp, soft cover,
Pars Publishing, Portland, Oregon. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
30. *Our Oregon*, Ray Atkeson and Paul Lewis, 72pp, soft cover,
Beautiful West Publishing, Portland, Oregon. (Nathan A.
King, Sr.).
31. *Oregon Ghost Towns*, Lambert Florin, 180pp., soft cover,
Superior Publishing, Seattle, Washington. (Nathan A. King,
Sr.).
32. *Ghost Towns of the West*, Lambert Florin, 872pp, hard cover,
Superior Publishing, Seattle, Washington. (Nathan A. King,
Sr.).
33. *Maryhill--Sam Hill--and Me*, Lois Davis Plotts, 79pp, soft
cover, Post Publications, Camas, Washington, (Nathan A.
King, Sr.).

OREGON TRAIL EVENTS 1993

July 29: Official Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial Wagon Train arrives in Vale, OR. (503)223-6191

July 30: "Voices from the Oregon Trail"--Musical at Newport, OR (503)265-2064

July 30-31: Official Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial Wagon Train arrives at Ontario, OR. (503)223-6191

July 31: Civil War Reenactment, Sublimity, (503)873-8681

Yamhill Country Celebration--150 Years, McMinnville, (503)472-9190

Aug. 1-31: Native American Living History, Pendleton, (503)276-3873

Aug 1-Sep. 30: 150 Years of Oregon Textiles--Exhibit, Salem, (503)585-7012

Aug. 1: Official Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial Wagon Train, Farewell Bend State Park, (503)223-6191

Aug. 3-5: Oregon Trail Train Layover, Baker City, (800)523-1235 or (503)223-6191

Aug. 7-8: Colony Days, Aurora, (503)678-2288

Aug. 13-Oct. 2: "Pattern of a Journey: Quilts of the Oregon Trail", Traveling Exhibit, Philomath, (503)929-6230

Aug. 14-Sep. 11: Historical Art of the Oregon Trail, Klamath Falls, (503)883-1824

Aug. 23: Official Wagon Train Festivities, at scenic Deschutes River Trail Crossing, Deschutes State Park (503)442-5514 or (503)223-6191

Aug.26-Sep. : "State Fair or Bust!" Oregon State Fair, Salem. (503)378-3247



More on the Isaac King Place

Before Retha wrote her recollection of living in the old Isaac King home, I had asked her about another old home, located at the foot of the hill where the Isaac King Cemetery is. I wrote a letter to Norman Chambers asking the same question. I thought maybe it had been the location of the original King home. This was Norman's reply:

"...I can tell you my ideas, but I won't guarantee a thing. I have heard that a family named Woods lived in the house by the cemetery. It may be who the creek was named after. The creek had a fork in it and one ran right in front of their place. My grand dad, John Chambers, built his house right by that fork. He used to walk up to that fork and divert more water to his place during the summer. After he purchased land out by the Kings Valley Highway, he moved the house out along the road, using horses and a stump

puller. As far as I know, the old house that you saw (Isaac King/Lincoln Allen home) was the "King house". There had been a log cabin on the area right behind my house, south of the garage, to be exact."

The remainder of Norman's letter spoke of my grandfather, Cecil Price, who built the house and barn for Norman's folks, Chester and Rita Chambers. He also reported of the delightful visit recently with Retha Greig. They went through his mother's photographs and Retha was able to identify some of the people "She really is a sweet lady", Norman wrote. "My wife had to drag me away. We had a great time swapping stories, cross-checking her memories as compared to what my dad had told me."

He also mentioned Jesse Bush, who is another collector of Kings Valley photos.

34. *Lost in Time*, Kings Valley Grade School, 78pp, soft cover, published by school principal. (Gift to Erin Joan Hood in summer of 1985 when with her Grandfather, Nathan A. King, Sr. by the children of the school).
35. *The Trail to Oregon*, Frederica Coons, 183pp, hard cover, Binfords & Mort, Portland, Oregon. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
36. *Terrible Trail: The Meek Cutoff, 1845*, Keith Clark and Lowell Tiller, 244pp, soft cover, Caxton Press, Caldwell, Idaho. (Nathan A. King, Jr. retained in the library of Nathan A. King, Sr., at his request).
37. *Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey*, Lillian Schlissel, 262pp, soft cover, Schocken Books, New York, NY. (Kathryn King Hood gift to Nathan A. King, Sr. in memory of her grandmothers, Great, Great and thereafter, who walked the trails to Oregon.).
38. *Applegate Trail*, Walter Meacham, 26pp, soft cover, James Kerns and Abbott Printers, Portland, Oregon. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
39. *First Three Wagon Trains*, John Bidwell, 104pp, hard cover, Binfords & Mort, Portland, Oregon. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
40. *The Brazen Overlanders of 1845*, Donna M. Wojcik (Montgomery), 566pp, hard cover, Donna M. Wojcik (Montgomery). (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
41. *Columbia River Gorge History, Vol. I*, Jim Attwell, 151pp, soft cover, Tahlkie Books, Skamania, Washington. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
42. *Columbia River Gorge History, Vol. II*, Jim Attwell, 210pp, soft cover, Tahlkie Books, Skamania, Washington. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
43. *Cemetery Records of Benton County, Oregon*, The Genealogical Forum, Portland, Oregon. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
44. *Yesterday's Roll Call--Statistical Data and Genealogical Facts From Cemeteries in Baker, Sherman, and Umatilla Counties, Oregon*, Genealogical Forum of Portland, 364pp, soft cover, Genealogical Forum of Portland. (Nathan A. King, Sr.).
45. *Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims, Vol I.*, Abstracted from Applications by Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon, 1957, 152pp, soft cover, Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon. (N.A. King, Sr.).



Note: there is a total of 56 books in Nathan's library. The final page of the list will be published in King Folk, No. 4.



Coming in the next issue of King Folk

Another family member will be featured on the ancestor chart and family information page. In keeping with the Oregon Sesquicentennial celebration, Stephen and Anna Maria King's letter from Luckiamute Valley, OR., April 1, 1846 will be published. The 1845 trip is described as well as the settlement of Kings Valley. The first part of the Pioneer Cemetery at Kings Valley will be published. It will take several issues to print all of it. There will be a report from our cousins who recently traveled the Oregon Trail in wagons through Crook County.



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

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Ruston, LA. 71270

phone: (318)251-8016

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~~3810 Ridgemoat Drive~~
~~Ruston, Louisiana 71270~~

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