
KING FOLK

Newsletter No.1

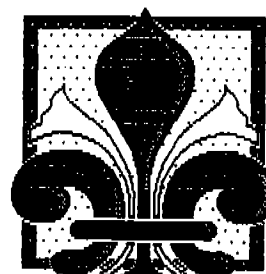
June 24, 1992

"What About the Book?"

Whenever there is a gathering of (or a communication between) King folks, there is always one question that is asked: "What about the book?". "The book" refers to the King genealogy that the late Nathan King was compiling. Publication of Nathan's book was halted when he died several years ago. But his desire to realize such a publication has not died, as is reflected in the question, "What about the book?".

The person best able to tell us about the book is David Trask of Medford, Oregon. David was given Nathan's collection in the hopes that perhaps he could finish compiling the King genealogy that Nathan hoped to complete himself. After reviewing the collection, David felt that he probably never would be able to meet the task as ordered, primarily because there still remains a massive amount of work to do before publication could be realized, especially if it was to be a record of American Kings.

David suggests that there still is a book to be written, but it may have a different bend to it than Nathan had in mind. David would like to see a book written about the Kings of the Northwest. In 1845 Nahum and Serepta King started a chapter of King genealogy when they moved their extended family to Oregon Country. That chapter has grown into it's own book. Perhaps "the book" should center around



the King descendants and the community that came to be known as Kings Valley, Oregon.

David would like feedback of his suggestion and would welcome any other ideas you folks have on how the book should be formatted. Please write or call David and let him know what you think:

David M. Trask
691 Murphy Rd. Suite 204
Medford, OR. 97501

Copies of this newsletter can be ordered from Charlotte Wirfs, 296 N.E. Gerlinger Ln., Dallas, OR. 97338. Telephone: (503) 623-2847. This newsletter is a quarterly publication at \$5.00 per year. Please make checks payable to Charlotte Wirfs. Suggestions, contributions, and queries are welcome.

1880 Interview with Solomon King

The following interview with Solomon King was printed in the Corvallis Gazette, Dec. 31, 1880. Sol was Sheriff of Benton County, Oregon at that time and lived on a 1200 acre farm west of Corvallis. Corvallis has since grown to include that farm within city limits. Kings Blvd. derived its name from the Solomon King farm.

"I was but a little shaver then, in 1845. We came by way of The Dalles. There was my father, Nahum, his name was, and my four brothers, all older than I was, and there were Watson and Chambers, and their families in the company. There were 13 wagons in the crowd and we rafted them and the cattle and all the rest of it down the Columbia. A pretty big raft it was--all made of green fir timber we cut down. It took us about all the morning to get out into the current and all the afternoon to get back to shore again; and then we came to the Cascades. We had to just put the wagons together and cut a road for six miles, round the portage, till we could take to the river again. Then we got boats and came down the Columbia and up the Willamette, past where Portland stands. There was no Portland then. I forget what the town near by was called. Then we got to the Tualatin Plains, where Forest Grove station is now and there we camped for that first winter. All the lot of us crowded into one little log cabin. Oh, we lived pretty well. There was a little grist mill near by, and the folks had raised a little wheat and some potatoes and peas. I tell you, it was rough: we had no meat all that winter. The next spring we came into King's Valley and took up the old place.

"Indians? I should think there were! About two or three hundred Klickitats were camped in the valley. Good Indians they were; tall and straight as a dart.

When we came in and camped, the Chief, Quarterly, his name was, came to my father and said:

"What do you want here?"

"We have come to settle down and farm and make homes for ourselves," replied my father. "Well," said the Indian, "you can if you don't meddle with us; we won't hurt you."

"No more they did; we never had a cross word from them. The country did not belong to them; it belonged to the Calapooias and the Klickitats had rented it of them for some horses and clothes, and what-not, for a hunting ground. There were just lots of elk and deer and the bunch grass grew waist high. The Indian ponies were as fat as butter, and good ones too.

The Klickitats had regular lodges--sticks set round in a circle and tied together at the top and covered with those rush mats. Good workers they were, too. I remember very well, one day, the Klickitats came running in to say there were ever such a lot of Calapooias coming to attack them and they sent off all their squaws and children to the hills, and then drove all their horses down to our camp. Strange, wasn't it, they should think their stock safer with five or six white men? There must have been several hundreds of these Calapooias. That did not come to anything that time; they patched it all up with some presents of horses, beads and other things. What are left of those Klickitats are all up north now, on the reservation on the Columbia. Good Indians they were. The Calapooias and the Klickitats had their big fight just before we came into the country. It was just by the Mary's river bridge, where they had it out. It was quite a battle. The Calapooias got the best of it, for they outnumbered the Klickitats two to one. Yes, it was pretty rough in those days, you bet."



HIGHLIGHTS OF 1992 KING REUNION

The June 27th reunion at Kings Valley School was attended by 32 King folk. New faces included Leland & Barbara Drew, Orville & Norma Olney, and Joe & Glenva Chotard. These people were welcomed by all and information exchanged. David Trask brought his copy machine and it was utilized by many.

David gave a short accounting of the files on Nathan King which were given to him following Nathan's death. He reported that the files were fairly complete, but documentation was needed, which would involve extensive work. David suggested the files be used to begin developing a master file which others can add or use as needed. This information could also be prepared for publication.

The assembled group decided to work towards publishing a book and a plan was decided. Vol. 1 should contain a chapter on early King genealogy up to Nahum and Serepta. Another volume should cover their families and the trip to Oregon as well as settlement. The third volume could possibly trace the family as it grew in the western states. No one discussed who will publish the book or the cost, but a focus was established.

Publication of a newsletter was next on the agenda. The newsletter would consist of 4 or 5 pages and be mailed 4 times a year at a cost of \$5.00 per subscription. The first copy would be mailed as a "freebie" and then only to subscribers.

The group wants one of the pages to be a family history page. One side will contain a narrative of a certain branch of the family and the other side will include an ancestor chart of the person compiling the narrative. Francis Rexford said he'd be glad to write the first family history to be published. These pages can be submitted at any time and will contribute to the master file, and eventually to the publication of the book. Contributors will need to help keep these pages updated. Charlotte Wirfs said she would work with secretary, Janie King to mail the first newsletter.

Carole Putman will help with typing tasks and David Trask will begin organizing the master file. Progress on projects will be reported in each newsletter. Subscriptions will run from August to July and people subscribing after Aug. will receive back copies for that year so all subscriptions will come due in Aug. of each year. Everyone is encouraged to contribute ideas and material to the newsletter.

Officers for the 1992-'93 year are:

President, Charlotte Wirfs
Vice Pres., Carole Putman
Secretary, Janie King
Historian, David Trask

The meeting was adjourned and people visited, enjoyed a potluck luncheon, and played some horse shoes. By 4:00 tables were put away, the mess cleaned up and folks were on their way.

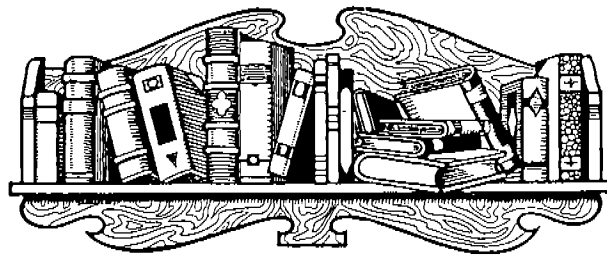
The next meeting will be June 26, 1993 at 10:00 am, Kings Valley School.

Family History Page

One of the suggestions that came from the June 27, 1992 King reunion was that a family history page be included in each newsletter. One side of the page would include a write up of the family as it relates back to Nahum and Serepta King. The other side would consist of an ancestral chart of the person submitting the family history. Not only would such a page provide information for the newsletter but it

would also establish a master file which could be updated and used in a book to be published in the future. The first person to submit a family history page is Francis Rexford of Corvallis, Oregon, whose page is featured in this issue of KING FOLK. Please submit similar pages of your family history and ancestor chart and they will be printed in future newsletters. Thank you, Francis, for blazing the trail.

Books Books Books



Bill and Gladys King of Lincoln City, OR. had copies of these books to share at the June 27 reunion:

We Claimed This Land, Portland's Pioneer Settlers, by Eugene E. Snyder; Binford & Mort Publishing, Portland, OR. 1989. It contains a chapter on the Amos King family and donation land claim.

Tracking Down Coyote, by Mike Helm; Rainy Day Press, Oct. 1990. This new paperback contains a chapter, "Along the Terrible Trail".

Keith Clark announced that *Terrible Trail, Meek Cutoff of 1845*, by Keith Clark and Lowell Tiller, is being reprinted as part of the Oregon Trail celebration. The original book was published in 1966 by Caxton Printers, Ltd. of Caldwell, Idaho. It has been out of print for some time. The new

printing will be somewhat revised, with some different pictures added and roster list additions. It will be a paperback and doesn't have a set price yet, but will be somewhere around \$12.00. Please write to Keith if you'd like more information: Keith Clark, 541 S. 14th, Redmond, OR. 97756.

The Brazen Overlanders of 1845, by Donna Wojcik Montgomery has been reprinted. This is the account of Oregon pioneers of 1845 and includes an extensive roster complete with photographs of some. The revised addition is in paperback and is published by Heritage Books, Inc., 1992. Donna has married since publication of her first book, hence the name change. For more information please write:

Donna Wojcik
Montgomery, 3938 S.E.
28th Ave. Portland, OR.
97202.

Alice Blowers of Sun Lake, Arizona wrote to Robert and Janie King June 11, 1992 and told them that she was still working on the King directory and hopes to complete it this fall. If you haven't sent family information to Alice here is her address: Alice Blowers, 9008 N. Olive Ln., Sun Lake, AZ. 85224. Alice does provide forms to fill out and you can get them by sending her a SASE with your request to be included in the directory.

The letter written in 1846 by Anna Maria King, wife of Stephen King and later Salomon King, from Luckiamute Valley, Oregon country to her family back East is included in the book: *Covered Wagon Women, Vol I. 1840-1849*, by Kenneth L. Holmes, The Arthur H. Clark Company, Glendale, CA., 1983. This book can be purchased at Western Oregon State College book store in Monmouth, OR.

A RESUME OF THE ROOTS OF
THE FAMILY OF JOHN LAWRENCE REXFORD
AND MARY BELLE TOTTEN

William King, born 1595, in England, who lived in Dorsetshire; married Dorothy Hayne in 1616 and came to America 1635.

Nahum King the son of Amos King and Hopestill Haskins married Serepta Norton, daughter of James and Dulaney Norton in 1807, probably near Albany New Yory. Nahum and Serepta moved to Madison county, Ohio between 1809 and 1811 and lived there about twenty years. They moved to the Big Bend of Missouri.

When the flood of 1844 destroyed their farm, they decided to move westward. At the time of their move, their family consisted of Saretta King and Moses Moore; Lucretia and Heman Hallock; John and Susan King, Luther, Electra and a baby boy; Hopestill and Lucius Norton, Isaac and Wiley; Stephen and Anna Maria King; Issac King; Amos Nahum King, Sarah and Roland Chambers, Margaret and James; Lovisa King who married Roland Chambers after her sister Sarah died; Abigail King married Price Fuller after their arrival; Lydia King married Jonathon Lafayette Williams later; Solomon King who later married his brother Stephen's widow Anna Maria King; Rhoda Ann who married twice, John Phillips and lastly Eli Summers.

The two oldest girls and their husbands didn't make the trip. Saretta and Moses Moore stayed in Ohio, Lucretia and Heman Hallock of Vermont came to Oregon in 1853 and took up a donation land claim in the south end of Kings Valley.

Lucretia King and Heman Hallock of Chittenden county Vermont were married in Ohio. They had six? children Amos, Sally, Hope, Rhoda, Serepta and Margaret. Lucretia died May 12, 1860 and is buried in Kings Valley cemetery.

Arthur Rexford of Dartmouth, England, sailed to America in 1701 and started the family in America. Ensign Vernon Rexford son of Rev. John Letts Rexford and Charity Ann Brown was born in Canada, came west with his parents after they stayed 10 years in Ohio. The family included Mary, Ensign, Ann, Jane, Galetza (Elizabeth), Letts, John B, Laura, Lucy, Charity, Charlotte, Jerome, Ruby, Pearl and Callista Ellen; and took up a donation land claim in 1851 in Pleasant Valley along the present Alsea Highway. Part of the claim was donated for a cemetery. Ann 18 and Lucy 2 were the first burials. Six children died young.

Ensign Vernon the oldest son married Serepta King Hallock and five children were born, John Lawrence, Letts, Virginia Ann, Martha Jane and Hanah Matilda, in Kings Valley. Ensign and Serepta were divorced in 1873 and Serepta married Charles Rexford, Ensign's cousin. Children of their marriage was Clarence Elmer and Martin B Rexford. John Lawrence Rexford married Julia Garret, two children Cecil and Helen were born.

John Lawrence Rexford married Mary Belle Totten daughter of Rev Benjamin Franlin Totten and Sarah Jane Warren of Oak Ridge southwest of Corvallis. Their children Hazel Ann Rosemond, Elmer Glen, Eben Kenneth, Bertha Miona, Gilbert Letts, Wilbur Orin, Francis Lewis and Roderick Meredith. In addition they raised Cecil and Helen.

Dr. John S Rexford

b 1774

pb Steuban Ct,

John Letts Rexford

b 7/7/1806

pb Steuban ct, NY

d 2/22/1880 ?

Charlotte Knowleton

b 10/13/1788

pb Mason Town, NH

Ensign Vernon Rexford Detroit, Mich

b 8/14/1833

pb Canada

m 6/29/1862

d 3/24/1915

Portland, Or

Charity Ann Brown

b Steuban ct, NY

John Lawrence Rexford

b 8/16/1863

pb Kings Valley, Or

m 11/27/1902

d 1/10/1930

Corvallis, Or

Heman Hallock

b 7/15/1803

Chittenden ct, Vt

Serepta Hallock

b 5/12/1847

pb Madison ct, Ohio

d 12/10/1912

Corvallis, Or

Nahum King

b 1778

pb New Salem, Mass

Lucretia King

b 7/5/1908

pb New York

Serepta Norton

b 1792 New York

Francis Lewis Rexford

b 3/22/1918

pb Lewisburg, Or

Benjamin Frank. Totten

b 11/23/1842

pb Crawford ct, Ind.

m 4/25/1867

Anderson Ct, Kansas

d 10/1/1916

Corvallis, Or

Mary Belle Totten

b 5/5/1879

pb Prairie View, Ark

d 12/30/1953

Corvallis, Or

Hardy Warren I

Hardy Warren II

Sarah Jane Warren

b 8/21/1849

pb Shelby ct, Ill

d 7/16/1935

Corvallis, Or

Elizabeth South

Wife of I

Vera Ann Shelton

b 1927

m 9/27/1947



NORTHWEST CHAPTER OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

July 26, 1992

Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Wirfs
296 N.E. Gerlinger Lane
Dallas, Ore. 97338

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Waifs,

I am writing to you as representatives of the King family.
I hope I am on the right track.

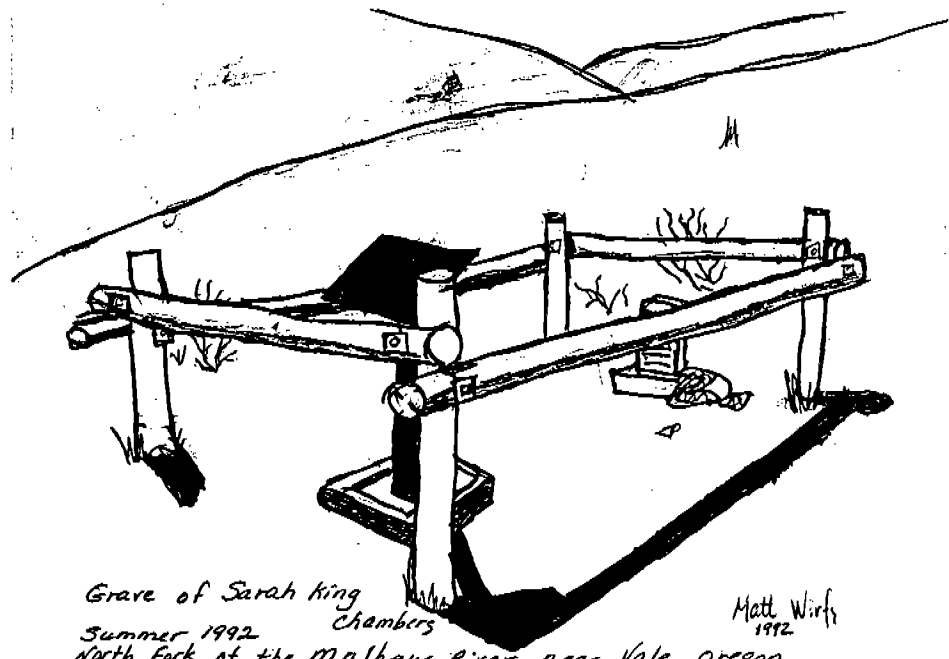
Enclosed please find two pictures of the Sarah King Chambers
grave over on the North Fork of the Malheur River. The
Northwest chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Ass'n.
recently placed a new pole fence around the grave and we
also placed an informational plaque explaining who Sarah
was and how she came to be there. The plaque is a most
beautiful one I think you will agree.

Unfortunately, somewhere between my original script for the
plaque and it's final inscription, Nahum King's name was
altered to Naham. Other than that, we hope the King family
is pleased with the improvement

Some years ago I co-authored with Mr. Keith Clark a book
Terrible Trail, The Meek Cut-off: 1845. It is the story of
the wagon train in which the King family came to Oregon.
The book, long out of print, is being reprinted by
Maverick Press later this year. It will be a paper back
and sell for \$12.95 I believe. Should any of the family
want to order a copy, they could contact me.

Sincerely,

L. E. Tiller
12308 N.E. Russell
Portland, Oregon 97230



Grave of Sarah King
Chambers
Summer 1992
North Fork of the Malheur River near Vale, Oregon

Matt Wirfs
1992

SARAH KING CHAMBERS

Sarah King Chambers was born July 25, 1823, in Madison County, Ohio, to Naham and Serepta King.

In the spring of 1845, she, along with her husband, Rowland, and their children Margaret and James, joined other members of the King family on their migration west. Their destination was the Willamette Valley of Oregon, for a new beginning in a land which held great promise.

With about 1,000 other emigrants and 200 wagons, the King party chose to follow Stephen Meek in an ill-fated attempt to cross central Oregon on their way to the upper Willamette Valley, near present-day Eugene. Meek convinced them that this new route would avoid many hazards of the Blue Mountains, the restless Cayuse Indians, and the perilous journey down the Columbia River.

Their group became known as the "Lost Wagon Train of 1845." Not really lost, but desperate for water in these high deserts, they abandoned their plans for a new route and turned north toward the Columbia River and the established trail to Oregon. They arrived at the mission in The Dalles in October in a most deplorable condition.

Sarah could not complete that journey. She died on September 3, 1845, and was buried here, alongside the "Terrible Trail." The cause of death was not recorded in contemporary accounts.

There were twenty-three other known deaths along the cutoff route from where they left the Oregon Trail at the crossing of the Malheur River (in present-day Vale, Oregon) until they rejoined the Oregon Trail at the mission at The Dalles.

Research, Funding, and Signing by the

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

1991

This is a part of your American Heritage. Honor it, protect it, preserve it for your children.

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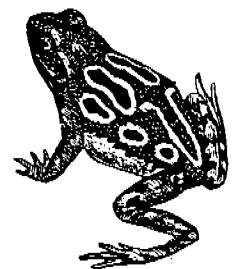
Francis L. Rexford
c/o TOMA P.O. Box 2010
Sparks, NV. 89432

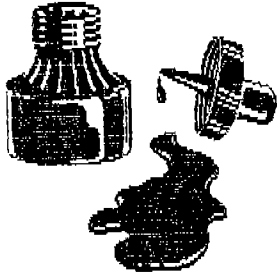
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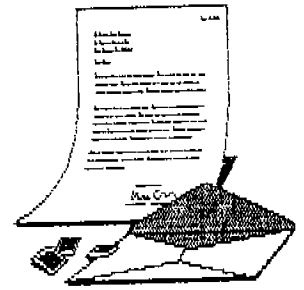
Charlotte L. Wirfs
296 NE Gerlinger Ln.
Dallas, OR. 97338

If you have paid your \$5.00 and your name isn't listed or needs correction, please write to Charlotte Wirfs (address given above).





QUERIES



OLIVER PERRY CARD

Information is needed on Oliver Perry Card. He married Olive A. (Harris) Norton. Olive was first married to Isaac Norton, son of Lucius Norton. Olive was born at Kings Valley, OR. and died

between 1887-1897. Oliver was mentioned in his parents' will in 1892. He left his family and there is no trace of him. Please contact Dianne (Card) Weaver, 387 Orchard Dr., Dallas, OR. if you can help her find Oliver Perry Card.

- 10 -

*Charlotte L. Wirfs
296 N.E. Gerlinger Lane
Dallas, OR 97338*

