

# King Folk Newsletter

No. 15



June 15, 1996 1998

## What's New?

Welcome back everyone. We've got a reunion coming up on Sat. June 27, 1998 at Kings Valley School, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Remember to bring a main dish, and a small salad or a dessert to share, bottled water if you need water, and table service. Coffee and iced tea will be provided. For more information call Charlotte Wirfs (that's me), at (503) 283-8036 or e-mail charw@teleport.com.

I have moved again and hopefully I will stay put for awhile. My new address is 442 NE Bridgeton Rd., Portland, OR 97211-1051. I'm preparing this newsletter for the reunion and if it goes well, I'll keep printing, four issues a year.

Remember the Fromherz connection through Sol King's line meets Sun. June 28, at Avery Park in Corvallis and they always invite other King connections to join them. For information on that write to Florence Gross, PO Box 904, Mt. Angel, OR 97362.

We need to look back to April 1996 in order for me to catch you up on what's been going on. Since then Kathy Hood sent more of Nathan King's records to our historian, David Trask. Much of it contained Chambers' family records from Minerva (Watson) Mueller. She researched several of her pioneer ancestors in 1949 when DAR was collecting information on Oregon pioneers.

Otto Burgett sent us a book, Reuben F Burgett: Willamette Valley Pioneer, which he compiled on the Burgett, Chambers, King, Norton, Patterson, and Wood families. A query from Otto is printed in this issue.

Angela Porter sent her records on Rowland and Lovisa Chambers as well as her pedigree chart and family history page, which are featured in this newsletter.

Dorothy (Turner) Brown and her cousin, David Morgan, sent records on their King connection, Stephen & Anna Maria (Allen) King, as well as information on Kings buried in cemeteries other than Kings Valley. In the spring of 1995, they were presented with an award from Wren Community Cemetery Association for the work they had done at the cemetery there. Since then

David passed away Aug. 24, 1997, age 68, at his home in Corvallis.

Joan Larsen researched the care and repair of old cemetery markers which will be helpful to all of us. More of what she learned will follow in this newsletter.

Carole Putman continues to send bits and pieces on her Hopestill (King) Norton connection. She graciously shares her information later in this issue. Carole also told us that she has a new granddaughter, Leandra Putman, born in December 31, 1996, daughter of John and Marlene Putman of Tillamook, Oregon.

David Trask got married early in 1997 and brought his bride, Libia, to the 1997 reunion. We were all delighted to meet her. Welcome to the family, Libia.

Maxine Bell was able to tell several new cousins about us, Karen Reade and Crystal Jones were her students and were invited by Maxine to attend the 1997 reunion and have now been added to the mailing list. Crystal is a descendent of Solomon King through William B. Kiger and she brought members of her family to the reunion: Naoma & Donald Jones, Earl Kiger, and Carol Hagel.

Frances (King) Ramsey and Annie (King) Burgess of Salem learned about the reunion on a visit to Kings Valley last spring. These sisters are granddaughters of Luther King. He was the orphan of John King, who drowned with his wife and two children as the family made their way down the Columbia river in the fall of 1845. Frances attended the reunion and brought members of her family. Robert represented the youngest cousin of John King's connection.

Frederick D. Price has added much information to Price, Simpson, Porter and Kimsey families. He has been writing to several of you and has been generous about sharing his research.

Earle Greig has been meeting many cousins on his quest to identify King relations who are pictured in several group portraits of previous family reunions. He tells me he is meeting many nice people and as a result the pictures are slowly getting identified. Earle brought his project to the last reunion for folks to see.

Carol Nelson has been indexing the photo collection. When she came to the 1997 reunion she introduced us to Edward San Romani, son of her daughter, Suzanne. Edward attended his first reunion at the tender age of eight weeks. He lives with his family in Corvallis and his mom, Suzanne, will be helping to restore the earliest King cemetery marker, belonging to an infant of Amos and Melinda (Fuller) King, at Locke Cemetery.

Florence Gross has rewritten her book, Come Hell or High Water, My First 25 Years Memoirs, part of which she told us about at the 1996 reunion. It's the part about George Newberry, her great uncle, and half-brother of Sol King's children. That story is related in Hi-Lites of the 1996 reunion printed in this issue.

All was not good news since the last issue was printed. Dorice Stewart, born Aug. 6, 1926, died Nov. 22, 1996 at age 70. She lived in Albany. Surviving Dorice are her husband, Russell L. Stewart, and sons, Mark & Scott, and a daughter, Shelly. Dorice was an avid genealogist and added much to Simpson, Williams, and Price families. Dorice attended our reunions and corresponded with many of us, always willing to share her "finds".

Others no longer living are Evelyn Quick Tucker, May 27, 1918 to Feb. 9, 1996, Jesse Belle, Jr., 1919-1995, and David D. Morgan, April 18, 1929 to August 24, 1997.

Recent correspondence has added more information to the King connection. Barbara Mitchell of Scottsdale, AZ sent family information for our files. Her connection goes through Rowland & Sarah King Chambers and their daughter, Margaret. Surnames she has researched are Bagley, Steele, and Boozer.

Carol West of White Salmon, WA has written to ask us if Frances King is one of us. He was born 1826 in Vermont, married Sarah Ann Lee Oct. 29, 1852 at Portland, OT, died July 5, 1908 and was a resident of Yamhill Co. for many years. He arrived in Oregon about 1851. Can anyone claim Frances or provide more information on him?

Tom Hudson wrote to tell us of his wife's King connection. Her name was Jean Dolores Read Hudson and she passed away in 1996. Her line goes through Olive King Read, daughter of Isaac King and Almeda J. Vanbibber King.

I am able to resume publication of King Folk. One other issue, No. 16 will be mailed before dues will be collected. A notice to pay dues will be posted in that newsletter. No need to send money until then. The price will remain \$6.00 for the year--four issues.

## 20 Good Reasons to Come To The Family Reunion

1. A long-lost uncle who owes you money.
2. A cousin who thinks your jokes are funny.
3. An aunt by marriage who married your boss.
4. A relative with the recipe for your favorite sauce.
5. A sister-in-law who practices voodoo.
6. A cousin who has the same ailment as you do.
7. A mysterious stranger that nobody knows.
8. The wife of your brother who removes all of her clothes.
9. The family "black sheep" who now owns a bank.
10. The kindly old auntie you always want to thank.
11. The nephew who won a Pulitzer Prize.
12. Your grandma who makes the world's best pies.
13. Your "darling, spoiled" cousin who is now a geek.
14. Your ugly cousin who's now "hunk of the week."
15. Your brother who played Lotto--and won!
16. Your twice-married sister who is now a nun.
17. The six-foot tall niece you used to call "Pumpkin".
18. The five-year old nephew who's now "30 something".
19. The whole family will be glad they came.
20. But if you don't show up, it won't be the same.

From Bessie Gannon, Kindred Spirits, Winter 1995. Printed in NGS Newsletter--May/June 1995. This was sent in by Maxine Bell.



**Back When in Benton County**  
**The Kings of Kings Valley**  
**Part 9**  
*John King's Family*  
Charlotte L. Wirfs

John King, the first son of Nahum and Sarepta, was born in Madison County, Ohio, March 23, 1813. He and his wife, Susan Cooper King, and their three children were in the party of Kings leaving Missouri in May 1845. Four members of this family lost their lives on the same day in a rafting accident on the Columbia River near Cascade Locks. The drowning occurred October 26, 1845. It must have been a defeating blow to the exhausted and trail-weary travelers who were so close to their destination.

One child, Luther, age 5, survived the accident. His sister, Electra, age 3, and his infant brother were drowned with their parents. Later, Luther had a second brush with death, which earned him the name "Rattlesnake King", after barely surviving a deadly snakebite.

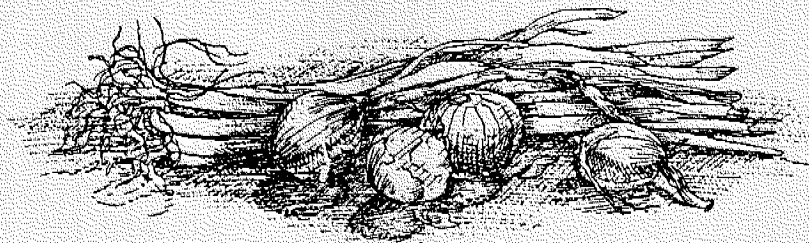
Nahum and Sarepta took their orphaned grandson into their household as they still had four children under the age of 17 living with them. The 1850 census for Benton County shows Luther, age 10, living in the Nahum King household. Nahum died in 1856 and teenaged Luther, "Little Lute", went to live with his Uncle Amos and Aunt Melinda King in Portland. Amos N. King was officially appointed guardian of Luther March of 1857 by Multnomah County Judge of Probate, Anthony L. Davis.

In the 1870 census, Luther, 30, and his wife, Caroline Ladd King, 17, were living in Benton County. He began application for a Donation Land Claim on Blakesly Creek east of Wren on August 9, 1867, but Eli Summers, Luther's uncle, proved up on the claim after Luther's application was cancelled, October 21, 1887.

At age 32, Luther was sentenced to one year in the Oregon State Penitentiary, beginning April 22, 1873. At that time he was listed as being a farmer from Benton County. He served a little less than a year for the crime of "abduction". Prison records provide one of the few physical descriptions of any member of the King family. He was "5' 3 1/2 inches tall, fair complected with brown hair and hazel eyes.

Luther's second wife was Annie Laurie Bayes. They had a son, Luttie Russel, born in Gardiner, Oregon on April 9, 1886. Other children of Luther King were Charlie, Dellie, Electra, and Ettie.

**Next week: Lucius C. and Hopestill Norton**



**Back When in Benton County**  
**The Kings of Kings Valley**  
**Part 10**  
*Hopestill King and Lucius Norton*

Charlotte L. Wirfs

Before leaving Missouri, the Kings agreed that Hopestill's younger brother would relieve her at driving the wagon. Her husband, Lucius Carolus Norton, was not well and spent much of the journey bedded down.

Hopestill and Lucius were first cousins. Both had been born in Madison County, Ohio, "Hope" on February 7, 1815, and Lucius, son of Solomon and Cynthia Knapp Norton, on December 26, 1818. They were married in Ohio October 7, 1839 and had two sons, Isaac, age 3, and Wiley, age 1, when they came west in 1845.

The Nortons staked their donation land claims in the center of Kings Valley between Price and Maxfield creeks and extending onto the West Bank of the Luckiamute. The two-story house they built in the 1850's housed several generations of Nortons before it burned in 1927. Eight of their ten children were born there.

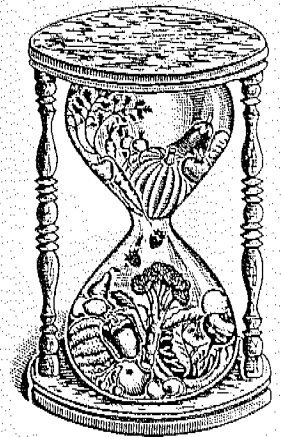
Ashnah, their first daughter, was the first white child born in Kings Valley, February 8, 1847. She was a teenager when the California Volunteers replaced the regular army troops at Fort Hoskins and was undoubtedly among the "Webfoots" entertained by the soldiers on special occasions. She was about 17 when she married Private James Plunkett, 26, a gunner and part-time drummer at Fort Hoskins. (The bass drum he used is at the Horner Museum in Corvallis). Ashnah and Jim built a house and settled down on Plunkett Creek.

Hopestill's next children were triplets, Nahum, Sarepta, and Cynthia. Cynthia lived only a few days. The others grew to maturity. Nahum, "Bub", married and lived near Blodgett. Sarepta "Sis" married Willard Price, long-time storekeeper in Kings Valley.

Among the later children Melinda, "Lynn", married Dillard Price, brother of Willard, and son of Larkin Price, an Oregon pioneer of 1846. Sarena was only age 19 when she died, and Cerilda died at age 1 ½. Hopestill's youngest son, Lucius C. Norton, married Mary Ellen Patterson, a pioneer from Illinois, and lived for 30 years near Norton Station.

Father Lucius died in 1859. Hopestill and the children still at home moved into the upper Yaquina valley. When Oregon Pacific railroad built through the area in 1880's, the station there was named Norton. Nortons Post Office opened in 1895. It was in this vicinity that Hopestill died November 16, 1892, aged 77. Many of her descendants still live in Western Oregon.

**Next week: Hannah King and Stephen King's Family**

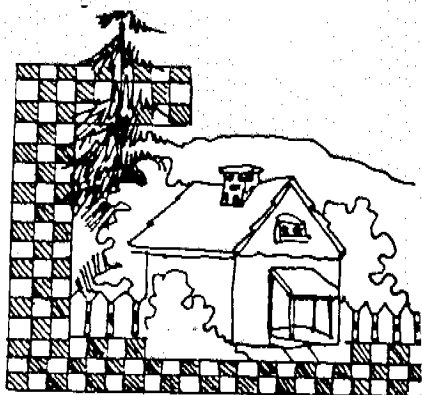




PEDIGREE CHART

8 Sep 1996

Chart no. 1



- 2 Berton MAXFIELD BAILEY-7-----  
 | BORN: 26 Nov 1932  
 | PLACE: Lakeview, Lake, Oregon  
 | MARR: 28 Aug 1954(div) --2  
 | PLACE: Portland, Multnomah, OR  
 | DIED:  
 | PLACE:
- 4 Lawrence Dudley "Bob" BAILEY-11-----  
 | BORN: 16 Nov 1899  
 | PLACE: Greenwood, Clark, Wisconsin  
 | MARR: 30 Sep 1926(div) --4  
 | PLACE: Corvallis, Benton, Oregon  
 | DIED: 10 Jun 1989  
 | PLACE: Campverde, Yavapai, Arizona
- 5 Vivian Imogene MAXFIELD-12-----  
 | BORN: 16 Sep 1910  
 | PLACE: Kingsvalley, Benton, Oregon  
 | DIED: 13 Oct 1987  
 | PLACE: Salem, Marion, Oregon
- 6 George Alfred BRANDE-25-----  
 | BORN: 19 Dec 1900  
 | PLACE: Portland, Multnomah, Oregon  
 | MARR: 13 Jun 1925(div) --7  
 | PLACE: Portland, Multnomah, Oregon  
 | DIED: 26 Jan 1955  
 | PLACE: Portland, Multnomah, Oregon
- 7 Caroline Elsie THOENY-26-----  
 | BORN: 3 Aug 1900  
 | PLACE: Portland, Multnomah, Oregon  
 | DIED: 30 Oct 1988  
 | PLACE: Gresham, Multnomah, Oregon
- 8 Berton Lawrence BAILEY-15-----  
 | BORN: 19 Feb 1868  
 | PLACE: Black River Fall, J, Wisconsin  
 | MARR: 28 Mar 1897(div) --5  
 | PLACE:  
 | DIED: 25 May 1918  
 | PLACE: Portland, Multnomah, Oregon
- 9 Eva "Althea" VAN EVERA-16-----  
 | BORN: 31 Mar 1878  
 | PLACE: Trenton, Wisconsin  
 | DIED: Apr 1962  
 | PLACE: Oregon
- 10 Charles Ephraim MAXFIELD-21-----  
 | BORN: 12 Jul 1878  
 | PLACE: Benton, Oregon  
 | MARR: --6  
 | PLACE:  
 | DIED: 9 Feb 1937  
 | PLACE:
- 11 Virginia Mae YOST-22-----  
 | BORN: Nov 1887  
 | PLACE: Pennsylvania  
 | DIED: 22 Jan 1964  
 | PLACE:
- 12 Thomas BRANDE-28-----  
 | BORN: Aug 1869  
 | PLACE: Norway  
 | MARR: (div) --8  
 | PLACE:  
 | DIED:  
 | PLACE: Iowa?
- 13 Jennie LOE-29-----  
 | BORN: 20 Jun 1872  
 | PLACE: Norway  
 | DIED: 13 Jan 1938  
 | PLACE: Portland, Multnomah, Oregon
- 14 Heinrich (Henry Thoeny) THONI-34-----  
 | BORN: 18 Apr 1864  
 | PLACE: in der goldenen, Switzerland  
 | MARR: 23 Dec 1894 --9  
 | PLACE: Portland, Multnomah, Oregon  
 | DIED: 15 Dec 1932  
 | PLACE: Oregon City, Clackamas, Oregon
- 15 Augusta Aurelia Amelia STOFFERS-35-----  
 | BORN: 8 Mar 1874  
 | PLACE: Homestead, Iowa  
 | DIED: 5 Jun 1961  
 | PLACE: Portland, Multnomah, Oregon
- 3 Laura "Angela" BAILEY-1-----  
 | BORN: 12 Oct 1960  
 | PLACE: Portland, Multnomah, Oregon  
 | MARR: 2 May 1979 --1  
 | PLACE: Oakland, Alameda, CA  
 | DIED:  
 | PLACE:
- David C PORTER-2-----  
 | Spouse
- 3 Ellen Diane BRANDE-8-----  
 | BORN: 3 Mar 1935  
 | PLACE: Portland, Multnomah, Oregon  
 | DIED:  
 | PLACE:

Name and address of submitter:

My KING Connection  
By Laura "Angela" Bailey Porter

I am excited to have found the King family organization! From the time that I was a little girl I remember the book on the shelf about, "The Terrible Trail", but I didn't know until this year about the King family organization.

I hook into the Kings through Lovisa KING who was born in Madison County, Ohio on 2 Mar 1828. She married Roland CHAMBERS on the 22 Feb 1846 in Washington County, Oregon. Their ninth child, Lydia CHAMBERS was born in Oregon on 26 Nov 1859. She married Hiram Tipton MAXFIELD.

Hiram and Lydia MAXFIELD had eleven children. Their third child, Charles Ephraim MAXFIELD is my great-grandfather. He married Virginia Mae YOST, and they had three daughters. The second daughter, Vivian Imogene MAXFIELD, is my grandmother.

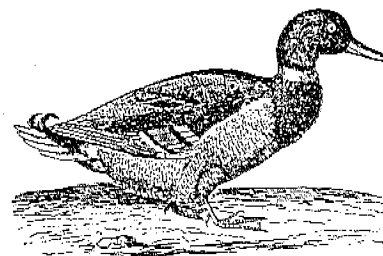
Vivian married Lawrence Dudley "Bob" BAILEY and they had two sons; Robert Lawrence BAILEY and Berton Maxfield BAILEY, my father.

My father married Ellen Diane BRANDE, and they have three children, Sarah Ellen, Laura "Angela" (myself) and David Van Evera BAILEY.

I am continually updating the information I have, and would appreciate any assistance you can give me. I am interested in the MAXFIELD line. I know Hiram Tipton MAXFIELD's father was Ephraim C. MAXFIELD, and he was born 22 Aug 1826 somewhere in Tennessee. He married Jane, maiden name unknown. She was born 12 Aug 1826 in Kentucky, I believe. They are buried in the Kings Valley Pioneer Cemetery.

The other people I am still looking into are Roland CHAMBERS' parents, Joseph CHAMBERS and Susannah VAN GUNDY. According to my information, Joseph was born 12 Oct 1779 in Ireland. His father's name was James, and his mother was Mary, maiden name unknown. Susannah was born 1 Jan 1780. I am unsure where, and do not know her parents' names. I believe Joseph and Susannah had about eleven children, Roland being the eighth.

If you have any information, please forward it to me at:  
93 W. 800 N., Bountiful, UT 84010, or you can call me at (801) 296-1799.



## SAREPTA NORTON KING ANCESTRY

SAREPTA NORTON daughter of James and Dulany (Howe) Norton-

-born 12 Nov 1791 Albany Co., N.Y., died 14 July 1869, Benton Co., Oregon

-married 9 May 1807, Columbia Co., N.Y. to NAHUM KING

JAMES NORTON son of James and Mary (Barnes) Norton/Naughton

-born 6 July 1766 probably Columbia County, N.Y, died 1823, Madison Co., Ohio

-married 10 Apr 1788, possibly N.Y., to Dulany Howe

JAMES NORTON/NAUGHTON son of James and Susannah (Henderson) Naughton

-born 18 Apr 1724, Farmington, Hartford, Conn. died ?

-married 18 Apr 1745 Bristol, Hartford, Conn. to Mary Mehitable Barnes, daughter of Ebenezer and Mabel (Hancox) Barnes.

JAMES NAUGHTON immigrant to Connecticut ca. 1720

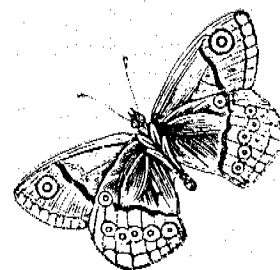
-ca. 1698 possibly England, died about 1774, probably at Farmington, Hartford Co., Conn.

-married first about 1723, Hartford Co., Conn. to Susannah Henderson, daughter of James and Mehitabel (Graves) Henderson

-married secondly on 30 November 1743, Farmington, Hartford Co., Conn. to Sarah Kilbourn, daughter of Ebenezer and Grace (Bulkley) Kilbourn.

Compiled by Carole Norton Putman

May 1997



## King Family Reunion at Kings Valley School June 21, 1997



Charlotte Wirfs presided over the meeting. Just before meeting day, she had received notice that the school gym was being treated and also that the water at the school was contaminated. Charlotte solved these problems by bringing several gallons of bottled water for coffee and washing. We weren't allowed to use the gym, but everyone managed to squeeze into the entrance area by the kitchen. The weather was rainy and cold or we could have met outside.

Florence Gross came with an idea. She had copied a number of small sheets so each person could show their descent from Nahum King. We wore these during the day and could easily be identified with our King ancestor. She will take these sheets and type them for reference. Florence brought her booklet of her first 25 years, which can be purchased from her for \$10.00.

Charlotte explained that our dues of \$10.00 is divided into two parts: \$4.00 will go toward tombstone repairs and \$6.00 for printing and mailing *King Folk* newsletter. There is now \$400.00 in the cemetery fund. Dues will not be collected at the meeting. A notice will be printed in the newsletter when due.

The Baby (King) tombstone will be returned to the Locke Cemetery, where it was found. Charlotte has a list of other stones to be repaired. Send information about broken stones to her. Suzanne San Romani said she would work with the Locke Cemetery people to repair and return the stone.

The youngest member of the King clan was recognized: Edward Joseph San Romani, born April 27, 1997. He is the grandson of Carol Nelson and son of Suzanne (Nelson) San Romani.

Audrey Theurer gave a report on the Fort Hoskins Historic Park and handed out brochures. Benton County purchased the land in 1992. Restoration will take a few more years. It is on the National Historic Register. A grant was received to begin work but more funds will be needed to continue the effort. The original hand-dug well is not up to standards and will have to be replaced. Our group will be on her mailing list.

New members were welcomed: Frances King Ramsey, and her niece, Sandra Edwards and grandson Robert M. King. Also attending for the first time are Donald and Naoma Jones and their daughter, Crystal Jones. David Trask introduced his wife, Libia, who was attending for the first time. Other newcomers were Earl Kiger and Carol Hagel, descendents of Sol King through William B. Kiger and Fred Kiger.

Jim King agreed to be vice president, replacing Carole Putman. Charlotte Wirfs will remain president, Pat Bearden as secretary, and David Trask as historian.

Carol Nelson volunteered to help with new ideas for the reunion, cemetery clean up, continuing the King T-shirts, and collecting stories and information of our ancestors. She mentioned that Aunt Dort had called and said hello to all.

Glenva Chotard reported that Wren has started an historical society. Contact Dorothy Brown of Wren for more information.

Earle Greig has pictures to identify which he will show after the meeting. His mother, Retha (Allen) Greig sends her greetings.

It has been a tradition for many years to have the King reunion on the first Sat. following Father's Day at Kings Valley School. It was decided to continue with the tradition.

Florence Gross related a story about her brothers and sisters. Mary and Walt were mischievous pals. They enjoyed experimenting with matches out by the woodpile. They would see who could hold a match the longest before dropping it. One time a sister saw a fire develop in the wood chips. Their story was that the sun was so hot, it started a fire!

Joan Larsen tells of a strange kettle she has. It was found at the old Watson homestead where the Prices lived. It came from the old smokehouse and was a big black cast iron kettle with handles and a large domed lid with a spout at the top. Someone said it was used for clambakes. Then the secret came out. It was a still for making moonshine.

Audrey Theurer announced that the WPA interviews by Mark Phinney will be in the reference library in the Philomath Museum.

About 35 people attended, including three children. Charlotte closed the meeting by encouraging people to come with stories to tell. A developing story is of the Isaac King ghost, reported by a family living on part of his DLC. Perhaps there will be more to tell on that at the next meeting.

Submitted by Carole Putman for Pat Bearden who was absent.



## Query

Milbrey Otto Burgett, of 777 Bayshore Dr. #601, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304-3930, (954) 564-1322 requests any misc. information on the Patterson family of Kings Valley. The connection to Kings is through Mary Ellen (Patterson) Norton, daughter of John H. and Nancy Patterson. Mary Ellen was the wife of Lucius C. Norton, son of Hopestill (King) Norton. Mr. Burgett wonders if there is a family relationship between John H. Patterson and Washington Patterson who had a DLC in Kings Valley.

John H. Patterson was born about 1835 in Illinois and Washington Patterson was born in Madison Co., Ohio in 1819 and resided at Logan Co. Illinois before migrating to Kings Valley. Washington married Chloe Norton, who was a daughter of Solomon Norton, who was the brother of Sarepta (Norton) King. Both men have a King connection through the Norton line. How does John H. Patterson relate to Washington Patterson? Were they father-son, brothers, or perhaps cousins?

### Correction

by

**Carole Putman**

I have received some information and copies of documents from Earle Grieg which show clearly that Nahum Norton married Margaret Murphy, not Mulkey as I thought. Consent was given by her father, W. S. Mulkey. The correction would be on page 5 of King Folk news letter

#2. I can only assume that she was either a stepdaughter or had been married before. If anyone knows the facts, I would be interested to hear about it.

Carole Putman  
1222 Marylhurst Dr.  
West Linn, OR 97068

## Kings Buried Other Than Kings Valley Dorothy Brown

### Wren Cemetery

Charles King and his second wife, Margaret (Barnes) King.  
Della (King) Turner.  
Anna King (no marker in 1996).  
Lorraine & Cleo, children of Samuel Creed Turner and Adella "Della" (King) Turner.  
Ethel (King) Morgan.  
Edward King.  
Glen King, son of Edward.  
Gladys King, dau. of Edward.

### Oak Lawn Cemetery

Helen (King) Schweitz and Edward Charles Turner.

### Oddfellows Cemetery on Withan Hill, Corvallis, OR

Martha Susan (Robinette) King  
Casey (this marker needs repair) and her husband Tom Casey.

### Wren Cemetery

On May 15, 1995 Wren Cemetery was placed on the Benton County Register of Historic Resources. Dorothy (Turner) Brown's father, Edward Turner, worked on that project before he died in 1977. The Wren Cemetery Association in May 1996 included Dorothy Brown, Elmer Taylor, and David Morgan.

Dorothy writes, "The neighbors in the Wren community have been very helpful in assisting with brush clearing, mowing, cleanup and finding some very old graves that have been hidden for years. Some of those we can't identify. It is a real challenge and a lot of work still to be done."

## Tombstone Maintenance

**Joan Larsen**

Because I knew they had been responsible for much of the restoration work in the pioneer Hillsboro cemetery after vandals made a mess of it, I called Oregon Memorial, (503) 648-3596. I talked to Becky.

I had been confused over the difference between the marble stones and the granite ones. It's important to know the difference when cleaning these stones. Becky told me that most of the earlier stones were either marble or sandstone and more modern stones were granite. Marble or sandstone are very fragile and should only be cleaned with water and a soft brush. She said, "Most of the original stones were white or soft pink and usually cannot be scrubbed enough to make them that way again. Time, dust, and weather turns them black. Time also makes them quite fragile, especially the sandstone, which are more porous. Most cemeteries have prohibited the use of sandstone or marble for sometime."

Becky described that marble was quite durable and hard to hurt. Their recommended cleaning of granite is to apply a product called CLR, that is available at Fred Meyer Stores (stands for calcium, lime, and rust) for 15 minutes, scrub with a

Tombstone Maintenance continued...

problem, the CLR will clean off the film that the moss clings to, which will slow the growth of the moss or stop it.

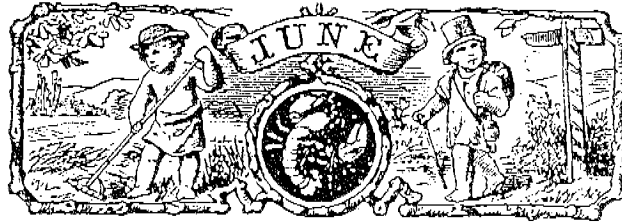
Bleach mixed with water could be used on marble and granite, but it would make marble surfaces more porous.

When I tried the bleach solution and the CLR, I discovered that both removed black or white lettering on granite. A product called Lithochrome could be used to repaint the letters.

I also asked Becky to explain how older, broken stones are repaired. She said that if there were two or more pieces, they took the all the pieces back to the workshop and glue them together inside a frame. Then they return the stones to the cemetery and do on of the following:

1. Epoxy the stone back to the base and prop it up in the cemetery using an A-frame or boards until the 24-hour-setting period has passed.
2. Cut the stone's base off level if there is room enough and mount it in a concrete base. This may obscure some letters.
3. Leave the stone jagged and mount it in a concrete base, which sometimes obscures part of the lettering.
4. If there is lettering only on one side, the stone can be placed flat on a concrete base.

Becky stated that these are the most inexpensive ways to repair the stones, as most cemeteries lack funds to repair stones and ask for more inexpensive repairs to be made.



Charlotte L. Wirfs  
442 NE Bridgeton Rd.  
Portland, OR 97211-1051

