

King Folk

Newsletter No. 19

June 10, 2000



What's New?

King Folk Reunion

Sat. June 24, 2000

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Kings Valley School Gym
(located behind the school)
39088 Kings Valley Highway

The morning session is a workshop. Bring paper, pencils, books family info to share, photos. A copy machine will be available. Coffee and doughnuts served.

Lunch at Noon

Bring a main dish and another item of choice (dessert, salad, or munchies) to share.

Include your eating utensils.

Coffee and iced tea served.

We have plenty of folding chairs, but could use some tables of any size.

General Meeting & Story Time

1:30 p.m.

Discussion this year: Kings Valley Cemetery

Election of Officers

Location of Future Reunions

Fate of the newsletter

How about a web site?

New King Information

Clean up and go home

3:45 pm



Messages

Kenneth Munford writes, "The arrival of King Folk, newsletter No. 18, reminds me that I have failed to correct an error in No. 17. On page 7 you included James Tilton Pickett's lithograph of Sol and Annie Maria King's house on the hilltop where Sol pastured horses he rented out from his livery stable on Second St. The trail that led out to this ranch became known as King's Road. Part of old King's Rd. became King's Boulevard. The section farther up the hill between Sol King's house and his barns became city streets. Velma Rawie and her husband lived in the house for many years and eventually replaced it with the present one at 2050 NW 23rd. St.

David and Libia Trask announced the birth of son Ryan, born June 29, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. Along with their new son, they have moved into a new home.

Charlotte Wirfs has a new address and phone number. In Sept. 1999 she and husband, Walt, moved from Portland, OR to

15109 Second St. NE

Aurora, OR 97002

phone: (503) 678-2837

email: charw@teleport.com

They purchased the Inn at Aurora, a bed and breakfast, and opened it June 1, 2000.

Jan Leschke writes, "I did learn that Luther King (son of John and Susan (Cooper) King) had a daughter that I am not sure you are aware of. Her name was May King, married to Clarence E. Birkenbeul and they lived in San Jose, CA. Clarence was born March 1894 and died March 1957. May was born Nov. 30, 1891 and died

March 1984."

Ellen Craven wrote, "I received a call from Mrs. Paul H. Patterson in Topeka, and she will be sending me information regarding Moses Patterson. The parents of Washington Patterson were Moses Patterson, born about 1797 in VA and Jane Humphries, born about 1794 in VA. Jane was the daughter of William and Margaret Humphries. Moses and Jane were married on Aug. 8, 1816 in Botetourt Co., VA. Some of their children were Washington, Franklin, William, Jane, Rebecca, John, and possibly Milton."

Marge C. Schell of Salem wrote, "I am related to the King family through Sarah King Chambers, wife of Rowland Chambers. She died near Buelah Reservoir on the Meeks Cutoff of 1845. She left two infants, Margaret Chambers, who married Orthellow Bagley and my great grandfather, James Chambers (1844-1888) who married Clarinda Kisor (1852-1939. She married Mr. Copeland after James' death. The log cabin museum in Newport, OR contains Indian memorabilia from her time as Indian Agent at Siletz. I'm anxious to come to the gathering in June 2000."

Lowell Tiller wrote, "I visited Sarah (King) Chambers' grave this last week. The headstone, the fence and the OCTA sign are all in good condition. I failed to take along the metal polish that helps preserve the lustre, but all is well there."

Dale Hanaha asked, "Do you know which King the road is named after that runs east and west off 82nd St. and goes to Milwaukie? It intersects with the Price Fuller road, which has now been shortened to Fuller Rd. Was it Amos Nahum King that was part owner of Olds and King Department store in Portland? Who were the Olds?" If you have answers for Dale please email them to dalen-pat@open.org.

Daniel David Lewis Frommherz has been busy this last year working researching earlier King generations and sorting out some of the mis information that has been passed down concerning the ancestors of Nahum and Sarepta (Norton) King.

What's New at the KV Cemetery?

by Earle Greig

During the summer and fall of 1999, Earle Greig, representing the King Family, formed a working partnership with The Kings Valley Cemetery Association, headed by Audrey Theurer, to tackle the preservation of a portion of the Kings Valley Pioneer Cemetery.

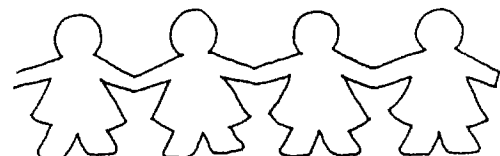
The work started at the top of the hill in the oldest portion of the cemetery. The first stone placed in an upright position was the oldest existing stone, that of one of Hopestill (King) Norton's triplets who was born and died in 1850. The biggest and heaviest stones were not disturbed whenever possible. The remaining stones were then lined up in a straight line.

We need to thank Art and Leone Lyday for the maintenance work and written records they furnished. Our work was made easier because of their dedication.

Next, we need to acknowledge and thank those who helped in the current endeavor. Leah Lyday, Virginia Price, and Earl Kiger were there one or two days each week. Others who came whenever possible included June Brandenburg and Evelyn Kari. Rock used in stabilizing markers was furnished by Linn Moser and Kurt Oleman. Paul Mulkey furnished grass seed for completed areas. Wayne Turner and Bruce Lyday were there with power equipment and know how. Roy Taylor donated a Fordson tractor which is up and running and will come in handy to save some sore muscles and alleviate much heavy lifting. Audrey Theurer was there like clockwork and took some excellent "before" and "after" pictures. And last, we must thank Rick Wells and his group of 4-H boys who again made their annual trek to the cemetery prior to Memorial Day, to cut weeds, pick up debris and help make the area neat and presentable.

Over 100 monuments were straightened and realigned. About half of these had to be set in concrete due to broken bases.

Volunteers for the current season are more than welcome. Contact Audrey Theurer. She coordinates the list. Her telephone number is (541) 758-6307.



Welcome to the Browns

We have new members receiving King Folk.
They are

Larry and Mary Brown
127 S.E. Dorrie Ct.
Bend, OR 97702

MBROWNOR@aol.com

Larry is a King through his mother,
Irene (Plunkett) Brown,
her father, Carl Plunkett,
his father, L. Plunkett,
his parents, James & Ashna (Norton) Plunkett,
her parents, Lucius & Hopestill (King) Norton,
her parents, Nahum and Sarepta (Norton) King
They plan to attend the reunion this year.

New Book

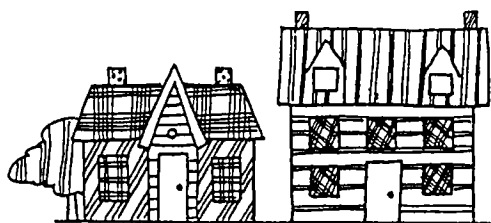
An Oregon Logging Pioneer

George Schroyer's Life, Work and Humor
compiled by Joyce M. Hall and Lee Wood
Sold at Philomath Pharmacy, Philomath, OR

Barbara (Boozer) Mitchell Chart

The pedigree chart included in this issue of King Folk is that of Barbara Mithchell of Scottsdale, AZ. Barbara is a King through Rowland and Sara "Sally" (King) Chambers. Their daughter, Margaret Chambers, was with the King family when they traveled the Oregon Trail in 1845. Margaret Chambers married Orthello Bagley.

Barbara and husband, Jack Alan Mitchell, have two children: Laura Christine (Mitchell) Baughman, born Sept. 15, 1966, married to John F. Baughman; and Douglas Robert Mitchell, born Aug. 30, 1968, married to Debra Rennelle Moore.



Horner Museum Update

Earle Greig

There has been a great deal of concern for the past few years after the Oregon State University announced that they were closing the Horner Museum in order to save operating funds. For sixty years, that I know of, the Horner Museum had been a favorite field trip destination for school children.

About a year ago, the University agreed to turn the collection (some 60,000 items) over to the Benton County Historical Society and Museum in Philomath, OR, provided that a facility would be furnished to properly care for the items.

A fund drive was successfully held during the early part of this year in which one million dollars was donated for the purchase of the former Copeland Lumber Yard on first street in Corvallis, OR. Museum staff and others are in the process of planning how to utilize the existing buildings and property in preparation for moving and showing this huge collection.

First St. is also being upgraded as a riverside park, which will include more small shops, river views, and eating places. The new museum location figures to be a perfect fit.

Recent King Research

Daniel David-Lewis Frommherz has written a long article about the recent research on our King ancestors. Because of the length we are emailing it to those of you who have turned in addresses. We will print copies to hand out at the reunion for those not on our group email. For those of you without email or who will not be at the reunion, we will mail it to you. The article is of interest and changes some of the earlier information offered in years past.

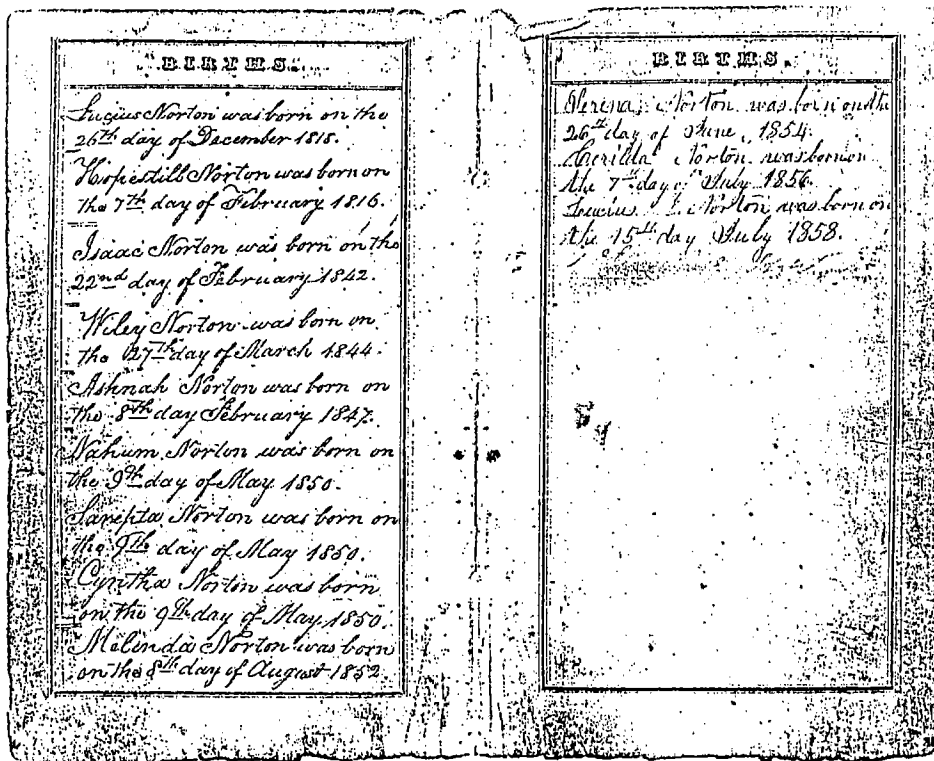
Bible Family Pages

It would be interesting and informative to have a picture of Bible Family Pages in each newsletter. Families in the Kings Valley/Hoskins/Pedee area seem to be related, so it could be pages from any family who lived in those areas. Also helpful would be to collect as many from the descendants of Nahum and Sarepta King. If you have any, please send them in for publication.

The following came from the Bible of their daughter, Hopestill, who married Lucius Norton. The Bible was printed in 1843 and came across the plains in 1845. It is transcribed below. Earle Greig sent the copies of the pages.

Births

Lucius Norton was born on the 26th day of December 1818
Hopestill Norton was born on the 7th day of February 1816
Isaac Norton was born on the 22nd day of February 1842
Wiley Norton was born on the 27th day of March 1844
Ashnah Norton was born on the 8th day of February 1847
Nahum Norton was born on the 9th day of May 1850
Sarepta Norton was born on the 9th day of May 1850
Cynthia Norton was born on the 9th day of May 1850
Melinda Norton was born on the 8th day of August 1852
Serena Norton was born on the 26th day of June 1854
Cerilda Norton was born on the 7th day of July 1856
Lucius Norton was born on the 15th day of July 1858



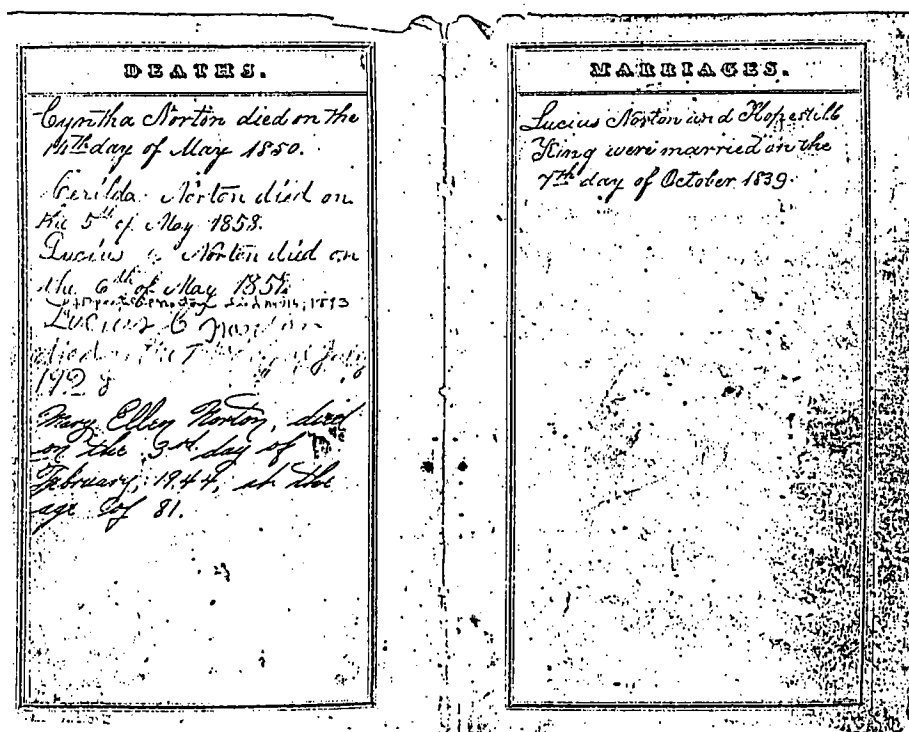
Lucius and Hopeskill (King) Norton Bible cont.

Deaths

Cynthia Norton died on the 14th day of May 1850
 Cerilda Norton died on the 5th day of May 1858
 Lucius Norton died on the 6th day of May 1859
 Hopeskill Norton died Nov. 16, 1893
 Lucius C. Norton died on the 7th day of July 1928
 Mary Ellen Norton died on the 3rd day of February 1944, at the age of 81

Marriages

Lucius Norton and Hopeskill King were married on the 7th day of October 1839

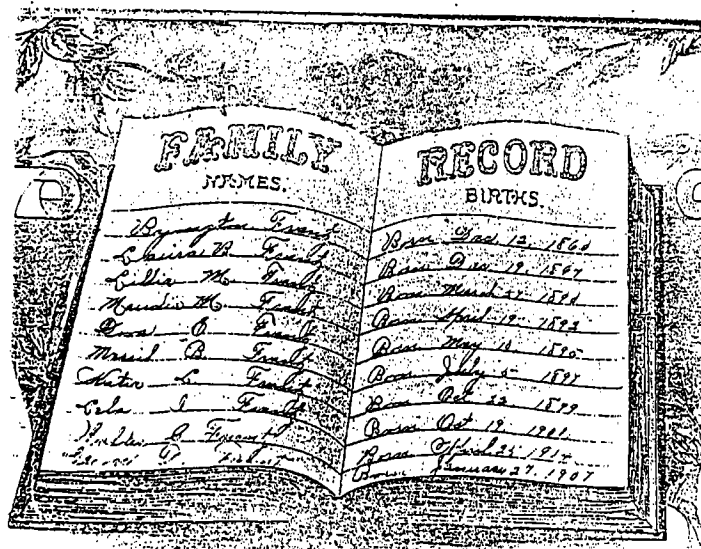


The second Bible Family Page is from the Byington and Laura B. (Read) Frantz family. Marilyn Rohrer of St. George, Utah, submitted it.

Family Record

Names. Births.

Byington Frantz Born Dec. 12, 1860
 Laura B. Frantz Born Dec. 19, 1867
 Lillia M. Frantz Born March 27, 1890
 Maudie M. Frantz Born April 19, 1892
 Dora O. Frantz Born May 10, 1895
 Merail B. Franz Born July 5, 1897
 Katie L. Frantz Born Oct. 22, 1899
 Lela I. Frantz Born Oct. 19, 1901
 Walter C. Frantz Born April 25, 1904
 George D. Franz Born January 27, 1907



Ancestors of Barbara Boozer

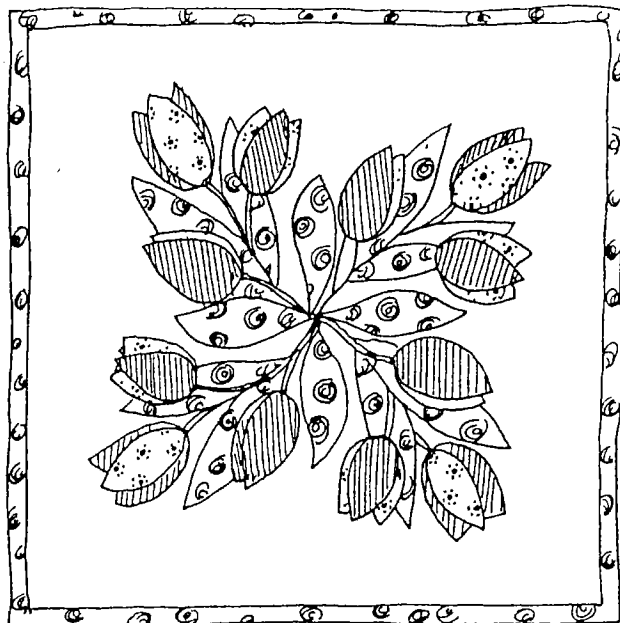
Parents

Grandparents

Great-Grandparents

2nd Great-Grandparents

LeRoy Fred Boozer
 d: November 5, 1998 in Portland
 m: July 7, 1940 in Portland, Mu
 b: May 13, 1917 in Tolt, Washi



Barbara Boozer
 m: July 11, 1964 in Portland, M
 b: October 23, 1945 in Portland
 Spouse: Jack Alan Mitchell

Nicholas Steele

George Steele
 d: December 18, 1939 in Portla
 m: November 2, 1882 in Polk C
 b: July 21, 1862 in Petersburg,

Isabella Wood

Gordon Orthello G. Steele
 d: March 4, 1962 in Portland,
 m: April 27, 1915 in Portland,
 b: August 17, 1890 in Suver, Po
Polk Co. OR

*Lakefield
 Canada*

Orthello Bagley
 d: 1920
 m: 1859 in Oregon
 b: 1830

Mary "Molly" Bagley
 d: October 9, 1918 in Portland,
 b: December 8, 1868 in Airlie,
Polk Co. OR

Margaret Chambers
 d: December 6, 1882 in Portlan
 b: December 12, 1842 in Carrol
Co. MO

Marjorie Elizabeth Steele OR
 d: June 2, 1996 in Portland, Mu
 b: April 13, 1916 in Portland, OR

Katherine Elizabeth "Elsa" K
 d: December 29, 1956 in Portla
 b: May 18, 1894 in Lexington, Ky

Back When in Benton County
The Kings of Kings Valley
Part 14
Rowland Chambers Families
By Charlotte Wirfs

Family history relates that Rowland Chambers arrived in Oregon with ten cents in his pocket. Twenty years later he had become the patriarch of the King family and had amassed a small fortune which he kept locked in a safe in his bedroom.

Approximately 450 people living today are direct descendants of Rowland Chambers, son-in-law of Nahum and Sarepta King. He was born March 12, 1813, the son of Joseph and Susan (VanGundy) Chambers. On August 15, 1841, he married Sarah King, born July 25, 1823, had two children, James and Margaret, when the Chambers family left Missouri in the spring of 1845.

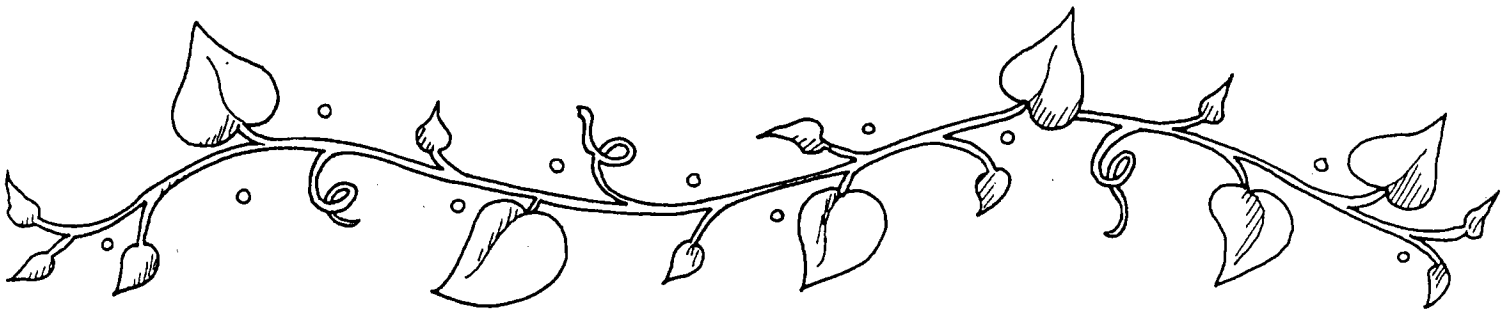
Five months later, "Sally" died of "camp fever" on September 3, 1845, and was buried on the Oregon desert French trappers had named Malheur, "Evil Hour." Her grave was one of the few marked graves of the 1845 emigration, for most graves were deliberately camouflaged to discourage Indian robbers.

Care for Sally's two babies undoubtedly fell into the hands of her 17-year-old sister, Lovisa. In Washington County, Oregon Country, on February 22, 1846 Lovisa King became the bride of Rowland Chambers. That same spring land claims of approximately 640 acres each were laid out in Kings Valley. Members of the King family drew lots from a hat. Rowland promised to build a gristmill for the community if he could have first pick of location. That was agreed to and in 1852 Rowland Chambers and Mr. Reynolds, with the help of Stephen King, raised a two-story mill on the banks of the Luckiamute where a natural outcropping of rock provided a four-foot waterfall. For 50 years, the mill ground flour on the stone burrs, which had been shipped around the "Horn" from France, before modern machinery was installed. The mill survived until 1963 when the ruin was burned.

The first home of Rowland and Lovisa was a log cabin. Later a large house was constructed with numerous high-ceilinged bedrooms, large halls, a parlor, dining rooms, kitchen, cheese room, and a pie room where unbaked mincemeat pies were set on shelves to freeze in the winter. This house was nearly destroyed by fire and was replaced with the house, which still can be seen alongside the road in Kings Valley. A memorial plaque is posted in front.

Before his death in September 1870 in Kings Valley, Rowland was able to return for a visit with the family he'd left in Ohio. Lovisa died December 1889 at her home in Kings Valley. They were buried in Kings Valley Cemetery.

Next week: Heirs and Memories of Rowland Chambers



Back When in Benton County
The Kings of Kings Valley
Part 15
The Heirs and Memories of Rowland Chambers
By Charlotte Wirfs

Rowland Chambers, with the help of the Kings, started a miniature population explosion in northwestern Benton County. Lovisa (King) Chambers raised 16 children including her sister's two, James and Margaret.

James married Clarinda Kizer and later became president of Philomath College. Margaret married Mr. Bagley. Sarah, the first of Lovisa's children, married William Watson of Kings Valley and had a family of eight children. William (Bill) married Minnie Fairchild. Jackson (Jack) had two children. John lived in Kings Valley and had three sons. Franklin (Jake) married Emma Maxfield and lived in Kings Valley. Henry and his wife, Barbara, had one son and resided in Whitcom County, Washington, before moving to Portland. Ordella (Delia) married Henry David Randall and raised 11 children in Olex, Washington. Samuel raised two sons and lived in Newport. Lydia and Tip Maxfield had several children. Rebecca married Asa B. Alexander and raised three daughters in Benton County. Julia became the bride of Larkin G. Price and lived in Benton County with their five children. Lincoln (Link) and Corra had three children. Anna and Alice died in 1879 in a diphtheria epidemic.

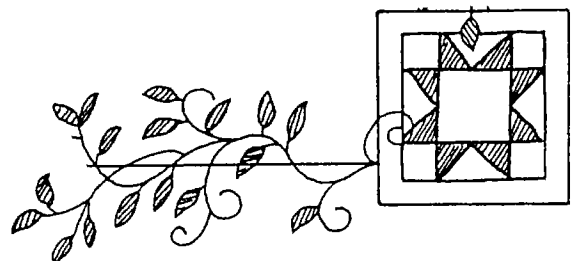
Like most Oregon pioneers the Chambers valued education. Because of difficult road conditions and short school terms, Rowland hired a teacher to tutor his children. Daughter, Julia, remembered attending school at home in Kings Valley and later going to the Little Red Schoolhouse which stood about two miles south of the present Kings Valley store. One of Julia's teachers was her brother, James, and another was Henry Randall, who later became her brother-in-law. Classes included the three "R's" and geography and algebra for the older boys. Julia states that her older brothers and sisters attended Willamette University in Salem. Her half-brother, James, had an BA, (probably from Willamette University) when he was president of Philomath College in 1869.

Dancing was disapproved of, but the young people organized parties where they played Weevily Wheat and other dancing games. For the annual May Day celebrations, every little girl got a new dress for the occasion. The two girls who died in the 1879 diphtheria epidemic were buried in their May Day dresses.

Everyday dresses were made from homespun wool. Rebecca Alexander remembers her mother, Lovisa, spinning wool from Rowland's sheep and her older sisters weaving it. Lovisa dyed the wool with peach leaves and different kinds of bark. Later, when carding mills were set up, rolls of pre-carded wool could be purchased.

A granddaughter, Mae (Watson) Landess, described the Chambers' homes and recalled that Lovisa was probably the first homemaker in Kings Valley to have a kitchen stove.

Next week: Anna Maria and Sol King

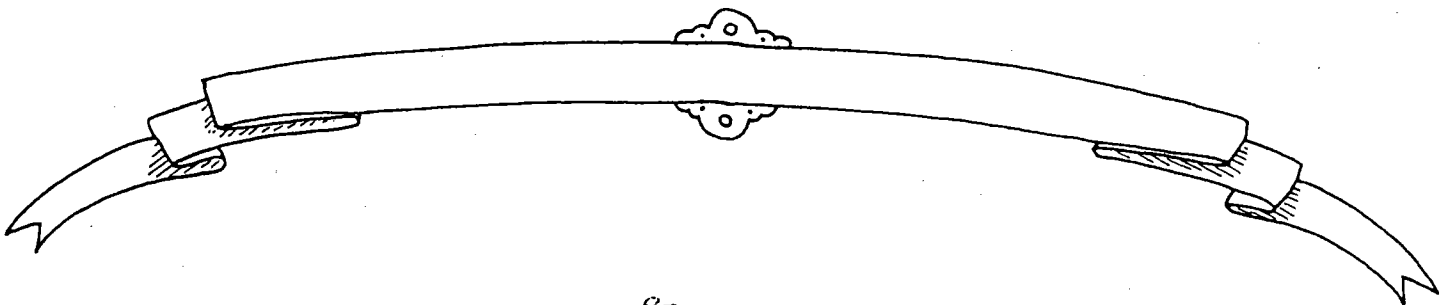


FRANKLIN J. CHAMBERS

A native son of Oregon, Franklin J. Chambers was born in King's valley, Benton County, February 15, 1853, the son of Rowland and Lovisa (King) Chambers, who came to Oregon in 1845, in company with Nahum King. In the spring of 1846, he came to King's Valley and took up a donation claim of six hundred and forty acres, upon which he continued to make his home until his death in 1870, at the age of fifty-seven years. He married Sarah King, the daughter of Nahum King, and upon her death, he married her sister. He was the father of the following children: Margaret Bagsley and James Chambers, both dead; Sarah, who lives at Dayton, Oregon, the wife of Mr. Watson; William, who lives at Pullman, Wash,; Jackson, conducting a hotel at Canyon City, Grant County, Ore.; John located in King's Valley; Franklin J., the subject of this review; Henry, in Pullman, Wash,; Ordella, at Olex, Ore.; Samuel, in Pullman, Wash,; Lydia, the wife of H. T. Maxfield, of King's Valley, Rebecca, the wife of A. B. Alexander, of Corvallis, Ore.; Julia, the wife of L. G. Price, of King's Valley; and Lincoln, also of King's Valley; Annie and Alice, who died several years ago. Mrs. Lovisa Chambers died December 3, 1889, aged sixty-three years.

Franklin J. Chambers was reared to manhood upon the paternal farm, receiving his education through the medium of the common schools in the vicinity of his home. Following close upon his twenty-first birthday he located on the farm where he now lives, having made this his home ever since. He has been very successful in his work, and has inherited much property, now owning three hundred and fifty acres of the home farm, and altogether seven hundred and fifty-five acres in King's valley, and a stock ranch in Polk County, consisting of fourteen hundred and eighty acres, upon which he raises cattle, horses, sheep, goats, etc.

Mr. Chambers was married in 1874 to Miss Emma Maxfield and they have made this their home ever since. In his political affiliations Mr. Chambers adheres to the principles of the Republican party, and through this influence he has held the position of county commissioner for eight years. Fraternaly he is associated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, holding membership in King's Valley Lodge, No. 44, of Corvallis, Ore., in which he has passed all the chairs but one, also belongs to the Encampment. Religiously he is a member of the United Evangelical Church.



Researching Unmarked Graves at Kings Valley Cemetery

Slowly, research files are building that provide information of the people who were buried at Kings Valley Cemetery, whose graves were either left unmarked or the markings have vanished. Two examples are written here. If you have documentation that would provide more information, please send it to Charlotte Wirfs, 15109 Second St., Aurora, OR 97002. Anne Trussell sent this article:

Three Were Burned

Horrible Death of Mrs. Thomas Savage and Her Three Little Children

Source: The Corvallis Gazette, Fri., Oct. 9, 1896, 3:5

At Summit Sunday night Mrs. Thomas Savage and her three little children were burned to death and the house in which they lived was entirely consumed by the same angry flames that exterminated the four inmates. As far as can be learned, no man saw the fire and it was not until toward noon the following day that Bert James, one of the neighbors sons, discovered that the Savage residence was in ashes. The neighbors were at once notified and a party of friends soon arrived at the scene, and to their horror found the charred remains of Mrs. Savage and her three children, lying among the smoldering ruins. The story of the mournful event was related to the Gazette representative late Monday night by C. H. James and H. Herman. These gentlemen had driven in from the Summit after a casket in which the remains were to be buried. Their theory of the accident is that Mrs. Savage and her children had retired and that after they had gone to sleep the fire broke out in the kitchen. Being only a two-room box building, the flames quickly enveloped the entire structure and when Mrs. Savage awoke she was immediately overcome by the heat and fell with her baby at the foot of the bed in which her two little boys were sleeping. The two latter were probably unconscious to the end, for their remains were found lying together on a spring mattress upon which doubtless they were sleeping when the fire broke out. As there would have been no difficulty in the inmates effecting their escape if awake, it seems certain that the roaring flames which enveloped their little home, failed to warn the mother of their danger until too late. On Thursday previous to the fatal accident, the husband and father of the hapless family had gone hunting with a party of friends, and although he was expected home Sunday, he did not return until late the following afternoon. He had learned, however, of the tragedy, but was unprepared for the horrible scene that awaited him. The anguish of the stricken husband and father, deprived so horrible and so suddenly, of family and home, was most pitiful. Little consolation could the horror stricken, but deeply sympathising neighbors offer to the bereaved man. Mrs. Savage was a daughter of Nathan Norton, of Blodgett Valley, and had been married five or six years. Her remains, together with those of her three children, were buried in one casket today in Kings Valley Cemetery.

Here was a letter Carole Putman sent in that tells of some unmarked graves:

Monmouth, Ore.

Aug. 17, 1940

Dear Mrs. Norton,

I have just received a card addressed to Claude Ramsdell in regard to Zumwalt history as we have the King Bible. Some of the information you ask for is not recorded. Some is written in pencil and is very dim. I will copy all that is given.

Andrew Jackson Zumwalt and Almedee Jane Vanbebber King were married March 30, 1868. The dates of their birth and death are not given, but they are both buried in the Kings Valley Cemetery in the same lot. You may get some information from the grave marker.

Births:

Sarah Jane Zumwalt, Dec. 14, 1868

Lilla May Zumwalt, July 2, 1870

George H. Zumwalt, Oct. 15, 1871

Ada Line or Addie Zumwalt, Jan. 17, 1874

Deaths:

Lilla M. Zumwalt, Sept. 30, 1870

George Henry Zumwalt, Jan. 29, 1873

These two are buried on the old King place in Kings Valley beside Isaac King. I remember Mother Ramsdell (who was Melvina King and a half sister) telling me that George fell into a tub or boiler of hot water and was scalded to death. At that time there was no public burial ground in Kings Valley.

Sarah J. Zumwalt was married to Charles C. Dickens (as near as I can make out), April 26, 1886. There is nothing given in regard to any children of this couple.

Grant King may be able to give you information. He has a very keen memory and he helped me very much when I was writing a history of the Isaac King family. His address is Siletz, Ore.

This is all that I can find. Trusting this will aid you.

I am sincerely yours,

Mrs. Sievert A. Ramsdell

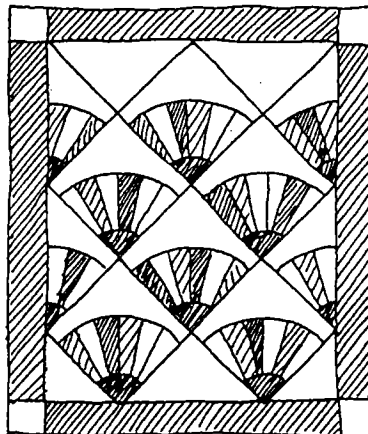
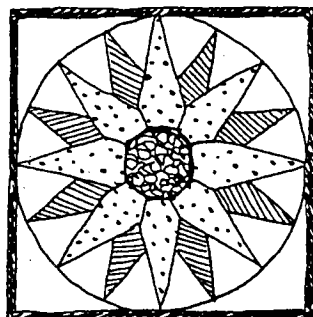
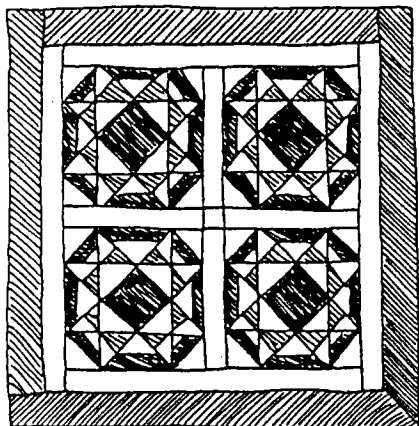
Earle Greig gathered more information while working at the cemetery last summer and fall. Roy Taylor pointed out four without markers. Bonnie Norton said she would show Earle two more unmarked graves. Some of the Pedee Edwards family have showed Audrey Theurer three baby graves. It is possible that two Bevens infants should have markers by the Bevens marker or perhaps one of them is already marked and the other is beside the stone.

Contributions to Kings Valley Cemetery

On Memorial Day, 2000 Audrey Theurer was out at Kings Valley Cemetery four days from early to late. She collared every vehicle, driver, and passenger that came through the gate and collected donations for the cemetery on the spot. She also recorded names and addresses of the visitors so they could receive additional mailings. Earle Greig joined Audrey for part of two days.

During the year of 1999 a total of \$353.30 from the Tombstone fund was contributed to the repairs being made at Kings Valley Pioneer Cemetery. Additional contributions can be made directly to:

Kings Valley Cemetery Association
Box 955
Philomath, OR 97370



FT. HOSKINS, OREGON
May 15, 1999

Recently a group of men gathered in the cemetery at Kings Valley, Oregon, around the grave of my great-grandfather, James Plunkett. With history book in hand, they retold stories of the Civil War in Oregon, and laughed at some of the notes in the book that mentioned Pvt. Plunkett. Pvt. Plunkett died 88 years ago, in 1911.

The Civil War years probably occurred during a "la nina" Oregon weather period. A quote from the preface of that history book, All Quiet on the Yamhill,¹ describes a familiar scene:

"It had been raining in Oregon since Christmas. There are puddles on the parade ground at Fort Yamhill. For two nights and days the California Volunteers have heard rain pouring on the roofs of their quarters and have listened to drops dripping from the eaves of the mess hall onto the mucky ground. Around the barracks a hundred little arteries of water trickle down the gentle slope. Low-hanging clouds touch the stand of tall firs which rim the fort; a gray curtain veils the post from the world.

"The monotony of the constant rain compounds the boredom of military routine."

Fittingly, it also rained part of last Saturday as a group of interested persons stood on the old parade ground site at Ft. Hoskins, northwest of Kings Valley, Oregon. My cousin Carole Norton Putman and I were numbered among them. We watched as a group of blue-clad Union soldiers performed their drill on neatly clipped grass, surrounded by the soft spring green hills.

The Benton County Parks Department is developing the site of old Ft. Hoskins as a historic park. For more than twenty years, OSU archaeologist Dr. David Brauner and his students have been carefully excavating portions of the old military grounds. The park is not yet developed enough to be fully opened to the public, except for two or three special days a year when they allow interested persons in for tours of the fragile area.

During the early part of the Civil War, federal troops originally assigned to the fort were deployed to the battle fields of the southeastern United States. Volunteer troops came in to take their place. My great-grandfather was among a group of young men from the gold mining area of California who joined Company D, 4th California Infantry. They were eager to "go and fight the rebels," but instead their Uncle Sam sent them up to Ft. Yamhill (which was located near the present Spirit Mountain Casino at Grand Ronde) and to Ft. Hoskins in Benton County, OR. Their official mission was to keep hostile Indians from attacking the white settlers in western Oregon.

As published diaries clearly show, the Civil War in Oregon was fought mostly against the rain and the boredom from lack of anything meaningful to do. Ft. Hoskins wasn't too well secured, since it was surrounded only by a picket fence, but the soldiers still stood official guard duty. Some soldiers even volunteered to chop firewood, just to fill up some time.

Ft. Hoskins-May 16, 1999

Occasionally, some of the soldiers were sent out to round up an Indian or two that strayed off the nearby reservation, and others were sometimes deployed to the Siletz blockhouse, reached by a muddy trail that ran through the coast range mountains. At times, soldiers were sent back and forth between the two forts. Now and then some of the soldiers got to go to Salem for oats and supplies, and some local families treated soldiers to Sunday home-cooked meals.

The diaries tell of very poor rations for the enlisted men, but the archaeological excavations have revealed that the officers ate quite well. They dined on steak, chicken, oysters and crab brought over from the coast, and other delicacies. Meanwhile the men ate poor food and not enough of it. The archaeologists gleaned this dietary information by excavating the officers' privy and then that of the enlisted men.

But occasionally the men were treated to a dinner of "slow bear" to break up the monotony of their usual poor rations. We learned Saturday that the soldiers regularly just tossed their garbage over the picket fence. A nearby farmer raised pigs, and now and then some of the pigs would find their way up the hill and into the garbage area at night. Occupants of Ft. Hoskins sometimes heard a gunshot during the night, which was explained as "just a gun going off." The next night, they had a pork dinner, but because the cook had to keep careful records of each meal, he listed the stray pigs as "slow bear" meat!

Because many of the white settlers in the southern part of Benton County had come from the southeastern United States, the area around Monroe, OR, had many Confederate sympathizers, and some who even wanted Oregon to secede from the Union. An insurrection was feared, so settlers were glad of the Fort's presence for another reason besides just protection from the Indians.

Saturday, we heard brief messages from representatives of the Siletz Tribe and the Grand Ronde Tribe. They reminded us that the Fort remains a sensitive site to the Indian people, because of the injustices they endured after the government established their reservation on 1.1 million acres. Just a year after that, over three-quarters of their land (including most of our own Lincoln County area) was removed from the reservation and opened to white settlement.

Tony Johnson, of the Grand Ronde Tribe, spoke to us in Chinook jargon (he pronounced it Chin-ook rather than Shin-ook.) He told the proud story of his family for many generations back.

Afterwards, I went and talked to him and shook his hand and told him that I, too, feel the heavy sensitivity of the place, because of the actions and military orders that my great-grandfather and his military comrades carried out against the Indian people. It was an ugly period of our Oregon history.

Saturday's military reenactment was provided by members of the 116th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, which had its camp set up on the site of the old fort parade grounds. They turned out to be an interesting group of fellows, ranging in age from 20's to 70's, dressed more or Ft. Hoskins-May 16, 1999

less in Union soldier garb. They live mostly in the mid-Willamette Valley, and have regular jobs and lives, but do this as a passion. They acquire their uniforms a piece at a time, when they find them here and there.

There were six or eight "enlisted men" there, plus several "officers" complete with colored sashes and swords, and a surgeon. They talked about their uniforms and showed off their drill steps to an appreciative, history-loving audience. They told us more about life at Ft. Hoskins, and mentioned that they knew stories about some of the men who served at Ft. Hoskins. They started telling us about James Plunkett, and how he married an Indian woman and now is buried in the Kings Valley cemetery.

It was then that I felt compelled to speak out and tell them that he was my great-grandfather, and that instead of marrying an Indian woman, he married the first white child born in that part of Oregon Territory. After they finished their military reenactment presentation, a couple of them came to me and asked questions about what information I had that I could share with them. I promised to send them copies of James Plunkett's military records from the National Archives, and other information.

An object of quite a lot of historic interest in Benton County is my great-grandfather's bass drum. He was the drummer boy in a military band that also included a fife and a snare drum. For many years his drum was displayed in the Horner Museum at Corvallis, and after that museum closed, it has been in storage for many years. Last year, however it made a brief appearance in the Benton County Historical Society's storefront museum in downtown Corvallis. The drum is unusual because it was made from parts of two drums. The modern soldiers knew all about the drum.

I asked them why they were reenacting the 116th Pennsylvania Volunteers, if they live around here. The man who formed the group said it was just an outfit that he admired, and also it was made up primarily of Irish volunteers. He seemed pleased when I told him that James Plunkett was also an Irishman.

Then, they told me about a recent visit to the Kings Valley cemetery to find the graves of several of the Ft. Hoskins soldiers who are buried there. And how they stood at James Plunkett's grave, reading portions of the published diary and laughing at the trials and tribulations of a small rain-drenched band of soldiers who fought the Civil War stationed in the backwoods of Oregon, hoping for something--anything--to happen that would break the monotony of their daily grind. They said they hoped I was not offended by their having done that.

I said that, on the contrary, I thought it was a delightful story, and I suspected that James Plunkett would also find it amusing to be so remembered, 134 years after his war ended. Not every Union soldier is so remembered and honored.

It began to rain again, as we made our way down the hill from the fort site. The Benton County Parks people have ambitious and interesting plans for their historic park. I'm now on Ft. Hoskins--May 16, 1999

their mailing list, and think I might volunteer some time to help with future park development, along with restoration of the Frantz-Dunn home that is located at the bottom of the hill below Ft. Hoskins.

Patricia Plunkett Bearden

¹*All Quiet on the Yamhill, the Civil War in Oregon*, by Royal A. Bensell, ed. By Gunter Barth. University of Oregon Books, Eugene, Oregon, 1959. Page vii. (Out of print.)

THE DASH

I read of a man who stood to speak
at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
from the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came her date of birth
and spoke of the following date with tears,
but he said what mattered most of all
was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time
that she spent alive on earth...
and now only those who loved her
know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own;
the cars...the house...the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
and how we spend our dash.

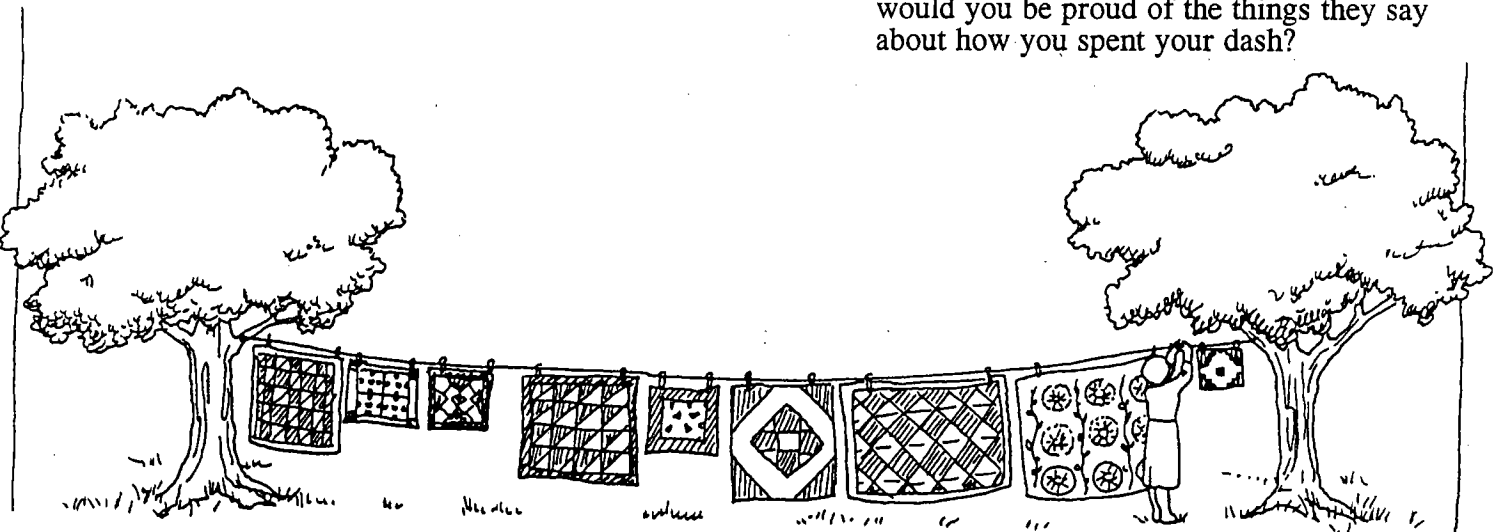
So think about this long and hard...
are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left.
(You could be at "dash mid-range.")

If we could just slow down enough
to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand
the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
and show appreciation more
and love the people in our lives
like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect,
and more often wear a smile...
remembering that this special dash
might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy's being read,
with you life's actions to rehash...
would you be proud of the things they say
about how you spent your dash?



King Folk

King Folk is a bi-annual newsletter published by the Family of Nahum and Sarepta (Norton) King, Oregon Pioneers of 1845. Subscriptions are \$6.00 annually. A contribution of \$4.00 can be made at the same time, to be used to repair tombstones and for costs related to the annual reunion. Subscriptions are due Jan. 1, 2001, but reminders will be passed out before that time. Please make checks payable to **King Folk** and mail to Anne Trussell, 2108 Stacia Way, Sacramento, CA 95822

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The King Reunion is held on the first Saturday following Father's Day weekend in June at Kings Valley School. It is made up of the descendants of Nahum and Sarepta (Norton) King, Oregon pioneers of 1845 who settled Kings Valley, Benton County, OR in the spring of 1846. Current officers are:

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Please send queries to David Trask, 691 Murphy Rd. Suite 115, Medford, OR 97504. Note that David collects obituaries of the descendants of Nahum King. He can look one up for you. Please mail copies of family obituaries to him.

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To

