

King Folk

NEWS LETTER #23 JUNE, 2004

PRESIDENT'S GREETING – Mimi Stang

Summer is not far off and that means the time for our King Family Reunion is also fast approaching. (26 June 2004 – more detail elsewhere in the newsletter) Once again, Earle Greig has been hard at work putting together this King Family Kinfolk newsletter. I am so grateful to him for keeping after all of us to make the newsletter a reality once again.

This issue has some very special photos of the Kings Valley Cemetery reader boards that have been installed this past year. They are absolutely wonderful and such an asset to the cemetery. I encourage you to visit the cemetery to see them. Dave Livingston of Endex Engineering plotted the outline of the pioneer portion of the cemetery and donated his work. At our last year's reunion, we voted to give \$500 to the cemetery to help pay for these boards and their installation. Thanks to all of you who have been paying dues to the King Family Association as well as donating to the cemetery fund – it's your generosity that made this gift possible.

At last year's reunion meeting it was also agreed to continue with our dues at \$10.00 per year. I thank the members for agreeing to that. It makes this newsletter possible as well as some extra funds for things that come up, such as the cemetery.

Author Linda Crew from Corvallis will be at the reunion this year and will bring us up to date on the book she is writing based on the King family.

Using the information that members have posted on the King family poster boards at the reunions, I have been attempting to type up a list of "who belongs where" but it has proved a much more daunting task than I expected! I had hoped to have something available as a handout at the reunion. Now I have decided we need even more.

In past King Folk newsletters, Char Wirfs published ancestor charts from many of you. It has been a while since anyone has contributed a chart. I would like to encourage those of you who have never submitted a chart to do so. Start with yourself and go back to Nahum and Sarepta King. Even if you don't have all the information, that's O.K. Submit what you do have. I hope to put the charts together in a booklet that we can sell for a nominal amount. It would also include the charts previously submitted. This would be another way to add funds to our treasury. Mail charts to me at 1290 Valley View N.W., Salem, OR 97304 by June 1st.

Anne Trussell has been working to update the King descendant chart that she posted at the reunion last year – not an easy task and I thank her for taking this on. It adds to our understanding of this amazing family. We have one King child - Lydia - with no descendents on her poster. She married Jonathon Williams. We would dearly love to hear from someone descended from Lydia and Jonathon so we can add them. Her poster looks very forlorn!

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you once again at the reunion – it's such a wonderful time for honoring the King legacy that we all share.

This'n That

Plan ahead. The King Reunion is always the first Saturday after Father's Day. This year it will be June 26, 2004 – 9:00am to 4:00 pm. - K.V. Charter School.

The morning session is a workshop. Bring family information and pictures to share. Coffee and donuts will be provided. A copy machine will be available.

Break for lunch at noon. Bring a main dish and another of your choice. (dessert, salad or snacks). Also, bring your own plates & utensils. The general meeting starts @ 1:30.

Legal proceedings are resolved so that the Horner Museum project can move forward.

The Beazell Park dedication was held last summer. (We know this as the Plunkett Farm). Again, we are indebted to David Livingston. His firm, Index Engineering, stabilized the Old farmhouse and supplied the enclosed postcard. You MUST drive in and enjoy.

Cemetery update: David Livingston is in the process of making some new maps for some of the reader boards. This will include names and their plot locations. The fence along the East border is completed. Gravel paths have been located leading to each of the reader boards and to the Nahum/Sarepta King Memorial.

Lowell Tiller, one of the authors of "Terrible Trail" sends his best wishes to the Kings. Both the hard copy and paperback are out of print. He has a few paperbacks remaining and the price is \$14.95 plus \$2.00 shipping. 12308 N.E.Russell-Ptld. OR 97230-1847

There are hundreds of unmarked graves in the Pioneer portion of the Cemetery. If you have the opportunity to visit the Cemetery, stand at the Nahum King Memorial and look up the hill at four white crosses. The Secrist family told us last Memorial Day that three of those crosses mark three Kinsey infants. Looking just above the crosses is a huge lilac shrub. Beside the shrub is a lone marker for Nahum "Bub" Norton. He was one of Hopestill's triplets. The last paragraph of Anne Trussell's Savage family article mentions that Bub's daughter, Lenora, and her three children are in an unmarked grave. They are probably under that lilac shrub. Margaret, the mother and grandmother is probably also beside the marker for Bub. We will install a new map with this information.

Overland in 1853

by Anne Trussell

It's always exciting to spot your ancestors in an emigrant diary. Such was the case when I discovered Heman and Lucretia Hallock in "From the Old Northwest to the Pacific Northwest: The 1853 Oregon Trail Diaries of Patterson Fletcher Luark and Michael Fleenan Luark" published by the Oregon-California Trails Association. When Nahum and Sarepta King headed west in 1845, daughter Lucretia King Hallock and her family stayed behind. In 1853, Lucretia and Heman Hallock with their children Sarah (Sally), Rhoda, Hopestill, Margaret, Sarepta, and Amos, left Missouri to join the rest of the King family in Oregon. Through these diaries we get an 1853 peek at the Hallock family and their journey.

June 28, 1853, on the Sublette Cutoff, near what is now La Barge, Wyoming:

There was a very primitive wedding in an adjoining camp tonight. Charles Jones and Hope Halleck were joined in Matrimony by an ex-justice of the peace lately from the state of Missouri. Perhaps it will be as good as any. (This explains the identity of Emery Jones, age 5, who was enumerated in the 1860 Benton County census with the family of Jeremiah and Hopestill Halleck Mason.

July 4, 1853, near Soda Springs, Idaho:

This morning a family by the name of Halleck whose daughter Hope was married on Lost River on the night of the 28th with the newly married couple all traveling in one wagon and two yoke of oxen joined us to travel together the remainder of the journey to Oregon where Mrs. Halleck has relatives. We learn that Halleck is a Methodist Reverend late from the state of Missouri.

July 25, 1853, along the Snake River, west of Three Island Crossing:

From the signs found, I judged this to be dangerous ground and when two Indians came to camp on horseback I warned the company to be very careful in dealing with them. But after bartering some powder and caps for some fish they began bartering with Hallecks for the purchase of their daughter, Rhoda Halleck, offering first a gun, then a pony, then two ponys, then five, and by this time the parents began to realize danger, refused to sell at any price which so enraged the indians that they left off bartering and began to threaten more by signs than words we could understand. I saw the danger and ordered Jones to get his gun, at the same time getting my own, and together we started toward where the stock was quietly feeding. (At this point Michael Luark realized the Indians intent was to drive off the stock and kidnap Rhoda. Charles Jones, Hopestill's husband, and Michael, the diarist, managed to drive the Indians away and the group quickly broke camp and left.

August 7, 1853, Farewall Bend, Oregon:

Hallecks becoming uneasy at our slow progress left us on the morning of the 7th determined to push ahead at all hazards.

August 29, 1853, The Cascades, Columbia River:

I met with Halleck and family on their way to Portland. I found all right. Got all safe down the road to the landing. Hallecks also camped here.

August 30, 1853: Those waiting at The Cascades landing, including Michael Luark and the Halleck family, boarded the Multnomah, a 108-foot side-wheeler steamboat.

"We reached Portland about 4 PM.. Hallecks found their friends and went there."

For more on the Hallock family, read Mimi Stang's article "The Sellers Connection" in the 1 January 1999 King Folk Newsletter.

The Savage-King-Yosemite Connection
by Anne Trussell

A man of mystery and magic, James D. Savage mesmerized the Native Americans of California's southern gold fields with stories of how he arrived in 1840's California on a moonbeam. He showed them how he could catch a fired bullet in mid-air with his bare hands. With a galvanized battery, he produced electricity that he used to fuel the belief that he was a white God. The local Indians brought him gold; he gave them beads and bits of cloth in exchange. He filled barrels with gold dust and, to strengthen his relationship with the natives, he married often, a girl in every tribe.

Friction between the gold miners and the local Indians brought about the creation of the Mariposa Battalion to quell the uprising. James Savage was placed in charge because of his rapport with the Indians. Thus, when the battalion entered an unexplored valley high in the Sierra on 21 March 1851, Major James D. Savage went down in history as the "discoverer" of Yosemite Valley. Not long after, apparently trying to protect those same Native Americans that he'd so recently pursued, he was shot and killed by a white man.

Only 29 years old, James D. Savage left little behind. His barrels of gold dust disappeared. His wives (and children, if he had any) returned to their tribes. Mysterious to the end, his early life and his white family were unknown. After all, he'd arrived in 1846 California on a moonbeam. Or had he?

In a 1938 interview, Benton County, Oregon, resident John Skaggs stated "There was a family here named Savage. People used to say the Savages were here before the Indians." Was there a connection here to the mysterious Californian, James D. Savage? Had this Savage family, too, arrived in Benton County on a moonbeam?

More conventional than a moonbeam, the Oregon Trail brought the Savages to the West Coast. James D. Savage, born in 1823 Indiana, and Morgan R., born 1825 in Illinois, were sons of Peter Savage and Doritha Shaunce, who had emigrated to Illinois in 1822-23 from New York. The two young men left Bureau County, Illinois, in 1846, heading overland to Oregon. With them were James' wife, Eliza Hall Savage, her family and parents, Reason and Martha Hall (Reason Hall founded the Polk County town of Buena Vista), and Henry Croisan, a relative of James and Morgan's stepmother.

On 18 June 1846 at the South Platte River Crossing, Morgan Savage married Frances Brisbin. Frances was traveling with her father, John Brisbin, brother, William, and Jane and Rice Dunbar, her sister and brother-in-law. At Fort Hall, taking the advice of the Applegate brothers, the group decided to take the new, unbroken southern route into Oregon.

At the junction of the California/Applegate Trails, about 400 miles southwest of Fort Hall, for unknown reasons James and Eliza Savage broke left their families and headed towards California. Near the summit of the Sierra, close to what is now called Donner Pass, Eliza died after childbirth. Following her burial, a distraught James placed his child into the care of a fellow traveler and left for Sutter's Fort, thus setting himself on a path that would take him into California history.

In the meantime, the Oregon-bound group found the going difficult and didn't arrive in the Willamette Valley until early January 1847. Morgan Savage spent his first Oregon winter splitting rails for Greenberry Smith. The young couple slept on the dirt floor of his cabin.

In 1850 they settled on a claim near Soap Creek which they later sold to Smith. Before moving to Summit in 1867 where they resided for 37 years, they lived for a time near Felger's Mill, west of Philomath, and in Polk County. Morgan was a farmer and a blacksmith. They had twelve children: Martha, James, John, George, Charles, Adaline, Lydia, Dolly, Molly, Elizabeth, Thomas and Ida.

My King connection is through their oldest son, James, who married Margaret Lucretia Edelman. Margaret, born 5 May 1862 at Wren, was the daughter of James Edelman and Sarah Hallock, the granddaughter of Heman Hallock and Lucretia King, and the great-granddaughter of Nahum and Sarepta King.

Margaret was raised near Harris, on the Edelman Donation Land Claim, located west of Nahum King's DLC. She married James William Savage, born 26 September 1848, near Suver in Polk County. Margaret and James had at least eight children: Anna (who died young), John Wesley, Frances, Riley, Pearl (my grandmother), Estella, Willard, and Daisy.

Like his namesake, James W. Savage died in a shooting, a hunting accident, on 1 March 1905 in Marcola, Lane County, Oregon. Margaret's remarriage to Charles Keifer, founder of the Albany Brewery, lasted until his death in 1912. Margaret died in Portland on 25 Dec 1944.

Another Savage-King marriage was struck by tragedy on 6 October 1896. Thomas Jefferson Savage married Lenora Norton, daughter of Nahum Norton and Margaret Mulkey, on 25 June 1891 in Benton County. While Thomas was on a hunting trip, their home burned. Lenora and their three children died in the fire and are buried in a single unmarked grave at the Kings Valley Cemetery.

In his 1938 interview, John Skaggs said, "None of the Savage family are left around here now." Perhaps that moonbeam moved us on. ..

By David Trask

I have been the King family historian since Nathan King Sr. passed away in 1989. I have collected obituaries of family members, including their spouses over the years and have over 1500. These are kept in notebooks according to the children of Nahum and Serepta King. The obituaries help to document a lot about the family member. Although there are often errors, the obituary does document very closely, if not exactly when the family member died because of the time it appears in the newspaper. I appreciate everyone sending to me obituaries of any recently deceased family members, as well as any copies of obituaries that people may find in their research regarding family members who may have died long ago. Do not assume that I have a copy of an obituary. I would rather have a duplicate than none of a family member. When sending me a copy, please document the exact name of the newspaper. Over the years, the name of a newspaper may change, or there may be more than one newspaper in a certain city, at least during a period of time. Also, please record the date, page and column number, counting from left to right, where the obituary appeared. One should document all this information, so that if someone else wanted to look up the original obituary, for example on microfilm, then that person should be able to find it exactly as it was recorded.

I can make copies of obituaries if I have one of interest to someone. I do ask that people send to me what they have. It also helps to mention where the deceased person fits into the family tree.

I also would like a copy of everyone's family tree, and periodic updates. We hope that as more and more people send in their family tree, that there will more overlap of what is recorded and more pieces of the puzzle can be filled in. This also reduces redundant work.

Family trees should record full names of family members and their spouse(s), dates and places of birth, marriage, and death, and if an obituary is available. I also have many photographs of grave markers of family members. If available, these can be sent as well. Please record the cemetery and approximate location of grave.

If a death certificate is available, but an obituary is not, I would like a copy of it too. Death certificates offer a lot of very useful information. Please send copies of death certificates, too.

By recording, documenting and sharing this type of information from obituaries, death certificates, and family trees, it can be accessible to everyone.

WHERE DID DAVID ALLEN COME FROM AND WHERE DID HE DIE? *By Earle Greig*

One of Hopestill King Norton's daughters, another Sarepta, was my great grandmother. This Sarepta had a daughter, Dora who was married to Lincoln Allen. These were my grandparents. Linc. bought the old Isaac King Donation Land Claim about 1901. My mother, Retha, was raised in that historic old house and I also lived there when quite young.

We have always known quite a bit about the King family but never had much information concerning our Allens. What we did know was that Charles and Drusilla were married in Indiana. Hiram was married in Illinois and they all came west in 1847. Drusilla was married to Alfred Witham. Charles was married to Hetty Witham. Hiram was married to Nancy Davis. We were wrong in believing Anna Gregory was the mother of all three Allens.

We did not know what became of Charles. We thought he died about 1893 in the Moscow, Idaho area. When Hetty died in 1864, she was buried in the Kings Valley Cemetery which was located on a portion of their Donation Land Claim. Charles then remarried, had two more sons and left for Walla Walla. We recently found his burial site in Dayton, Washington.

About four years ago, a friend brought me a query from a lady in Florida who was searching for information on the Benton County Allens. I answered that query and - - - Bingo - - -!!!! The cousin, in Florida, told me that David and Anna had four additional sons that had not left for Oregon. Also, David had taken a second wife after Anna died and had a seventh son. Then, after the second wife died, David had been married at least one more time and had five daughters. The Florida cousin had no idea what the name of the oldest daughter might be. I was able to tell her that this half sister was named Drusilla and that she became the mother of twelve children.

The Florida cousin said that two of the girls had died when quite young and the three other daughters all came west in 1847. I resisted this information stating that if two more Allens had been in the party, I should have known it. She insisted and even sent me a copy of a journal that their grandmother Rebecca had written which said one girl was Mary Ann and one was Abigail.

Encouraged, we posted additional queries and made additional contacts. A cousin in California who was related to the oldest son, had notes from a bible which gave us the correct birth dates for David and the first six sons. The birth date for Anna was not recorded.

About this time, a Witham relative in Pennsylvania and another in Canada gave us additional information about the five daughters and sure enough, those two young girls also came west. We located a cousin in Washington who knew all about the youngest girl, Mary Ann. It seems that after the mother and father both died, the girl had been placed through the church with a family who wanted her as a servant. She was expected to cook, clean and do all the housework. Her day started at three in the morning and she was not even permitted to eat with the family. Charles Allen was a huge man of well over two hundred pounds. He rode his horse up and asked permission to speak to his little "slave" sister. When she excitedly came to the fence, he reached over and picked her up and put her on his horse. They galloped off together. Mary Ann was on her way to safety in Oregon wearing her sole possession, one sack dress.

Mary Ann lived with Charles and Hetty. She married Oscar F. Clark and went on to have thirteen children. Oscar was a young school teacher from Missouri who also came west in 1847. He moved in with the King family and later served in the Cayuse Indian skirmish. He later became District Attorney in Dayton, Washington. After his death, Mary Ann applied for a pension and needed to prove she was the widow. Sol King said he had known Oscar and his father Ephraim when the Kings and Clarks were neighbors in Missouri. Sol said his brother, Stephen King and Oscar joined together, served together and came home together.

Alfred Witham said he had known Mary Ann since she was a little girl in Indiana and knew them to be man and wife. Emily Allen said her Aunt Mary Ann lived with them in Kings Valley and was married in her parents home and that she, Emily, attended the wedding in 1849. Mary Ann was awarded the pension.

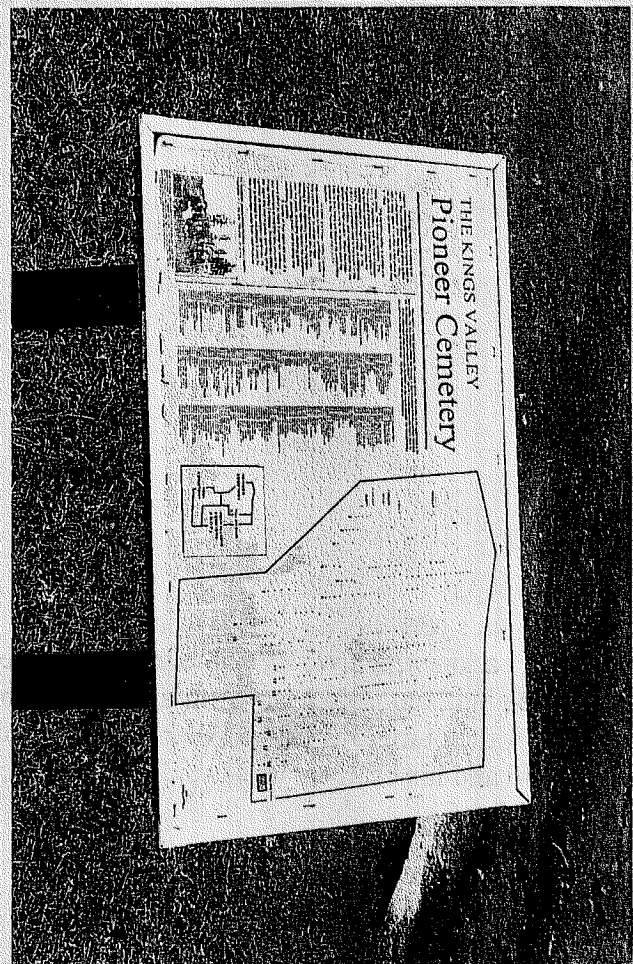
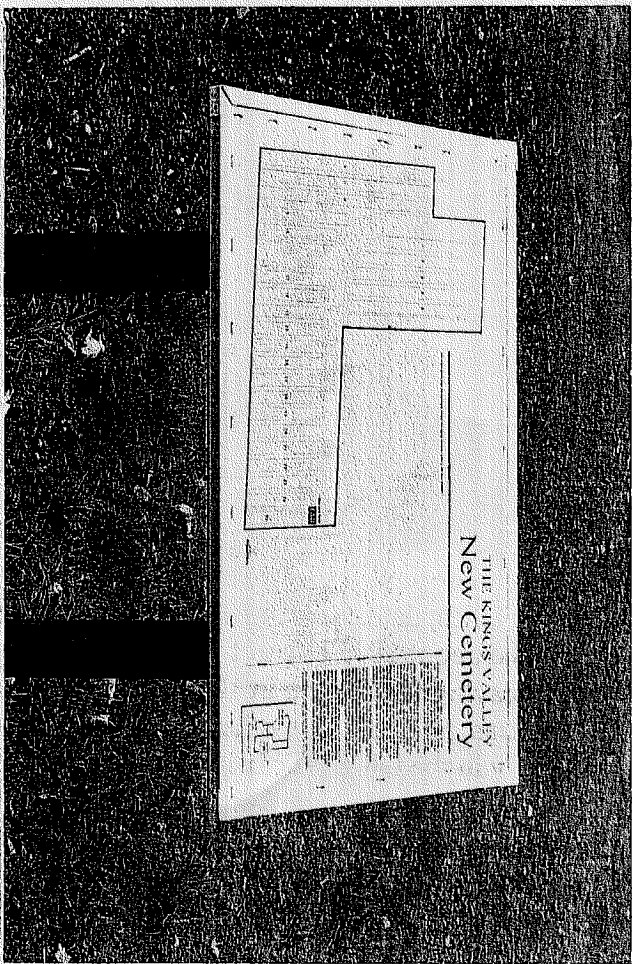
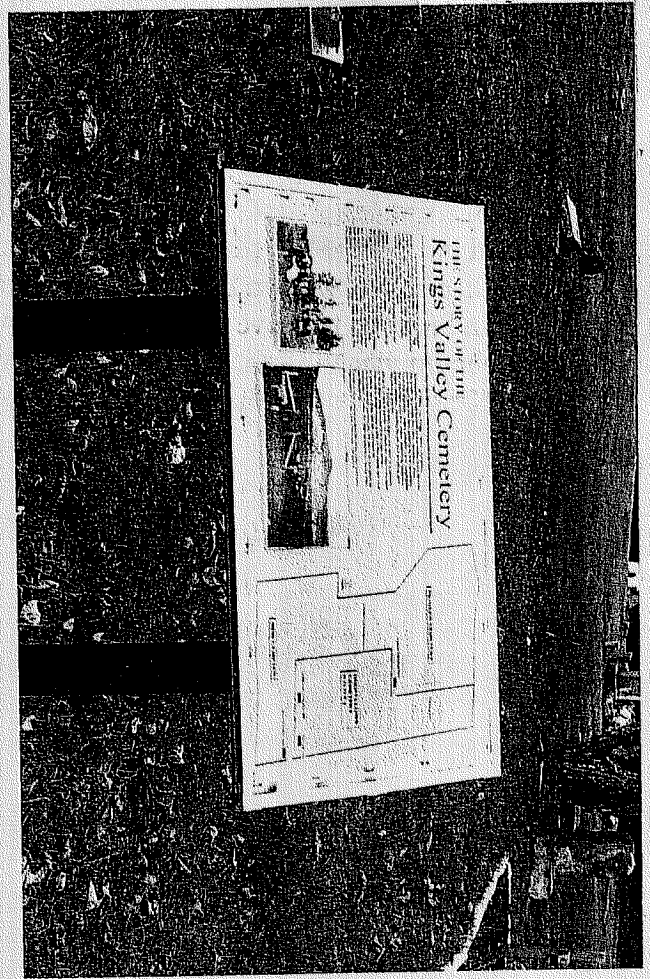
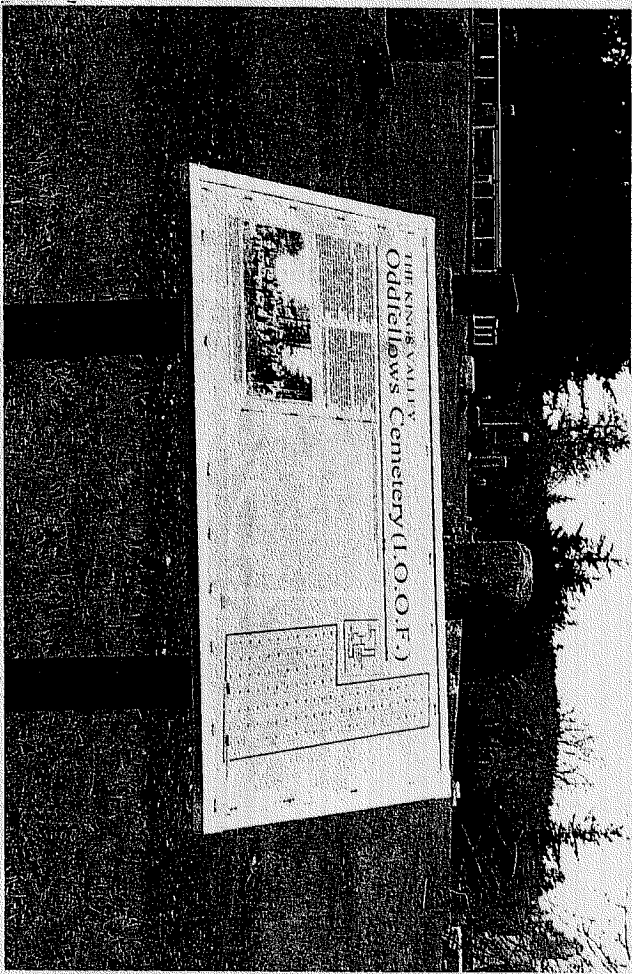
The other little sister was Abigail. She either lived with her brother Hiram or with her sister, Drusilla. She was married in 1848 to William Matzger. He was a mill person and erected a large mill about two miles west of Philomath near the Mary's River bridge. Matzger's Mill is a common reference in early Benton County history. The Matzger family also ended up in Dayton, Washington where Matzger built a large flour mill on the Touchet River. They raised a family of ten children. One was adopted. A descendant in Colorado furnished bible statistics.

The youngest son of David remained in Ohio where all were born. He had been placed as an apprentice and followed the trade successfully his entire life. Another son was killed by Indians. One son was scalded to death. One son died in Texas. Ezra, the oldest son, died in Kansas.

Now, back to the mystery of David, the father. We have extensive Ohio references concerning David as a young man. Several Ashtabula County, Ohio books state that Judge Austin of Connecticut wanted to settle a large tract of his land in the Western Reserve. Judge Austin hired young David Allen in 1799 to help in this settlement. Thus David, and later his sons, began speculating in land in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Washington.

We know that David was born April 20, 1777. We know that he was born in Massachusetts. Mary Ann's grandson wrote a letter to a Clark researcher stating that the fathers or grandfathers of both David Allen and Ephraim Clark were Masons and belonged to the St. Andrews Lodge in Boston. He said that both were present and involved in the Boston Tea Party of 1773. He also wrote that the attendance list had to be destroyed to prevent retaliation by the British.

Our Florida Cousin has a journal written by Grandma Rebecca in which she writes that David was "bound out" to a cruel task master and ran away. We know nothing else until he was hired by Judge Austin. Who were his parents? Was he an orphan? Were there siblings? Grandma Rebecca's journal has proven to be extremely accurate. She had names, dates, and other information which we have documented. She indicated David died about 1847 but not where. Alfred Witham said Mary Ann's parents were dead prior to her leaving for Oregon in 1847. Was one of the numerous David Allens in the 1790 Massachusetts census related? One other thing. David and his brother-in-law, Daniel Gregory, both served briefly in the Ohio Militia in 1812 under Lt. Col. Nathan King's 3rd. Regiment. Daniel received extra pay for his two horses.



"King Folk" is a newsletter published by the family of Nahum and Sarepta Norton King, Oregon Pioneers of 1845. Annual subscriptions are \$10.00 due January 1st. These funds are used for Kings Valley Cemetery restoration plus publication costs. Please make checks payable to "King Folk" and mail to Anne Trussell, 2108 Stacia Way, Sacramento, CA 98522.

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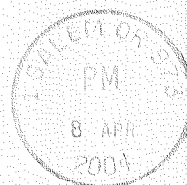
The annual Reunion is held in June on the first Saturday after Fathers Day at the Kings Valley Charter School.

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