

From President George

Hello fellow BCGS members and friends,
I hope this finds you well as we look forward to spring.

Mark your calendars for our **11 Mar** guest speaker, **Jessica Hougen, Executive Director of the Benton County Historical Society.**

SURPRISE!!!

Benton County

Genealogical Society

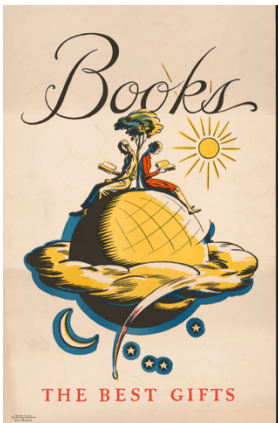
NEWSLETTER

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We all are grateful for the work the Library Committee is doing. They're deciding which books from Danell Aukerman's collection should be kept for BCGS's collection.

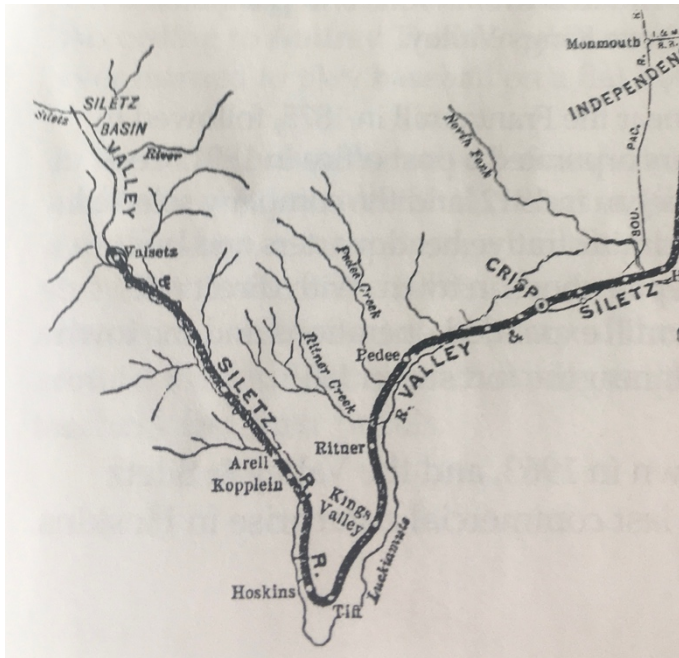
Liza W., George D., Linda O. and Nancy D. have worked wonders to lower the boxes of books. However there are many boxes to go! We are asking members to help their other society members to get the job done.

We are working from 1 to 3 on Wednesdays in the Annex.

Please try to come 1 or 2 times a month so we can get this project done.

THANK YOU!





KINGS VALLEY

Onward to Oregon

Nahum King and Sarepta Norton were married in 1807 in New York, and later moved west to Ohio. Flood periods in Ohio may have been the reason they moved on west to Missouri. They settled in Carroll County on the Big Bend of the Missouri River in the central part of the state about 1841. The flood of 1844 destroyed their farm, so finally in the spring of 1845 they were ready to move on to Oregon where floods would never bother them again.

Nahum, Sarepta and 13 children began their journey to Oregon at St. Joseph, Missouri, in a large wagon train. In the train were more than two dozen of the King relatives and in-laws. Good luck seemed to follow for most of the Oregon Trail on their way. However after they arrived to the east section of Oregon Territory, the group was plagued with illnesses. Anna Maria Allen King wrote to her family in the east about the people who died:

“I wrote to you from Fort Laramie. Whooping Cough and Measles went through out camp and then after we took the new route. A slow lingering fever prevailed.....Listen to the deaths: Sarah King Chambers, John King and his wife [Susan], their little daughter, Electa and their babe, a son, nine months old and Dulaney C. Norton’s sister is gone.”

The Meek Cutoff

When the train neared Oregon, they made a terrible mistake. The King family and many of the emigrants of the original wagon train took the bad advice of Stephen Meek and took the Meek Cutoff in the Oregon Desert where they almost died. The road was filled with broken rocks that the oxen couldn’t handle. Every night several oxen would be dead in the morning. Water and grass became sparse, not enough for people, animals and the oxen. Some of the King family lost their lives there also.

Rowland Chambers’ wife Sarah died in the Oregon desert probably from an infection named “camp fever.” Camp fever is Typhus that is spread by body lice, chiggers, fleas and ticks. The next day after her death, Rowland let the others continue on and he would catch up with them. He found a large rock and carved: Mrs. S Chambers Sep 3rd 1845. He had to leave his Sarah in the desert. Her headstone is still in place today.



After what they had endured in the desert, they still had more trials to come-the Columbia River’s Cascade Rapids. Log rafts were made to move people, animals and all of their belongings into the wild water and huge rocky banks before they found some boats to help get them farther to their destination.

How many of us would have had the determination to keep going?

OREGON AT LAST

Starving and fatigued, they reached tiny Linnton Landing on the Willamette River in November 1, 1845. Solomon, Nahum and Sarepta's second to last child wrote:

"Then we got to the Tualitin Plains where Forest Grove Station is now and we camped for the first winter. All the lot of us crowded into one little log cabin. Oh, we lived pretty well. There was a gristmill nearby and the folks raised a little wheat and some potatoes and peas. I tell you it was rough. The next Spring we came into Kings Valley and took up the old place."

By Spring 1846, Nahum and others had found the right place around the Luckiamute River and valley. It wasn't long until more of the King emigrants and others moved into the valley and it became known as Kings Valley. Nahum and Sarepta had taken a Donation Land Claim in the valley and three sons and daughter did the same in early 1846. Nahum was not happy with his claim, so he gave it up and took a new claim by the town of Wren. Solomon (Sol) and his wife Anna Maria, stayed with his parents until his father's death in May 28, 1856 at the age of 72. Sol inherited their property and Sarepta lived with Sol and Anna Maria after her husband died. Later she went to live with another relative. Nahum and Sarepta are buried in their Wren farm.

Rowland Chambers built a gristmill along the Luckiamute River in 1853. The gristmill was 50 feet square, three stories high and was in use for about 50 years or so. In 1940 the mill finely tumbled down. It was almost 100 years old. A sawmill was built across the Luckiamute about 1853 too, and soon others followed. Late In 1855, the Valley had its own post office with Rowland Chambers as Postmaster. It stayed open until the 1970s.



Chambers Gristmill and Mill Dam
on the Luckiamute River, Benton County, OR

The Kings Valley Stores

By the 1860's the Kings Valley Store, owned by the Price family sold about everything that anyone could want or need: from groceries to livestock. The town once had sawmills, three stores, a saloon, grocery, hotel, and a smithy. The Price family has kept a store in Kings Valley up to 2009 when Norm Arnold owned the store. The people that live here are proud of their town.

Some Things to be Proud About

*There is a growing charter school, all 12 grades. Besides their regular subjects, students have many ways to learn about nature. Students can be in 4-H and sports and they also are required to volunteer their time.

Two of our grandchildren went to school there, and now two of our great grandchildren are there also!

*A well cared for 1849 Cemetery

*Shrewsberry Renaissance Fair

*Sunrise Tree Farms

*Kings Valley Community Trust (acquires and cares for facilities and lands on behalf of the greater Kings Valley Community)

Siletz Reservation and Fort Hoskins

In late 1856 many of the tribes from southern Oregon were forced to abandon their homes and live in an area near the northern coast: Siletz Bay. The tribes had been promised through treaties that permanent places would be theirs even though many of the treaties were never ratified. The Coast Reservation, later called the Siletz Reservation, was more than one million acres from south of Cape Lookout in the north to near the Siltcoos River in the south. Most of the Coast Reservation was taken from the tribes before 1900.

Fort Hoskins, several miles from the valley, was to be a buffer to keep the tribes on the Siletz reservation and the whites out. In 1856 when Captain C.C. Augur, 4th Infantry and Commander at Fort Hoskins, saw Kings Valley, he realized the valley was made for growing all the supplies they needed: bacon, fresh meat, vegetables, and forage. "There is a fine flouring mill within two miles and a sawmill within a third of a mile." Chambers' flour mill was important for the needs of Fort Hoskins and the Siletz Reservation. His mill was lifesaving from the very beginning. The first shipments of supplies for the tribes was wrecked in Siletz bay and the whole cargo was lost. The tribes' entire year's supply of flour and other needs were gone, the beginning of years of hardship.

Kings Valley Cemetery

All settlements needed a cemetery to lay their loved ones to rest. Kings Valley was no different. There are many King graves and other families, who are connected to Kings Valley. In one area of the cemetery the headstone carving is different. This headstone is carved with the following: **H.H. Gasber [should be spelled Garber], 2 Lieut Infantry, who died at Ft. Hoskins, Oct 12, 1859.** Lieutenant Garber was suspended from his rank and pay for six months for refusing to take back to Siletz an Indian woman who had been living with him for some time. She was sent back to Siletz and, before his six months were over, Garber died in the Fort Hospital. Part of his monument states: **This Stone is Erected by His Comrades.** His tombstone is the only known one to be from Fort Hoskins in the Kings Valley cemetery. Some people always believed that he died of a broken heart.

Two King Related Families in Benton County

Solomon King

Solomon (Sol), was 12 years old in 1845 when his older brother John, John's wife Susan and two small children died when the group had to find a way to get through the waters of the Columbia River. There are several stories about their deaths: one is that they were lost in the waters and the other is they died of sickness. Only one child, Luther, survived and was raised by Nahum and Sarepta along with Sol.

Sol must have been a man who lived to be busy. He's remembered for being elected Benton County Sheriff five times, each two year terms. He also had a Livery, Feed and Sale Stable in 1872 so he moved his family from Wren to Corvallis. He later bought another stable that one night caught fire. Sol was an honest man and payed for any wagons and other losses by the fire that one night.



Sol also had a hand in supporting a new Courthouse and the Corvallis College among many other Benton County needs. He was so well known and admired that Kings Boulevard was named in his honor. Anna Maria Allen King married Sol after her husband Stephen died in 1892. Stephen was Sol's brother.



Sol King

Another family who had connections to the Kings:

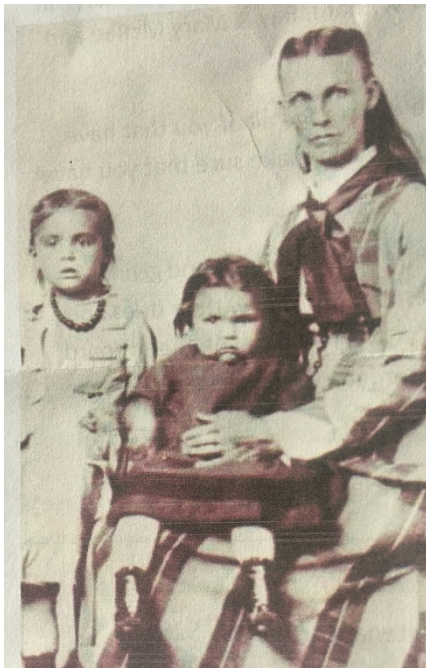
The Nortons

Lucius C. Norton, Sr. and his wife Hopesstill King Norton came with the same wagon train in 1845 and took a donation claim in Kings Valley, too. Hopesstill was Sol's sister. Hopesstill and Lucius Sr. had two children. Ashnah and Lucius Jr.

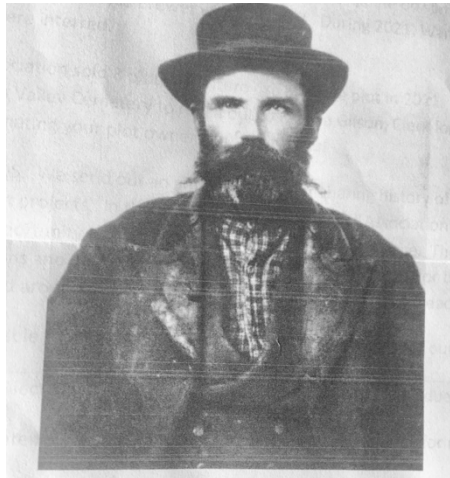
Ashnah Norton and James Plunkett

In the 90's I was doing research about Fort Hoskins and learned about one of the soldiers from the 4th California Infantry who had served in the fort during the Civil War. He was a bass drummer in the Army Drum Corps during his service. His name was James Plunkett who married Hopesstill's daughter Ashnah. I didn't know

much more until I started to do genealogy and learned about the King family.



Ashnah Norton Plunkett and Sarah and Bertha



James Plunkett



Private James Plunkett's drum

JAMES

James was born in Upper Canada (Ontario) of Irish parents. His parents moved to several places in the U.S until they finally stayed in Anador County, California, in 1860. Here James became a naturalized citizen. The next year he joined the 4th California Infantry and was sent to Ft. Hoskins in 1863 where he was a drummer and sometimes posted to the Ft. Hoskins blockhouse. After several moves to several other places, he left the infantry in 1866.

ASHNAH

In February 1847, Ashnah Norton was born to Jucius, SR. and Hopestill, the first pioneer child born in the Kings Valley area. When James and Ashnah wanted to marry in 1864, her mother Hopestill had to write a note to the Benton County Clerk to prove she was older than 15. She was 17. When Isaac King died in the late 1860's the land that later became Beazell Memorial Forest went to Lazarus Van Bebber, Isaacs father-in-law. In the 1870'S the land was transferred to Ashnah. The Plunketts lived in the house there for almost a hundred years when Ashnah and James' son Henry died in 1961.

In 1966 Fred Beazell purchased the property. Now it is being used as a place to think about how Ashnah and James lived on the farm and to thank them for a lovely place for hiking and bird watching. The house can be seen from the outside, and the barn was carefully fixed inside so today it can be used for special events.



There is so much more to learn about this well-known family, but I've run out of space to keep going for now! So I'll end with a surprise. It was to me anyway.

Sue Van Laere

- 1. Hopestill King, my 3rd grandmother married Lucius Norton.**
- 2. Ashnah Norton, my 2nd great grandmother married James Plunkett.**
- 3. Ashnah and James Plunkett's daughter Sarah Plunkett married my great grandfather Johan (John) Bottger.**
- 4. John and Sarah's son Frank is my grandfather.**

DO YOU KNOW THE MEMBER WHO IS CONNECTED TO THE KINGS?

The answer is on the first page in a blue box

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Appointed Positions

Membership: OPEN

Librarian: Liza Wilson

Programs: OPEN

Historian: OPEN

Photographer: OPEN

Audit: Connie Patterson

Refreshments: Pegge Gee

Host: Kathryn Moss

Research: Lois Courtney

Book Sales: OPEN

Website: George Davidson

Facebook: OPEN

Publicity OPEN

SOURCES-KINGS VALLEY

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*King Folk Newsletters: King Folk #40, February 2021, #41, Spring 2022

*Kings Valley Cemetery Association Spring, 2022

*<https://geneanet.org/cousinjeanne?lang=en&n=king&oc=0&p=nahum+amos>

*<https://guides.library.oregonstate.edu/localhistory/kingsvalley>

* <https://bentoncountymuseums.org/>

*wikipedia.org/wiki/Meek_Cutoff

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*Fort Hoskins Historic Park Pamphlet

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