

KING FAMILY GUEST BOOK

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Repository:	Crandall Public Library – The Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
Title:	King Family Guest Book
Dates:	1930 - 1952
Abstract:	Guest book from the Lake George camp of Carroll and Ethel Shear King.
Quantity:	1 volume
Identification:	Archives & Manuscripts: Personal and Family Collections

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

The most of the guests who left their names and their praises of the hospitality and the food at the camp appear to be relatives of Carroll P. and Ethel Shear King. Kings and Shears come back often over the years. Some sign the guest book with earnest capital letters or careful cursive when they visit as small children, and with easy script as adults. There are probably other families who are related (Beldens and Dedricks, for instance), and others who are longtime friends. Ethel's niece, Elizabeth Shear Nelson, notes in the guest book that it is the first time she has signed her new (married) name.

Some of the families who signed this guest book had been residents of Putnam New York for many generations. The King family, who earlier lived further north in Franklin County, appear in Putnam in the 1870 (Nathaniel) and 1880 (John Smith) censuses. The 1866 Atlas of Washington County shows the following names, which also appear in the genealogies of the Shears, and or, the Kings: Belden, Dedrick, French, Blair, and Lillie, as well as Shears. In censuses from 1900 to 1940 the Kings are neighbors of Belden and Shears families.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

The book is 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches high and 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide. It was designed by Ella Seass Stewart and published in 1903 by Dodge Publishing of New York City. It has a dark red cloth cover.

The decorated pages are each headed by a quotation and have space for five signatures/addresses/date/comments. At the front of the book it says:

TO OUR GUESTS

THAT WE MAY HAVE A CONSTANT REMINDER OF YOUR VISIT, PLEASE LEAVE US YOUR AUTOGRAPH, ADDRESS AND DATE OF VISIT ON THE PAGE OF THIS LITTLE GUEST BOOK WHICH CONTAINS THE SENTIMENT YOU LIKE BEST.

INDEX TERMS

Topics:	Vacations Families
Places:	Putnam, Washington, NY Lake George, NY Gull Bay, Lake George, NY
Important People:	King, Carroll P. King, Ethel Shears King Family Shears Family
Form/Genre:	Guest Book

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: King Family Guest Book
The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library
Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Donated by Tim Reed who purchased it from the King estate in 2016.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke, May 2016

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

The owners of the camp, and the book, did not inscribe their names in the book. Ownership was ascertained by the combination of King family and Shear family names, and by the fact that the book came from the same estate as the James P. King letters, plus the comment (below) by Tom and Gertrude Calhoun.

Tom & Gertrude Calhoun, Oct 6th and 7th [1947]: "Enjoyed the usual King hospitality, a nice visit & good muffins, on our second honeymoon."

L. Agnes Mercure, Aug. 9, 1933: "A delightful day in your lovely camp on Lake George."

According to Eileen Greely, the Town of Putnam Historian (phone call 6/23/16), the King camp was on Gull Bay. The property was subsequently bought by Forrest Mars, who tore down the camp.

Related Collections:

King, James Preston – Letters
Presbyterian Church of Putnam