

Kleberg—Children—Robert and Alice and Henrietta and Captain King and Cousins

Lea—p.343—Nettie's wedding was on Nov. 23, 1878. All the family was there and the ceremony was at the Lindell Hotel in St. Louis where a newspaper reported that the hotel's Parlor seventeen had been transformed into a regular garden of flowers.

Rip F—p. 123—When Alice King graduated as class salutatorian from Mr. Cuthbert's Seminary at St Louis in 1881, Richard II was courting her classmate and best friend, Pearl Ashbrook. By then Alice's two older sisters had married and were living in the city. In November 1878 Nettie King married Maj. E. B. Atwood, U. S. Army Quartermaster Department, against her father's wishes. The captain was present at the wedding ceremony in the Lindell Hotel, however and a St Louis newspaper reported that the bride received more than \$10,000 worth of wedding gifts. In 1881, Ella King married Louis M. Welton, a merchant with business interests in St. Louis and San Antonio with the ceremony taking place at the Santa Gertrudis ranch house.

Rip F—p. 119—Ranch headquarters was home to the five King children: Nettie, Ella, Alice, Richard and Lee. By 1867 the frame house was remodeled with an addition to the main living quarters and a second story added to provide bedrooms for the children. Mrs. McGuire, a governess from Virginia and Professor Allen a tutor helped Henrietta with the girls and boys. After Reverend Chamberlain died at Brownsville in November 1866, Etta's half brothers—Hiram, Jr. Bland, Willie, and Edwin moved to the ranch. Of the four only Bland spent his life as a ranch employee. The tenderhearted Captain King was a very indulgent husband and father who openly spoiled his "pets." When he gave his wife some showy diamond earrings, Mrs. King had the jeweler cover them with dark enamel to avoid the appearance of display. In 1870, fifteen-year old Nettie enrolled at Henderson Female Institute, a Presbyterian girls school at Danville, Kentucky. She was later joined there by her two younger sisters, but the three King girls were back on the ranch by the fall of 1875. Ella and Alice were back in school the next year, this time at Mrs. Cuthbert's Seminary at St. Louis. When their father was in the city on cattle business, he stayed at the Southern Hotel and always had diamond gifts in hand when he visited his daughters.

When he was fifteen Richard King II enrolled at Centre Presbyterian College at Danville. It was said that this handsome lad made heads turn whenever he traveled about town with his own carriage and manservant. After young Richard graduated in 1878 younger brother Lee started college there the next year but did not finish. Lee the quieter and more serious of the two, chose instead to transfer to a business college at St. Louis, thinking that a knowledge of accounting would be helpful on the ranch. Of the five King children the two youngest, Lee and Alice loved ranch life the most.

p. 120—It seems that the King girls were often ashamed of their famous father's rough, unkempt appearance. In some of the family portraits, the rest of the clan look freshly scrubbed and dressed while the old captain appears to have stopped ranch work just long enough to pose.

DEB—p. 58—Bob was the younger son with three sisters and an older brother Washington congressman Richard Mifflin Kleberg the apple of his mother's eye. Richard had Capt. King's flair. He personified all the fun and gaiety Alice King had lacked living side-by-side her strict, straitlaced mama. Dick was the natural athlete, linguist, and musician. Tall, graceful and dashing Richard Kleberg could charm any assemblage, whether making speeches in German, Spanish or English playing his guitar or singing songs.

Bob couldn't carry a tune—question this because of Petra's piece having him entertaining at Sarah Spohn's. He was shorter than his brother had a low squeaky voice. Bob enjoyed books but loathed study and stricture of school. Ranching was his thing. He learned to ride, cut, rope and shoot before he entered first grade. The children spend the school year in Corpus returning home on weekends. They were met at the depot 20 miles away and brought back to the ranch ceremoniously in a stagecoach drawn by dashing white horses—did have them also riding their own horses. When Kingsville got their railroad service a special engine and caboose were dispatched every Friday to tow the Kleberg children back for a joyous reunion on the ranch—wonder if this was the King engine mentioned elsewhere as becoming derailed. Bob's closest companions were Kinenos. He lived with ranch foreman Sam Ragland in the foreman's cottage next to the ranch's Big House. He rode with his cousin Caesar Kleberg, poker-playing family bachelor who instituted Texas first game laws. Caesar headed the ranch's southern division and lived in a railroad section-house right on the private track. There was no indoor plumbing or electricity and his bathtub sat on the porch.

MKP—p. 1--Richard had met Lizzie at Mrs. Cuthberts Young Ladies Seminary where she was a schoolmate of Alice.

KRP—506—When Richard married he gifted his newlywed son Richard II with 40,000 "good and well watered acres" called the Rancho Puerta de Agua Dulce. Richard II was "a husky, good natured, affectionate young man," but was not the rancher or man's man of his father's heart. Under his management the Agua Dulce was converted to farmland which was considered somewhat effete by cattlemen. "On occasion," according to the Klebergs "beef from the grasslands of Santa Gertrudis had to take care of the farmer's debits."

KRP—The King sons, first Richard II and then Lee, were enrolled at Centre College, another Presbyterian school in Danville, Kentucky. The boys cut a figure at college with their own servants and coaches. The sons were also frequent visitors to St. Louis. More and more St. Louis became the focal point for the family from Santa Gertrudis. It was there in 1878 that daughter Nettie married Major Edwin B. Atwood and Army officer and Ella married Louis Welton a merchant. Both marriages were against the Captains's wishes but the Captain still showered his "pets" with wedding gifts and household luxuries. Richard II married Pearl Ashbrook.

KRP—506—The glamour of St. Louis had seduced three of the King children, and a fourth had died there his promise unfulfilled. Only the youngest daughter, Alice bided her time on the rancho in unshaken familial devotion. During this period the lawyer Kleberg could do dual business at the rancho” legal business with Captain King and curting business with daughter Alice.

The death of Lee broke the health of both parents. The Captain took to hard drinking and Henrietta had an immediate breakdown and a crippling malaise that left her weak for the next forty years of her life. Henrietta collapsed in St. Louis and remained there in residence for the next two years. At home on the Santa Gertrudis with Papa was the obedient and attentive youngest daughter Alice. She kept Mama in St. Louis up to date on the news, put Papa to bed, and saw her beau Robert Kleberg.

Denver and Rio Grande—Colorado Springs—family summered there at the Antler’s Hotel

KRS—p. 159—see story on timeline at 1900 to see how the children lived like princes and princesses growing up.

DG—p. 187—All the children received good educations. Nettie and Ella attended Henderson Female Institute –a Presbyterian school in Danville, Kentucky. Alice spent a year there. Ella and Alice finished their schooling in St. Louis at Mrs. Cuthbert’s Seminary.

Richard King II attended Centre College at Danville and had his own carriage and body servant. Robert E. Lee King the youngest attended Centre and then transferred to business college in St. Louis.

1878—Nettie married a major who worked in the U. S. Army Quartermaster Dept. and Ella in 1881 a businessman and both lived in St. Louis.

1883—DG-189—Lee died March 1 of pneumonia while attending college in St. Louis.

Great Ranch—p. 469—Sarah Kleberg graduated from Wellesley College and rode with her brother Richard cutting out steers. She was a splendid rider as good as any Mexican and she was as good a judge of cattle conditions as he was himself.