

## Oregon Land Claim Books

*Provisional Land Claims* - Price \$15.00

*Index to Oregon Donation Land Claims* –  
Price \$11.00

*Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation  
Land Claims: in 5 volumes*

[Note: the following books are fully indexed  
enabling you to trace the witnesses who may be  
related to your ancestor.]

*Volume 1 – Oregon City Land Office Claims  
1-2500* – Price \$10.00

*Volume 2 – Oregon City Land Office Claims  
2501-5289* – Price \$12.00

*Volume 3 – Roseburg, The Dalles, and La  
Grande Land Offices* – Price \$14.00

*Volume 4 – Abstracted from Rejected  
Applications: Oregon City, Roseburg, and  
The Dalles Land Offices* – Price \$10.00

*Volume 5 – Supplement to Volume 1  
[containing information on wives]* – Price  
\$15.00

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Members admitted free  
Visitor fee is \$7.00 per day

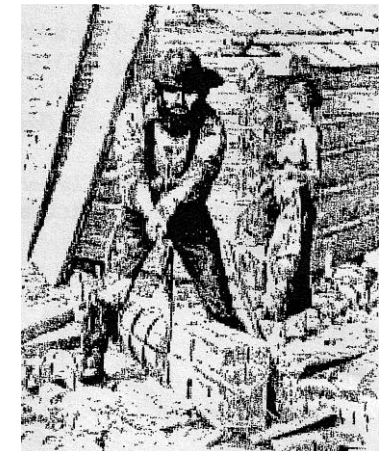
### Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Library closes at 1:45 p.m. during the  
monthly meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday.

Website: [www.gfo.org](http://www.gfo.org)  
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## Oregon Donation Land Claims



Oregon's climate and soil appealed to families  
from states suffering the economic effects of  
the Panic of 1837. By 1860, nearly 60 percent  
of the territory's pioneer families were from  
the states that lined the Ohio and Upper  
Mississippi rivers. The offer of free land  
provided the push that sent them on the  
2,000 mile trek over the Oregon Trail.

Sample of the type of information in the Provisional and ODLIC books:

#### **Provisional:**

Lucier, Etienne, Champoick Dist., W Bank of Willamette River on N; P. Belleque on E; J. B. Perrault on W and M. G. Foisy on S. Personal occupancy, 12 Dec 1845. Void by request of claimant, 9 Oct 1846. V I p 80. *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims Abstracted From Applications, Vol. I-VIII 1845-1849* (Portland, OR: Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 1982)

#### **Donation Land Claim:**

No. 5177 Ground, Edward, Polk Co; b 1809, Warren Co, Ky; Arr. Ore. 5 Aug 1853; SC 7 Feb 1854; m Eliza Ann 29 Oct/Nov 1834, Warren Co, Ky. Aff: Ira F. M. Butler (knew them as husband and wife). *Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims Volume II* (Portland, OR; Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 1959)

#### **Case Files:**

The originals of the case files are located in the National Archives in Washington DC and have been microfilmed. The GFO has a set of the microfilms. Use our index of claim holders (either in book form or on our website) to determine the office and claim number. The files range from six to sixty-five pages and contain documents signed by your ancestor. The cost is \$10 for the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 pages and 50 cents for each additional page.

To determine the cost for your file, send an e-mail to [gforesearch@yahoo.com](mailto:gforesearch@yahoo.com) or call (503) 963-1932 and leave a message for the research requests desk. We will need the index information and your phone number or e-mail to contact you with the quote.

#### **Provisional Land Claims –**

When Oregon's provisional government was established in the spring of 1843, it permitted inhabitants to stake out claims and survey them by the metes-and-bounds method.

That system ended in 1848, when Congress established the Territory of Oregon.

The provisional claims have been abstracted and published by the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. The application names the claimant, district, date of filing, brief land description and/or neighbors. See the example to the left.

#### **Oregon Donation Land Claims (ODLC or DLC) –**

An act of 27 September 1850 (9Stat.496), contained provisions for making donations of public lands to settlers. These were outright gifts of land. This was *free land*.

Every male settler over 18 years of age who was a citizen or had declared his intention to become a citizen, who had become a resident of the Territory before 1 December 1850, and who had lived on the land for four years could be granted 320 acres of land.

If the settler was married, his wife could also receive 320 acres in her name.

For settlers who arrived after 1 December 1850, the act provided that any male settler over 21 years of age, who was a citizen or had declared his intention to become one, and who settled in the Territory between 1 December 1850 and 1 December 1853 could file on 160 acres. If he was married, his wife was entitled to 160 acres.

The act provided for those of mixed Indian-white parentage who were already in the territory, and it required settlers who had staked claims previously under the Provisional Act to refile them.

Further acts extended the provisions of the 1850 act until 1 December 1855. They also permitted a person who had claimed land to purchase it for \$1.25 an acre after two years residence. In 1854, this requirement was reduced to one year (10 Stat. 305).

Over seven thousand claims were filed in Oregon under these acts. The applications contain much genealogical detail. This includes dates and places of births and marriages, names of spouses, naturalization information, and dates of arrival in Oregon.

The original claim files, held by the National Archives, have been microfilmed as its microfilm publication M815, Oregon and Washington Donation Land Files, 1851-1903 and are arranged by land office and final certificate number.

The files have been abstracted, indexed, and published by the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. This brochure contains information on the published books and about the microfilmed claim files, both of which are available at the GFO library. The indexes are also on our website at [www.gfo.org](http://www.gfo.org).

