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TO

OREGON DONATION LAND CLAIM FILES

IN

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Compiled by

Genealogical Forum [of Portland, Oregon]

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Portland, Oregon

Acreage. The number of acres granted can tell much toward indicating when the settler arrived in Oregon. Nothing over 320 acres was granted except for a man and wife in the territory before Dec. 1, 1850. A man and wife granted only 320 acres were probably not in the territory before Dec. 1, 1850 but certainly were there before Dec. 1, 1853. A grant of only 160 acres usually means the man was not married and arrived before Dec. 1, 1853. Bancroft in his HISTORY OF OREGON, Vol II tells us that contrary to all precedent, the women in this territory were placed on an equality with men in the respect of receiving land "but it was upon the presumption that there were no unmarried women in Oregon, which was near the truth. Men took advantage of the law, and to be able to lard it over a mile square of land married girls no more than children, who as soon as they became wives were entitled to claim a half section in their own right; and girls in order to have this right married without due consideration."

Land description. The Range, Township and Section tell exactly where the land was located. There are maps with townships and ranges marked which one may obtain, but when such a map is not readily available one may use any ordinary Oregon map first making certain to note the scale of miles. (There are, however, some undersize and some oversize sections, so that the 6-miles-to-a-section method may not be absolutely accurate.) With an ordinary Oregon map, draw a horizontal line through Portland—this is the township baseline. Townships are then north and south of this line allowing 6 miles for each township division. Then draw a vertical line at right angles to the baseline directly through the town of Aurora. This is the Willamette Meridian. Ranges will be east and west of the meridian allowing 6 miles for each range division. With this guide one can locate the grant per description and find approximately in what present county it may lie. For instance a grant described as T5S R2W would lie in the 5th township division south of Portland (between 30 and 36 miles south, and in the 2nd range division west of the Willamette meridian (between 6 and 12 miles west of the meridian). Salem lies in T7S R3W, Corvallis in T11S R5W, Eugene in T17S R3W, Roseburg in T27S R on line between 5 & 6 W.

You can further pin-point the land by knowing how the section numbers read. There are 36 sections in a township and they number from right to left and back again, thus:

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

NW	NE
SW	SE

Sections are further divided into four quarters, Northeast, Northwest, Southwest, Southeast, as shown on the diagram above.

Remember that county lines in Oregon changed as they did in any other state and other records of the family sought may be in the parent count instead of the one in which the grant now lies.

The Surveyor-General arrived in Oregon in time to begin survey of public lands in October 1851. The Baseline was set  $7\frac{3}{4}$  miles south of the mouth of the Willamette River. Intersection of the base and meridian lines was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of the Willamette. The reason for fixing this line, we are told, was that Indians were friendly for some distance north and south and a survey in this locality would accommodate the immediate wants of the settlers. It was found later that the lines ran through the inhabited valleys both south and west. Further history of the Oregon Donation Land Law can be found in Bancroft's HISTORY OF OREGON Vol II ff 260.



## INDEX TO OREGON LAND CLAIMS

VOL. IV, No. 6

## NAME OF CLAIMANT

	LAND OFFICE	CERT. NUMBER	NO. OF ACRES	TOWN SHIP	RANGE	SECTION
Hall, Mathew (decsd)(Malinda) widow & hrs at law	OC	3473	627.66	3S	3W	13,14,23,24
Hall, Orange S.(decsd)widow Elizabeth & hrs at law	OC	3750	618.60	1S	1W	1,2,11,12
Hall, Pulasky	RB	303	160.08	4CS	8W	1,2,23,26,27
Hall, Reason B.	OC	1199	613.50	9S	4W	22,23,26,27
Hall, Richmond	OC	2960	159.75	5S	5W	1,2,12
Hall, Robert	OC	1120	320	5S	5E	27
Hall, Rowland	RB	386	159.91	36S	2W	21,28
Hall, Samuel	RB	396	321.53	36S	2W	29,30,31,32
Hall, Samuel	RB	1904	160.90	21S	4W	19,20
Hall, Samuel & wife (both decsd)hrs at law	OC	3800	240	7S	4W	13,24
Hall, Thomas A. & wife	OC	2915	641.19	13S	3W	26,35
Hall, William	OC	1007	320.27	14S	3W	2,3
Hall, William & wife	OC	3595	642.91	1N	1E	12,13
Hall, William F. & wife	OC	3748	617.92	6S	6W	19,20,29,30
Hall, Zachariah	OC	2339	141.08	1S	1W	9,10,11,15,16
Halladay, Wells & wife	OC	4408	320.83	5S	5W	19
Halley, Bartholomew	OC	1878	644.12	7N	9W	10,15
Halliburton, William C.	RB	2062	160	3S	1E	21,22,27,28
Halligan, John (decsd) hrs at law	OC	4064	159.60	18S	4W	14,15
Hallock, Ezra Y.	OC	545	160	1S	12W	13
Hallock, Heman S. & wife	OC	2376	320.66	7S	6W	25
Halpain, Samuel S. & wife	OC	798	319.81	11S	6W	4,9
Halpruner, Daniel	RB	1168	320	28S	6W	18
Halsted, Jacob	OC	1779	320.64	5S	1E	28
Halter, Jacob L. & wife	OC	4416	640	17S	3W	22,23,26,27
Ham, Charles & wife	OC	5223	320	10S	4W	27,28,33,34
Hamblin, Doctor B.	OC	367	320	7S	5W	17,18,19,20
Hamilton, Adam S.	OC	1087	320	24S	5W	26,23
Hamilton, Anderson	RB	341	322.89	7S	3W	7
Hamilton, Bushrod W. & wife	OC	2187	320	22S	3W	4,9,10
Hamilton, George & wife	OC	1003	319.97	11S	1W	7
Hamilton, John H. & wife	OC	2283	327.60	11S	2W	12
Hamilton, Joseph & Nancy A. Hamilton	OC	591	112.58	1N	2E	24,25
Hamilton, Joseph & wife	OC	3138	640	3S	1E	7
Hamilton, Preston & wife	OC	2941	317.51	12S	2W	29,30
Hamilton, Robert W.	OC	1082	590	12S	4W	8,9,16,17
Hamilton, Samuel P.	OC	1717	314.49	7S	1W	1
Hamilton, Supplina	OC	2969	138.27	7S	1E	6
Hamilton, William C. & wife	OC	2916	320	7S	3W	5,8
Hamlin, Charles H.	RB	393	276.53	16S	3W	7
Hamlin, James	RB	151	320.41	16S	4W	1,12
Hamlin, Nathaniel & wife	OC	4592	642.90	11S	2W	5,6
Hammer, Jacob & wife	OC	3049	640.88	6S	4W	14
Hammitt, Austin W. & wife	OC	3046	319.97	37S	1W	28,33
Hampton, Jacob & wife	OC	1066	630.07	38S	1W	6,7
Hampton, Jesse C.	OC	2828	320	1S	3E	7,8,17,18
	OC			14S	6W	26,27,34,35
	OC			17	2W	32,33
	OC			18(S)	2W	4,5
	OC			5S	5W	26,27,34,35
	OC			13S	3W	29,32