

Spotlight

Additional Genealogical Information Related to Oregon Donation Land Claims

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A complete collection of Oregon Donation Land Claims (ODLC) files for Oregon and Washington is available on microfilm at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO). The ODLC date to the 1850s, and came about through a series of Congressional Acts enacted to patent certain federal lands to private citizens.

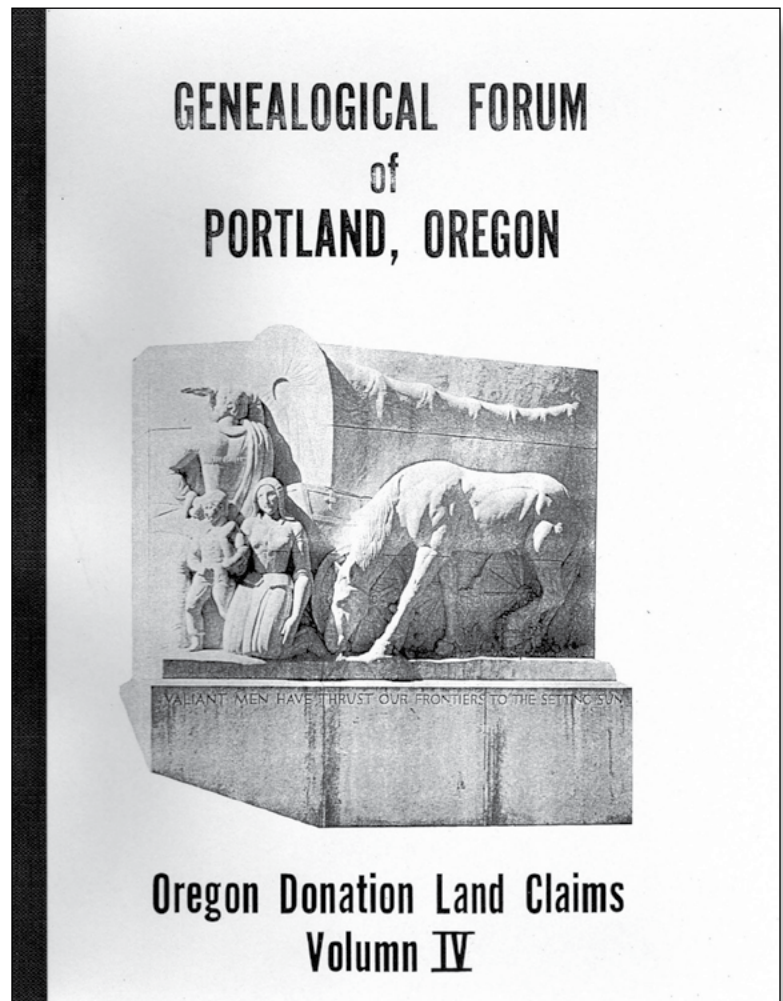
The microfilm records have been abstracted by the GFO, appearing in several volumes under the general title of *Genealogical Material in the Oregon Donation Land Claims*. These abstracts, under various subtitles, were started in 1957 and accumulated in 1959, 1962, 1967, 1975, and 1987. Several volumes were reprinted during that time, and each volume contains an index for all the names in the abstracts. Each volume also includes a detailed description of the records abstracted from the original microfilm.

There also are microfilm records for individuals who applied for an ODLC, but whose claims were rejected, cancelled, or found to be incomplete. These records are in Volume 4 and discussed next, and this is followed by a summary of all of the ODLC volumes published by the GFO.

REJECTED (CANCELLED) APPLICATIONS:

Volume 4, Abstracts of Rejected Applications, Filed in Oregon City, Roseburg, and The Dalles Land Offices contains detailed abstracts, genealogies, and supplemental information for claims rejected, cancelled, or considered incomplete by the federal government through specific land offices. The index is by claimant's name followed by the cancelled claim number. Several pages cross-reference the rejected claims to other later land entries. The first page begins with "The following list includes homestead, land warrant, pre-emption and cash entries which covered all or a part of land originally described in a cancelled donation land claim."

These abstracts can be much more interesting than the regular ODLC files because they also include the conflicts, comments, and court references regarding why the claim was denied or cancelled. The names of



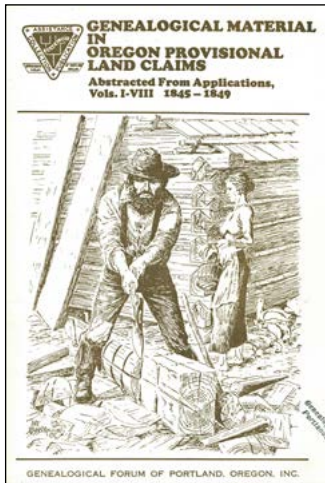
Cover of Volume IV with rejected and cancelled ODLC applications

the conflicted owners are listed with the type of land they eventually obtained. This volume may contain individuals who had qualified under the original ODLC opportunities but waited too long to file. If they waited until after 1862, individuals who had obtained land under the Homestead Act may have preceded the late-claiming ODLC applicant for a specific parcel. Details of these conflicts are usually included in the rejected abstracts.

Published in 1967, this volume is not currently indexed on the GFO website. However, images of these rejected applications may be found in the GFO micro-

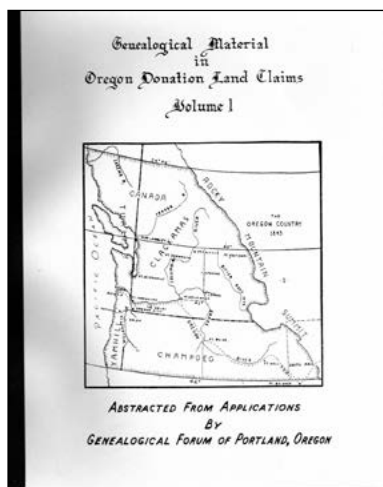
film collection following the completed applications for each land office. The correct film can be identified with the Volume 4 printed index in the GFO library. Copies of Volume 4 are also available for purchase in the library or through our online store: <http://gfostore.yolasite.com/oregon-idaho-publications.php>.

**SUMMARY OF OTHER VOLUMES:
Provisional Land Claims**



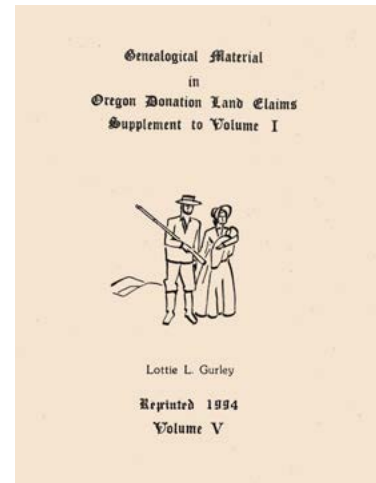
Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims, Abstracted, Volumes I – VIII, 1845 -1849 contains claims made by residents of the Willamette Valley after Oregon formed a provisional government in 1843. These claims precede the 1848 creation of the Oregon Territory by Congress, which then established the ODLC laws in the 1850s. These volumes were published in 1982. Almost all the pertinent information in the original ledger books is listed in the provisional abstracts.

Oregon City Land Office

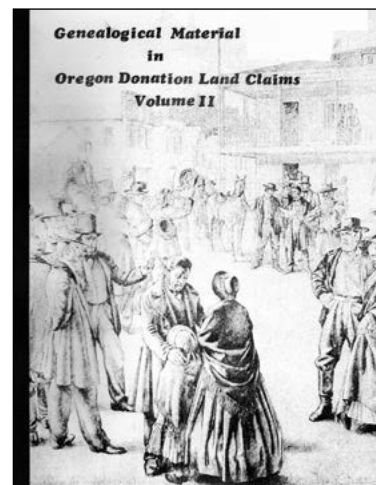


Volume 1, Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims contains abstracts of some of the material

in the original land files for the Oregon City Land Office's records. It became the main title for subsequent volumes with subtitles for the other land offices. Data in Volume 1, which covers ODLC Claims number 1 through 2500, was published in 1957.

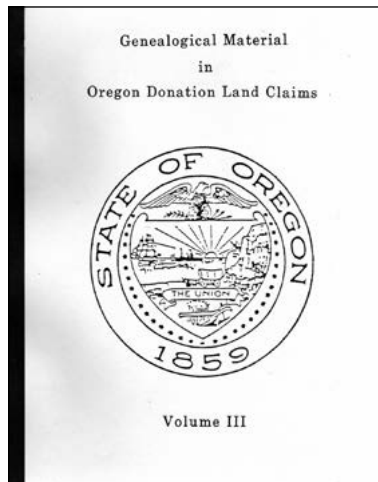


Volume 5, Supplement to Volume 1, Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims, contains extended information for Volume 1, Oregon City, including additional genealogical and supplemental information assembled by a GFO team led by Lottie Gurley, Project Director for the ODLC abstracts. Information in this volume was extracted from regional publications and GFO members. There are two addenda pages listing the names of those who do not appear in the indexes. This volume was published in 1975.



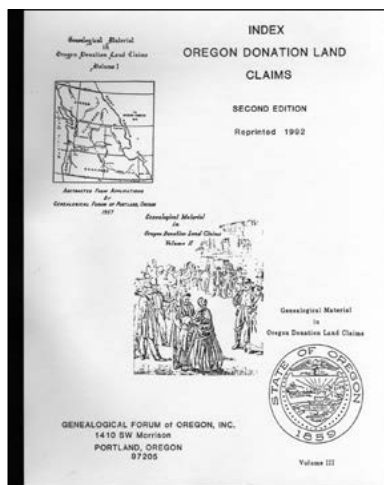
Volume 2, Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims contains claims for 2501 through 5241 filed in the Oregon City Land Office. It was published in 1959 and reprinted in 1980. There is no supplement to Volume 2.

Roseburg, The Dalles, and La Grande Land Offices



Volume 3, *Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims* contains abstracts similar to the Oregon City abstracts for Roseburg, The Dalles, and the La Grande Land Offices. The land offices are listed separately and use separate claim number systems. Included is a geographical index for claimants' place of origin. This volume was published in 1962.

Composite Index



Oregon Donation Land Claims, Second Edition exists for all four land offices (Oregon City, Roseburg, The Dalles, and La Grande). It was published in 1987 and reprinted in 1992. A small "Volume III" is printed on the cover of this volume; however, it is not the same as Volume 3 discussed above. This volume is a truncated transcription of the indexes in Volumes 1 through 3. This composite index compresses the abstracted information in the individual volumes for each land office. Occasionally, errors occurred in the transcription from the individual indexes for each land office to the composite

index, so it is recommended that after the researcher finds the claimant in the composite index, they verify the information in the individual land office index. Neither this composite index nor the individual indexes contain rejected land claims. Those are contained only in Volume 4.

Indexes on the GFO Website

ODLC Volumes 1, 2, 3, 5, Provisional Land Claims, plus the Composite Index for Donation Land Claims are reflected in the indexes found on the GFO website.



To search all of GFO's indexes from the GFO home page, click on "Indexes" in the blue Research box. The direct link is: <http://www.gfo.org/search.htm>, or there are separate search lists for claimants in both Provisional Land Claims <http://www.gfo.org/provisional/index.htm> and Donation Land Claims <http://www.gfo.org/donation/index.htm>.

NO INDEX FOR VOLUME 4, ABSTRACTED FROM REJECTED APPLICATIONS ON THE GFO WEBSITE

Please note that neither list on the website includes the names of rejected claimants who are in Volume 4. The Volume 4 material is available only in the microfilm collection and is arranged alphabetically by claimant. An index for Volume 4 regarding the Rejected/Cancelled Land Claims will be added to the GFO website in the future.

So remember that early arrivals in the Willamette Valley may not have applied for an ODLC when they were eligible. If they waited until a later date, they may appear only in this volume of rejections and cancellations (*Volume 4*) (and the associated microfilm, of course).