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Works Progress Administration of Oregon
E. J. Griffith, State Administrator

OCT 31 1940

Record of Married Women's Separate Property in Baker County, 1862-72

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In a mimeographed series of brief manuscripts, records and studies by W. P. A. County and Local Historical Records Survey of Oregon

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Mimeographed Bulletins of the Historical Records Survey of Oregon:

1. Transportation items from the Weekly Oregonian, 1852-1865 (15 pages).
2. Record of Married Women's Separate Property in Baker County, 1862-1872 (5 pages).
3. A Letter from Luckiamute Valley in 1846 (6 pages).
4. Daily Sales of an Auburn Store in 1868 (63 pages).
5. Abstract of the Willamette and Cascade Mountain Road Company, 1882-1911 (40 pages).

TN 146683

These lists, with their quaint but vivid descriptions, particularly of cattle, were taken directly from "Record of Married Women's Separate Property in the County of Baker, State of Oregon", while what is now the ghost town of Auburn was still the county seat. The little record book, much of it in the handwriting of Samuel A. Clarke, the first county clerk of Baker County and later a well known historian and poet, is preserved in the basement vaults of the Baker County court house.

Such a separate inventory of women's property has not been found in any other court house in Oregon. It is interesting as showing that in the early 60's, at least in the freer environment of a gold mining region, women had considerable rights of their own. The nature of the property, not at all predominantly of household goods and other feminine possessions, is also interesting. Mining claims, store buildings, horses and oxen are described with minute exactness, recreating in vivid detail these long vanished ghosts of possessions.

RECORD OF MARRIED WOMEN'S SEPARATE PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY OF BAKER,
STATE OF OREGON, 1862-72. 1 vol.

Arranged chronologically. Handwritten. Condition, poor. (Binding gone.)

50 pp. 8 x 12 x $\frac{1}{4}$. County Clerk's basement vault.

- a. Know all men by these presents that I Caroline Ziegilmuller, do hereby declare and make known that I claim all and singular the following property as my separate property as free from all liabilities or contracts whatsoever that have been, or may be made by my said husband, Joseph Ziegilmuller, that is to say, lot number three (3) in block number twelve (12) in the town of Auburn, Baker County, Oregon. Also all my goods and chattels, money and merchandise, and all the Capital and profits now invested and in my possession, and on the above named premises in and about the business as baker and merchantising, all of which was and is my own separate property, having come to my possession by devise.

Given under my hand and seal on this 18th day of November A. D. 1862
Caroline Ziegilmuller

Attest: A. Hurd

Sam'l A. Clarke

(Followed by three legal statements, by the County Recorder, Mrs. Ziegilmuller, and the County Clerk.)

- b. Know all men by these presents that I Caroline Ziegilmuller of Baker County state of Oregon do hereby declare and make known that I claim all and singular the following described property free from all my husband's debts and liabilities that have accrued or that may accrue, and I do hereby declare the same to be my separate property and free from all liability and contracts whatsoever that have been or that may be made by my said husband, Joseph Ziegilmuller, that is to say: So much of Blickingins lot in block No. 12 (12) City of Auburn in County and State aforesaid as is described as follows.

Commencing at the South East corner of Said lot thence South along the line of Said lot upon the Street for the distance of Twenty Five feet (25 feet) thence West fifty feet (50 ft) thence South Twenty-five feet (25 ft) thence East fifty feet to the place of beginning.

The same being my separate property and having come to my possession by devise.

Given under my hand this 26th day of November A. D. 1862.

Caroline Ziegilmuller

Attest S. A. Clarke

Alex Thornton

(Followed by testament of affirmation by Samuel A. Clarke, County Clerk.)

- c. ...I claim...the following property...free from all liabilities.... made by my Said husband Thomas F. Eyre, that is to say, Lot Number five (5) in block Number Eleven (11) in the town of Auburn, Baker County, Oregon, together with all the buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging and appertaining or that may be made or added thereto. The Same being my Separate and individual property, and having come to me by gift and by devise. Given under my hand and seal the 23rd day of November A. D. 1862.

Abbie M. Eyre

Attest

Sam'l A Clarke
and Zowia X Kennedy
mark

(Followed by affirmation by County Clerk)

BILL OF SALE

- d. Know all Men by these presents that I have this day bargained and sold Wm. C. Wills & Co. 25 feet fronting on Kirk Street, and running back fifty feet in lot Number 1 Block 5 Situate 30 feet from the South East corner of said block, and 25 ft from Fullin's lot and Market.

John Thompson

Filed for record Nov. 25th
Recorded Nov. 26th, 1862.

- e. Know all men by these presents....that is to say Lot Number two, in block named Duguay in the said City of Auburn. The same being my separate and individual property and having come to me by devise.

Given under My hand and Seal the 29th day of November A. D. 1862.

Carolina Ziegilmuller

Witnessed by Sam'l A. Clarke
William Hall

Recorded Nov. 29th, 1862

(Affirmation paragraph by County Clerk below.)

- f. Be it known that I, Elizabeth S. Lynch of the County of Baker State of Oregon do hereby declare my intention to hold the following property as my own property it having been bought by my own money, and I do by this Act declare it separate and apart from my husbands, that is to say, One City lot described as follows to wit. Lot No. three (3) in block (E) in Lower Auburn Baker County State of Oregon. Also the following personal property to wit, Sixteen (16) head of Work oxen and fifteen cows,

described as follows to wit, One yoke of red steers, one dark brindle point of left horn off, One blu speckled Steer one yoke of Mexican Cattle, ene a dark brown the other a black and white pided. One yoke one a red sided white back and short tail, the other a red spotted roan steer. One yoke of small red cattle, one white back and some white in face; One yoke of spotted brindle and roan steers, one yoke of red and roan pided steers, one yoke of red white faced steers: also one red cow white mottly face small horns, one horn broken; One dark red cow small horns; one red cow; two large red cows; one speckled roan muley cow; one red roan cow small horns; one small white cow; one small white and red speckled cow, broken horn; One red cow small white star in forehead; one red and white pided cow.

One dark roan spotted cow. One white cow ends of horns Sawed of; One Small red cow, one horn slightly droop; One Small red cow; All of which is branded on the horns with the letter (S)-- I propose to use in the business of teaming and the dairy business and all the proceeds thereof I do claim as my own Separate property as all has been bought with my own money, and I propose to carry on the Said business in my own name and right.

Given under my hand this 29th day of December A. D. 1862

Elisabeth S. Lynch

Attest

A. Hud

B. F. Jackson

(Affirmation by E. A. Rice, Justice of the Peace. Filed for record Jan 29th, 1863.)

- g. Know all men my these presents that I, Theresa M. Bassett of the town of La Grand, Baker County, Oregon shall from and after this 29th day of December A. D. 1863 hold as my separate property as property Separate and from the property of my husband C. H. Bassett, one span of light grey horses, one set of harness, and one two horse wagon, now in possession of J. B. Robinson.

The said horses are worth the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars and harness about the sum of twenty five dollars and wagon about the sum of fifty dollars.

That from and after this date the above described property will not be holdened for or subject the payment of the debts of my husband hereafter contracted.

Theresa M. Bassett

(Affirmation by S. M. Black, Justice of the Peace.
Filed for record Jan 4, 1864.)

- h. Know all men by these presents that I, Eliza L. Leavy, wife of James Leavy of the town of La Grand in the county of Baker and State of Oregon do and from this date shall claim as my separate and individual property as apart from the property of my said husband the following described real Estate and personal property, to wit, Lot No. ten (10) of Block No. 4 in

Green Arnolds Addition to the town of La Grande in County & State aforesaid with all and singular of the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and personal property, to wit: One Cooking Stove with pipe and cooking utensils, One set of chairs, One gold watch No. 24540. One bedstead, bed and covering therefor; One double barreled London Shot Gun No. 10: together with all and singular of the personal property of whatsoever kind now in the possession of said Eliza & James Leavy.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 28th day of Nov. A. D. 1863.

E. L. Leavy

Geo L. Griggs Witnesses
S. M. Black

(Paragraph of affirmation by S. M. Black, Justice of the Peace.
Filed for record Dec. 22, 1863.)