
Donation Land Law

On September 27, 1850, the United States Congress passed the Donation Land Act. This act set down the rules for acquiring land in the Oregon Territory. By the conclusion of the Land Act in 1855, it had resulted in some 30,000 new immigrants to Oregon and a total of 7,437 patents granted covering about 2,500,000 acres.

The Donation Land Law provided that each resident white or half-breed settler who was a citizen of the United States or who within a year declared his

intention of becoming a citizen could receive 320 acres in his own name and, if married, another 320 acres in the name of his wife.



Hiram Niday
Courtesy of JO CO
Historical Society

Originally the law was to expire in 1853. The time was extended to December 1855 and provided for those settlers who arrived in Oregon after the 1850 date to receive 160 acres, if single, and 320 acres (160

acres in wife's name) if married. The law required four successive years residence on the donation land claim before making application for certification, however the Act of 1853 made it possible for the claimants to purchase their claims for \$1.25 per acre after two successive years of residence on the land. The law further provided there had to be three disinterested witnesses to the fact of continued residence and cultivation.

Donation Land Claimers in Hugo Region

It was during the 1850s that three donation land claimers settled in Hugo, Oregon: Hiram and Caroline Niday and the Walker brothers, Augustus and Wesley.



Hiram Niday Donation Land Claim

Certificate Number: 1479
Notification Number: 692 (DC 40)
Claimant's Name: Hiram Niday
County in Oregon: Josephine County
Date & Place Birth: 1822,
Lawrence County, Ohio
Arrival In Oregon: September 15, 1852
Date Claim Settled: December 6, 1853

Wesley R. Walker Donation Land Claim

Certificate Number: 778
Notification Number: 699
Claimant's Name: Wesley R. Walker
County in Oregon: Josephine County
Date & Place Birth: 1824, Henderson County,
Kentucky
Arrival In Oregon: October 12, 1852
Date Claim Settled: March 1, 1855

Patent by President Andrew Johnson, July 26, 1866

1. Hugo Neighborhood. 2005. *APPLEGATE TRAIL: BOYCE PROPERTY*. OR-JA-00-34-06-35- Boyce Property. Brochure 20 in Emigrant Trails Series. Hugo, OR.

More Information

The Niday donation land claim became the Sexton Place after Caroline (Stumbo) Niday married David Sexton in 1857.¹



Sexton Place: 1898
Courtesy of Kerbyville Museum

Augustus L. Walker Donation Land Claim

Certificate Number: 861
Notification Number: 700
Claimant's Name: Augustus L. Walker
County in Oregon: Josephine County
Date & Place of Birth: 1829, Henderson
County, Kentucky
Arrival In Oregon: October 12, 1852
Date Claim Settled: March 1, 1855

Patent by President Andrew Johnson, August 7, 1866

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved.

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Make checks to the *Hugo Neighborhood* and send them to our Treasurer.

Hugo Neighborhood Association

Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

Edited by Jacque Hardwick, Karen Rose, & Mike Walker

HNA&HS Officers

Wayne McKy, Chair
6497 Hugo Road
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Mike Walker, Education Chair
3388B Merlin Rd #195
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

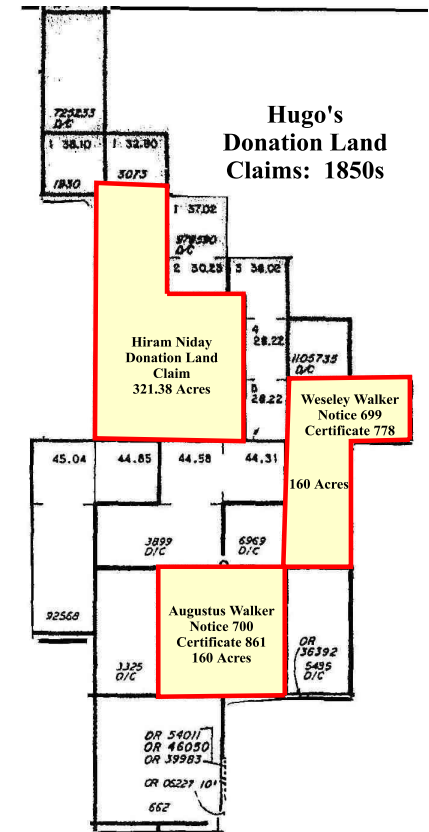
Hal Anthony, Outreach Chair
3995 Russell Road
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Karen Rose, Web Master
575 Red Mountain Drive
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

DONATION LAND CLAIMERS, HUGO, OREGON: 1850 - 1855



Brochure 9A in Trapper's Trail Series



May 25, 2008

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

Brochure 9A in Trapper's Trail Brochure Series - HNA&HS 2008 - 110

C:\Documents and Settings\mike\My Documents\Genealogy\Trappers Trail\BROCHURE_9A_Donation_Land_Claimers_052508.wpd