

Books from the Archives, Episode Two

Contributed by Terry Badger, Deputy State Archivist

Perhaps one of the most creative ideas for a book that I have seen in the last few years was dreamed up by Lorraine McConaghy. *New Land, North of the Columbia: Historic Documents that Tell the Story of Washington State from Territory to Today*, presents a journey through history using a selection of documents found in archives large and small

throughout the State.

Ms. McConaghy spent a year travelling the State looking for documents held by archives and libraries accessible to the public that would be of interest to us. These documents, as she explains, “are rich sources of information about the ordinary people who lived everyday lives in the past.” The institutions visited are too numerous to mention, but among them are the Experience Music Project, the Rainier Valley Historical Society, the



Richland Public Library, and even the Washington State Archives.

GENERAL INVENTORY OF EXECUTOR OR ADMINISTRATOR. THE "MARGARET" WAST, FORTSAL, GEORGIA.

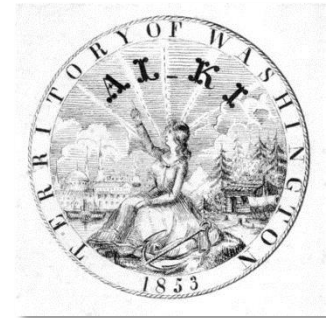
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON,
FOR THE COUNTY OF THURSTON.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Margaret M. Russell }
Deceased.

The following is a true Inventory of all the Real Estate and of all the goods, chattels, rights and credits of _____
Margaret M. Russell deceased, which have come to
the possession or knowledge of the undersigned *Appraiser* of the said estate:

REAL ESTATE	Appraised Value.
Lot 1, Blk 27 Sevan's Addition to Olympia	1000 00
and dwelling house situated thereon	700 00
1/2m Apartment - 2m Apartment - 1 Bed Room	34 00
1/2m Apartment - 1m Apartment - 1 Bed Room	10 00
1 Dining Table	45 00
2 Kitchen Sofas	3 25
2 Matt. Matts	85
10 Bouds	1 25
10 Bed Cops	1 50
2 Large Chairs	7 50
7 Large Spoons	1 25
1 Oak Seamer	4 60
1 Large Bed	7 00
Miscellaneous Books	1 90
1 Glass Front Stove	75
2 Warden Boxes	1 25
2 Rolling Pins	35
1 Cornish Marble	70
1 Wash Pan	60
3 Stone Sugs	18
2 Smoothing Irons	2 75
1 Hair Razor	5 30
1 Glass Pan	60
2 J. L. ...	25
1 Wash. Machine	1 50
1 Bed Stove	35

We are honored to be part of this excellent publication. Among the records from the State Archives chosen by Ms. McConaghy, is the law related to the creation of the territorial state seal, a probate record showing a household inventory from 1874, booking mug shots from the Kitsap County Sheriff's offices, and documents relating to the clean-up of Hanford.



If this piques your interest, please look for Ms. McConaghy's book, or come to the Archives to explore and find countless interesting documents for yourself.