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Review of *Owning Western History: A Guide to Collecting Rare Documents, Historical Letters, and Valuable Photographs from the Old West* By Warren B. Anderson

Warren W. Caldwell
Clearwater Valley Historical Society

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Caldwell, Warren W., "Review of *Owning Western History: A Guide to Collecting Rare Documents, Historical Letters, and Valuable Photographs from the Old West* By Warren B. Anderson" (1995). *Great Plains Quarterly*. 1011.

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and made more concrete the local record of a multi-dimensional and remarkably peripatetic poet of the west.

Obviously, this is not a scholarly book, and probably few readers of this journal will care to add it to their libraries. Yet it is worth examination, and portions warrant close attention because of the entré offered to the mundane affairs of the early West. Waste paper can be worth your time.

WARREN W. CALDWELL

Clearwater Valley Historical Society
Orofino, Idaho

Owning Western History: A Guide to Collecting Rare Documents, Historical Letters, and Valuable Photographs from the Old West. By Warren B. Anderson. Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing, 1993. Photographs, appendices, glossary, bibliography, index. vii + 118 pp. \$25.00.

As the reader will have surmised, this volume is about collecting. It might well have been titled, "Western History: Via Waste Paper, Photographs and Other Ephemera." Bewarned, it is not concerned with literary debris, but rather the remains of defunct stock companies, failed businesses, "wanted posters," and seemingly an infinity of other secular paper.

There is little to review here. The book is unabashedly descriptive, anecdotal, and largely non-critical. None the less, it has the virtue of directing the scholar to many documents of "western" society that otherwise might be neglected, and the pay-off can be interesting.

A case in point concerns "Joaquin Miller," the "Laureate of the Sierras," whose florid verse was inordinately savored by an earlier generation. Recently, the Director of the Clearwater Valley Museum discovered in the papers recording mining claims around Pierce, the scene of Idaho's first gold rush, a reference to a claim on Orogrande Creek, next to "Waukeen's old claim." Miller was known to have freighted into the area in 1863, but there was no record of mining or even speculation in claims. Using the new information, Joaquin's "old claim" was identified and the surface archaeologically recorded. Surely this was nothing of great moment, but it was satisfying