

MOSIER FRIENDLY TOWARD INDIANS

Oliver Wilder, Mosier Student,
Writes More of Early
Mosier History.

The following history of Mosier and account of how the small city obtained its name was written by Oliver Wilder, a sophomore in the Mosier high school. It was written under the supervision of Mrs. Callie M. Bigbee's English classes.

Jonah H. Mosier, who was the youngest of six children, was born March 10, 1821 in the state of Maryland. In the year of 1849, Mr. Mosier, in company with six or seven other young men traveled across the continent from the east to California to the gold fields. After a time he returned to the east.

In 1853, he joined an emigrant train, then getting ready for the trip across the plains to Oregon. In company with a friend, Hiram Smith, he and his family made the long journey and landed in The Dalles with one dollar and seventy-five cents in cash, three head of oxen, (he had lost three head on the trip) one cow, and an old, worn-out wagon.

The Dalles was a military post at that time, the only store being kept in a large tent, with a hewn log for a counter. Mr. Mosier went to work as a builder, erect-

ing a store for W. D. Bigelow, another for M. M. Cushing and Lowe. After that, he put up several buildings and dwellings. He assisted Colonel N. H. Gates and Judge Laughlin in laying out the town of The Dalles.

Owing to a scarcity of building material, Jonah H. Mosier saw the opportunity of supplying the same in 1855, while seeking a suitable site for a mill, found the place which seemed suited for his purpose, sixteen miles below The Dalles. Here, on the small stream now known as Mosier creek, he took a donation land claim, which was his headquarters for the rest of his life. He is buried here beside his faithful wife, who preceded him to the grave many years.

In 1866, he married for the second time. This wife was a widow, with three children and with Mr. Mosier's nine by his first wife, made an even dozen for him to care for.

Mr. Mosier was kind to the Indians and they returned his friendship to them by warning him of an Indian uprising, in which many lost their lives, so that his family had time to reach the fort at The Dalles. The outbreak occurred in the winter time and the roads were almost impassible, but the family fled on horseback in the middle of the night. Mr. Mosier was shot at several times during this flight, and the bullets grazed his body, but did not injure him seriously. He built a cabin later for the Indian woman, who had given this warning and

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care for her during the rest of her life. This was a fine example of a kind man's gratitude.

This kindly pioneer passed on to his reward in the year 1894.

At the present time, a town is growing up on the donation claim along Mosier creek, the inhabitants being occupied in various enterprises.

Indian tribes: Fishing was the most important way of making a living by the Willamettes and the Wasco tribes. Many were drowned. Other foods used were the camas and sunflower roots, horse-meat and wild berries.

The first railroad was built in 1882. J. J. Lynch was the first telegraph operator and agent.

Schools and names of early pupils: The first school in the neighborhood was a private one taught by a man named George Ryan. He taught in a room at the Mosier residence. Some of the first pupil's names were C. Mespole, the Bradshaw boys, and the Snelling boys in addition to the children of Jonah H. Mosier.

The first public school was taught in a little room on the old Mosier homestead, by the Rev. Mr. Garrison, of Hood River. This was a three month's term with twelve pupils in attendance.

After the death of Mr. Ryan in 1874, Emily Davidson took his place as private teacher, another school being conducted in a cabin about three miles from town. This cabin was owned by Mr. Jones and the school continued the year round with few holidays.

In 1875, they made enough money to hold a school in a cabin of J. H. Mosier's.

In 1879, the first real school house was built. This was a log house about two miles from town. Members of the early boards were W. C. McClure, Amos Root, W. F. McClure, L. Lamb, and J. H. Mosier.

In 1889 school district 37 was divided into farm districts 8 and 52. George Carrol was the first teacher of district 8. District 52 is the present home of George Chamberlain. (This must mean that the first school house of 52 stood on that piece of land.)

In 1906 a new school house was built. First the course was for only two years of high school but later, the other two years were

added. The first one to graduate was Orren Osburn, in 1914.

Teachers who taught in this school were Miss Hazel Huntington, now Mrs. A. E. Gronewald, and Mr. Ross, who still lives in Mosier. Since that time a fine concrete building has been erected near the highway, in the west end of town. In 1920 the east part of the present building was erected, and the west part of the building, including some class rooms and the gymnasium were added, in

Churches: The first church services were held by the McKenna place. The second, Robbs place. The third, Acers place. The fourth in the school house. The fifth meeting place was the Immanuel church and the sixth was in the Christian church.

Names on headstones in the old cemetery: Willie Densmore, died 1892; George Evans, died 1887; Mrs. Seivner, 1900; Edith Prather Judy, March, 1896, 27 years; Myra Prather, Feb. 5, 1899, 90 years; Benjamin F. Mosier, Aug. 3, 1879, 20 years; Jane Mosier, Aug. 28, 1865, 41 years; Jonah H. Mosier, Sep. 6, 1894, 73 years; Mildred Phillips, born Jan. 21, 1894, died Dec. 11, 1901; Albert Huskey, born in Sevier, Tennessee, 1832, died June 18, 1890; Axel William Johnson, born Nov. 2, 1896, died Feb. 21, 1897; Dawson L. Reynolds; Sept. 4, 1873, aged 43 years; Mr. Swasey, Eddie Evans, 1898.

George Carrol
1879 - 10/23
20 yrs old

Reynolds
1 35 years old
(wife & 3 children)

May 21
Willie Densmore
14 yrs old - fell from tree
Son of Mrs. Miss Robert Densmore