

HOW THE MOHAWK VALLEY GOT ITS NAME

Jacob Spores was born in the Mohawk Valley in the state of New York.

In 1847, he was a wagon master on the Oregon Trail.

Jacob's first wife, Elizabeth, died in Illinois. He remarried before coming to Oregon.

He had a Flathead Indian as his guide, had no problems with other Indians, and was the first wagon train of that year to reach our area.

Jacob settled on the North side of the McKenzie River. (Coburg)

John Diamond was his right-hand man on the train.

John gave a part of his land claim to start the town of Coburg.

Diamond Peak is named after this explorer.

Jacob started up a ferry made from two Indian Canoes, lashed together.

He built his first log cabin home along the river. A flood took it down-river.

The first settler to our area was Elijah Bristow, who founded Pleasant Hill.

The second settler was Eugene Skinner, and he founded Eugene.

The third settler was Jacob Spores, and he founded Coburg. The I-5 freeway bridges that cross the McKenzie where he operated his ferry have been named Spores Bridge.

Jacob was raising horses at this time.

Indians came one night and stole most of his horses.

He followed their trail, up over the Coburg Hills. When Jacob looked down on our valley, he said, "That looks like home." So, he named it the Mohawk Valley.

Later he came across a camp, where the Indians had been, and he called this place Camp Creek. He finally caught up with the Indians someplace up the McKenzie River. They had killed one of his horses; were in the process of cooking and Drying the horse meat when he arrived.

Jacob got all but the one horse back.

He told the Indians that if they would not steal from him that he would help them when they were in need.

He adopted two Indian orphans into his family of 16 children.

A girl, who became known as Indian Lize, is buried at Brownsville.

And a boy, Enoch. Not much is known about him.

Many of Jacob's sons and daughters settled in the Mohawk Valley.

Jacob's son, James Madison Spores, settled along the Mohawk River

On Old Mohawk Road. James Franklin settled at McGowan Creek.

A fifth generation Spores (David) still lives on J.M.'s homestead.

Ida (Spores) Baugh was Kathy's mother.

J. Frank was Kathy's grandfather.

James M. was Kathy's great grandfather,

And Jacob her great-great grandfather.