

CFR 0449

William Marsh

(Application missing)

AGAINST THE BACKGROUND of a barn erected by Josiah Marsh 104 years ago, his descendants are posed on their Hidden Valley Ranch near The Dalles. They are among Centennial families who will be honored late this summer at the Oregon State Fair. From left, Floyd William Marsh, Will H. Marsh, Mrs. Will H. Marsh, Mrs. Floyd William Marsh holding Floyd, Jr.

Another Centennial Family of Wasco County

Hidden Valley Ranch Home for More Than 100 Years Of Descendents of Josiah Marsh, Pioneer of 1854

By William H. McNeal
Wasco County Historian

The Josiah Marsh family is one of the unusual Wasco County centennial families, some members of which have always lived on the Marsh place in Hidden Valley, for more than 100 years 1854-1958. Come drouths, floods, storms, panics, depressions, sickness, death, they weathered them all and "never gave up the ship."

This year the Oregon State Historical Society has determined to honor all Oregon Centennial families that can be located, who have remained on their farms 100 years or more, by issuing to them a Century Ownership Document at the Oregon State Fair this fall. The document will contain the signatures of Governor Robert D. Holmes, the Oregon State Historical Society president, the State Department of Agriculture director, the chairman of the Oregon State Fair Board and Wasco County Judge James Hunt.

Josiah Marsh and his wife Lenora Elizabeth (Bell) Marsh and his son Abel Yoma Marsh crossed the plains from Iowa to Oregon in 1854. Their train escaped the Ward Massacre near Boise but they saw Major Haller and his troops from Fort Dalles seeking the Indian murderers who had escaped and were not located until the next year.

Then Called Wascopam

The Dalles was called Wascopam (until 1860) at the time the Marshes arrived. It was a thriving new city on the banks of the Columbia offering many opportunities to the settler. Josiah Marsh looked around for a farm location. All the agricultural land between The Dalles and Chenoweth (then called Olney creek) had already been filed upon. But west of Olney creek he found a hidden valley with ample spring water supplies for his livestock and enough agricultural land to raise hay, garden produce and orchards. Hidden Valley was about two miles in length and averaged about one-half mile in width.

While the Edward and Sophia Crate donation land claim and that of Justin Chenoweth both extended into Hidden Valley, there was ample land left for Marsh and his family to file on a Donation Land Claim in section 19 and 20 of Township 2 North, Range 13 east. All donation land claims had to be filed on between 1850 and 1855. However, the patent to the Josiah Marsh claim was not recorded in the U. S. Land Office until Sept. 14, 1865. But the History of Central Oregon, page 395 says, "Josiah Marsh crossed the plains from Iowa to Oregon in 1854 making settlement down the Columbia where he took a Donation Land Claim."

Hidden Valley Geology

Hidden Valley extends from the Thornton or Foley Lakes on the Chenoweth creek road north to The Dalles Country club golf course on Old Highway 30, a distance of about 2½ miles. The geological theory regarding the creation of Hidden Valley is that ages ago, when the Columbia river was 100 times as large as it is today, and winter snows were 50 feet deep and sub-zero temperatures made it solid ice like to Yukon in the winter, then when all that ice thawed and went out in the spring the river circulated in a gigantic whirlpool 7 miles long and 5 miles wide from The Dalles Dam to the T. B. hospital bluffs, the Cheno-

with creek bluffs and on to 7 mile Mountain.

At that point the ice ground the "ice" off 7 Mile Mt. creating Hidden Valley and depositing sand and gravel at the golf course and on Dallesport Flats. Gradually, after thousands of years as the great river wore down the Cascade Range at Bonneville, and as weather conditions changed, the stream became smaller, down to what we see today.

Edward and Sophia Crate deeded 31 acres of their Donation Land Claim to Josiah Marsh February 1, 1858. (Vol. A, P. 29 Deeds of Wasco Co.). It was described as, "Beginning at the SE corner of the Crate Donation Land Claim, held as a donation land claim under an act of Congress passed Sept. 27, 1850 to donate land to settlers in Oregon; running N. 20 chains; thence S 57 degrees, east 37 chains to intersection of south boundary; west to place of beginning." This record also puts the family here more than 100 years ago.

Indian Troubles

"In the early days," continues the History of Central Oregon, "the Marsh family had very much trouble with the Indians and many nights were forced to stay in the woods. The neighbors also suffered much from their depredations but Josiah Marsh was a man of courage and stability and weathered those days assisting materially in building up the country. His wife Elizabeth (Bell) Marsh was a native of Wapello County, Iowa."

It might be explained that many hundreds of Indian teepees could be counted along the banks of Chenoweth creek and down the Columbia to Rowena, and while those Indians never made open warfare on the whites they did get drunk and get into fights and would steal horses and cattle, especially the latter as food in the winter.

The diplomatic settler never argued with a hungry Indian carrying a winchester seeking food in mid-winter, and thus many hundreds of head of livestock to the Indians over the years, as did other settlers along other creeks in Wasco county.

When Josiah Marsh arrived at The Dalles in 1854 the city was called Wascopam and continued under that name until 1860. Wasco County had just been created (January 11, 1854) when the Marsh family arrived that fall and there was much talk and excitement about the extent of the county. It was the largest county ever created in the United States. Its boundaries extended from the Columbia river to California and from the Cascades to the summit of the Rockies.

On arrival at The Dalles the Marshes found that they had been travelling in Wasco County for more than 1,000 miles, from Fort Bridger on the Green River, in what is now Wyoming, and that the county included all of what is now southern Idaho, Yellowstone Park and Butte, Montana. It was over 225,000 square miles in extent and sheriff John Simms was expected to "enforce the law" in what is now parts of four states!

City Is Platted

Scholl and Noble operated a sawmill on Mill Creek near the first bridge where Josiah Marsh and his neighbors got the lumber for their first homes. The river steamer, Mary, operated between The Dalles and the Cascades handling the mail which the Marshes sent to and



SETTLER on a ranch in Hidden Valley 104 years ago, which has been owned in his family ever since, was Josiah Marsh.



WIFE OF Josiah Marsh, who first settled on the Hidden Valley ranch in 1854 still held by the family was Elizabeth Marsh holding their son, Frank, in this picture taken in about 1875.

received from their folks in the East. Wascopam (The Dalles) was laid out as a platted city up to the 5th street bluff in 1854, which encouraged settlements.

The business houses in The Dalles that Marsh patronized were H. P. Issacs, Jacob Juker, Allen and McKinley and John Simms stores. H. J. Waldron and Polhemius Craig had drug stores. W. L. DeMoss was the baker. John Booth ran the harness shop and Mike Foreman was the village blacksmith. W. C. Moody operated the warehouse at the boat landing. Victor Trevitt ran a saloon at 2nd and Union. Milo M. Cushing had a store and hotel. R. R. Thompson was a steamboat captain.

Old Fort Dalles buildings were of logs at 14th and Trevitt streets and the horse and mule corrals reached down to 9th street. Josiah Marsh and other farmers raised and sold hay and grain for those government mules at Old Fort Dalles, which was then only four years old. It acted as a supply depot for Fort Walla Walla, Fort Boise, Fort Simcoe and many intermediate army camps until it was abandoned in 1866. The buildings were gradually changed from logs to sawed

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the Columbia river was 10 times as large as it is today and winter snows were 50 feet deep and sub-zero temperatures made it solid ice like to Yukon in the winter, then when all that ice thawed and went out in the spring the river circulated in a gigantic whirlpool 7 miles long and 5 miles wide from The Dalles Dam to the B. hospital bluffs, the Chenoweth creek road and at that location Wm. H. Marsh attended school while his aunt Ina (Mrs. E. C. Fitzgerald) was his very strict teacher. About 1900 Abel Yoma Marsh gave one acre of his land for a new school house which was built at the foot of 7 Mile Mt. near the Ruffner-Simonson place on the old State road 1/2 mile west of the Chenoweth creek road. It remained there until 1923 when a new school was built in its present location, just across the road from the original location of nearly 100 years ago.

HIDDEN VALLEY RANCH

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lumber from the government mill at 9th and Mill creek.

City's First Contractor

Josiah Mosier, who arrived in The Dalles in 1853 to find it a "tent city" became the first large contractor, building or supervising the building of nearly all the first homes and stores in The Dalles, as fast as he could hire Mexican War veteran carpenters and get the lumber and make the square nails to hold the lumber together, and the ring of the hammers of those industrious carpenters lent much to the encouragement of decision of Josiah Marsh to locate in The Dalles. Dr. C. W. Shaug was the village physician. He owned a Donation Land Claim adjoining the Catholic Mission Claim at the County Hospital which he later sold to George Snipes, who lent his name to the Snipes acres tracts.

C. W. Denton operated a nursery on Mill Creek at what is now the Nielsen place and that is where Josiah Marsh later obtained trees for his orchards. He also witnessed the signing of the famous 1855 Indian Treaty signed at the Denton place by Joel Palmer, U. S. Indian agent.

On October 13, 1858 Edward and Sophia Crate sold Josiah Marsh another 38 acres from the Crate Donation Land Claim of 1851. (Vol. B, Page 3, Deeds). Later 149 acres was obtained by Josiah Marsh from the Justin Chenoweth Donation Land Claim.

Family History

The History of the Columbia River Valley by Fred Lockley (1928, Vol. 3, page 588) said, "Andrew Jackson Marsh, the son of Josiah and Lenora Elizabeth (Bell) Marsh, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter of Iowa, was born near The Dalles (Marsh Hidden Valley place) in Wasco county, Oregon. His father (Josiah) came to Oregon in 1854 locating on a Donation Land Claim near Rowena (Hidden Valley), in Wasco County comprising 320 acres of good bottom land. Subsequently (about 1890) he returned east where his death occurred. His wife Elizabeth (Bell) Marsh (who later married B. F. Foley) died in The Dalles in 1896. They were the parents of 8 children (this information condensed)."

1. Abel Yoma Marsh (1849-1911) "Who," the History of Central Oregon said in 1906, "resides about 4 miles west of The Dalles (Marsh Hidden Valley ranch) where he owns an estate of 400 acres and is one of the heaviest fruit producers in Wasco County."

"Abel Yoma Marsh was born in Wapello County, Iowa, Mar. 12, 1849. He came across the plains with his parents and remained with them until 25 years of age."

He then rented a farm for himself until 1899 when he then purchased the (Marsh Hidden Valley) place where he now resides.

"On December 7, 1871 at The Dalles Mr. A. Y. Marsh married Sallie Lyle of Lyle, Wash. (daughter of James Lyle) who was born in Iowa coming west with the Snipes family in 1863. She died in 1890. On May 19, 1891 Mr. Marsh contracted a second marriage to Mary E. Doyle, a native of Iowa. Her father was Michael Doyle, who was born in Illinois and came to Oregon in 1874 via Isthmus of Panama and now resides on Chenoweth creek a few miles away (Doyle Grade area). He married Selinda Beers."

William H. Marsh, son of Abel Yoma Marsh and present occupant and owner of the Marsh Hidden Valley ranches, recalled that his father was a dairyman, the owner of a sawmill near Underwood, Wash., a stockman, a tomato and strawberry raiser in addition to other garden truck and hay.

His father was also clerk of the Marsh school district for 35 years, without pay!

Marsh School

It is interesting to note that the Marsh school was first established near the south end of what is now Hostetter Way road in about 1860. About 1883 it was moved into Hidden Valley about one-half mile north of the Chenoweth creek road and at that location Wm. H. Marsh attended school while his aunt Ina (Mrs. E. C. Fitzgerald) was his very strict teacher. About 1900 Abel Yoma Marsh gave one acre of his land for a new school house which was built at the foot of 7 Mile Mt. near the Ruffner-Simonson place on the old State road 1/2 mile west of the Chenoweth creek road. It remained there until 1923 when a new school was built in its present location, just across the road from the original location of nearly 100 years ago.

The children of Abel Yoma Marsh by his first marriage were:

Effie (Mrs. Michael Thornton) Mike Thornton was a dairyman who worked for the Marsh family. When he and his wife acquired the Marsh property he put up a dance hall which became a very popular public resort. He built a concrete wall which created a lake area of about 5 acres which became a picnic and holiday celebration grounds. He later sold to Pat Foley, operator of the Hotel Dalles, who used the dance hall for a cow barn. The Thorntons had a son Hugh and a daughter Eva (Mrs. Earl Eakin) both of Portland.

The second child of Abel Yoma and Sallie (Lyle) Marsh was Ina (Mrs. E. C. Fitzgerald). Ina, as previously stated, was a school teacher at the Marsh Hidden Valley School. She married E. C. Fitzgerald, a local insurance and real estate broker in 1899, and their honeymoon was a steamboat trip down the Columbia. Their only child, Yoma, died in 1903.

The other two children Josiah and Minnie Marsh died at teenagers.

Abel Yoma Marsh and his second wife Mary (Doyle) Marsh had two sons: William H. Marsh who was born and raised on the Hidden Valley place (1893), went to school at the Marsh Hidden Valley school, and has been a continuous resident of his birthplace, except during military service in the army during World War I, for the past 65 years. Following his military service in 1920 he married Florence Huskey, daughter of Wm. Elijah Huskey, pioneer resident of Wasco County, and his wife Lettish Prather of Missouri. The Marsh Hidden Valley place now consists of 1200 acres which raises hay (250 tons) enough to feed 200 head of cattle each winter. Their only son was born in 1921.

Floyd William Marsh, lifelong resident of the Hidden Valley ranch and operator of their Mosier cattle ranch. He married Dona Lyona and they have a son born 1957, Floyd William Marsh Jr.

Harold Marsh, second son of Abel Yoma Marsh is deceased.

Andrew Jackson Marsh (1858-1885) son of Josiah and Elizabeth (Bell) Marsh was born on the Marsh Hidden Valley ranch May 19, 1858. This family Bible record also places the family on the Hidden Valley ranch more than 100 years ago. In 1882 he married Amanda McClure, daughter of James McClure (1846-1895) pioneer 1866 settlers at the Marsh Gravel Pit place 4 miles east of Mosier on Old Highway 30. James McClure's father was Wm. C. McClure, an 1812 War Veteran, who was buried near the Marsh - McClure Beacon light in 1878, the only known 1812 War Veteran buried in Wasco County.

Andrew Jackson Marsh was educated at the Marsh school on Chenoweth creek, located across the road from the present school and remained at the Hidden Valley home to farm with his father until shortly before his death from pneumonia at the McClure place Marsh 18, 1885 at age 27. Amanda (McClure) Marsh then filed on a homestead adjoining the McClure place and now known as the Marsh Gravel Pit Place. It consisted of 80 acres. Later she bought 160 additional acres. When she died in 1937 her only son Wm. A. Marsh became the owner.

William A. Marsh (1884-1955)

only child of Andrew Jackson and Amanda (McClure) Marsh farmed the McClure - Marsh places near Mosier. In 1906 he married Elsie Middleswart of Mosier and they had three children:

Bessie A. Marsh a school teacher of Mosier.

Charles Uncas Marsh farmer on Mosier-McClure place since 1909. He married Edna Huskey and they had a son Thomas Marsh, at home.

William Franklin Marsh (born 1920) has always lived on the Marsh-McClure places except for World War II military service. He married Phillis Loper and they had a son, Donald Charles Marsh.

The Marsh-McClure places contain 700 acres. Elsie (Mrs. W. A. Marsh) kindly supplied the photographs of Josiah and Elizabeth (Bell) Marsh. The rest of the photos were supplied by William H. Marsh of the Hidden Valley ranch.

Josiah M. Marsh son of Josiah and Elizabeth (Bell) Marsh was born on the Hidden Valley ranch in 1861 and attended the Marsh school, later becoming a druggist at Wasco. He married Elizabeth Ruffner and their three daughters were Minnie Macabee, Bessie Pound and Ella Hyslop, The Dalles.

Sarah Joanne Marsh (Mrs. Willard VanBibber) 4th child of Josiah and Elizabeth (Bell) Marsh went to school at the Marsh Hidden Valley school. W. H. VanBibber was a dairyman on the Hidden Valley ranch. They had two sons, Wm. and Marquis, who died single.

Mary Jane Marsh (Mrs. Larkin Lamb) Mosier was 5th child of Josiah and Elizabeth (Bell) Marsh. They had two daughters Elizabeth Knight of Dayton, Wash., and Katherine Millison of Portland.

Josephene Marsh (Mrs. Wm. McClure) Mosier died at 18.

Frank Marsh, seventh child of Josiah and Elizabeth (Bell) Marsh, married Emma Ryan, daughter of John and Jane (McCabe) Ryan of 5 Mile and lived at White Salmon and later at Toppenish, Wash. She became a helpless hospital invalid and this misfortune caused Frank to adopt out some of their six children who were: Jose (Mrs. Babe Fidler) of Wenatchee; Nettie (Mrs. Frank Hall) Wenatchee; Violet (Mrs. Wayne Wright) Whittier, Calif. Charlie Marsh of Yakima; Ruby (Mrs. Eugene Wright) The Dalles; Carl (Marsh) Winchhoff of Toppenish, Wash., who disappeared about 10 years ago.