



The Osceola County Genealogical Society has been working on documenting Civil War Veterans that resided within the county after the Civil War. Our Volunteers have spent countless hours obtaining vital information about the veterans who once lived in Osceola County. They did not know how many veterans had lived here until after they got started. (There are about 1200 Civil War vets that lived here at one time or another) Even though only about 50% of the veterans have a complete file on them, an index list of Civil War veterans has been compiled and has been added to our website, at [www.ocgs.info](http://www.ocgs.info)

The index will be updated as more veterans are found. Until then, if you find one of your ancestors was a Civil War vet who had some relationship with our county, contact us for more information.

[Osceolagen@gmail.com](mailto:Osceolagen@gmail.com)

## A note from our presidents.....

Despite cold weather and the flu, the society has had a good attendance and much interest during the winter.

To help members understand local records and where they are found, we are doing a series of programs on local sources. The first was held at the County Clerk's office (thanks to Clerk Karen Bluhm). In February, we met at the Museum for more help on using the ScanPro (thanks to Brenda Marsh). In March, we met at the Museum to check the location of the various records in our Archives there. In April we will be visiting the Probate Court, and in May we are scheduled for the Register of Deeds. Most of our members enjoy our pre-meeting lunches at the Seven Slot Grill, so we will continue those when we are meeting in the afternoon in Reed City. In June, we will begin our summer schedule of evening meetings. Debra and Betsy have been working in the Research Room organizing the Civil War records. Debra has entered the index on our website. We have one filing cabinet of records that have been completed and another for incompletes. We are offering information from our files and asking for information that can be used to complete those not finished. Later, we will work on the incomplete files as a group. It looks as if we will continue to have a busy year, with new members and many projects to work on. We all need to consider helping as docents at the Museum during their season (May through Sept.) as there are so many genealogy researchers. Even one day a month is a big help and if you volunteer now, you will get your choice of days! And, if no one comes to the Museum that day, you can work on the ScanPro and your own research! Call **Scheduler Marlene Rhowmine, 832-2889**, if you can help or know of someone who might be interested in helping. We need to support the Historical Society as we are so fortunate to have such a good facility for our Archives.

## ***Local Family History.***

In this issue we are featuring a local family history of one of our members, Brenda Marsh. Brenda has written about her husband's family and their history in the local area. Here is her story:

John Franklin Marsh was born in Ohio on July 25, 1852 and came to this area in 1867. John married Zelpha (Zilpha) A. Slaybaugh on October 12, 1871 in Osceola Cnty, MI. They made their home in Cedar Twp (Orono, MI) on the north side of Nine Mile Road, about one half mile west of Slaybaugh Corners.

They had eight children: one daughter died at birth 1883; one daughter, Gracie M., died in infancy 1887; one son, Samuel A. died at age 26, 1873-1900; five (Essie O. 1872-1945, Katherine A. 1876-1966, James A. 1880-1978, Floyd E. 1885-1960 and Peter F. 1888-1970) married and had children.

Of John and Zelpha's children: Essie married Ralph R. Hoadley; Katherine married Herbert L. Havens; James married Phebe D. Truax; Floyd married Ora M. Hasty; Peter married Chloe B. Downs, Elsie T. Young, Ethel M. Cornell, Mae Dodge and Blanche Hopkins.

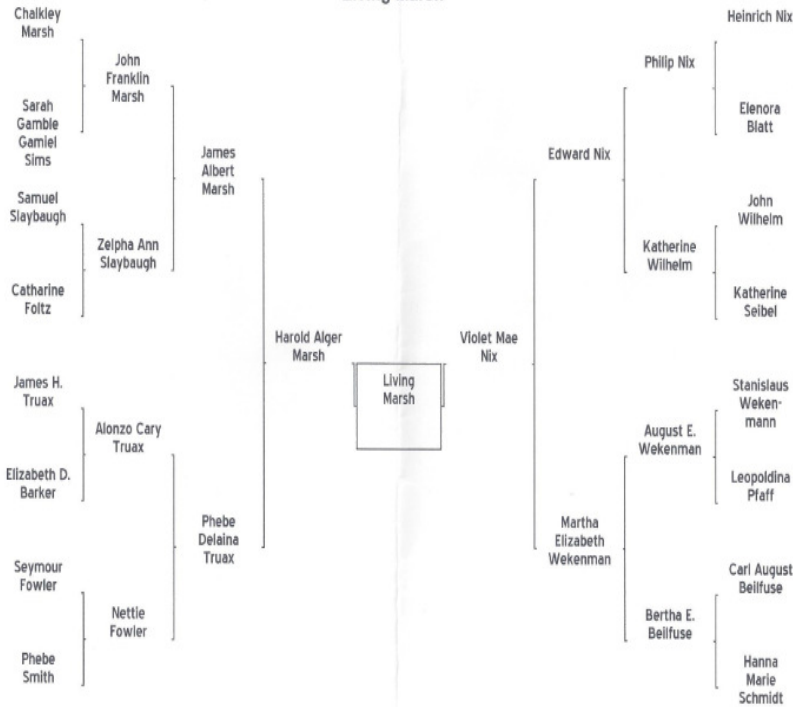
John was a farmer and a public servant. His character and brief personal history are documented in the attached political announcements from the Reed City Clarion newspaper. He won the election and served as Osceola County Clerk for six years. He died in Richmond Twp, Osceola Cnty, MI on July 21, 1940, nearly 88 years old. Phebe Marsh, his daughter-in-law, spoke of him as being the "most patient man I ever met."

Zelpha was born in Ohio on October 12, 1847. She was a homemaker and kept busy raising her children. She died in Walkerville, Oceana Cnty, MI on February 26, 1938 at the age of 90 years.

The Marshes moved to Reed City in their later years. They are buried in Cedar Twp Cemetery, just northwest of the Marsh homestead. Zelpha's parents, Samuel and Catherine (Fultz) Slaybaugh, are buried in the plot next to them. Some of their descendants are located there as well. In 1860 Ohio census records: John's family was living in Stokes Twp, Logan Cnty and Zelpha's family was from Dallas Twp, Crawford Cnty.; about fifty miles distance between them. Of John's siblings: Samuel Kyle Marsh (April 1845 – April 1916) died in Montcalm County, MI. He and John are found on different pages in the 1870 Lincoln Twp, Osceola County, MI census. Of Zelpha's siblings: Uriah Fultz Slaybaugh (1858 – 1937) is buried in Cedar Twp Cemetery. James and Peter lived in Ionia County, MI. George lived in Osceola County. Frank lived in Wexford County. George is found living with Peter in the 1910 Orleans Twp, Ionia Cnty, MI census. All five (six) children are listed with their parents (George was married and appears in adjacent household) in the 1870 Osceola Twp, Osceola County, MI census.

Both families had siblings remaining in Ohio upon their departures to Michigan.

**Bow Tie Chart for  
Living Marsh**



Reed City Clarion, March 27, 1912  
 "CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY CLERK – JOHN F. MARSH OF CEDAR TOWNSHIP ASKS FOR NOMIATION.

In announcing John F. Marsh of Cedar township as a candidate for the nomination of county clerk on the republican ticket at the coming primaries, the people need no introduction, as he is perhaps one of Osceola county's oldest pioneers, having lived here continuously for the past forty-four years. Coming here as a young man he has passed through the hardships of the early days, seeing the county grow to where it is from its native wilderness and in all these years he has in many ways served the people, not only in holding the various township offices, but as a true christian citizen, always ready to assist a needy friend or neighbor.

Mr. Marsh has served the township as clerk, highway commissioner, justice of the peace, school trustee, United States and state census enumerator and supervisor for eighteen years, which office he now holds, being the chairman of the board. As he is a splendid penman his qualifications are far above the average aspirants for the office.

Four years ago Mr. Marsh was a candidate for the nomination he now seeks, and although he received a splendid vote he gracefully submitted to the people's verdict and has ever since given the present incumbent, Samuel Mooney, his loyal support. Now he and his friends believe the time has come and ask the republican voters for their support. Mr. Marsh is now past the prime of life, has had ripe experience in serving his constituents and his success in public office points him out most favorably to the citizens of Osceola county as a very capable and deserving candidate.

A vote for John F. Marsh will be a vote for a worthy fellowman and will be appreciated, not only by himself and his estimable wife, but by his many friends as well. And what is more should he be nominated as elected the important duties of the office he seeks will fall into most capable hands."



Peter Frank Marsh	Katherine "Kit" Augusta Marsh Havens	James Albert Marsh	
Essie Olive Marsh Hoadley	John Franklin Marsh	Zelpha Ann Slaybaugh Marsh	Floyd Earl Marsh

Reed City Clarion, June 19, 1912  
 "Political Announcements – JOHN F. MARSH

Republican candidate for county clerk at the coming primaries, Aug. 27, 1912 J. F. Marsh has been a resident of Osceola county for over forty four years, coming to the county from Ohio in 1867 when a small boy. He has lived in Cedar township for nearly forty years and has held many offices of trust. He has cleared up a good farm from the stump and has met with many reverses by sickness and deaths in his family. In all of his official duties he has always stood for right and for the welfare of his township and county, and as Cedar township has never been represented by county office the people of the township feel that they ought to be recognized at this time."

## *Calendar of Events*

Please note that meetings will take place on the second Monday of the month.

November through March meetings are at 1 pm (location varies)

April through October meetings are at 7 pm (location varies)

Throughout the year there may be special Saturday events so watch our website for the latest calendar of events.

### **Monday April 13th at 1:00 pm**

#### **“Visit Probate Court-Osceola County Office Building”**

We will be visiting the Osceola County Probate Court annex building 410 Upton Street Reed City (upstairs)

### **Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm**

#### **“Visit the Register of Deeds-Osceola County Courthouse”**

We will be visiting the Osceola County Register of Deeds to see the records available for family research.

### **Thursday, Friday, Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and & 13th at garage behind Chestnut Antique Shoppe**

#### **“Yard Sale for the Old Rugged Cross Historical Society”**

**See Details in this newsletter.**

### **Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> at Old Rugged Cross Museum in Reed City @ 7 pm**

#### **“Getting to know our members”**

We get so busy running here and running there, that we figured it was time to sit down and help our own members. We will be discussing how to research your own family and let everyone share their ideas for organizing their information.

### **July and August – No meetings**

### **Monday September 14<sup>th</sup> TBD See August Newsletter for details**

#### **“Visit the Wexford County Genealogy Group”**

We will meet up and drive to the Wexford County Genealogy Society location at the Old Naval Reserve building in Cadillac at 601 Chestnut Suite B. We will look over their documents and facilities and get to know their members.

### **Monday October 12<sup>th</sup> at TBD at June Meeting 7 pm**

#### **“Members Choice”**

We want our members to decide if we want to go to Grand Rapids on Saturday Oct 10 or Oct 17<sup>th</sup> or if members would like to go to Lansing State Archives.

### **YARD SALE!!!**

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday June 11, 12 & 13, The Old Rugged Cross Historical Society is having a yard sale from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day. This will be held at 849 South Chestnut Street at the Antique Shoppe in Reed City, Mi. All the proceeds will go to benefit The Old Rugged Cross Historical Society Museum. If you have anything you want to donate, take the Chestnut Street Antique Shoppe-garage behind store, by Tuesday June 9th so items can be priced and setup before the sale.

### ***Computer Classes have helped members***

A dozen members and guests attended the three classes taught by Debra and Geri on Saturdays in January. The first included: basic computer skills, personal computer usage problems, and questions and answers. The second explored free genealogy websites, and questions and answers on finding personal data. The third class explored more free genealogy websites and the State of Michigan site, concluding with more personal help; If you missed these classes or want to review them, Debra and Geri will be among the presenters at a workshop in Cadillac on September 12, sponsored by the Wexford County Genealogy group (more information in the August newsletter).

### **Occupational Titles:**

Titles of jobs have changed many times over the years. Here are some of the occupations that you might come across when doing family history research...

**Colporteur**-Peddler of books

**Perkuker maker**-Wig Maker

**Scrivener**-Copier, Writer or Notary

**Schrieve**-Sheriff

**Tide Water**-Customs Inspector

**Tipstaff**-Policeman



**Whitesmith**-Tinsmith, worker of iron, finisher or polisher

**Whitewing**-Streetsweeper

(from the Cheboygan County Genealogical Society newsletter)

### **U.S. WW1 Mother's Pilgrimage**

*By Tim Johnson of LeRoy*

In the late 1920's the U.S. War department compiled a list of mothers and widows of servicemen who died in WW1 and were still buried in Europe. While about 70% of those who died had been disinterred and returned to their families, the remaining dead had been moved to one of eight American Military Cemeteries in France, Belgium and England.

Under pressure from the Gold Star Mother's organization, the War Department organized all expense paid trips for them to visit the graves of their loved ones.

During the two week trip by boat and train, everything was done by the Army Quartermaster Corps. to provide both physical and psychological comforts for the pilgrims. African Americans were segregated from the white mothers and wives in separate ships and hotels.

These trips were offered for four years (1930-1933). When the project ended 6,693 women had made the pilgrimage.

## ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN & ABRAMS FOUNDATION HISTORICAL COLLECTION

One of the most significant additions to the Archives of Michigan is the recently-announced The Detroit News Collection at the Archives of Michigan. The cornerstone to that collection is the nearly 2 million index cards that serve as the index to the newspaper. As we speak, Archives of Michigan staff are scanning all the cards and will place the searchable PDF's online at Seeking Michigan, giving researchers a true index to the entire history of the newspaper dating back to 1873. Each card contains the title, date, and page number of every story that appeared in the newspaper on any given topic. It will be fantastic and a game changer in Michigan historical research.

The Detroit News Collection at the Archives of Michigan also includes a complete set of the Detroit Times (1900-1960) on microfilm, The Detroit News photo negative archives (c.1980-2002) of nearly 10 million images, a nearly complete run of Detroit city directories (1837-1974), ledger size bound volumes of The Detroit News dating back to 1873, and hundreds of drawers of clippings files from The Detroit News each folder representing a card as found in the card index. The Detroit News Collection at the Archives of Michigan is truly an amazing breadth of content and genealogical information, offering fantastic insight into the Michigan historical experience. Archives of Michigan staff continue to work with our friends at OCLC to get the 1921-1952 collection of Michigan death records available online at Seeking Michigan. We ask for your continued patience as we work through this important collection. It will be worth the wait!

Archives hours M-F 1-5, Saturdays 10-4 (non-Holiday weekends)  
Website: [www.michigan.gov/mhc](http://www.michigan.gov/mhc) Contact: [archives@michigan.gov](mailto:archives@michigan.gov)



### Thank you!

Would like to take this opportunity to thank **Bette Jo Brown** of the Osceola County Genealogical Society for making a dust cover for the ScanPRO 2000.

### Thank you!

Would like to take this opportunity to thank **Lonnie Graham** of The Old Rugged Cross Historical Society for making the donation plaque for the ScanPRO 2000.

This plaque thanks the Osceola Community Foundation and the Great Lakes Energy People Fund for the monetary donation for the purchase of the ScanPRO 2000 microfilm reader.

Commoncorners <http://www.commoncorners.com/>

This website is developed to leverage our combined resources, enable a network of communication and assist in discovery of our common interests in our corner of the world - West Michigan. It includes information about the following counties: Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo and Ottawa Counties, with many links to library websites, township & city websites, historical societies, rootsweb links, and a community calendar. Maybe a piece of info you need is just a link or two away.

Source: WMGS Newsletter Winter 2014-2015

## THE GENEALOGISTS' DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

A statement advocating open access to federal, state and *local public* records, the *Genealogists' Declaration of Rights* affirms America's long history of open public records. This has been threatened in recent years over concerns about identity theft and privacy. The Records Preservation and Access Committee (RP AC) has worked with state and federal legislators as well as local public officials for more than twenty years in support of legislation and regulations that achieve a balance between access and privacy. The Declaration of Rights has been unanimously approved by the boards of directors of the three sponsoring organizations: The National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). The Declaration of Rights is a document the RP AC plans to use in response to both federal and state legislation that would restrict access to public records. The Declaration will be presented together with a specific statement relating *directly* to the proposed *law or regulation*. Genealogical societies are encouraged to display the Declaration of Rights at local and regional meetings and conferences, and to obtain original signatures along with printed name, date signed, and city and state of residence. The signed declarations will be gathered and submitted to the Michigan Genealogical Council where they will be used to promote open access in Michigan. All states are encouraged to participate in the same way. Copies of the signed petitions will also be sent to Jan Alpert, RP AC chair, for addressing issues at the federal level. As with any petition, please sign only once. If you haven't had the opportunity to sign the petition at a meeting, you can print one from the MGC website, [MiMGC.org/legislation](http://MiMGC.org/legislation), to take to your own meeting.

Genealogists may also sign an online petition individually at <http://bit.ly/gen-declaration>

Adapted from *MGC Newsletter*, Vol 38 No 4 pII, by Tom Koselka

### Welcome new Genealogy Members!

We would like to welcome new members to our group. Although he has been a member for sometime we wanted everyone to know that Gene Kailing has moved back to the area from California. We would also like to welcome to the group Candy Deverage, Judy Eichenberg and Cathy Kearns.

This brings our membership to 45 members in total. **Welcome everyone!!!!**

### GENEALOGY HUMOR

*There is a fine line between a packrat  
and a serious family historian*

**I researched my family tree and  
found out I don't exist!**

Osceola County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 52  
4918 Park Street  
Reed City, Mi 49677

Membership Application or renewal form:

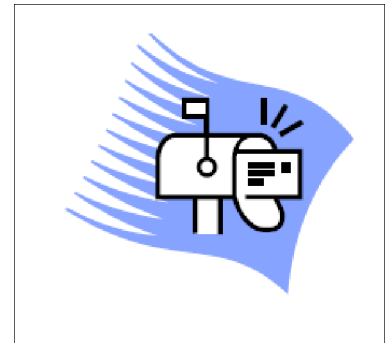
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Make Checks payable to:

*Osceola County Genealogical Society*

*Marilyn Hoogerhyde, Treasurer*

*23717 Four Mile Road*

*Reed City, MI 49677*

Membership Costs for one year:

\$10 - Individual

\$15 - Family

\$150 - Lifetime

**Renew today and tell your friends to join us!**