

Marsh, Captain Frank. (1899-1951)

Frank Marsh, a Métis of English, Scottish and Ojibwa heritage was born in Selkirk Manitoba on January 1, 1899. He was the son of Samuel Marsh (English b. 1856) and Sarah Jane Cochrane, Ojibwa/Scot (c.1874-1913).¹ Frank married Eliza Jane Hourie (Ojibwa) who was born on January 20, 1905 at Fairford, Manitoba.

Frank was a ship captain. He received his Master's papers for Passenger Steamers (Inland Waters) on June 25, 1931. He was a Captain of the *Wolverine*. The *Wolverine* was built in 1903 and had a gross tonnage of 278. It was operated by the Imperial Fish Company, then in 1904 the Northern Fish Company. It was dismantled in 1936.



Frank then captained the SS *Keenora*.² The steamboat SS *Keenora* is probably the best-known and most loved of all the Lake Winnipeg steamboats. The vessel began operations as a steamboat on Lake of the Woods in Ontario, and was then transported to Winnipeg and rebuilt. Currently retired from service, the *Keenora* is the centerpiece of the collection at the Maritime Museum of Manitoba in Selkirk, Manitoba.

¹ Sarah Jane was the daughter of William Cochrane (b. 1841) and Annie Stevenson (b. 1846)

² Keenora 1917-1966

The S.S. Keenora was prefabricated in Quebec, and assembled at Kenora, Ontario in 1897 for the Lake of the Woods trade. In 1917 she was cut into sections and shipped to Winnipeg where she was enlarged and launched on the Red. She hauled freight and passengers on the Red and on Lake Winnipeg. On a typical week's voyage she would steam north from Selkirk to Hecla, Gull Harbour, Pine Dock, Matheson Island, Berens River, Warren Landing, across the Lake to Grand Rapids and then south by the same route, sometimes stopping at Victoria Beach or Gimli before ending the week by offering Winnipeggers a Sunday cruise on the Red. In 1959 her boilers were broken up for ballast and diesel engines were installed. She was abandoned in the "Selkirk Slough" in 1966." The Keenora is currently a museum piece at the Selkirk Marine Museum. (From Wishart, Bruce; "Paddle Wheels on the Prairies", article in *The Beaver*, Dec 89 / Jan 90 issue, pgs 30-36.)



Postcard of the Wolverine at Selkirk (n.d.). Source: Rob McInnes, MN0467



Captain Frank Marsh died in 1951. He was diagnosed with stomach cancer in Selkirk and sent to a Winnipeg hospital in an Ambulance. At the intersection of Inkster Avenue and Salter Street the ambulance hit a rut and Frank was bounced out of the vehicle on the gurney and was struck and killed by a car. Contributed by Jock Langlois³.)



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Ojibwa Pilot on the SS Keenora in Lake of the Woods



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³ John “Jock” Langlois is the grandson of Frank Marsh.