

OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP

Osceola was formed from West Turin, February 28, 1844, but then reduced in 1867 when part of the township was annexed to Montague. The town was named Osceola in memory of the celebrated Seminole chief. The town embraces townships No. 8, or *Rurabella*, and No. 13, or *Hybla*, of the Boylston Tract. In 1795 Benjamin Wright subdivided Township No. 13 into 151 lots. No. 8 was subdivided into 111 lots in 1805.

Like much of southwestern Lewis County, Osceola Township is heavily forested. Because of this wilderness, settlement there was impeded. The first recorded settlement took place in 1822. Since these settlers had no deed to the land, they were in fact squatters. The first family to settle with title occurred in 1839 when a road was constructed from Florence in Oneida County.

As with the Lewis Township, the major industry was lumbering. The principal business center in the township was Osceola village and several sawmills were erected there. Lumbering continues to be the mainstay of Osceola residents, followed by dairying.



Chief Osceola

Image: <http://www.indigenouspeople.net/osceola.htm>