

FOSSIL  
HUNTERS

# The FOSSIL FEUD

Marsh and Cope's Bone Wars



by Meish Goldish

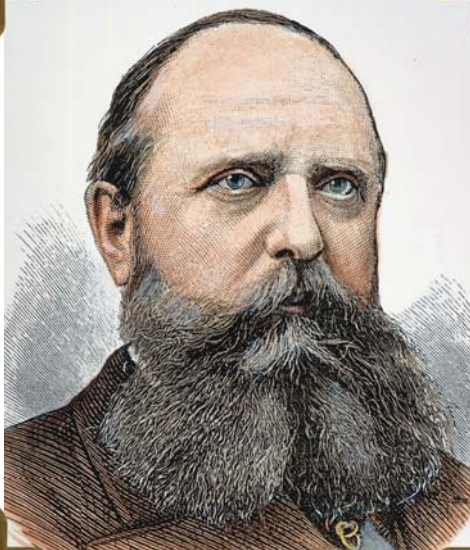
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# The FOSSIL FEUD

**Marsh and Cope's Bone Wars**



**O. C. Marsh**



**E. D. Cope**

**by Meish Goldish**

Consultant: Dr. Luis M. Chiappe, Director  
The Dinosaur Institute  
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

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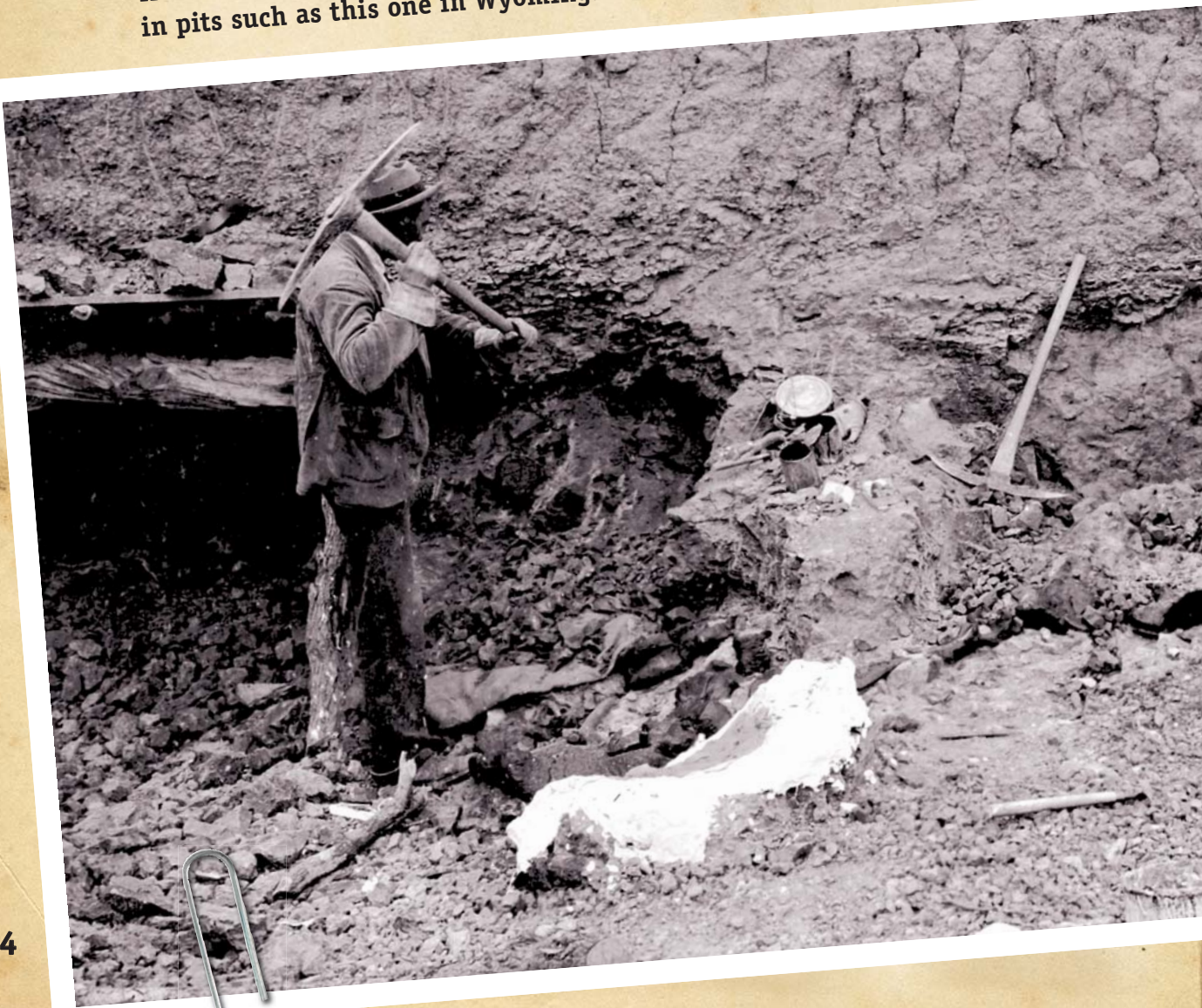
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# Landslide!

In 1879, a man named W. H. Reed stood at the edge of a cliff in southeastern Wyoming. He looked down at a large **pit** below. In it, two men were digging up dinosaur **fossils**.

*In the late 1800s, workers dug up dinosaur bones in pits such as this one in Wyoming.*





Reed lifted his pickax. He loosened just enough earth to start a landslide. Huge piles of dirt and rocks tumbled into the pit, burying the men's fossils below.

Reed knew that his actions would please his boss, Marsh. Cope, on the other hand, would be **furious**.

Who was Marsh? Who was Cope? Why were they enemies?



Workers packing up fossils  
in Wyoming

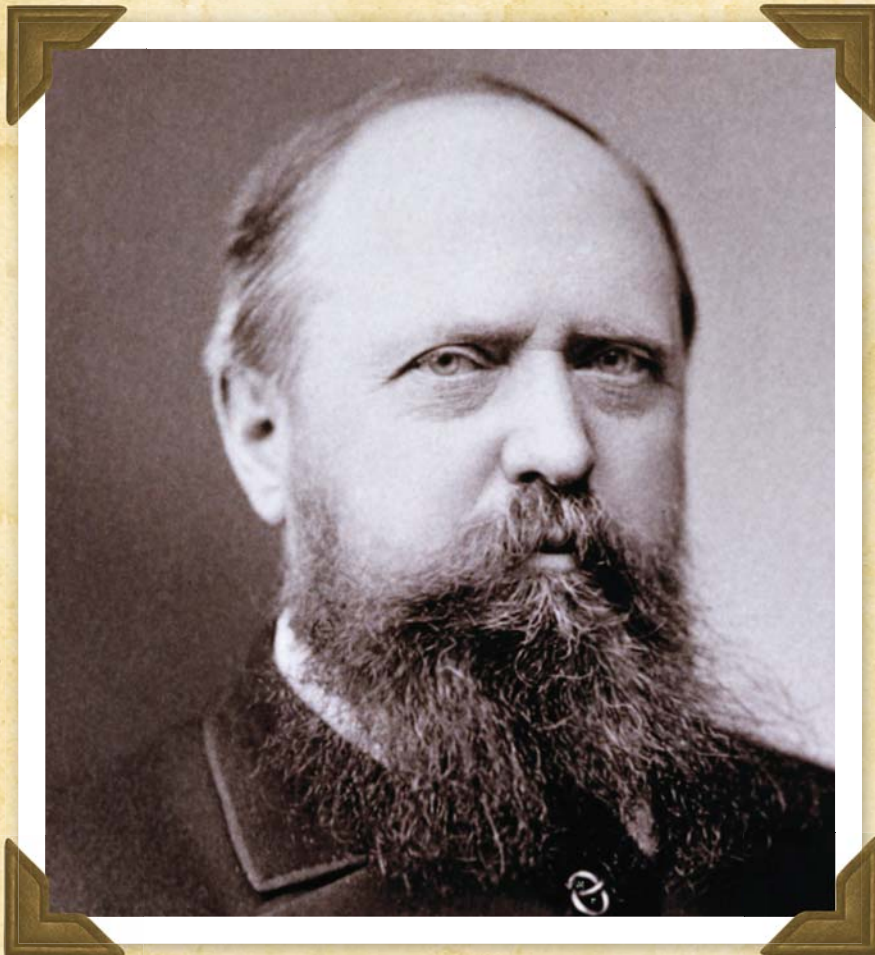
Some of the world's most famous fossils have come from southeastern Wyoming—especially from a **ridge** called Como Bluff.



# Meet O. C. Marsh

Othniel Charles Marsh was an expert on fossils. He was born in New York in 1831. He studied at Yale College in Connecticut and then in Europe.

In 1866, Marsh became a professor of **paleontology** at Yale. At that time, few scientists knew much about fossils. Marsh was the first paleontology professor in North America.



Othniel Charles Marsh



Marsh didn't teach at Yale, however. Instead, he ran the school's new Peabody Museum of Natural History. He eagerly collected fossils for the museum.

Marsh was smart but not very friendly. A neighbor described him as being "always very odd." He never married. People said it was because his only love was fossils.



**Many dinosaur fossils can be seen today at the Peabody Museum in New Haven, Connecticut.**

Before the 1800s, people knew nothing about dinosaurs. The word *dinosaur* wasn't even invented until 1842.



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## About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 100 books for children. His book *Fossil Tales* won the Learning Magazine Teachers' Choice Award.



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HUNTERS**

## The **FOSSIL FEUD**

### **Marsh and Cope's Bone Wars**

Standing on a cliff in 1879, W. H. Reed looked down at the two men below. They were digging up dinosaur bones in Wyoming. Reed lifted his pickax. He loosened enough earth to start a landslide that would put a stop to their work.

Reed knew that his boss, Marsh, would be pleased. Cope, on the other hand, would be furious. Who was Marsh? Who was Cope? Why were these two fossil hunters bitter enemies? How did their early friendship turn into the most famous fossil feud of all time?

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**The *Albertosaurus* Mystery**  
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