



Celebrating Lake County's Five Townships

Our Pilgrim fathers brought the township form of government to America in 1620. This basic form of government spread west to the Rocky Mountains and towns / townships may be found in 20 states. Over time, Congressional Acts determined sizes, shape, land grant needs and service elements. As the Ohio Territory grew and as the early years of Ohio statehood circa 1804 unfolded, township functions, duties and obligations morphed accordingly. Townships represent 35% of Ohio's population and account for 2.75% of all state expenditures. Today as we celebrate our Semiquincentennial Year, this first form of government remains. Ohio Revised Code and House Bill 652 enacted in 1998 and first celebrated in 1999 recognized the dedication of the three trustees and fiscal officer grassroots, statutory governments. Each serves a four year term and is charged with providing basic services. Services to be provided are fire protection, zoning and land planning, cemetery maintenance, parks and recreation, road maintenance, waste disposal and police protection. There are 1,308 townships in Ohio and five in Lake County. February 1 is Ohio Township Day. Join us as we look into the histories of the Lake County 'five'.

OHIO TOWNSHIPS
PREPARING OUR STATE GOVERNMENT SINCE 1804

35 PERCENT
Over 35% of Ohio residents live in a township.

There are **1,308** townships in Ohio, and they are varied in population size and annual operating budget.

WHAT DO TOWNSHIPS DO?
Townships are grassroots, statutory governments that provide many basic services to their residents, including the following:

- Road Maintenance
- Safety Services
- Parks & Recreation
- Solid Waste Disposal
- Land Use & Planning
- Cemetery Management

Three trustees and a fiscal officer, each elected to a four-year term, administer our townships today. Additionally, some townships appoint a township administrator and other employees to help plan, coordinate, and implement township goals.

Elected officials fill their roles on a part-time basis. Their intimate knowledge of their community, its needs, and its citizens enables them to offer more personal service than any other unit of government.

DID YOU KNOW?
Ohio townships have direct responsibility for maintaining 41,000 miles of roads and streets, and townships manage more than 2,400 cemeteries!

SCAN ME
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OHIO'S TOWNSHIPS!

OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION
6500 TAYLOR RD. SUITE A, BLACKLICK, OH 43004 | 614-863-0045

Concord Township:

The formal beginnings of Concord were part of a gamble on the future. Thirty-five men formed the Connecticut Land Company with a goal of purchasing the lands of the Western Reserve. Moses Cleaveland and 40 others including Seth Pease and Charles Parker surveyed our NEO lands. Concord was designated #10 of the eighth range. By 1802 Thomas Jordan had arrived and by 1805 the future township had joined Geauga County. Named after the famous Revolutionary War Era battle, March 8, 1822 marked the official formation of Concord Township. Daniel Coit, an early landowner who never came to Ohio, sold his Concord plots for a dollar in 1833. The 'Commons' as they were called, is the site of Town Hall, the former Fire Station #1 site and current Gazebo. The township cemetery across the street was acquired that same year in another transaction.



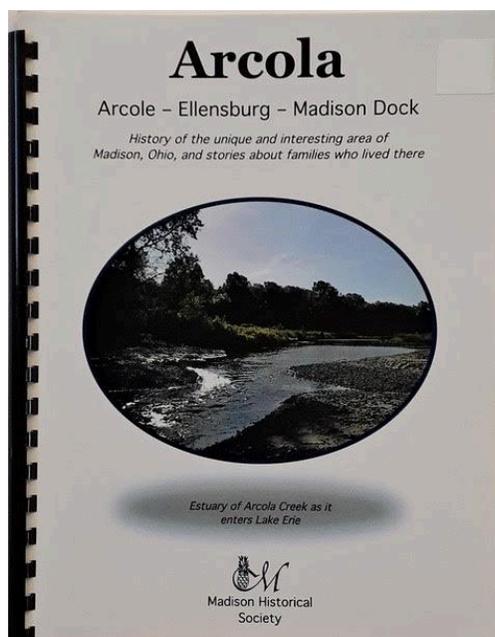
Leroy Township:

First visited in 1797, the township's original name was Chesterfield. The first permanent settlers were Paul and Elijah Clapp. Other notable pioneers followed, their names Blair, Huntoon, Paine, Kniffen, Trask and Vrooman are well known from township roads. Founded in 1820, Leroy Township has a lineage to the village located along the Erie Canal in-between Buffalo and Rochester, New York. Agriculture became the main form of commerce by the 1830-40s and remains so today. Township documents list 40 residents who answered the call to serve in the Civil War. Leroy was also the site of the last covered bridge in Lake County in 1952.



Madison Township:

Madison is the county's largest township by size - it extends one mile out into Lake Erie. It is one of twenty-one Madisons found in the state, the name chosen as a homage to President James Madison or the home of early settlers from Madison, Connecticut. First mention of the area occurred in 1802 and the names Chapintown, Centerville and Cunningham appear in history books from 1811-1840. Sawmills, Gristmills, Cider Mills, the Arcole Furnace, Erie Furnace, Genung Foundry, tanneries, Madison Dock and shipbuilding are well documented circa 1815-1842. The 1840 Census listed 80 houses, two churches and 3 stores in the township. Unionville dates back to the Old Tavern circa 1798. The 1840 Census listed 100 homes, 4 stores and 2 churches in existence. In 1850 the railroad played a pivotal role in township and county history. Since 1811, Madison Township remains steeped in early county industrial / commercial history.



Perry Township:

#11 of the seventh range can trace its early origin stories back to July 1, 1815. Named for War of 1812 hero Commodore Oliver H. Perry, the first probable settler was said to be Ezra Beebe who built his 1808 domicile near the Grand River. A log cabin school was first mentioned in 1815. The first framed structure was a hotel that belonged to David Allen. An iron foundry followed and agriculture / nurseries still remain today as key roles in local commerce. Historically, Ohio Marker 7-43 honors Perry's Hugh Mosher, who was the model fifer for the famous Archibald Willard painting 'Spirit of '76' aka Yankee Doodle. The prolific Parnly family whose dentistry acumen and agricultural contributions also merit mention.



Painesville Township:

Sixty-six pioneers led by General Edward Paine were first mentioned in 1800. A local government is mentioned by 1802 and agricultural holdings dot the census. Originally part of what was known as Champion, the year 1832 saw the Painesville moniker officially begin. Township history celebrates local resident Governor Samuel Huntington, our third governor, Ohio Supreme Court Justice and War of 1812 Army Paymaster. Francis Jennings Casement is a noted suffragist and the Industrial Rayon Plant on Fairport-Nursery Road was steeped in 1900s NEO-US business lore.

In conclusion, show your township pride this February for Ohio Township Day. Recognize the elected officials who fill their roles on a part-time basis. Celebrate in our Semiquincentennial Year the first form of government in Ohio and the many basic services Lake County township residents receive as a result.

Submitted by. Dan Maxson - Local Lore by Max, 2010-2016 - The News-Herald, Community Media Lab - Volunteer Docent , Curator - FHHS / Fairport Harbor Lighthouse & Marine Museum - Volunteer Curator / Docent - Old Stone School, Concord Township