

Statistics & Facts

The population of Portage Lakes is approximately 13373.

The approximate number of families is 5865.

The amount of land area in Portage Lakes is 21.663 sq. kilometers.

The amount of surface water is 4.758 sq kilometers.

The distance from Portage Lakes to Washington DC is 286 miles. The distance to the Ohio state capital is 105 miles. (as the crow flies)

Portage Lakes is positioned 40.98 degrees north of the equator and 81.53 degrees west of the prime meridian.

The many waters of Portage Lakes State Park offer visitors a variety of outdoor recreational experiences. Boating, swimming and fishing are popular. The wetlands of the park attract waterfowl and shorebirds providing visitors enjoyment whether hunting or observing wildlife.

Nature of the Area

Although early Ohio offered the Indians and settlers vast water resources through Lake Erie and its major river systems, there were very few natural lakes or ponds in the state. Those that existed, including several of the Portage Lakes, were the direct result of glacial activity. These bodies of water were formed by huge chunks of ice which broke off the retreating glacier and melted in depressions forming kettle lakes. Many of the natural lakes in Ohio have aged into bogs or marshes.

Unique plants associated with these boggy areas can be found in the park. Tamarack trees, more common in northern boreal forests, are scattered through the park with patches of skunk cabbage and cranberry also present. Nice stands of beech-maple forest provide refuge for skunk, raccoon, white-tailed deer and many other animals. The wetlands of the park attract thousands of geese and waterfowl during spring and fall migration periods. Mallards, wood ducks and Canada geese nest in the wetlands each year. In addition, woodcock, heron, hawks, owls, red fox, beaver and muskrat are often sighted.

History of the Area

Portage Lakes is named after the old Indian portage path which connected the Cuyahoga River flowing north to Lake Erie and the Tuscarawas River which through the Muskingum, flows south to the Ohio River. This proved advantageous for the Indians and early

settlers as navigation from Lake Erie to the Ohio was possible with only one eight-mile portage overland. Portage Lakes State Park lies at one of the highest points of the state and on a major watershed divide in Ohio. Some water from the lakes reaches Lake Erie and some flows to the Ohio River.

The area became an important trading post for settlers and Indians. It was a recognized landmark during the War of 1812, serving as a rendezvous point of American troops. The old Indian portage path was part of the ancient boundary between the Six Nations and the Western Indians.

The city of Akron was laid out in 1825 and was first settled by Irish laborers and others working on the Ohio Canal. Once the canal was completed, the town flourished. Several important industries brought prosperity to the area including stoneware potteries, sewer pipe manufacturing, the match industry and, most recently, the tire and rubber industry. At one time, the Blue Diamond Match Company in Akron used three million board-feet of white pine lumber per year for the manufacture of its matches.

Several of the Portage Lakes were built as feeder reservoirs for the canals to maintain the required depth of four feet. The lakes were used for this purpose until the canals were abandoned in 1913. The lakes were then used to meet the water needs of the local industries. Some portions of the remnant canals in the Akron area can still be boated.

The Ohio Department of Public Works maintained the canal lands for recreational purposes until 1949 when the Portage Lakes were transferred to the newly formed Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation.

• **Coventry Township is:**

Part of the Connecticut Western Reserve

Bounded by:

Portage Twp on the north

Springfield Twp on the east

Franklin Twp on the south

Norton Twp on the west

Before Summit County was formed in 1840 Coventry Township belonged to several other counties. The date of 1800 has been used as a reference point since it is close to the 1803 date when Ohio became a state.

1800 - 1808: The area of Coventry Twp was in Trumbull County.

(Trumbull County was established in 1800)

1808 - 1812: The area of Coventry Twp was in Portage County.

(Portage County was established in 1808.)

1840 - Present: The area of Coventry Twp is in Summit County.

(Summit County was formed in 1840.)

Before 1840 the records you need may be somewhere other than Summit County. Here are some suggested contacts:

Portage Lakes Historical Society; Mason Manor;
615 Latham Lane; Akron OH 44319

Akron Public Library; 55 South Main Street; Akron OH
44036-0001

Portage County Chapter OGS; P O Box 821; Ravenna OH
44266

Portage County His Soc; 6549 N Chestnut St; Ravenna OH
44266

Trumbull County Chapter OGS; P O Box 309; Warren OH
44482

Notice to our readers:

Information regarding this Township will be updated (or
added) as

it becomes available. You may want to check this site
periodically

for the most current information.

Coventry Township Cemeteries

The following information is being provided to give you an idea of the location, or approximate location, of all known township cemeteries. It will also help identify any cemeteries where the gravestones or burial records have been copied and, if known, where this information can be found.

Inscriptions for several cemeteries in this township can be found in the books: "Summit County Cemetery Inscriptions, Volume 3" and "Summit County Cemetery Inscriptions, Volume 4" which were published by the Summit County Chapter, OGS.

ANSHE SFARD CEMETERY: (published in Vol 3, pp 28-31)

Located on the south side of Swartz Road west of Glenmount Ave. Owned by the Revere Road Synagogue it is adjacent to the Jewish Alliance Cemetery.

BOWERS CEMETERY:

The only information on this cemetery is a vague reference found on page 530 of the "History of Summit County, Ohio" by William Henry Perrin which says: "On the west of the reservoir on the place owned by Benjamin Bowers."

COMMUNIST CEMETERY:

Location of this cemetery is uncertain. It is thought to have been in Akron, off Main St (CR250) just south of old Rt 224. A representative of the Gordon Funeral Home, Akron, Ohio says the bodies were moved to other Jewish Cemeteries during the 1970's.

FALOR SCHOOLHOUSE:

The only information on this cemetery is a vague reference found on page 529 of the "History of Summit County, Ohio" by William Henry Perrin which says: "One of his favorite places was the Falor Schoolhouse. Here one of the oldest cemeteries is located, and all the old settlers of the neighborhood were laid here."It is believed this reference is for what is now Mount Hope Cemetery.

GREENLAWN CEMETERY:

Located at 2580 Romig Road, Akron, Ohio 44320. On the west side of Romig Road south of Rolling Acres Mall. Burial information can be obtained from the cemetery.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY:

A Catholic cemetery located at 100 Waterloo Road in Akron, Ohio 44319. On the southeast corner of the intersection of Waterloo Road and South Main Street. Burial information can be obtained from the cemetery.

HUNGARIAN JEWISH CEMETERY:

a.k.a AHAVAS ZEDECK CEMETERY: (published in Vol 3, pp 22-26)

Located on the south side of Swartz Road west of Glenmount Ave.

JEWISH ALLIANCE CEMETERY: a.k.a. FARHARD & WORKMEN'S CIRCLE CEMETERY:

(published in Vol 3, pp 32-36)

Located on the south side of Swartz Road west of Glenmount Ave. Adjacent to the Hungarian Jewish Cemetery (Ahavas Zedeck).

LAKWOOD CEMETERY:

Established in 1892. Located at 1080 W Waterloo Road, Akron, Ohio 44314.

At the corner of W Waterloo Road and Cory Avenue. Burial information can be obtained at the cemetery office.

LOCKWOOD CORNERS CEMETERY: (published in Vol 3, pp 37-65) Earliest gravestone dated 1819. Located at 3680 Manchester Road, Akron, Ohio behind the Lockwood United Methodist Church in the area known as Lockwood Corners. No early records exist. Maintained by the township trustees.

MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY: (published in in 1986 in Vol 4.)

Established in 1866, but burials began at least 20 yrs earlier.

Located on the east side of South Main Street between Emerling Ave and Cole Ave, near Firestone Tire & Rubber Company.

Originally in Coventry Twp it is now part of the city of Akron.

Burial information from Mount Hope Cemetery Association; P O Box 344; Cuyahoga Falls OH 44222.

PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY: a.k.a. WESLEY CHAPEL CEMETERY

(published Vol 3, pp 18-21)

Earliest gravestone dated 1830. No burial records are known to exist. Located on the north side of Warner Road just west of South Arlington Street. Originally owned by the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church, it is now owned by the township.

POLISH JEWISH CEMETERY:

Only information is the description - "On US224 "Waterloo Rd" west of Nesmith Lake near Cory St." May be a reference to St. Augustine's Cemetery.

ST AUGUSTINE'S CEMETERY: (published in Vol 3, pp 1-17e)

Established in 1902. Located in the 1200 block of West Waterloo Road next to Highland Park Elementary School. On the south side of W. Waterloo Road between the school and Corey Avenue.

Burial records are at Lakewood Cemetery which is one block east of the cemetery.

SOUTH STREET JEWISH CEMETERY: (published Vol 3, pp 26-27)

Located on the south side of South Street about 75 feet east of Lakeshore Blvd in south Akron. Owned by the Independent Jewish Association.

UNNAMED CEMETERY: a.k.a. HOPE CHURCH CEMETERY

There is a vague reference to this cemetery found on page 529 of the "History of Summit County, Ohio" by William Henry Perrin. "A church cemetery just west of the Center toward New Portage."

This may be a reference to the cemetery of Hope Church which was adjacent to Lakewood Cemetery. The church has been torn down and its cemetery is now part of Lakewood Cemetery and is in Section Hope.

Notice to our readers:

Information regarding the Cemeteries listed here will be updated (or added) as it becomes available. You may want to check this site periodically for the most current information. Corrections or additions will be appreciated.

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Provided by: SUMMIT COUNTY CHAPTER, OGS
P O Box 2232
Akron OH 44309-2232
e-mail: SummitOGS@acorn.net

Compiled by: Marlene Diefendorf, September 1997 [rev. Jan 2000]

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