
HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BROADVIEW HEIGHTS

History takes us back to the early 1800's when Indians occupied this territory. The first white man to settle here was Seth Paine who, in 1811, was sent here as a surveyor by Colonel John Breck. The Paine family traveled from Massachusetts with a team of oxen, a journey which took them 42 days. For his compensation as a surveyor, Seth Paine was given 200 acres of land. He chose acreage in the southwest corner of the township and on that he built the first log cabin to be constructed in this area.

The vast body of land which Colonel Breck was granted the authority to allot and sell was given the name "Brecksville Township". Today it is known as three cities--Brecksville, Broadview Heights and North Royalton. In 1818 the west end of Brecksville Township, consisting of 21.28 square miles, was renamed Royalton Township by the settlers located there.

Land was sold for \$1.52 an acre. One of the buyers to make his home in the large township was Ezra Wyatt, a well known millwright. His many customers wore a wagon wheel trail to his door. That path is still with us today, but now it is called Wyatt Road.

In 1829 a plank road was constructed from Wallings Corners to the Cleveland city limits. In 1840 along the clear waters of Chippewa Creek, there were several grist mills, one cheese factory, four saw mills, one tannery and three distilleries...early telephone service was handled through a manual switchboard located in the Harris home at Broadview and Wallings Roads.

Education was always a concern. In 1815 Miss Orianna Paine, the youngest daughter of surveyor Seth Paine, started teaching school in a house which was located at the corner of Broadview and Avery Roads. This building has since been demolished and is presently the Avery Corners Office Building, where the Chamber of Commerce has its office. Large stones from the old school house are used in the landscaping.

Religion was never neglected. In 1814 the Brecksville Methodist Church was formed and services were held in a 16-foot log cabin. The Congregational Church was organized with 13 members in July 1816. In 1857 Bishop Rappe of the Cleveland Diocese established the parish of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a mission enterprise to serve the Catholics living in this area.

The people living here did their part in time of war. Four men, soldiers of the Revolution, are buried within the township. During the War of 1812 a small garrison was kept at the home of Seth Paine. John Wyatt, the miller's son, organized the first company to leave from this area and join the Civil War unit from Ohio. The Lincoln Flag, which is preserved in the Brecksville Historical Museum, was made by the ladies' sewing circle while meeting in homes on Wallings Road.

In 1815, the Brecksville Township ruling body consisted of 3 trustees, 1 clerk, 1 treasurer, 3 fence viewers, 2 poormasters (supervisors of the relief of the poor) and 4 road supervisors. The constable served the Justice Court. This type of government had its end when the Village of Brecksville was organized.

On November 17, 1926, the west section of the township petitioned the state for the right to organize a village to be named Broadview Heights. When circulated, the petition received the signatures of 80 freeholders. In Jake's Barber Shop, which was located at the corner of Broadview and Wallings Roads, an election was held November 30, 1926. The results were 101 FOR incorporation and 7 AGAINST. Thus, Broadview Heights was incorporated on December 17, 1926.

The first elected officials to hold office in 1927 were: Mayor, Floyd C. Harris; Clerk, Carl A. Burtscher; Treasurer, Fred C. Clogg; Marshall, Lloyd Harris; Members of Council, A. N. Fuchs, Jos. Fuchs, Frank Masek, Frank Valvode, Chas. Benel, S. J. Gynn. The original city hall (named the Broadview Heights Village Hall) was dedicated in July 1929. Cost of construction was \$22,800. It was not until the election of November 6 1945, that the voters of Broadview Heights approved a \$20,000 Bond issue establishing the part-time Fire Department.

The 1960 Census proved that in this village the population had increased to the extent of becoming a city. In the November 7, 1961 election the voters of the City of Broadview Heights adopted a charter form of government.

Taking a broad view of Broadview Heights, you will see elegant homes constructed in a development survey with beautiful trees of many, many years' standing. This is the same vision that our first settler, Seth Paine, had in mind when he built his family home here. Very early Broadview Heights had the foresight to make this beauty last. Strict zoning, planning and building laws were adopted.

*Taken from Historical Highlights of Broadview Heights
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