

HISTORY OF PEAINE TOWNSHIP BEAVER ISLAND, MICHIGAN

Before 1700, the earliest settlements on Beaver Island were of Ottawa (Odawa)/Chippewa(Ojibiwa) Indians, and they were comprised of mainly small fishing villages. In 1700, white men first arrived, while fighting in skirmishes in disputes between France and England, but they did not settle on the island. In the early 1800's trappers and traders arrived and 1832 marked a visit from Father Baraga from Mackinaw Island to baptize Indians and set up a mission church. The population of Beaver Island at that time numbered at least 100. Beaver Island, through trapping, fishing, and lumbering, was an economic power in Northern Michigan greater than Mackinaw Island. In 1836, the principal chief who signed a treaty giving sole ownership of Beaver Island to the Indians was Chief Kinwabahkisse. **PEAINE TOWNSHIP WAS FORMED IN MARCH, 1847 AND COMPRISED ALL OF BEAVER ISLAND. THE FIRST TOWNSHIP MEETING WAS HELD MAY 1, 1847 AT ALVA CABLE'S STORE AND INDIAN TRADING POST.** In 1848 James Jesse Strang and some followers formed a colony on Beaver Island by building houses and roads and planting crops and thus driving away the earlier settlers. Strang was assassinated in 1856 and his followers expelled from the island. In that same year some of the earlier settlers, mostly fisherman, returned to the island, as well as many newly arrived Irish immigrants. James Cable, nephew of Alva Cable also had a trading post at the South End of the island at Hemlock Point and a dock where cordwood was supplied to Great Lakes steamers during the 1840's and 1850's

- 1851: the Beaver Island Head Light and Station is Commissioned.
- 1880: there were 881 residents on the island and they were self-sufficient through fishing, farming, and logging.
- 1900 : Census population - 1,200 (includes Garden Island)
- 1901: Sunnyside School built and operated until 1912
- 1904: Roosevelt School built
- 1905: the first telegraph service begins
- 1910: Census of Peaine Township listed 362 residents (St. James-567, Indian-136)
- 1912 - 1933: Cole's Mill and Post Office operated at Nomad.
- 1920's: tourism begins.
- 1926: regular winter mail delivery starts
- 1939: Island wide power plant was built.
- 1940's: decline of fishing industry begins.
- 1940's: clearing begins for the Beaver Island Township Airport
- 1950's: lowest population census since 1830's
- 1970 - Census of Beaver Island is 219
- 1980 - Census of Beaver Island is 321
- 1984 - Census =92 (Peaine) 278 (St. James) Beaver Island -370
- 1990: Census population of Peaine Township is 128.
- 2000: Census population of Peaine Township is 244 (260 registered voters)

Beaver island was first called the Isle du Castor (Island of the Beaver) around 1744 and Beaver Island appeared on a map around 1755. Some sources state it was named for its shape, that of a beaver, and that beavers were introduced to the island around 1901. Between 1848 and 1856, the Mormon self proclaimed King of Beaver Island and duly elected representative to the Michigan State Assembly between 1852 and 1856, James Jesse Strang, influenced life on the island as well as in the assembly and acts pertaining to Northern Michigan. Lake Geneserath and Jordan River, place names in Peaine Township both show his influence as well as the formation of Galilee Township (see Acts of Michigan listed below).

LOCAL AND SPECIAL ACTS OF MICHIGAN

1847 – No 69, Section 8, page 83: Transfer of ALL Beaver Islands from County of Mackinaw, set off and organized into a separate Township named Peaine.

1853 – No 18, Section 1, 5, 6, page 15/16: County of Emmett organized and Galilee Township formed from part of Peaine Township with boundaries 37 & 38 North with west and south ranges 10 & 11.

1855 – No. 92, Section 1-2, page 197/198: All Lake Michigan Islands organized into separate County of Manitou.

1855 – No. 92, Section 3, "The Beaver group of islands in Lake Michigan, EXCEPT townships 37 north, and south half of township 38 north, of ranges 10 and 11 west, shall be organized into a separate township, by the name of PEAINE and the first township meeting shall be held in the village of Saint James."

1855 – No. 92, Section 4, "All that part of the Beaver Island, which lies in the towns 37 north, ranges 10 and 11 west, and the south half of towns 38 north, of 10 and 11 west shall be organized into a separate township by the name of Galilee, and the first township meeting shall be held at the school house at Galilee."

1859 – No. 194, Section 1, page 546: Hat, Hog, Garden Islands now part of Peaine Township be set off into a separate township named Garden Island. First township meeting on Garden Island, village of Peaine.

1861 - No. 86, Section 1, page 120/121: Portion of Beaver Island north of a parallel with the quarter line running east and west through sections 27, 28, 29, township 39 north of range 10 west and all other islands and bars and shoals contiguous to said islands be organized into Chandler Township.

1897 – No. 363, page 267: Vacate Galilee Township in Charlevoix County, attach to Peaine Township.

1901 – Charlevoix County, page 749/750: Formation of St. James Township by Charlevoix County Supervisors on December 13, 1899 as a result of a petition

presented by James Dunlevey and James McCann and signed by 41 other Beaver Island residents. Be it resolved that said territory being in range 39 north, 10 west; 40 north, 10 west; 38 north, 11 west; 38 north, 12 west; 39 north, 9 west; 40 north, 9 west and 40 north, 8 west and all other islands belonging to the Big Beaver group and the St. James Township will hold its first meeting at the old courthouse in St. James village

NAMESAKE OF PEAINE TOWNSHIP

CHIEF PEAINE NAMESAKE OF PEAINE TOWNSHIP. Chief Peter Payzhickwaywedong also known as Peaine Payzhickwaywedong came to the Beaver Island Archipelago from the Upper Peninsula in 1838. According to legend he was appointed chief by U.S. Indian Agent, Henry Schoolcraft to replace Chief Kenwabahkisse who had refused to pledge allegiance to the U.S. (KENWABAHKISSE FOUGHT FOR THE BRITISH IN THE WAR OF 1812). Peaine's name meant "One Voice" or "Cloudy Day". He was a Christian Indian and he and his followers separated from the Indian village called Wakwigijig near the harbor and settled in Paysheton (now known as Pagetown) and eventually settled on Garden Island around 1847. Upon his death, in 1914 on Garden Island at age 95, his son Antoine Peaine became chief and was chief until his death in 1927 in St. James. If these facts are correct, Chief Peaine was 19 years old when he settled on Beaver Island and was probably born in 1819 but where he was born is not known. The 1855 Indian Treaty with the Ottawa and Chippewa that divided up tribal land among individual Indians was signed by Chief Peaine and also by Headman Pi-a-zhick-way-we-dong.

A quote follows from the essay Chief Peaine and the Mormons by Sarah McKinley and Helen Collar that appeared in Journal of Beaver Island History, v.3. "The Chief on the Reservation (on Garden Island) was named "Peaine" (Cloudy Day) and his bothers were Andenemy(Ripe Corn) who died 7-7-1907, St. James at 96 years of age and Watonasaw(Walk on Water). They were of the Ottawa tribe and were, large, fine looking men. One thing was very unusual, Peaine's hair curled on his head in ringlets. There was a dignity about him that commanded absolute respect."

Alternate spelling of the Peaine name found doing research are "Peahen", "Paeen", "Paine", Peanine, Peine, Peane, Pe-ane, and "Payne".

In a speech given during Museum Week, 1994 George Anthony states that in 1721 Indians of the straits area came to Beaver Island because of danger of attack. In 1763, Winniway, son of great War Chief of the Straits Chippewa, Menehwehn, takes non Indian prisoners to Beaver Island. During the War of 1812 Beaver Island Indians fought with the British. War Chief Kaybayosay and a warrior Chief named Kinwahahkisse (who signed the 1836 Indian Treaty giving the Indian Tribe sole ownership of the Islands) also participated in the war.

PREVIOUS OFFICERS PEAINE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Frank Blatt, Dick Burris, Rose Connaghan, Buddy Martin, John McCafferty, Joan Petrak, Frank & Gladys Schmagel, Betty Welke, Bill Wagner, Lester & Delores Gallagher, Willie & Clara Schmidt, Pat Boyle, Earl Boyle, Edward Palmer, John McCauley, Daniel McCauley, Vestey McDonough, Pat McDonough, Hugh Boyle, Hugh Connahan, John Gallagher, Condly Gallagher, Anthony O'Donnell, Andrew Roddey, Paul Welke, James Gallagher, Phillip Gallagher, Owen McCauley, Phillip Gallagher, Bucky Vreeland, George & Florence Ricksgers, Frank Nackerman.

Some Historical Highlights

1891 - Annual Meeting: School inspectors were paid \$4 a year, the Clerk \$10 a year, a Prosecuting Attorney (from the Main Land) \$10 for trying lawsuit for the town. Daniel McCauley: paid \$9 for hauling lumber for Township business, \$3 for taking law books from harbor to school. Vestey McDonough: \$10.50 for hauling lumber, \$25 for clearing the "Mill" Road. Edward McCauley: \$12 for hauling lumber, \$1.50 for carrying books from Harbor, \$9.50 for work as commissioner of highways. John McCauley: \$12 for hauling lumber, \$1.30 for paying express charges on books, \$6 for 3 days on Board of Review, \$12 making assessment rolls and spreading taxes, \$3 for two days in looking after lawsuits. James O'Donnell: \$6 for 3 days on Board of Review. Hugh Boyle: \$6 for 3 days on Board of Review.

1892 - Annual Meeting: \$350 put on taxes for defraying Township expenses and for building of township hall. \$350 put on taxes for school purposes. Peter Boyle elected overseer of highways for road district. \$150 for schools, John McCauley Supervisor

1893 - On March 28, 1893 total amount on hand was \$27,548.00

1893 - December 1, 1893 the following was reported
County Tax \$413.62

State Tax	\$ 33.09	Mill Tax	\$ 16.00	Uncollected personal
Town Tax	\$35000.	Highway Tax	\$ 75.00	\$12.75
School Tax	\$350.00	BALANCE ON HAND		\$14.79

1896 - John Gallagher is Supervisor

1897 - Hugh Boyle is Supervisor

1898 - On March 26, 1898 Owen McCauley, Justice of the Peace received written notice to investigate a case of damages by dogs to Mrs. Bonner's sheep. Two witnesses' were paid \$2.00 each, no information on how case was settled.

Peaine Township makes up 3/4% of Beaver Island

Largest township in Charlevoix County.

70 Miles of Roads

30 Miles of Water (Lake) Frontage

7 Inland Lakes

2 Airports (private & Township)

Generation Plant

Cellular Tower

Gas Station/Store/Propane Service

Laundromat/Car Wash

Golf Course

Transfer Station (Jointly with St. James Township)

New proposed Fire Station

Campground

Parks

Walking Trails

Boat & Fishing Sites

Tax supported jointly with St. James Township and located in St. James Township

Beaver Island Rural Health Center

Emergency Medical Service

Fire Department

Cemetery

Ball Park

Youth Consortium

Current Taxable Value: \$38,232,258

State Equalized Value: \$49,633,560

Assessed Value: \$98,211,600

Cash Value

\$99,844,592

2002 Budget of General Funds: \$236,409.00

2002 Budget of Special Funds: \$441,004.89

SOURCES: Beaver Island Historical Society, Michigan Law Library, Library of Michigan, Journal of Beaver Island History, v.3, King of Beaver Island by Roger Van Noord, The American Indian Treaties, 1836, 1855, Peaine Township Documents.

8-2002 J. Vyse