

SWAN CREEK TOWNSHIP HISTORY

Swan Creek Township was organized formally on August 30, 1860 and comprised all of what are now Swan Creek and James Townships. Swan Creek Township reorganized October 22, 1874 with the separation of James Township and now comprises 24 sections of land.

Lumber, salt, and coal, combined with agriculture, have aided in the development of Swan Creek Township. Swan Creek village, of which no building remains today, was a camping site of the Chippewa Indians in the early 1800's. On the banks of the Swan Creek, Swan Creek village started as an Indian trading post. Eventually the community grew to encompass a train station, a cheese factory, a sugar beet station, and a community center/grocery store/post office.

During the lumber era of the 1870's and 1880's, another village known as Garfield was thriving. There was a local post office which was designated Eastwood. That post office closed about 1915 and by 1935 Garfield village disappeared. All that remains is a historical reference on state highway maps.

Swan Creek Township had the last remaining working coal mine in the State of Michigan: the Swan Creek Mining Company Mine. A cooperative mine worked by its owners, it opened in 1941 and produced 100 tons of coal each day when in full production. It closed in 1952 with eight of the original thirteen owners among its workers.

Swan Creek Township has set aside records of the Township from its inception to the present time. Many documents pertaining to the development of local schools, roads, and bridges, and papers from early township officials are on file.