

Goshen Township Historical Society

Aubri Wilson, Goshen High School

Located east of Cincinnati, Ohio, is a small township known for its rural charm, tight-knit community, and ever-growing population; this town is called Goshen.

Goshen was founded in 1799 by German and English settlers who migrated down the Ohio River from western Pennsylvania after fighting for the Colonies during the American War for Independence.¹

The original settlers were ambitious to form a new settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains, and for that reason, the Ohio Company of Virginia was formed.

One of the earliest settlers, a man named Jacob Meyers, bought several hundred acres of farmland just two miles south of the present-day village of Goshen.² Farming quickly became the backbone of the local economy, and Goshen's fertile land allowed residents to live a sustainable life. Over time, this agriculture evolved and developed Goshen into the suburban township it is today.

Goshen's Historical Significance

Another early figure that held great significance within the community was Josiah Lyman, who arrived from Vermont in 1816. Josiah helped Goshen grow, becoming the first postmaster as well as the first resident physician.

Josiah practiced medicine in Goshen until 1824, when he then moved nearby to Batavia, Ohio. Josiah's son, Daniel, followed in his footsteps, graduating from Ohio Medical College in Cincinnati. After graduating, Lyman moved into a "stately stone house" and added another room called a "surgery," which was Goshen's first doctor's office.³

This house was preserved and is now used as the Goshen Township Historical Society Museum, known now as the Anchorage House.

¹ Goshen Township. "Goshen Township History." Goshen Township, 2026, <https://goshen-oh.gov/history/>. Accessed 8 April 2026.

² Genealogy Trails. "Clermont County, Ohio Genealogy and History." Genealogy Trails, 2026, https://genealogytrails.com/ohio/clermont/history_1880pg30.html. Accessed 14 April 2026.

³ Goshen Township Historical Society. "Dr. Daniel Lyman, 1820-1910." Goshen History, 2026, <https://goshenhhistory.org/dr-daniel-lyman>. Accessed 14 April 2026.

Elvis Presley's Goshen Visit

The Anchorage house features a story about the time the 'King of Rock and Roll' paid a visit. Elvis Presley was a popular American singer widely known as the "King of Rock and Roll" and one of the most prominent performers in rock music during the mid-1950s.

On June 22, 1973, Elvis visited Goshen Township.⁴ Presley wasn't just passing through; he was on a quest to bring home the world's smallest mustang. Standing just 13.5 inches tall, the mini mustang claimed the title of the world's smallest horse in the Guinness Book of World Records.

When the height of this horse is compared to the smallest horse recorded in the Guinness World Records currently, this mini-mustang would still be considered the world's smallest horse, making Goshen the home of the smallest horse in the world.

Goshen Township Historical Society

When trying to learn about the rich history of Goshen, Ohio, there are few sources of information to turn to. However, one source that can always be counted on is the Goshen Township Historical Society. The Goshen Township Historical Society was founded in 1984 and has since then been known for its treasure trove of information regarding the amazing things that have happened in Goshen, Ohio.

The Historical Society works hard to preserve the past, create a sense of community, and provide recognition of Goshen citizens. They perform these services by publishing history of the township, hosting events, and working closely with Goshen local schools.

The work of the historical society eventually allowed for an opportunity to add a unique addition of history to the Goshen Campus.

Cook Log Cabin Heritage Center

In 2009, the Goshen Historical Society took on what Jim Poe, Goshen Township Historical Society Advisor, can only describe as "the most important" and "probably the most expensive" project the Historical Society has ever completed.

During our interview with Mr. Poe, he stated just how much of an impact the Log Cabin Heritage Center has had on Goshen as a community.

⁴ Marsh, Dave. "Elvis Presley | Songs, Movies, Manager, Grandchildren, House, Death, & Facts." Britannica, 10 April 2026, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Elvis-Presley>. Accessed 13 April 2026.

Mr. Poe claimed that whenever people come to visit the school, whether it be for sporting events, media coverage, or a show, one of the first things people notice about the campus is its character. Having a log cabin that was originally built in 1803, a structure which has survived at least one EF2 tornado (in 2022), demonstrates the strong foundation on which Goshen Township was formed, while also allowing anyone who visits to have a glimpse into the town's history.⁵

Who makes it possible?

The Goshen Township Historical Society is only able to make these incredible contributions by the support given from members of the community.

Thanks to donations and volunteers, the Historical Society was able to restore the Lyman household as well as the Cook Log Cabin Heritage Center. The Historical Society hopes to continue to restore these historical buildings and spread the message that “whether you realize it or not, you are part of the local history and part of this community”.⁶

If you'd like to know more about the history of Goshen, pay a visit to the Goshen Township Historical Society Museum, and become a part of Goshen's history!

⁵ Goshen Township Historical Society. “Visit Us the GTHS Museum & the Log Cabin Heritage Center.” Goshen Township Historical Society, 2026, <https://goshenhhistory.org/visit>. Accessed 15 April 2026.

⁶ Goshen Township Historical Society. “Visit Us the GTHS Museum & the Log Cabin Heritage Center.” Goshen Township Historical Society, 2026, <https://goshenhhistory.org/visit>. Accessed 15 April 2026.

