



To promote, preserve and protect the heritage of Plain Township Stark County

# Plain Township Historical Society

Jan 2025

Volume 12, Issue 1

## Treasurer's Report

Account Balances:

Checking	\$237.85
Money Market	\$12,570.02
Endowment	\$50,532.96

We are a 501c3. Contributions to our organization are tax deductible.

## Current Officers

President: Cindy Guest  
330-224-2660  
[cjquest@att.net](mailto:cjquest@att.net)

Vice-President: Phyllis Rustifo  
330-936-6346  
[rustifop@gmail.com](mailto:rustifop@gmail.com)

Secretary: Susan Henry  
330-477-3272  
[Susanhenry72@gmail.com](mailto:Susanhenry72@gmail.com)

Treasurer: JoEllen Reikowski  
330-806-3146  
[jreikowski@neo.rr.com](mailto:jreikowski@neo.rr.com)

Directors:  
Connie Blinn  
Cheryl Hutcheson  
Judith Pocock  
David Ross  
Lynda Theriault

## Jan Meeting

**Happy New Year!  
No Membership  
Meeting. See you in  
February.**

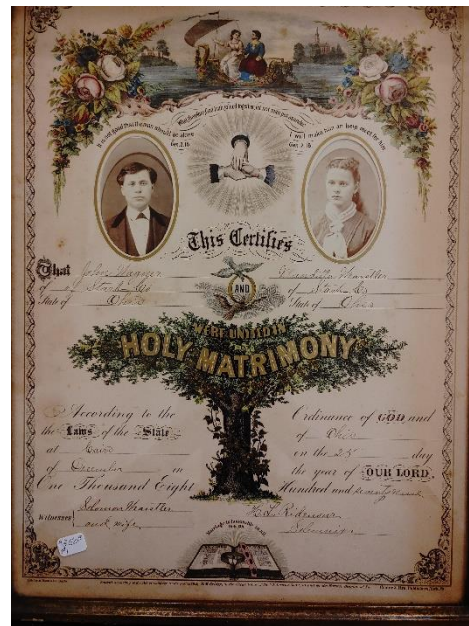


*Happy New Year!*

Welcome to 2025 and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Plain Township Historical Society. We hope that your holidays were safe and enjoyable. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in February. We kick off the year with a look at the Fire Stations of Plain Township and also starting the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Plain Township Fire Department in February. Our wandering reporters, the Wanderer's are taking the month off to hibernate. They will be watching for what the groundhog has to say and hope for an early Spring to get back out and poke around.



**Dues Reminder** – Just a reminder that your 2025 dues are due. If you are 90+ as of Jan 1, 2025, then your dues are free. It is important to get those in so you can continue to get updated information about what is going on at PTHS.



Our year is already off to a quick start. We have received three donations so far with a fourth one on its way (See recent donations below.) We are excited about another recent addition, the marriage certificate for John Wagner and Mandilla Warstler (Wearstler) who were married in 1879 at the St. Jacob's Church. This was the St. Jacob's Church in Cairo before the two churches split. We do not have any item like this from the St. Jacob's Church records we received last year. This is in great condition and we are looking forward to sharing this with the community. We have waited for four years to be able to add this to our collection. John Wagner (1855-1925) was the son of Jacob and Magdalena Wagner. Mandilla Warstler (1859-1934) was the daughter of Soloman H (1821-1901) and Mariah Snyder (1831-1908). They did not have any children.

The event calendar for 2025 is already filling up. We are partnering this year with the Massillon Library to present a couple of workshops on basic researching skills. The first one will be February 19<sup>th</sup> "How to Supercharge Your Search Criteria." This will be a presentation on tips and tricks to use search characters to help refine your search requests. This event is free and open to the public but you must RSVP through the Massillon Library website. Our goal with this event is to raise awareness about PTHS and to develop future researchers. We will follow that up in March with a collaboration with the Plain Library Branch with a workshop on "Trash or Treasure? My Family Does Not Want This Stuff!" This is again a free event. See

**Looking for ...**

Looking for high school jewelry to add to our collection from clubs, activities, sports, etc.

- Class Rings
- Lavalier
- Pins
- Charm Bracelets, etc.

This is to allow us to trace the meaning and history of high school related jewelry.

**Yearbook Want List:**

**Middlebranch HS** – 1955

**GlenOak HS** – 1981, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005 to present

Elementary, Intermediate and Junior High School yearbooks.

**School Newspapers:**

GlenOak, Oakwood, Glenwood, Middlebranch, Underground, Elementary, Junior High, etc.

- Articles for our newsletter can be emailed to: [preservingplaintwp@gmail.com](mailto:preservingplaintwp@gmail.com).
- Articles are due by the first Tuesday of the month (aka Board Meeting.)

**Contact info:**

Plain Township Historical Society  
2600 Easton St NE  
Canton OH 44721

Email: [preservingplaintwp@gmail.com](mailto:preservingplaintwp@gmail.com)

Web: [www.preservingplaintwp.org](http://www.preservingplaintwp.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PlainTownshipHistoricalSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/PlainTownshipHistoricalSociety/)

event schedule below for more information. In May, we will be the keynote speaker for the Canton Preservation Society's annual meeting. Since this is our 20<sup>th</sup> year, we are trying a couple of different events and venues to let people know we exist and get them interested in history.

This past December, we were the keynote speaker at the Avondale Homeowner's Association Christmas party at the La Pizzaeria. We gave a presentation on the history of the Avondale allotment which turned 100 in 2024. This event was the kick off for the information gathering phase of their history for a publication that is tentatively scheduled for release in June 2026. This is going to be another exciting project for us.

Let us eat cake, which we will do at our February meeting which is officially the month PTHS was founded. We are also working on a special treat or two at our annual picnic in June as part of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The location for the picnic is changing again and we will be at Diamond Park. This location is easier to get in and out of, plus we can be inside and/or outside. The picnic will be held rain or shine unless there is a threat of severe weather. There is more coming for 2025 including the release of our 9<sup>th</sup> publication "The History of the Plain Township Fire Department." So stay tuned, check our website, newsletter and Facebook page for updates.

**What's Next?**

While we do not have a formal strategic plan, we do have goals and a vision for the organization. The Board of Directors is in the process of reviewing those goals and adjusting them to guide us for the future. We have accomplished a lot in 20 years and even just looking at where we have come from in the last five years it is amazing.

**Archives** – Our archives continue to grow and form stories about the history of our area. We have embarked on a plan to preserve artifacts in archival quality storage and maximize the storage space we have. This preservation started with a grant from the Ohio Local History Alliance for archival supplies and our first portable digital scanner. The Plain Township Fire Department repurposed some metal shelving for us to use for storage just in time for the arrival of the St. Jacob's Church in Cairo's records. We partnered with the church to make sure their records were stored properly in archival boxes. By standardizing the boxes we use, we can stretch our limited storage space to accommodate our expanding collection. As part of this upgrade of storage boxes, we also implemented a standardized labeling system for those boxes, making it easy to locate information. No more Post-It notes on the boxes. We will continue the process of converting our previous storage system into the new one. Another aspect of our archives, is we are fully committed to digitizing our collection. This allows our collection to be accessible for research purposes, provides documentation of what we have, and allows us to collect information that families want to share but want to keep. The naming convention used for boxed storage is the same for the digital information so they mirror each other. We now have five scanners thanks to several anonymous donors.

**Financial** – Five years ago just as COVID was taking a hold of our country, we launched our Endowment Campaign to raise \$10,000 to establish a fund with the Stark Community Foundation (thanks to the donor that pushed us over the top.) Ironically, we were able to launch that fund in February 2021 on our 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In December 2024, we reached the \$50,000 milestone. While the Board never set an actual timeline to reach this goal, it was always on our radar. This milestone is significant because the yearly earnings that we are allowed to spend now will cover, if needed, our yearly fixed costs. This makes us financially stable. The endowment fund is a key component for our future viability. With the decreasing availability of grants and declining paid memberships, we need to find a stable income source.

### **Publications available for purchase**

- Historic Ridgewood \$15 for PTHS members; \$20 for non-members
- Educating Plain Township – Middlebranch High School 1927-1957 2 volume set \$20.00 (only sold as a two-volume set)
- Educating Plain Township – Glenwood High School 1957-1975 2 volume set \$20.00 (only sold as a two-volume set)
- Cruising Thru Plain Township – \$10.00 each
  - Volume 1 NE Qtr
  - Volume 2 SE Qtr
  - Volume 3 SW Qtr
  - Volume 4 NW Qtr
- And the Story Continues – Vol 1 and Vol 2 - \$10.00 ea. **ON SALE for \$10/set**

### **Publication available for free download from our website or Facebook page**

- Exploring Plain Township – Piecing the Puzzle Together – North Canton Drive-In Theater

### **Donations**

If you have any items to donate or share, please let Cindy Guest know at [preservingplaintwp@gmail.com](mailto:preservingplaintwp@gmail.com) or 330-224-2660. Also, if you know of someone in the community with information that will help us, please let us know. Thank you to all that donated.

Right now, our publication sales are our main method of generating funds. McDonald's changed the requirements for their fundraising event and we decided that was not an option for us anymore. We are very grateful for the years we had with them since this allowed us to weather the COVID years. The Board will continue to evaluate opportunities, but we will be taking 2025 off from this type of fundraiser.

In February's newsletter, we will continue to explore our goals and vision for the future. Thank you to everyone that has donated and made community connections for us. We could not have experienced the growth we have without you.

***“Invest in Plain’s History” by becoming a member, volunteering, making a monetary donation and donating items related to Plain Township!***

### **PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2025 EVENT SCHEDULE**

**Board of Directors Meetings are the first Tuesday at 2 p.m.  
General Meetings are the third Monday at 7 p.m.**

General meetings are held at the Plain Township Hall, 2600 Easton St NE, Canton OH unless otherwise noted. These meetings are free and open to the public. We have a brief meeting, followed by refreshments and then a historical topic presentation. Board of Directors meetings are held at the Plain Township Hall. Check our website [www.preservingplaintwp.org](http://www.preservingplaintwp.org), Facebook and newsletter for a current schedule.

**Jan 2025 – No Meeting**

**Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – History of the Volunteer Fire Department Stations – Presented by Cindy Guest**

**Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – “Supercharge Your Search Criteria” Workshop – Massillon Library 2:00 pm RSVP – Christine Bowman and Cindy Guest - Free**

**Mar 17<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting – MAPS Museum**

**Mar 25<sup>th</sup> – “Trash or Treasure? My Family Does Not Want This Stuff!” – Plain Branch Library 6:00 pm – Presenter Cindy Guest - Free**

**Apr 21<sup>st</sup> – Glitz and Glamour in the White House – History, Jewelry, and Fashion of the Ohio Presidential First Ladies – Presenter Dr. Mari Halkovich**

### **Recent Donations**

- Eugene Williams Family – Edgefield Fire Dept items
- Doug Crowder – Shanabruch and Tifft Family Photos
- Anonymous – Gretchen Putnam articles written for the Canton Repository 1936-1954. Profiles of Canton people (approximately 500.)

### Endowment Giving

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship/Stipend Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Check to:

Plain Township Historical Society  
C/o Endowment  
2600 Easton St NE  
Canton, OH 44721

Or SCF Online:

[www.starkcf.org/give-plain-historical](http://www.starkcf.org/give-plain-historical)



PTHS is a 501c3 organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

### Dues Form

DUES RUN FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I want to join - Check One (Annual):

- |                                     |        |                                       |         |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student    | \$5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron       | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | 10.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization | 100.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family     | 20.00  | Life Time Dues:                       |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit | 35.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual   | 250.00  |
|                                     |        | <input type="checkbox"/> Family       | 500.00  |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is open to everyone who wishes to promote our Mission.

Please make check payable to: Plain Township Historical Society

Mail this form and check to:

Plain Township Historical Society  
C/o Membership  
2600 Easton St NE  
Canton, OH 44721

**Preserving History since 2005.**

## Plain Township Historical Society

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Program Date & Topic



January 2025

NO General Meeting Held

## Plain Township Historical Society

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Program Date & Topic

Feb 17th, 2025

### History of the Plain Township Volunteer Fire Stations



A great way to kick off our 2025 year. We get to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PTHS and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Plain Township Fire Department. Come and learn about the various fire stations and how they have changed over the years to meet the growing population of Plain Township.

Speaker: Cindy Guest

Come and Join us for a free meeting.

7-9 PM at the Plain Township Hall 2600 Easton St NE