



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

# Plain Township Historical Society

Jul 2025



Volume 12, Issue 7



## Treasurer's Report

Account Balances:

Checking	\$1,325.30
Money Market	\$9,495.27
Endowment	\$50,290.46

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

## **Current Officers**

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

## July Meeting

**Jul 21st – Edgewood Estate and the Raff Family – Presented by John Werren**

## *What A Great Time*

For those of you that joined us for our annual covered dish picnic, thank you for attending. So, what did you miss? Great food. Great conversation. Wonderful new location that is easily accessible for our membership. Air conditioning on a warm day. Oh, and best of all, antique car rides provided by Terri and Howard Thompson. The Thompson's also provided a history about their cars and the differences between driving their cars and the new-fangled ones we have today. Yes, one of them you even had to crank to start. The only drawback was that the master hot dog griller still misses the Splash Pad to cool off in after cooking over hot coals on a hot day, but there was air conditioning so that helped.

We also got to hang out with our friends at the Jackson Township Historical Society in June as we chatted about how Jackson Township boundaries were created. Plain Township was one of the first five governing townships in Stark County. All the township boundaries were laid out based on the Congressional Lands Survey. From there, as townships gained population, the township established their Board of Trustees. Wondering who were the other four original Stark County townships? Canton Twp, Nimishillen Twp, Osnaburg Twp, and Sandy Twp.

Due to weather concerns and a family situation for our President, we decided to not do the 720 Market in June. There was concern about the rain and since other events in Stark County were cancelled and/or rescheduled, we decided not to risk taking items from our archives out. Instead, we will double up in September and celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Plain Twp Fire Dept and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PTHS. Stay tuned for more information on this.

To wrap up June, we spend time with the homeowners of Avondale at their ice cream social. Even though it was a warm day, we were in the shade with a breeze. Let us face it, if ice cream is involved, the day is great. We talked to many homeowners about the upcoming project to write about the history of the Avondale neighborhood. We were thanked for taking on this project and have already found out some very interesting tidbits for the book. This is the official kickoff for the HOA research phase of the project. Let us get writing! I would say "let us eat cake," but only ice cream was involved.



## *Up and Coming*

We are excited to announce that the Plain Township Historical Society will be inducted into the Plain Local Schools Alumni Associations Hall of Distinction. We were nominated as a community partner and will be the second organization inducted in this category. This event we get to double dip, since we nominated Chief Clarence Snyder and he is being inducted as well. The event is held at the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Sep 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 pm. More details will be coming later. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Plain Twp Fire Dept.

Our next membership meeting will be on the Raff family and their estate. John Werren will be presenting. His ancestor worked for the Raff family and he will share his family's stories. Come and join us for this look at a piece of our area's history.

**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 the 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/)

**Open Board Position** – We have an opening on our Board of Directors. If you are interested in helping to shape and share our Plain Township History, please contact David Ross.

**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.

**America250**

We have been talking about America250 for almost two years now and the time is fast approaching for the celebration. We wanted to share with you more about what PTHS is involved with in regards to this celebration and what we have planned to date.

America250 is a yearlong celebration of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There are events planned at the Federal, State and Local levels. "The U.S. will be celebrating its semiquincentennial (that's 250 years) in 2026 and Ohio is all-in to celebrate "Ohio Style." We will highlight Ohio and Ohioans' unique contribution to the U.S. for 250+ years." As part of this celebration, we have several projects we are collaborating on:

- **Stark County America250 Documentary** – a social media short clip documentary on historical subjects about people, places, and events within Stark County. There will be a community wide launch (date TBD) in 2026 and then the documentary will be shown at various locations around Stark County and in area schools. Through grants, 24 shorts are funded and currently PTHS has two on the list: William and Almira Martin and the Martin Glider (already filmed); and R. G. Drage and his impact on education. It is the goal of the Stark County History Group, who oversee this project, to continue to add video shorts to document our area history. This is a cost-effective way for the local historical societies and museums to collaborate and create social media content to make people aware of our local history.
- **Stark Parks** – Stark Parks is working on creating signage for several of their park facilities around Stark County. They have received a grant to create signage by 2026 in 7 of their parks. We will be assisting them on the background research for the signs utilizing our network of contacts and resources. One of the signs is slated for a property in Plain Township (we are saving the location for later.)
- **Wreaths Across America** – Over the past two years we have collaborated with the Plain Township Fire Dept and Plain Township Rotary to identify veterans who are buried in Warstler Cemetery so that wreaths can be placed on the veteran graves. It is our goal to have that list completed by the 2026 event. Also, as part of this, the area DAR is working on documenting all Revolutionary War soldiers. PTHS has volunteered to help them with Warstler Cemetery since there are at least two Revolutionary War soldiers buried there.

What is exciting for us, is that we have secured a display space for a minimum of one year to celebrate America250 at Plain Township Hall. This is a new opportunity for us to showcase our archives and share them with the community. We will also be working on a smaller display at the Stark County Library Plain Branch at GlenOak High School. The display opportunity with the Louisville-Nimishillen Historical Society will also be part of our yearlong tribute to America250. The main display at Plain Township Hall will change monthly and follow the themes being used at the state level as closely as possible. More information next month.

## Publications available for purchase

- History of the Plain Township Fire Department - \$20.00 each
- Historic Ridgewood - \$20
- Educating Plain Township – Middlebranch High School 1927-1957 - 2 Volume Set \$20.00
- Educating Plain Township – Glenwood High School 1957-1975 - 2 Volume Set \$20.00
- 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 – 2 Volume Set \$10.00

## 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.

- January – Ohio Originals and Firsts
- February – Inventions, Innovations, Business & Work
- March – Music and Entertainment
- April – Transportation, Aviation, Automobiles and More
- May – Arts and Culture
- June – Natural Resources
- July – Ohio Statewide Picnic and Homecoming
- Aug – Ohio State Fair
- Sep – Sports
- Oct – Agriculture and Food
- Nov – Veterans and First Responders
- Dec – Future Ohio

***“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.

**Jul 21<sup>st</sup> – Edgewood Estate and the Raff Family – Presenter John Werren**

**Aug 18<sup>th</sup> – Guy Tilden Home – Brooke and Anna Martin Home**

**Sep 13<sup>th</sup> – 720 Sidestreet Mkt at Oakwood Square 10-3 – Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plain Township Fire Dept – Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary PTHS**

**Sep 15<sup>th</sup> – Canton Police Dept Flying Squadron or Bandit Car – Presenter Susan Henry**

**Sep 18<sup>th</sup> – Plain Local Foundation and Alumni Association Hall of Distinction Induction Pro Football HOF 6-9 pm**

**Oct 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> – Plain Twp Fire Dept Open House Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – Building Preservation – Presenter Coon Caulking**

## Recent Donations

- Cindy Donnalley – Plain Local School Items
- Susan Bair Nichols – Plain Township Items

### 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

Jul 21st, 2025



### Edgewood Estate and the Raff Family

An interesting look at the Raff family and estate from the descendant of the Raff family's coachman.

Speaker: John Werren

Come and Join us for a free meeting.

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

## Plain Township Historical Society

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Program Dates & Topics

Aug 18th, 2025



### Brooke and Anna Martin Home Story

The tale of a Guy Tilden designed home that went from grandeur to disrepair.

Speaker: Stark History Collaborative with a Video

Come and Join us for a free meeting.

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