



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

Plain Township Historical Society

Aug 2025

Volume 12, Issue 8



July Was Hot and Steamy

Treasurer's Report

Account Balances:

Checking	\$1,233.56
Money Market	\$10,025.43
Endowment	\$53,238.81

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

Current Officers

President: Cindy Guest
330-224-2660
cjquest@att.net

Vice-President: Phyllis Rustifo
330-936-6346
rustifop@gmail.com

Secretary: Susan Henry
330-477-3272
Susanhenry72@gmail.com

Treasurer: JoEllen Reikowski
330-806-3146
jreikowski@neo.rr.com

Directors:
Connie Blinn
Cheryl Hutcheson
Judith Pocock
David Ross

Aug Meeting

Aug 18th – A Guy Tilden Home – The Story of the Brooke and Anna Martin Home

Some like it hot and others do not. Well for PTHS things were hot and hopping. We are very fortunate to be able to partner and collaborate with a variety of organization through out Stark County. Because of this, several wonderful things happened which we will explore in the newsletter. Let us just say a couple of our long-term goals and dreams are coming true.

John Werren presented a wonderful program on the Raff home and family. His ancestors worked for the Raff family, so he shared several stories and photos. We had a diverse audience with many new faces. It is always heartwarming to see the hard work our Program committee does to bring interesting topics for our members being enjoyed and reaching new people. The program committee is hard at work planning the 2026 offerings. If you have any suggestions for program ideas please talk to Connie Blinn or David Ross.

Phyllis, Connie and Cindy took a trip down to the First Ladies Library to visit with them and pick their brain on several topics. We are always glad to visit with them and share what is going on. The First Ladies Library is a wonderful community asset that is a hidden gem. Thank you, Stephanie, for taking the time out of your schedule to answer our questions.

We continue to work on the Stark Parks sign project which allowed us to visit our friends at the Alliance Historical Society (Mabel Hartzell Home) to talk about their future sign. The signs for Tam O'Shanter park are almost ready to go to the sign designer. This project encompasses 7 signs for Stark Parks properties. We have had inquiries as to why we would be working on signage outside of Plain Township. There are several reasons. First, we are researchers at heart. Plus, we have a strong network of colleagues who are also supporting this project. As we continue to research these signs, we seem to find a tie back to Plain Township. Couple of examples:

- Tam O'Shanter Park (Jackson Twp) – The Schneider family that lived on the land where the Tam O'Shanter club house was, has descendants that live/lived in Plain Township on land that is now North Lawn Cemetery (there are other properties as well.)
- Fry Family Farm Park (East Sparta) – We just discovered that Richard Fry, who was the first Stark Parks Director, was a 1968 graduate of Glenwood High School. The Fry Farm was his family's farm.
- Brumbaugh Family at Quail Hollow (Lake Twp) – Their family descendants have many ties to Plain Township.

We love to collaborate, share and learn. This is a great opportunity to do all of that and help support Stark Parks. This project leverages the strength of all organizations involved to educate our community about their history.

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.

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.
- 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

Web:

www.preservingplaintwp.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/PlainTownshipHistoricalSociety/

Up and Coming

Mark your calendar, we have a busy couple of months coming up and there are different opportunities for everyone.

Wed Aug 13th – Massillon Public Library Duncan Room, 2 pm Free: “Tech It Out: Smarter Research with Digital Tools.” We are partnering with the Massillon Public Library to allow people to explore some of the digital tools available to researchers. There will be different types of scanners available, digital microscope, and more. Hands on for you to try and see how they can benefit your research. RSVP through the Massillon Public Library website <https://massillonlibrary.events.mylibrary.digital/event?id=199379>

Mon Aug 18th – PTHS Meeting, Township Hall 7 pm Free: Our monthly meeting will feature the story of Brooke and Anna Martin’s home designed by Guy Tilden. This will be a video presentation highlighting the family and the home storied history. The home still exists.

Sat Sep 13th – 720 Sidestreet Mkt at Oakwood Square, 10 am – 3 pm Free: We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Plain Township Fire Dept with a display of items. Our newest publication “The History of the Plain Township Fire Department” will also be available for \$20. Come and stroll the local vendors and stop by and say hi.

Thur Sep 18th – Plain Local Schools Foundation Hall of Distinction Induction Ceremony, Hall of Fame Village 6 pm – 9 pm \$80 per person: This year the Plain Township Historical Society is pleased to be inducted as the Community Partner of the Year. PTHS also nominated Chief Clarence Snyder, who will also be inducted on that evening as well. RSVP through the Plain Local Schools Foundation website <https://plainfoundation.com/event/28th-annual-hall-of-distinction-induction-ceremony/> if you are interested in attending.

Planning and Dreams Do Come True

Part of the Board’s job is to have a vision for the future so we can plan and find opportunities to reach our goals. One such dream/goal will be coming true soon. We will have a display space within Plain Township. In collaboration with the Plain Township Trustees and Administration, we will be transforming the green wall at Township Hall into a revolving space that explores Plain Township’s history. We have been planning and working towards this goal for ten years. Just like expectant new parents, we are waiting on the arrival of a locked showcase that will be the anchor point of the exhibit space.

PTHS was looking for a space within Plain Township to be able to showcase our history on a larger scale for 2026 in support of the America250 project. Especially since we will have four segments that relate to Plain Township in the Stark County documentary (more on that later.) The Township Trustees and Administration made those dreams become a reality and then some. We will continue to share our community’s history in this space beyond 2026. Thank you for this opportunity.

We will also be back at the Stark County District Library Plain Branch starting in October. The display at the library will be an appetizer to what is being displayed at Plain Township Hall. We truly are grateful for these opportunities.

There is another announcement coming about fulling a dream/goal, but we are not quite ready to share that with you yet. So, stay tuned for more exciting news.

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 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.

Stark County America250 Documentary – PTHS is excited to announce that we will be adding another documentary short to the ones we have scheduled. There will be an episode on Francis Fisher who during World War II freed the city of Gotha Germany from the German’s. He never shared his story with his family and in fact the people of Gotha thought it was the Russian’s who had freed them. There is more to this story which will be shared in the America250 documentary. We have already filmed the segment on William and Almira Martin. The Hoover Historical Center will be filming one on James Murray Spangler. We will be scheduling the filming for the R. G. Drage and Francis Fisher segments in the coming months. There will also be a segment on the William McKinley 1896 Campaign House that will feature our own Judy Pocock and her research on the home. Great collaborations happening with this project. Can not wait to share the documentary with everyone (March 2026.) The segments relating to Plain Township will be incorporated into the new exhibit space at Township Hall. Our road trip to First Ladies Library was to do research on exhibit planning and overcoming display obstacles. We are visiting with other places as well as we absorb as much information as to ways to share our archives with the public.

“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, Facebook and newsletter for a current schedule.

Aug 18th – Guy Tilden Home – Brooke and Anna Martin Home

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

Sep 15th – Canton Police Dept Flying Squadron or Bandit Car – Presenter Susan Henry

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

Oct 11th – Plain Twp Fire Dept Open House Celebrating the 50th Anniversary

Oct 20th – Building Preservation – Presenter Coon Caulking

Recent Donations

- Darlene Drage – Funds toward archival supplies

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



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 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

Plain Township Historical Society

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Program Date & Topic

Sep 15th, 2025



Canton Police Dept Flying Squadron or Bandit Car

Take a trip through the history of the Bandit Car, a bullet proof car on display at the Canton Classic Car Museum

Speaker: Susan Henry

Come and Join us for a free meeting.

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