



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

Plain Township Historical Society

Dec 2025

Volume 12, Issue 12



Treasurer's Report

Account Balances:

Checking	\$664.52
Money Market	\$10,575.78
Endowment	\$61,650.36

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
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Secretary: Susan Henry
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Treasurer: JoEllen Reikowski
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Directors:
Connie Blinn
Cheryl Hutcheson
Judith Pocock
David Ross

Happy Holidays!

Our Wandered family got together to bring you another Holiday Special Edition of our newsletter. We were busy this year putting things together for the upcoming America 250 celebration in 2026, so we had time to dream of a sugarplum newsletter.



2025 was a special time of the year, we got to celebrate our 20th Anniversary. It is hard to believe that our organization has spread and shared our history with the community for that long. Momma Rhonda makes sure we stay on the nice list by keeping our gnome home tidy. She is also the one

that keeps the checklist for what needs to be done. This year Momma Rhonda once again enlisted our cousins Topsy and Turvy along with Rudolph, Rudy for short, to come up with a clever way to share our 20th Anniversary highlights with you. So here is Topsy, Turvy and Rudy's take on "The 12 days of Christmas" highlighting some of our accomplishments for the year. To not waste too many leaves writing this down, we will give you the condensed version. You can thank us later for having the song stuck in your head all day. Here you go. Maestro please:

- ❖ On the 1st event of our 20th Anniversary, PTHS gave to the community, "This History of the Plain Township Fire Dept" book
- ❖ On the 2nd event of our 20th Anniversary, Plain Local Foundation and Alumni Society gave to us, being inducted as a community partner
- ❖ On the 3rd event of our 20th Anniversary, our community gave to us, 30+ people donating to the archives
- ❖ On the 4th event of our 20th Anniversary, PTHS gave to our community, 10 monthly meetings
- ❖ On the 5th event of our 20th Anniversary, our community gave to us, participating in 14 community events
- ❖ On the 6th event of our 20th Anniversary, the Thompson's gave to us, vintage car rides at our annual picnic
- ❖ On the 7th event of our 20th Anniversary, PTHS gave to our community, documenting veteran graves at Warstler Cemetery for Wreaths Across America
- ❖ On the 8th event of our 20th Anniversary, the National First Ladies Library and Museum gave to us, being part of their "The Eras Exhibit"
- ❖ On the 9th event of our 20th Anniversary, America 250 Stark County Project gave to us, being part of the history documentary about Stark County

Dec Meeting

**No Meeting in Dec 2025 and Jan 2026.
Happy Holidays!**

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/

- ❖ On the 10th event of our 20th Anniversary, the Pro Football Hall of Fame gave to us, being part of the Dan Dierdorf display (which runs from Dec 20th thru May 8th)
- ❖ On the 11th event of our 20th Anniversary, our community gave to us, an Endowment sub fund to support our educational projects
- ❖ On the 12th event of our 20th Anniversary, our Township Trustees gave to us, a community-based display space.

Good job everyone. Alvin you were a little flat.

**Stories to Snuggle Up By the Fire**

Hopefully that starts to get you into the Christmas spirit. I know we Wanderer's have gathered up chestnuts so we can roast them on an open fire. Jack Frost was definitely nipping at our noses while we were out and about on our chestnut hunt. So momma Rhonda is getting our favorite book ready for dad Russell to read to us. You know the one, "T'was the Night Before Christmas." Well we thought we would give you a Wanderer's version, "T'was the Stories from the Archives."

T'was from our donations from years near and far that we draw inspiration for our fireside stories. Whilst we can not tell them all here right now, we selected a couple to highlight our archives. You see each donation is important to help tell our story, but sometimes it takes a few years for the pieces to fit. The Wanderer's love to do puzzles during the wintertime, but we digrese. So harness up the reindeer, get in the sleigh, cover up with a blanket and have your hot coco ready, because we are off on another adventure.

As we decorate the Christmas tree this time of the year, there are other trees in our community that have memories too. Our journey takes us back to a conversation we had in 2017 with Jane Vignos about her families property which is now Gervasi. She shared her memories of a special tree and wonder if it still existed. We searched and inquired but no one was aware of this tree still standing on the property. Fast forward to four weeks ago, one of our friends from the Massillon Library shared photos of a tree with carvings in it on the Gervasi property. Can you guess which tree it is? Yes, it is the tree Jane talked about. This arborglphy's story now is part of our archives.

Christmas is a great time to take photos to record the special time when family is together. In this case, we were working with the Bair family, to make copies of their photos that document a long period of history in Plain Township back in 2015. One of the photo albums was homes built by Arthur Kandel, Ruby Bair's father. Ruby did not see the value of PTHS copying this portfolio of homes her dad built. Fast forward to December 2025 as we were writing an article for the Canton Preservation Society newsletter. As we dug through photos of Avondale homes, since that was what the article was about, we found a photo of a house that Arthur Kandel built in Avondale. Yes, that is right. If we would not have copied that album the history of who built that Avondale home was lost. This is also signficiant since we are in the process of working with the Avondale HOA to write the history of the neighborhood. Oh, and we know who Arthur built the house for. Thank you Ruby for sharing all those years ago.

Our final story is one that warms the heart and has the true meaning of the holiday season weaved in it. We are working with the descendants of the Vicary family to document not only the Vicary house that is on Market St near 37th St for the past couple of years but also the Vicary story. C. N. Vicary who founded the C. N Vicary clothing company had a son Arthur who settled in Erie, PA area. One of our Board members went to visit Frank Lloyd Wright's office

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.

at the Hagen History Center in Erie. She was chatting with her docent and discovered the docent was married to Arthur Vicary's grandson. As the conversation continued, her branch was not aware of the C. N. Vicary branch from Canton, who now live in Cleveland and around the country. So we are working with both branches to have a reunion to reconnect the families sometime in 2026. That is a pretty good Christmas present.

As you can see, stories can be weaved into a blanket that warms the heart. Thank you to everyone that has shared and donated without you these stories and others like them are not possible. As the book ends "Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night!"

Our Next Celebration - America 250, the 250th Anniversary of the US

We Wanderer's love to spend time reflecting, but now it is time to look forward. We have a busy 2026 ahead of us. 2026 is a unique point in history that will allow us to have the focus on history at all levels. It is our goal to reenergize people's interest in history by participating in various community activities. There are many events that are going to take place and the best way to keep track is on the Visit Canton website, <https://www.visitcanton.com>. Visit Canton will be the hub of information concerning all these events. Our website and Facebook page will also be updated with events we are participating in.

So here is a brief run down of what we have planned:

- Updating our website to reflect the America 250 project.
- Monthly rotating display at Plain Township Hall that will be based on the monthly themes Ohio 250 is promoting.
- Participating in the Stark County Local History Group's documentary on Stark County History to be released in March 2026.
- Participating in the "Past Port" project that is part of the documentary.
- Tentatively scheduled to release a publication on the history of Avondale in conjunction with the Avondale HOA.
- Currently scheduled speaking engagements – 10
- Community events scheduled – 5
- Logo redesign



More additions will be coming. There are opportunities for you to get involved. What are we looking for? No experience required first off. If you have craft skills, we can use them. Maybe you have a family member with Plain Township ties that fits into one of the themes, share their story. There are many months where we need content. Plus, this gives you the opportunity to share that person's story for the future. Stop in and check on the display to see if the display needs adjusted. Helping to research, writing the stories, setting up the display, etc. There is an opportunity for everyone.

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 2026 dues are due. If you are 90+ as of Jan 1, 2026, then your dues are free. Any dues paid from now until the end of the year (2025) will be credited as 2026 dues payment. 2026 is going to be a very busy year and you will not want to miss what is happening.

"Invest in Plain's History" by becoming a member, volunteering, making a monetary donation and donating items related to Plain Township!

Join Us in Our Mission
Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach

★ **December 13, 2025** ★
National Wreaths Across America Day

Help Plain Township Rotary honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at Henry Warstler Cemetery.

Scan the QR code to the right to make a donation online or visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OH0344P

#ServeAndSucceed

Plain Township Historical Society

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Program Date & Topic



December 2025
 Happy Holidays
 NO General Meeting Held

Ohio 250 Monthly Themes

Here are the themes for our exhibit space each month. We have indicated where we can need more information to help fill out the display. If you have any information or know someone who can help us, please contact either Cindy Guest or Phyllis Rustifo. The content must tie to Plain Township in some way.

- ❖ January – Plain Township Originals and Firsts [Ohio Originals and Firsts]
- ❖ February – Plain Township Inventions, Innovations, Business and Work **{Need help with content}**
- ❖ March – Plain Township Music and Entertainment **{Need help with content}**
- ❖ April – Plain Township Transportation, Aviation, Automobiles and More
- ❖ May – Plain Township Arts and Culture **{Need help with content}**
- ❖ June – Natural Resources
- ❖ July – Plain Township theme being developed [Ohio Statewide Picnic and Homecoming] **{Need help with ideas}**
- ❖ August – Stark County Fair and 4-H in Plain Township [Ohio State Fair]
- ❖ September – Plain Township Sports (this could be at any level pro, high school, community, business, etc) **{Need help with content}**
- ❖ October – Plain Township Agriculture and Food
- ❖ November – Plain Township Veterans and First Responders **{Need help with content}**
- ❖ December – Plain Township theme being developed [Future Ohio] **{Need help with ideas}**

• Happy Holidays •

