



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

# Plain Township Historical Society

Jan 2026

Volume 13, Issue 1

## Treasurer's Report

Account Balances:	
Checking	\$664.52
Money Market	\$10,605.87
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](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

## Jan Meeting

**No Meeting in Jan  
2026.  
Stay Warm!**



## *Happy New Year!*

Welcome to 2026. We Wanderer's are really excited about this year. We brought in the New Year the best way we gnome how, under a blanket in front of a fire snoring to a football game or two. America 250 is here and we cannot wait to share with you the adventures we will be on. The slate of free monthly programs is set and we are getting ready to welcome everyone back in February. We are working our back channels to make sure the groundhog makes the right prediction. Our slate of presenters represents a wide variety of programs engaging some of our neighbors who we have gotten to know working with on the

Stark County Documentary. Speaking of the documentary, stay tuned for information on the March 2026 launch at the Lion Theater in Massillon. Also in March, we get to hang out at one of our favorite places the "Gnome and Garden Show." We mean the "Home and Garden Show," more information on that in February. As you can already see, this is going to be a busy year for us Wanderer's. We suggest that no matter where you roam this year, check out what America 250 events may be happening that you can participate in. This is a special year, different from the Bicentennial which focused mainly on the East Coast. This celebration is nationwide, statewide and local.

## *America 250 Exhibit Launch*



We are excited to announce the launch of our first America 250 exhibit for the year. Each month we will be featuring a different theme based on the Ohio 250 theme as it applies to Plain Township. January is "Ohio Original and Firsts." Our exhibit looks at several Plain Township Firsts.

The goal is to have the new exhibit live at Plain Township Hall by the 1st of each month. Then the Stark County Library Plain Branch display which is a scaled down version of the exhibit will be updated a couple of days later. This exhibit is self guided and we will continue to add features over the course of the year. We are also video taping the exhibit which we will then have accessible on our website. Our goal is to make this exhibit accessible to those who may not live in the area or be able to visit it. Stay tuned for when the videos are available.

For those of you that may not be aware, we have a partnership with the Stark County District Library Plain Branch for display space and they also post our monthly meeting flyer. We have an

**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/)

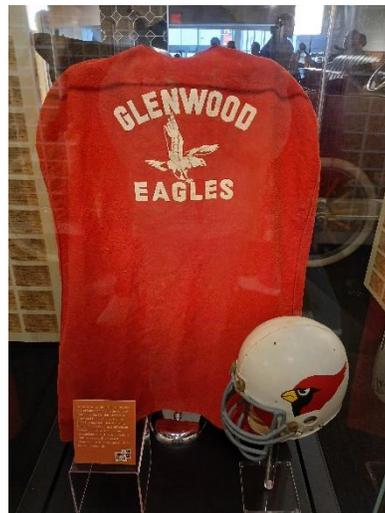
18"x18"x18" locked acrylic cube for display use. The display is located in the area where you pick up reserved books.

**Where to Find Information About America 250 Events**

There are several sources of information available to discover what is happening with America 250. If you are traveling out of Ohio, each state has its own website, you will need to google each to find the website with event listings. As for our area:

- ❖ **America 250** is the nationwide coordinator of events. <https://america250.org/> is the website that contains a lot of information. There are links to the various states as well.
- ❖ **Ohio 250** is the state wide coordinator of events. <https://america250-ohio.org/> from here you can access a calendar of events and find out about various programs that are being offered: Ohio Goes to the Movies, Ohio Air & Space Trail, Murals Across Ohio, etc.
- ❖ **Stark County** - Visit Canton is the local coordinator of events. <https://www.visitcanton.com/plan-a-trip/trip-ideas/american-heritage/> from here can access what is going on in Stark County.
- ❖ Local communities, museums, and history groups may also have their own website and list of events.

There are a lot of opportunities this year to explore our history.

**Pro Football Hall of Fame Exhibit**

Currently, the HOF has the "Stark County Proud!" exhibit opened. This is the exhibit we loaned Glenwood High School items for to support the Dan Dierdorf display. Two of our Board Members were at the opening of the exhibit and it was a wonderful time. We talked to the archivists there and also talked with Mark Murphy who is a GlenOak High School graduate and former Green Bay Packers player.

The exhibit focuses on the five inductees from Stark County: Dan Dierdorf, Alan Page, Paul Brown, Len Dawson and Marion Motley and their journey from Stark County to professional football to back "home." One of the other aspects celebrated in the exhibit is Stark County's commitment to bringing the Hall of Fame to Canton Ohio. The HOF transferred the original donation

cards into wallpaper that adorns the walls and columns. These cards represent those people and business' back in 1962 that believed in the dream of a museum in Canton by raising \$400,000. The wallpaper is a who's who of Canton at the time.

From now until Feb 28th, Stark County residents get ½ price admission. The exhibit will run until May 2026 when they get ready to switch over to the new inductee class. Plan a day at the hall and see if you can find anyone you know on the wall.

**This and That**

**Avondale Book** – Work continues on interviewing residents of the Avondale neighborhood, as well as, research into background of the area. This book has a target release date of Jun

## **Publications available for purchase**

- Images of America Canton Ohio 1998 Canton Preservation Society - \$15.00 each
- 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

## **Download from our website or Facebook page for free**

- Exploring Plain Township – Piecing the Puzzle Together – North Canton

## **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.

2026. We are still looking for photographs, information on the houses, ads and other items that will help us to tell the story. Avondale is a story that is not written down and this is our opportunity to capture their one hundred year history. Also, “Avondale Architecture” will be the keynote address at the Canton Preservation Society’s Annual dinner in May, more information on that later. If you have any information on Avondale, please contact Cindy Guest.

**“Images of America Canton Ohio”** – This publication is now available through PTHS. We are assisting our friends at the Canton Preservation Society with reducing their inventory of this book. Published in 1998, it is a pictorial view of Canton and is \$15 each. These books will be available at our free monthly meetings, Plain Township Hall or by emailing us. See last page of the newsletter for a picture of the cover.

**Your Help Needed** – On the last page of the newsletter is our Ohio 250 Monthly Themes list. Each month features a different topic which we then tie to Plain Township. We are looking for your input into people, places, and events that might fit those categories. If you have an idea of someone/something that fits, please let us know. We are looking to tell the stories of people and places that our community may not realize exist.

**Authors of Plain Township** – We will be doing a program in partnership with the Stark County Library Plain Branch focusing on Authors of Plain Township in July. If you know of someone that has a tie to Plain Township and has written/published a book, music score, etc. please let Cindy Guest know. Our goal is to represent Plain Township from the early writers in the 1800s through the present. We are excited already at the list we have curated. The authors do not still have to live in Plain Township, as long as they lived, went to school or worked in Plain, that qualifies.

**Fire Department** – Congratulations to the new Plain Township Fire Chief Howard Hershberger. Howard will be the fifth fire chief in the history of the department. We look forward to working with the new chief once he gets settled.

**Wreaths Across America** – Once again the Wreaths Across America event held in December was a success. Even though it was a cold day, there was a great turnout of volunteers to put wreaths on the veterans’ graves. PTHS continues to work with the Plain Township Rotary, Plain Township Fire Department and Warstler Cemetery Association to document and mark the graves of veterans. Our goal as part of the America 250 event is to have all identified veterans’ graves marked for the December 2026 event. Thank you to everyone who donated towards the wreaths.

**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!**

### Endowment Giving

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Endowment Fund: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Community/Educational 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 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 19<sup>th</sup> 2026 – Happy New Year – NO free monthly meeting**

**Feb 16<sup>th</sup> – Women in the Game (Baseball) – Presented by Dr. Leslie Heaphy, Assoc History Professor KSU Stark Campus**

**Mar 14<sup>th</sup> – Home and Garden Show**

**Mar 16<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting – Alliance Boom Times 1910s – Presented by Karen Perone, Alliance Historical Society**

**Apr 16<sup>th</sup> – Stark County District Library Main Branch 6 pm – PTHS presenting Canalway of Dreams – RSVP on Library website**

#### Archives Donations

➤ None

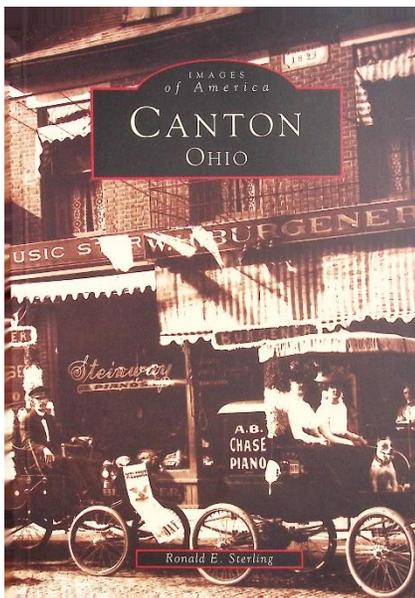
#### Endowment Donations

➤ None





Pro Football HOF Exhibit Now Open



Publication Now Available from PTHS \$15 each



**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] - Launched
- ❖ 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 Parks [Ohio Statewide Picnic and Homecoming] [Need help with content]
- ❖ 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]



**Plain Township Historical Society**

Mark Your Calendars  
Upcoming Program Date & Topic



January 2026  
NO General Meeting Held



**Plain Township Historical Society**

Mark Your Calendars  
Upcoming Program Date & Topic



Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
**Women in the Game**  
Come and learn about the history of women on the diamond—as players, coaches and umpires. The story begins in the 1860s and continues to the present day with the new Women's Professional Baseball League starting in 2026.  
Speaker: Dr. Leslie Heaphy KSU Stark History Professor

Come and Join us for a free meeting.  
7-9 PM at the Plain Township Hall 2600 Easton St NE

