



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

Plain Township Historical Society

Apr 2026

Volume 13, Issue 4



Treasurer's Report

Account Balances:	
Checking	\$2,098.03
Money Market	\$8,526.03
Endowment	\$63,208.36

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

Current Officers

President: Cindy Guest
330-224-2660
cjguest@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
Jim Zurbuch

Apr 20th Meeting
Erma Bombeck
Presented by Lori
Noebe

Rain Drops Keep Falling on My Head



My turn, Raymond Wanderer here. It is a little damp here around the Gnome home, but that just means beautiful flowers are in bloom. Wow did March roar forward with the Home and Garden Show and the premiere of the Stark County Historical Pastport video. We cannot wait until our segments are released. Do not forget that at our July meeting, we will be showing our video shorts plus maybe a couple of others from our friends. With all this rain, the grass really is greener over the septic tank. Plan on attending our April meeting where "Erma Bombeck" will entertain us for the evening. She is an Ohioan by the way. Another month, another new display at Plain Township Hall. This month's theme is transportation. Plain Twp was the hub of things that moved people to new heights. So giddy on up and check out the display. Hope to see you at our next free community meeting. Raymond and family out mushroom hunting. Until next month, here is to your Gnome home staying warm and dry.

Welcome to Our New Board Member

The Board of Directors welcomes Jimmy Zurbuch to the Board. He is a Junior at GlenOak High School in the International Baccalaurete program and has been a PTHS member since he was in 2nd Grade. We still remember the day we met him at WinterFest at Diamond Park. Jimmy was a part of the writing team for a couple of our publications and currently is part of our Exhibit team. He will be designing two exhibits as part of the America 250 celebration: July and December. July will feature Plain Township parks. So if you have any information or something to share about our parks, please let either Cindy Guest or Phyllis Rustifo know. We are excited to see what he comes up with.

As Directors, we are looking for ways to engage a younger audience. With the addition of Jimmy, we are taking a step in that direction. Through his insights and experiences, the Board hopes to gain an understanding and craft a vision for engaging a younger audience as we go forward.

America 250 April Edition



This month we are featuring "Transportation with Ties to Plain Township" to coincide with the Ohio 250 Theme of "Ohio Moves: Transportation."

One of our goals with each of these exhibits is to expand our archives and knowledge about our township. This exhibit took off on that one. We learned so much about the air fields in our township that we will be developing a future presentation called "Taking Off in Plain Twp." We will explore the air fields and people that played important roles in aviation history based out of Plain Township. The role that the McKinley Airport and Martin Field played during the war years is very interesting. These were the days before the Akron-Canton airport.

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.

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.

- 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/

Come check out the exhibit at Plain Township Hall 2600 Easton St NE. We are featuring Trains, Planes, Automobiles, Interurbans, and Stagecoaches. The exhibit will run through Apr 30th 2026.

Now Available Stark County Historical Pastport

The Pastport (not a misspelling) is in collaboration with the documentary. Stop and visit one of the locations in the Pastport and get your Pastport stamped. Collect ten Stamps (Mascot) stamps and you can stop by VisitCanton to pickup a Stark County Historical Pastport ballcap. The Pastport gives you instructions on how, when and where to collect other stamps. Pastports are available



at Visit Canton and participating organizations. Come and join us on this adventure. Great for the summer. Take your kids or grandkids on a tour of Stark County historical locations. Pair this tour up with Stark Stories History Trail from Visit Canton where you can get a T-Shirt. <https://www.visitcanton.com/deals/stark-stories-history-trail/>. Fun adventures for the family. We will have Pastports available at our meetings.

As part of the fundraising efforts for the documentaries, there will be a “Month of May Basket Raffle.” Each day a different raffle basket will be available. The raffle runs from May 1st through May 31st. Tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25. A name is pulled at random each day to see who wins the basket. PTHS is sponsoring two baskets which are a concert and dinner at the Plain Township Amphitheatre. See Cindy Guest to register for the basket raffle. All funds from this fundraiser will go towards funding season 2 of the Stark County Historical Pastport Documentaries.

Now Available Through PTHS – Richard Haldi Books

PTHS is excited to partner with Richard Haldi to make several of his previously published works available for purchase. We will make them available at our free community meetings and other community events. The books are \$20 each for a PTHS member and \$25 each for a non-PTHS member.

Currently Available:

- *Canton’s Lost McKinley Home* – A Stark County Scrapbook
- *From Reapers to Sweepers Vol 1 Reapers* – A Stark County Scrapbook
- *From Reapers to Sweepers Vol 2 Watches* – A Stark County Scrapbook

This and That

There is a lot on our calendar this year so keep checking the newsletter, website and facebook page for current information.

Stark County District Library Main Branch – PTHS will be presenting “Canalway of Dreams” program on Thursday April 16th at 6 pm. This program will explore the impact of the Ohio and Erie Canal on Stark County and making Ohio the “Gateway to the West.” This is fitting for April since the America 250 theme is transportation. The Ohio and Erie Canal played a pivotal role in bringing people and goods to our area. Free event. Register on the library’s website.

Publications Available for Purchase

- Canton's Lost McKinley Home by Richard Haldi - \$20 each PTHS member
- From Reapers to Sweepers Vol 1 Reapers by Richard Haldi - \$20 each PTHS member
- From Reapers to Sweepers Vol 2 Watches by Richard Haldi - \$20 each PTHS member
- 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 Drive-In Theater

MAPS Museum– We will be participating in the MAPS Museum’s Cub Scout/Girl Scout “Go See It” Day on Saturday Apr 18th during regular museum hours. Our location will be near the Martin Flyer where we will also display more information on William and Almina Martin. PTHS will also be featuring information from our current exhibit on air fields called “Taking Off in Plain Township.” This will be a teaser for our future program on the subject. We are grateful for this opportunity to collaborate with our friends at the MAPS Museum. Other historical societies will be there too sharing their aviation story. Our display will be extended to be part of MAPS pancake breakfast on Sunday Apr 19th. See MAPS website for additional information and fees.

Jackson Township Historical Society – PTHS will be presenting “Canalway of Dreams” program on Tuesday April 21st at 6 pm at the Jackson Township One Room School. This program will explore the impact of the Ohio and Erie Canal had on Jackson Township. There is a fee for this event (see Jackson Township Historical Society’s website for more information.)

Stark County Local History and Genealogy Fair – Free event at the Massillon Museum from 11:00 to 3:00. Come and go as you please. PTHS will have a display setup at this event. We are always excited to be part of this event especially since we are collaborating with the Massillon Library on their Massillon 200th project of building an Ancestry.com database of Massillon families and how they may or may not tie together. Come out, shake your family tree and see what falls out. Great chance to network.

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.

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. 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

In Partnership with ...



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 2026 EVENT SCHEDULE

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

General meetings are 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 at the Plain Township Hall. Check our website www.preservingplaintwp.org, Facebook and newsletter for a current schedule.

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

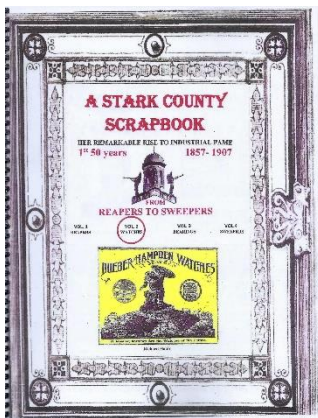
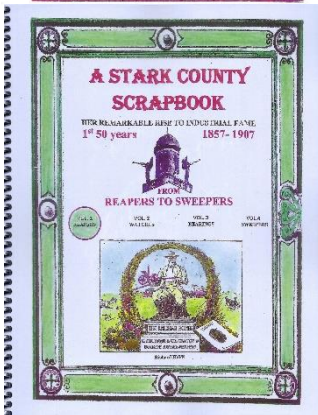
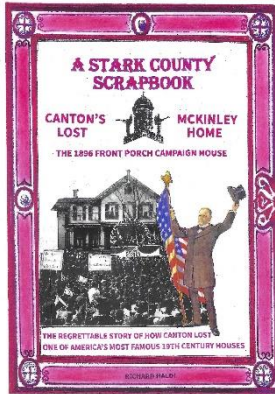
Apr 18th – MAPS Museum Cub Scout/Girl Scout “Go See It” Day – Museum Hours – RSVP on MAPS Website – PTHS will have a display

Apr 20th – PTHS Free Monthly Community Meeting – Erma Bombeck portrayed by Lori Noebi

Apr 21st – Jackson Twp Historical Society – Presenting Canalway of Dreams – 6:00 pm at JTHS One Room School

Apr 25th – Stark County Local History and Genealogy Fair at Massillon Museum 11:00 to 3:00 Free and Open to the Public





Scrapbook Series by Richard Haldi. Now Available Through PTHS - \$20 for PTHS members; \$25 for non-members

Ohio 250 Monthly Themes

Here are the themes for our exhibit space each month. We are looking for your input into people, places and events that might fit those categories. 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] - **Closed**
- ❖ February – Plain Township Inventions, Innovations, Business and Work - **Closed**
- ❖ March – Plain Township Music and Entertainment - **Closed**
- ❖ April – Plain Township Transportation, Aviation, Automobiles and More - **Launched**
- ❖ May – Plain Township Arts and Culture
- ❖ June – Natural Resources
- ❖ July – Plain Township Parks [Ohio Statewide Picnic and Homecoming]
- ❖ 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)
- ❖ October – Plain Township Agriculture and Food
- ❖ November – Plain Township Veterans and First Responders
- ❖ December – Plain Township theme being developed [Future Ohio]

- Archives Donations**
- None
- Endowment Donations**
- None
- In Memory of**
- Barbara Humbert
- Don Meyers – Lake Township Historical Society



Plain Township Historical Society

Mark Your Calendars
Upcoming Program Date & Topic



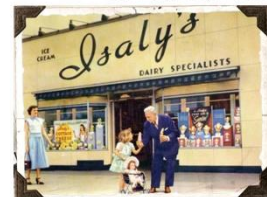
Apr 20th, 2026
Erma Bombeck
An evening with Erma Bombeck a native Ohioan as portrayed by Lori Noebe.
Speaker: Lori Noebe

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



May 18th, 2026
Islay's Dairy
Who can forget Islay's chipped chopped ham and sauce? Come and hear the story of Islay's Dairy from a descendant of the founders.
Speaker: Byron Eichorn

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



A Piece of the Puzzle

Florence Lucretia Smith Suffecool (1888—1970)

Florence was born to Alfred Robert Smith (1863-1919) and Mary Elizabeth Little (1864-1943) in Canton, Ohio. She was the second oldest of six children: Hazel (1886-1887), Allen William (1891-1948), Samuel Oliver (1894-1954), Angeline (1899-1980) and Elizabeth M. (1904-1998). Florence married William Winfield Suffecool (1863-1945) in 1914. They had two children: Jayne Wilma (1915-2003) and Myles Winfield (1918-1969.) She had many different jobs in her lifetime: nanny to the Deuble children, worked at Dueber Hampden Watch Company, Stark County Infirmary, the Fairmount Children's home in Alliance, worked at the Hoover Company during World War II, helped raise Pomeranians in Colorado, and was a dog sitter for two large boxers in Canton with her picture in the Repository. She always had busy hands. She made fine lace to decorate pillow slips, doilies and clothing. Several times a year she made quilts. The large quilting frame filled her bedroom. She had to crawl under it to get to her bed! So devoted was Florence to not waste anything, she even made mattress pads for all the beds with her tiny one-inch square scraps!



Top: Embroidered Crib Quilt 1940s
Right: Texas Star Quilt 1950s



Information Courtesy of Lynda Theriault



PLAIN
TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY