



PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 13, Issue 6
June 2026

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

Treasurer's Report

Account Balances:
Checking \$1,592.70
Money Market \$7,296.23
Endowment \$65,829.75

We are a 501c3.
Contributions 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

Picnic Time



The Wanderer's here (Russell, Rhonda, Raymond and Roman), we thought it was appropriate to drop in as a family this month to slide into summer. May is behind us and we are starting to dry out. We spent time at the Stark County Library North Branch talking about Gertrude Oberlin Roberts and her hooked rugs; and Charles Clewell and his pottery finishing technique. New friends were made and a couple of Passport stamped. Next, we gathered with our friends from Canton Preservation Society at their Annual meeting and talked about the Architecture of the Avondale allotment. It was a great turnout and a spring board for the upcoming release (TBD) of the publication on Avondale's history.

Our annual covered dish picnic is coming up in June. Bring your favorite covered dish to share. We will be providing hot dogs, buns, condiments, paper products, water, and ice cream sundae bar. The sundae bar is being added this year as a treat to celebrate America 250. So, come to "our family reunion" to swap stories and eats. The location is Diamond Park inside at the community room. Dinner is at 6:00 pm and doors open at 5:00 pm. Put on your best red, white and blue outfit and come out to celebrate. This is a rain or shine event since we can be inside. See flyers for more directions and information.

DAR and Revolutionary War Soldiers



PTHS was recently awarded the award for Excellence in Historic Preservation by the Canton Chapter. We are excited to be recognized by this organization. Recognized on that day as well was the Perry History Club, Richard Haldi and Cindy Guest.

As part of the Ohio America 250 celebration, there is a project to document all the Ohio Revolutionary War veterans' graves. PTHS submitted the ones buried in Warstler Cemetery, St. Jacob's Lutheran Cemetery and the North Canton Cemetery. The project was originally to end on Memorial Day of 2026 but has been extended.

What made this extra special is that the Skelley family shared information on their ancestor, John Schneider, who fought in the Revolutionary War. He was not included in the original list. John is buried in Warstler Cemetery, which means Warstler has two Revolutionary War veterans. His grave will be marked so that during Wreaths Across America, he will receive a wreath. His gravestone is broken off, but thanks to his descendants we know where the gravestone was located.

June 15th Meeting

Annual Potluck Picnic -Diamond Park – 5-8 pm

Yearbook Want List

Middlebranch HS: 1955
 GlenOak HS: 1981, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005 to present
 Elementary, Intermediate and Junior High School

School Newspaper Want List

GlenOak, Oakwood, Glenwood, Middlebranch, Underground, Elementary, Junior High, etc.

Donations

To donate or share items, 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.

Newsletter Articles

Due the by the first Tuesday of the month (aka Board Meeting.) Can be emailed to: preservingplaintwp@gmail.com.

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/

Bibles

Many do not know that PTHS has a diverse bible collection spanning from the 1700s to modern times. We recently received another bible donation with a connection to a founding Plain Township family. The bible donated by a family member belonged to Arthur Daniel Essig (1869-1926) and Eldora Smith (1875-1932). Arthur was Solomon Essig's son and Simon Essig's (founding Plain Township family) great grandson. It is exciting to add this 1884 bible to our collection.

**America 250 June Edition**

This month we are featuring "Natural Resources of Plain Township" to coincide with the Ohio 250 Theme of "Ohio Outdoors: Exploring Ohio's Natural Resources."

In this exhibit we explore several of the 120 native tree species you may not be aware that grew in our area. Diamond Portland Cement was built near high quality shale and limestone to produce at one time "the best cement west of the Allegheny mountains." Sand and gravel glacier deposits led to area gravel mines then creating recreational lakes. Or how about a natural amphitheater bringing inspiration for one man that led to the design of the Lake Chautauqua amphitheater design. Next explore, the native Indians and Ohio flint and finally explore where our water supply comes from. All this right in our community.

Come check out the exhibit at Plain Township Hall 2600 Easton St NE. We are featuring trees, Diamond Portland Cement, water, Indians, flint, water, and a natural amphitheater. The exhibit will run through Jun 30th 2026.

Are You A Trivia Buff?

If so, come and join us for a free night of trivia at Codex Brewing on Whipple Ave NW. Local historical societies and museums will be submitting trivia questions for round 2 of the evening. Also, we will be promoting the docu-series videos as well as the local museums and historical societies. Great evening to come out and have some fun.

The event is Tuesday July 7th at 6:30 pm. Codex Brewing 6305 Whipple Ave NW (near Aultman North.)

TUESDAY TRIVIA NIGHT
AMERICA'S 250 OHIO!
 07/07/26 @ 6:30pm ★ ★ ★ 6305 Whipple Ave
 You are invited to join us at the brewery for a very specially themed trivia night. Celebrate Ohio's unique part America's 250th Anniversary.
 Codex Brewing is collaborating with some Stark County Historical Societies and more to bring you a night that will be all about knowing your local history!
 ★ ★ ★
 Learn more and Follow on Socials:
 Codex Brewing | Trivia Tuesdays with Joel

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

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

America 250 Video and Website Links

Plain Township’s second episode is now available for viewing. Every two weeks a new episode drops. Listed below are the links you can use to catch the latest and greatest releases (also available on Instagram and Tik Tok.) The response is exceeding our expectations for only being available since March. Keep viewing the episodes and learn about our area’s history.

The Facebook link for the Stark County Local History group is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1230527655386394>

The Facebook link for the Stark County Historical Pastport is:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61586194382821>

The YouTube link for the Stark County Historical Pastport docuseries is:

<https://www.youtube.com/@SCHPastport>

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/or 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.

Archives Donations

- Barb Hickman – Solomon Essig Bible

Endowment Donations

- Anonymous

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: Plain Township Hall, 2600 Easton St NE, Canton OH unless otherwise noted. Meetings are free and open to the public. There is a brief meeting, followed by refreshments and then a historical topic presentation. **Board of Directors meetings:** Plain Township Hall. Check our website www.preservingplaintwp.org, Facebook and newsletter for current schedule.

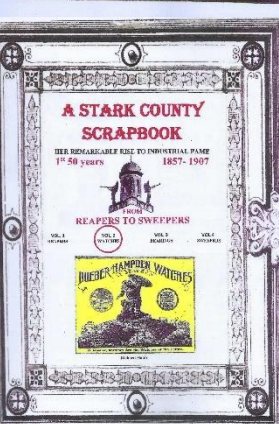
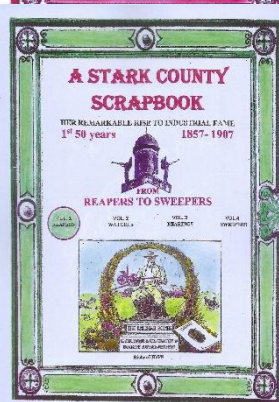
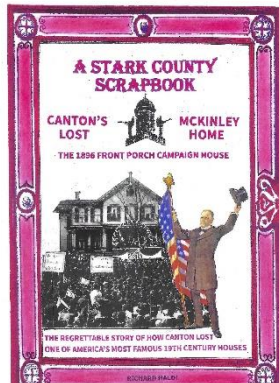
Jun 15th – Annual Picnic Covered Dish – **Location and Time Change:** Diamond Park, doors open 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm. See flyer.

Jul 21st – Stark County District Library Plain Branch 6 pm – PTHS presenting “Authors of Plain Twp” – Free RSVP on Library website

Aug 17th – PTHS Free Monthly Community Meeting – Early History of Car Companies presented by Howard Thompson

Sep 3rd – Jackson Twp Historical Society 11 am – PTHS presenting “Tam O’Shanter Golf Course History”





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



VectorStock

VectorStock.com/1531735

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 – Closed~~
- ❖ ~~May – Plain Township Arts and Culture – Closed~~
- ❖ **June – Natural Resources - Launched**
- ❖ 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 Education [Future Ohio]



Plain Township Historical Society

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Program Date & Topic

Jun 15th, 2026

9th Annual Picnic

Bring a Covered Dish

Where: Diamond Park

Time: 5-8pm, Dinner at 6pm



*** Same location this year. Diamond Park is located at 2782 Diamond St NE. This is at the corner of Middlebranch Ave NE and Diamond St NE. We will be inside where the indoor soccer field is located, in the Community Room. There is access to inside and outside seating.

- ↳ Bottled Water, Hand Sanitizer, Silverware, Plates, Napkins and Cups provided.
- ↳ Hot dogs, buns and condiments provided.
- ↳ Time to Chat, Get Up and Enjoy an Evening Together
- ↳ This event will be rain or shine.
- ↳ We hope you will be able to come and join us.



Plain Township Historical Society Meeting

What: 9th Annual Covered Dish Picnic

When: Monday June 15th, 2026

Where: Diamond Park ***

Time: 5-8 pm, Dinner at 6 pm

Same Location This Year

We will be using the Community Room at Diamond Park which is located at the corner of Middlebranch Ave NE and Diamond St NE.

Diamond Park is located at 2782 Diamond St NE.





A Piece of the Puzzle



Leander Albert Lee Voltz (1887-1957)

Leander was born to Henry C Voltz (1855-1924) and Emilie Amelia Henriette Schmidt (1856-1938) in Winesburg, Holmes County, Ohio. He was the oldest son of eight children: Ellen M (1883-1937), Hilda (1885-1966), Cora Martha (1891-1970), Werta Mabel (1893-1979), Henry Charles (1894-1978), Orien Arthur (1898-1972), and Irwin Adrian (1900-1975). By 1910, Leander and several family members moved to Canton. Leander married Maggie Elizabeth Baughman (1891-1982) in 1916 and they had five children: Margaret A. (1918-2016), Norman Arthur (1918-2005), Harold Jarvis (1920-1991), Donald Leroy (1922-1992), and Kenneth Ray (1925-2007).

Like many people during that time, Leander held a variety of jobs over his lifetime. In 1908, he took his teacher's examination test and was one of the 51 out of 153 applicants that passed. After that he was a professor of common branches at the Canton-Actual Business College. Leander then was a teacher in North Canton and Middlebranch school districts which during that time he lived in Plain Township. His stint at Middlebranch One Room School was in 1910-1911. He then followed his teaching career with a stint in the US Army enlisting in 1911. Leander served doing garrison duties at Fort William McKinley, Manila, Philippines during the Moro Rebellion (1899-1913). His official honorable discharge was in 1914. Leander continued his teaching when he returned from serving and became an instructor in the Civilian's Military Training School. After that, he went to work in the grinding department at Hercules Motors Corp. from which he retired in 1953.

When he married Maggie Baughman in 1916, they settled in Louisville on a farm. Leander became involved in the Stark County Milk Producers' Association. In 1954, he became a farm census enumerator for the eastern part of Stark County. Enumerators were responsible for locating and interviewing farm operators to obtain accurate records of all farming operations, facilities, and equipment. Leander was a hard-working man serving his family, church and community in different rolls.

Information Courtesy of
Voltz Family