



## PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 13, Issue 7  
July 2026

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

### Treasurer's Report

#### Account Balances:

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Checking     | \$8,142.74  |
| Money Market | \$7,246.29  |
| Endowment    | \$65,829.76 |

We are a 501c3.

Contributions are tax deductible.

### Current Officers

President: Cindy Guest  
330-224-2660  
[cjguest@att.net](mailto:cjguest@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  
Jim Zurbuch

### July 20th Meeting

*America 250 - A  
Selection of  
Docuseries  
Videos*

### A Time to Celebrate



The Wanderer's here (Russell, Rhonda, Raymond and Roman), what a great time we at the annual picnic. The weather was great, hot dogs grilled to perfection, great covered dish food, and how about those awesome ice cream sundaes. We overheard a discussion about next year having rootbeer floats. Now that sounds like a tasty treat we can "root" for. It seems we did not get enough ice cream at our picnic that we went and joined our friends in the Avondale neighborhood for their Annual Ice Cream Social. This year they held it at Avondale Elementary school. The bouncy house was bouncing. The ice cream was flowing from Pav's. Our friends from PTFD Station #3 (Avondale) and the Sheriff were there with their "touch a truck" event. Rocks were not thrown just painted. Who knew there were that many little artists in Avondale. We got to promote the upcoming Avondale book release and talk to more people who shared their stories. We vote they have next year's ice cream social in the same place.

Hopefully during the Fourth of July this year, you were able to take part in some of the special events happening around the America 250 theme. The fireworks seemed bigger and brighter this year. I know from our vantage point for the evening; we could see numerous fireworks displays dance across the horizon. Let us keep celebrating this once in a lifetime opportunity.

### Authors of Plain Township

On Tuesday, July 21st 6 pm at the Stark County Library Plain Branch (located in GlenOak High School,) PTHS will be presenting a program on "Exploring Authors with Ties to Plain Township." This is in conjunction with the library's celebration of local authors in July. The library currently has a display featuring some of the authors in our talk and other authors from Stark County. The presentation will be given by Cindy Guest.

As we looked over the themes for America 250, we noticed a void in recognizing authors. Since these are the people that wrote out our history in some fashion (fiction or non-fiction), this was an opportunity to recognize their contributions. PTHS wants to thank Sue Henry and Eric Hendrickson for their assistance with gathering names and vetting various books. There is no way we can cover all the authors from our township, but we have assembled a good cross section presenting the time period from the 1800s to current. Topics as well are diverse. Not only fiction and non-fiction, but also history, poetry, medical, educational, children's and more. We are excited to partner with the library on this project and document these authors and their contributions.

You can RSVP on the library's website

<https://starklibrary.bibliocommons.com/events/69bc24b7e2a2952aed0949ce>. Hope to see you there.

**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](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.

**Newsletter Articles**

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

**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/)

**Stark Parks Trail Signage**

As part of the America 250 event, Stark Parks installed seven new historical informational signs around Stark County, PTHS collaborated with Stark Parks along with the Massillon Museum, Alliance Historical Society, Canal Fulton Heritage Society and local historians to provide information and photos for these signs. The last of the five signs were installed just in time for July 4th. This project started with the installation of two signs at Tam O'Shanter Park during the grand opening. Now, there is a new sign at Lock 4 Park in Canal Fulton near the south end of the lock; Iron Horse trail in Alliance near the trailhead off of Cenfield Rd; Sippo Lake behind the Exploration Gateway Center by the lake; Brumbaugh Cemetery at Quail Hollow Park on the mountain bike trailhead which leads to the cemetery; and Fry Family Park near the visitor center. If you get a chance, "go take a hike" and see these signs.

**America 250 July Edition**

This month we are featuring "Stark Park Trails and Parks in Plain Township" to coincide with the Ohio 250 Theme of "Ohio Statewide Picnic and Homecoming." We added two new features to the exhibit: QR Code and Exhibit Banner. The QR Code can be scanned to find out more information about what is in the exhibit. This feature will allow us to expand the sharing of our community's history.

Jim Zurbuch over saw the development of this exhibit. He is our newest Board Member and is part of the Exhibit Display team. The focus in the exhibit is on three of Plain Township Parks: Al Leno Park (formerly Alpine Park), Veterans Park (formerly Schneider Park), and Diamond Community Park. Also, highlighted are four Stark Park Trails in Plain Township: Middle Branch Trail, Hoover Trail, West Branch Trail, and Pioneer Trail. Plain Township also has the Legacy Park, John A. Sabo Complex and the newest park at the corner of Marquardt and Applegrove. Other parks reside within the bounds of Historic Plain Township that are maintained by either the City of Canton or the City of North Canton. Some of the Stark Park trails provide connections between these parks as well. All this right in our community.



Come check out the exhibit at Plain Township Hall 2600 Easton St NE. Get inspired to walk through history or just celebrate family at one of the parks. Stark Park trail maps are available in the rack next to the exhibit. The exhibit will run through Jul 31st 2026.

**Are You a Trivia Buff?**

If so, I hope you came out and joined us on Tuesday July 7th for Trivia Night at Codex Brewing. That evening's trivia questions were based on the members of the Stark County Local History Group who are working to bring the community the Docuseries on local history. It was a fun filled evening. There were even two teams from the SCLHG: the Knownothings and LNHS. Well, the results were the Knownothings won round 1 and came in second place for round 2 and were the overall winners of the night. They had stiff competition from the Mike&Mike's. We passed out Pastports and flyers on the various individual organizations that attended that night. What was very

### 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

exciting is that PTHS had someone come up to us and say how much they enjoyed our videos. That was worth the whole evening. We are working very hard to share the history of our community along with our history friends to engage the next generation in taking an interest in history. Trivia nights are a fun way to share and get people excited. Thank you to Codex Brewing 6305 Whipple Ave NW for making this night possible.

### Videos and Website Links

Docuseries videos are being added every two weeks. Check out the links below to stay up on which historical aspect of our community is highlighted next (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](http://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):

☐ Student \$5.00 ☐ Patron \$50.00☐ Individual 10.00 ☐ Organization 100.00☐ Family 20.00 Life Time Dues:☐ Non-Profit 35.00 ☐ Individual 250.00☐ 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

- Ed Harter – Harter History (Genealogy)

## Endowment Donations

- Grant Project



## 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](http://www.preservingplaintwp.org), Facebook and newsletter for current schedule.

**Jul 20th** – PTH Free Monthly Community Meeting - America 250 Docuseries Videos

**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 2nd** – Massillon Library 1 pm – PTHS presenting “Ohio and Erie Canals Impact on Stark County”

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



## 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 – **Closed**
- ❖ July – Plain Township Parks [Ohio Statewide Picnic and Homecoming] – **Launched**
- ❖ 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

Jul 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026



Stark County

**America 250 Documentary**  
Here is an opportunity to view segments of the documentary assembled by local Stark County Historical Societies and Museums in celebration of America 250.  
Speaker: 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

  

### At the Stark County District Library Plain Branch

  

Plain Township Historical Society - Cindy Guest, Present and Archivist Presenting

  

Plain Township Authors - Explore several authors with ties to Plain Township.

  

On Jul 21st at 6:00 pm

  

1803 Schneider St NE Canton OH  
 RSVP on Their Website [www.starklibrary.org/](https://www.starklibrary.org/)



## Plain Township Historical Society

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Program Date & Topic

Aug 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
**Early History of Car Companies**  
Speaker: Howard Thompson



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

**Harvey H. Miller  
(1856-1935)**

Harvey was born to David Deppen Miller (1818-1894) and Rebecca Morris (1821-1873) in New Franklin, Stark County Ohio (New Franklin is now part of Summit County.) He was the fifth of six children: Catherine (1845-), Morris (1846-1918), Charlotte (1848-1934), Frank Whitby (1853-1925) and Edwin (1861-1861). Harvey married Carolien E. Siegenthaler (1858-1927) on Sept 27, 1881 in Wooster, Ohio. They had one child Morris Edward (1882-1949.)

Next time you eat ice cream, remember Harvey H. Miller. He was born in New Franklin when it was still part of Plain Township and Stark County. Early in his life he moved with his family to Wooster where his father was in the milling business. Soon he and his father became interested in the hardware business and started D. D. Miller Hardware. Harvey attended the Eastman Business College in New York and after graduation return to Wooster and the hardware business. Early in 1881 he came to Canton with Johnston Sherrick and open Sherrick and Miller hardware which was sold and became Canton Hardware Co. Harvey never forgot his life on the farm and from that found inspiration to develop and perfect a hay carrier and accessories for placing hay in barns from wagons. From this invention, Ney Manufacturing began. Just as the farm never left Harvey neither did the hardware business which he returned to in 1888. With his brother Frank, they purchased the W. A. Strayer Hardware Store and changed the name to Miller Hardware Company. A partnership between Harvey, Frank and Morris (brothers) created The Canton China and Crockery Company and The Miller Furniture Company. In 1899, he purchased the John Graber farm of 158 acres located in Section 36 Northeast Quarter of Plain Township (Lesh St northern boundary, Richmond Ave western boundary) where he developed the Miller pasteurizer for processing milk (1900). This equipment was sold under the Miller Pasteurizing Machine Co which became H. H. Miller Industries Co. in 1918. Harvey continued to invent and patent his ideas. He is credited with introducing the first practical brine ice cream freezer. Improvements on the original freezer, both in design and construction, played an important part in the revolutionary changes and rapid expansion that took place in the industry between 1905 and 1915. Harvey was very involved in the community and dairy related organizations. He was an original member of the Association of Ice Cream Supply men in 1919 (succeed by Dairy and Ice Cream Machinery and Supplies Association); Canton Trotting Club; Canton's Business Men's Association; Canton Board of Education; Stark County Horticultural Society; an original incorporator of The Canton Symphony Orchestra Company; incorporator of The Canton Heat, Light and Power Co. and others

until his death. So, the next time you visit one of our local ice cream establishments, think of Harvey H. Miller and his efforts to streamline the ice cream making process.

