



PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 13, Issue 9
August 2026

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

Treasurer's Report

Account Balances:

Checking	\$3,029.41
Money Market	\$7,406.41
Endowment	\$75,638.23

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

Sep 21st Meeting

*Joshua Twing
Brooks,
Entrepreneur –
Presented by Salem
Historical Society*

Falling Into September

Kids are back in school and football is kicking off, and PTHS is winding down for another year of sharing our community's history. August was quiet, but the first week of September had us raking our archives to present programs and write articles. We want to thank the Massillon Library for asking us to present our program on "How the Canals Changed Stark County." The next day, Jackson Township Historical Society hosted us at the "Lunch and Learn" event where we shared the history of Tam O'Shanter golf course. Oh, we can not forget about the generosity of Howard and Teri Thompson at our August Free Community Meeting, where they made available antique car rides. The rides and Howard's program on "Early Car Company History" were a joyous trip around the block.

We still do have one event on the calendar for September and that is the 720 Side Street Market at Oakwood Square on Saturday Sep 12th from 10-3 pm. Stop by and say hi. This is an opportunity to get your Stark County Pastport stamped for Plain Township Historical Society. Our display will feature a recap of the America 250 Exhibits that were on display at the Plain Township Hall. Also, we will include a sneak peak at the last three exhibits for the year.

Our September Free Monthly Community meeting will feature our friends from the Salem Historical Society. They will be sharing the story of entrepreneur Joshua Twing Brooks. Please come and hear his story. We will also be having a raffle of Mums with proceeds going towards the purchase of wreaths for the Wreaths Across America event in Dec. at Warstler Cemetery. This is a great way to honor those who served our country. PTHS sponsors the seven wreaths of service, plus any additional funds raised are used to purchase additional wreaths. The Plain Township Rotary is in charge of the event with a goal to raise enough money to purchase 400 wreaths. PTHS continues our work to identify veterans who are buried in Warstler to make sure they get a wreath.

Our next America 250 exhibit, October, will be on agriculture in Plain Township. We will be featuring farms in our area. If you or someone you know has any information, photos, etc. about a farm in Plain Township, please put them in contact with Cindy Guest or Phyllis Rustifo. We are looking to tell the diverse story of farming in our community. Please do not assume we already know about a farm. We always learn more from the conversations we have. Thank you.

Did you know that the Plain Township Historical Society is available to give programs to organizations? We are in the process of developing new topics to have a stable of topics to present. Not all our presentations are strictly about Plain Township. Our 2027 speaking engagements is already starting to fill up. Please contact Cindy Guest for more information. We will post a list

Out and About Segment

If you are on Facebook, did you see the "Out and About" segment that Denise Evans produced highlighting our Board Member Jim Zurbuch? What a wonderful way to

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/

continue to share Jim's story and encourage others to become involved in their community's history. The posting is available on Facebook Page "Plain Township, Ohio Community Page." Here is a link to the YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFBAPKdv1so>

America 250 September Edition

Batter Up! We put this one through the goal posts. September America's 250 Theme is "Ohio Plays – Sports and Wellness." Our theme is "Sports in Plain Township." We focused on four areas: Challenger Baseball League for kids with developmental disabilities; Holly Hills Baseball and Softball and Plain Local Youth Football; Industrial Sports and High School sport programs.

The Challenger Baseball League was started in Plain Township in 1991 and has grown over the years. Their goal is to provide adaptive baseball program for individuals with physical and intellectual challenges. The Challenger items are on loan from Sean Broom and Bonnie McClellan. Without them sharing, the Challenger League story would not have been possible.

When we plan these exhibits, we have a group of ideas that we build around. We do not always have the items we need. This exhibit was interesting because we wanted to highlight Holly Hills Baseball and Softball. Only problem, we did not have anything. So, the plan was to swap out the exhibit on Saturday morning from 9-11 like we do most months. The Friday before we received a text message from a "friend" who let us know that there was GlenOak girls' softball and basketball items at a tag sale and sent pictures. Guess what was also was in the photos? Yes, you guessed it, Holly Hills items. I was working, but I took my lunch break to go to the tag sale and get these items. Now, several of those items are part of the exhibit. We went from having only a Plain Local Youth Football program to being able to fill a shelf in less than 24 hours. The person who sent the photos had no idea we were looking for Holly Hills items. This just shows the power of our community making connections and how donations can help preserve our community's history. Thank you, Ed.,

Come check out the exhibit at Plain Township Hall 2600 Easton St NE. Get inspired to play catch or throw a football. The exhibit will run through Sep 26th 2026. October's exhibit will be on agriculture. You will have to wait to see what we grow for this one.

Up and Coming

We got to have a little break this summer to rest and catch up. The fall is swirling up to be busy and out in the community. Mark your calendar so you do not miss an event.

- **2027 Programs** – the program committee is working hard to put together a slate of speakers for next year. Yes, I know it seems early to be talking about 2027 but many of the speakers get booked out and we need to get on their schedules. Also, if you have any ideas for future programs, please let us know. We keep a running list going to ease the planning process.
- **Sep 12th – 720 SideStreet Market Oakwood Square 10-3** – Booth "Celebrating America 250." We will be participating in this event and hope to see you stop by the booth and say Hi!

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

- **Wreaths Across America** – This event will take place in December. PTHS sponsors the 7 wreaths representing the different branches of service. We will start fundraising for these wreaths in September. Any monies received about what is needed to cover the 7 wreaths will be used towards purchasing additional wreaths. These wreaths are for the Warstler Cemetery.

Videos and Website Links

Current docuseries video segments available: Stark County Library, MAPS Air Museum, Louisville-Nimishillen, Cruising Through Plain Township, The Settlement of New Guinea (Alliance), Canal Fulton Heritage Museum, Haines House Underground Railroad, Magnolia Flouring Mill, Massillon Museum, The Hoover Historical Center (new), and Stewart Manor House in Quail Hollow (new).

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 and our community!

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):

☐ 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

- Anonymous – Holly Hills Softball clothing, Little Eagles T-Shirts, GlenOak High School Softball Team clothing
- Mears Family – Plain Township Fire Dept items

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.

Sep 21st – PTHS Free Monthly Community Meeting – Joshua Twing Brooks – Presented by Salem Historical Society

Oct 19th – PTHS Free Monthly Community Meeting – My Life as a Canal Boat, the story of the St. Helena II - Presented by Cindy Guest

Nov 7th – MAPS Museum Veteran Days Event – PTHS participating

Nov 11th – PTHS Free Monthly Community Meeting – Jewelry of World War II – Presented by Dr. Mari Halkovich

Dec 19th – Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony Warstler Cemetery Noon



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] **Closed**~~
- ❖ ~~August Stark County Fair and 4-H in Plain Township [Ohio State Fair] **Postponed until a future Date**~~
- ❖ **September – Plain Township Sports - Open**
- ❖ **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



Sep 21st, 2026
Joshua Twing Brooks

An entrepreneur and visionary who help to shape Salem Ohio's economic growth.

Speaker: Salem Historical Society

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



Oct 19th, 2026

My Life As A Canal Boat

The story of the St. Helena II from a boat's perspective

Speaker: Cindy Guest

Come and Join us for a free meeting.

7-9 PM at the Plain Township Hall 2600 Easton St NE



Plain Township Historical Society

Come Join the Plain Township Historical Society
At the Side Street Mkts at Oakwood Square

On Sep 12th from 10 am - 3 pm

Located at Oakwood Square Plaza on the Corner of Middlebranch Ave NE and Easton St NE

Celebrating America 250 Plain Township Style

Plain Township Historical Society

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Program Date & Topic

Nov 16th, 2026
Jewelry of World War II

Hear the story of jewelry from the World War II era. Examples will be on display.

Speaker: Dr. Mari Halkovich

Come and Join us for a free meeting.

7-9 PM at the Plain Township Hall 2600 Easton St NE

Join Us in Our Mission

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach

★ **December 19, 2026** ★

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.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/OH0344P

#ServeAndSucceed

A Piece of the Puzzle

John Ringen Drummond (1900-1958)



Ringen was born to Charles Randle Drummond (1877-1950) and Maude Ringen (1880-1973) in St. Louis, Missouri. He was the oldest of three children: Louise (1902-1967) and Lillian (1906-?). He married Anna Louise Weisenbach (1906-1980) in Canton Ohio at the home of H. H. Timken on Dec 19, 1930 and they had no children. His parents divorced when he was nine years old.

J. Ringen descended from two wealthy St. Louis families. His paternal grandfather James T. Drummond was a millionaire tobacco manufacturer of the Horseshoe Tobacco brand (Drummond Tobacco Co., later known as American Tobacco Co.) John Ringen, maternal grandfather, was a wealthy stove manufacturer and owned Ringen Stove Co. (later known as American Stove Co.) in St. Louis as well. His maternal grandmother Louisa Heinzelman (1839-1923) was the sister to Fredericka M. Heinzelman (1834-1908). Fredericka was the wife of Henry H. Timken the founder of the Timken Co.

He was well educated and a world traveler. His education began in Pasadena California, then to Germany to study at Mr. Richardson's School. He returned to California to finish his high school education and continued to study at the California Institute of Technology. As part of his extended education, he became an exchange student at Sussex College, Cambridge University studying quantum theory in physics. His goal was to become a physicist. After college, he worked for a variety of companies to utilize his skills: Southern California Edison Co., Mt. Wilson Observatory Laboratories and A. A. Michelson, American physicist working on experiments in the measurement of the velocity of light. In November of 1925, J. Ringen began working for the Timken Co. in their Columbus Ohio plant. He held a variety of positions there including chief inspector and assistant superintendent. When the plant closed during the depression, he and his wife relocated to Canton where he worked in the physical laboratory and did research and development for the company. He continued to rise through the company reaching the position of assistant factory manager.

The connection to Plain Township was that he lived on Martindale Road where he built a house that contained two chemical and one electrical laboratory for him to work on his experiments. Mr. Drummond was considered a mechanical and electronics genius. Just a couple of his inventive contributions for the Timken Co. was: development of electronic gauges which allowed blind people to inspect roller bearings and the world's smallest TV receiver one-inch square in size (at the time of his death 1958.) What is very interesting is that probably his biggest contribution, which is still being used to day, is the heart pump machine. J. Ringen began experimenting with the heart pump at his home collaborating with Henry Haines, Timken Co., and Dr. William Bogedain, heart surgeon. The pump was designed for use in open heart surgery which unfortunately was not available to use on J. Ringen when he died of heart failure. It was one of his hopes that he lived long enough to see the pump put to use. Tests were being run on the pump the day he died. In 1961, three years after his death, the Timken Foundation donated a heart-lung machine to Timken Mercy Hospital that used the principles developed by J. Ringen and was made by Harry Haines one of his collaborators. What a contribution this was to the medical field.