PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Proud Past …
An Exciting Future

It's Plain History

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

History OF Plain Township

When Stark County was organized in 1809, five townships were created within it. Originally Plain Township included what are now Lake, Lawrence, and Jackson Townships in Stark County and Green and Franklin Townships in Summit County. Only a few settlers had already located in this territory.

Two theories try to explain how PLAIN Township got its name. One idea says that part of the township was an open tract of land, or PLAIN. The other thought is that settlers from the East named the township the same as the old area they came from – PLAIN.

Most of the early settlers were farmers who claimed most of the land by 1815. Early businesses included gristmills, saw mills, stores, distilleries, and a tannery. Middlebranch was settled as early as 1815 with a small store, mill, and post office operating there. However, the village was not platted until January 1881. New Berlin (now North Canton) was also settled in 1815 with lots surveyed and laid out in 1831. Businesses running there were several mercantiles, a blacksmith, pottery, tannery, and lumberyard.

Plain Township has owned and maintained the Plain Township Cemetery on Eby Drive NE since 1912. This cemetery reflects much of Plain Township's History. Beginning as a sparsely settled agricultural society, Plain Township grew slowly to become a prosperous urban community. By 1940, Plain Township's unincorporated area had a population of only 6,000. Today it is over 36,000.

More detailed information about the history of Plain Township can be found at the Stark County District Library, the Stark County Historical Society, and especially the Plain Township Historical Society.



The Bair/Homer Farm
7225 Market Ave North
Was once a 160-acre farm
Now called Steiner Heights



Lakeside Country Club
Located at the north end of Meyers Lake
A nine-hole golf course
Now part of Shrine Village



Christopher Henney Home
8036 Kent Ave NE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I want to join!

Classes of Membership:
(Please check one)

Annual

☐ Student	$5.00
☐ Individual	$10.00
☐ Family	$20.00
☐ Non-Profit	$35.00
☐ Patron	$50.00
☐ Organization	$100.00

Life Time

☐ Individual	$250.00
☐ Family	$500.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Donation Enclosed: _____

Membership is open to everyone who wishes to promote the purposes of this society.
A 501(c)3 organization

Please make check payable to:
Plain Township Historical Society

Mail this form and check to:
Plain Twp Historical Society
% JoEllen Reikowski, Treasurer
2600 Easton St NE
Canton, OH 44721



Former St Jacob's Community Church of Cairo - 6169 Kent Ave NW

The Plain Township Historical Society is looking for pictures, notebooks, letters, newspaper articles, school related items, business advertising, land abstracts and writings pertaining to the history of the township for our archives and research. These items can be donated or loaned to the society for copying.

We are also looking for information on historical homes in Plain Township. If you own an old home or other building – circa 1800s and early 1900s – or own a home with unique architectural design or specific historical significance, please contact us.

We also have a large ancestry database on Ancestry.com and are always looking for family trees to add in. This information is very helpful as we do research for our publications, community displays, and understanding of how the families were interconnected. So, if you have any information on your family consider sharing with us.

Plain Township Historical Society

Meets on the Third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM

Meetings are held at the Plain Township Hall 2600 Easton St unless otherwise specified.

For Information check our email, Facebook, website or call:

Cindy – (330) 224-2660
Phyllis – (330) 936-6346
Email: preservingplaintwp@gmail.com
Find us at: www.preservingplaintwp.org
www.**facebook**.com/**PlainTownshipHistoricalSociety**



Middlebranch High School

A grade school was originally behind the high school and built in 1915. In 1926, a high school was added to support the growing population and was the first high school in Plain Township. The buildings housed grades 1-12 until the school year 1957-1958 when Glenwood High School opened. After that Middlebranch High School became 7-8 grades and the Grade School was torn down.