

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.

A majority 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.

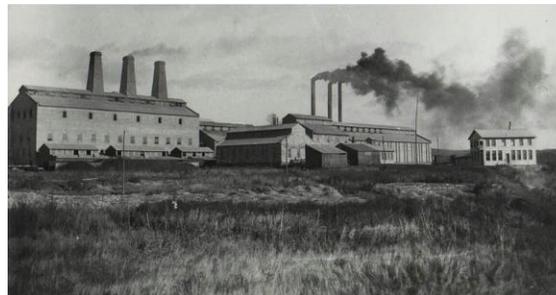


(J Murray Spangler)

**Family Histories, Oral Histories, Homesteads,
Farms, Photos**



(Middlebranch One Room School House)
Grade School thru High School Memorabilia



(Diamond Portland Cement)
**Business History, Maps, Property Abstracts,
Advertising**

Preserving Memories of Plain Township



Presented by the
**Plain Township Historical
Society**



How Can You Contribute to Plain History

Did you or a family member work, play or live in Plain Township? Is there a family story to share? What about a family tree? Did someone own a business in Plain Township?

The Plain Township Historical Society (PTHS) is always on the lookout for items, stories photos, and papers that contribute to the story and history of Plain Township.

So if you are cleaning out a closet or a relative's house and come across items that are relative to Plain Township, consider donating them to the Plain Township Historical Society, where those items are used to preserve and promote history.

Maybe you still want to hang on to those memories. PTHS can make copies of those items and return the originals to you.

PTHS also conducts oral histories in order to capture those memories about a special event, family stories, and other happenings.

Interested in finding out more?

Contact us at: preservingplaintwp@gmail.com

Here is What One Donation Added to Our Archives

- 300 photos of a farm that depict farm life spanning 20 years. This farm no longer exists, sold in the 1970's.
- Genealogy for a family that lived in Plain Township for 80 years.
- World War II papers documenting the process from induction to disability.
- Over 100 letters from World War II written by soldiers to one person.
- Middlebranch High School and Grade school pictures, scrap books, school books, school desk and play bills.

This donation preserved the memories of just two properties and one family. Just think what your donation can add!!!!

Suggested Items

- Property Abstract
- Photos: People, places, businesses, events
- Business Advertising
- Scrap Books
- School Books
- Year Books
- Maps

What Is The Plain Township Historical Society?

The Plain Township Historical Society was formed in 2005 by a group of local history enthusiasts. This group gathers information into tangible forms and preserves historical data of this township and its inhabitants. We disseminate this information through programs like the one for the 3rd graders, tour book publications, oral histories transcriptions, event displays, and monthly meetings.

A Proud Past ...

...An Exciting Future

Mission:

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

Find us at:

www.plaintownship.com/historicalsociety.aspx

www.facebook.com/PlainTownshipHistoricalSociety

Email: preservingplaintwp@gmail.com