

"Saving the Past for the Future"



THE PLAIN CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Museum and Office location: 111W. Main St. Plain City, Ohio



Vol. 18 No. 6 P.O. Box 82, Plain City, Ohio 43064 Oct–Nov 2012

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT!!!

I believe that autumn has finally arrived. Fall and spring are my favorite times of the year. Not too hot in the daytime and nice and cool at night. It is also FOOTBALL SEASON!!! The leaves are beginning to change colors and the farmers are working overtime to get their crops in before winter.

We had a fun, interesting and informative meeting on Tuesday, September 25th. Our speaker was Geoff Tedder. Geoff was kind enough to have lent us part of his toy collection for our window display for the past three or four months and at our last meeting he shared a little about himself and his collection. Geoff is a transplanted Englishman who came to the US in 1959 and became a Citizen this past year. He told us a little about what it was like to have been in England as a young boy during the bombing by the Germans in WWII.

We did vote to have a Ham & Bean Dinner on October 27th at the Presbyterian Church at the last meeting. We will be selling ticket for the dinner at a cost of \$5.00 per person. Kathy Cosgray and Ann Weeks are co-chairing this event.

With the busy holiday season coming I hope you will make time to visit your Historical Society just to say hello.

Christmas under the Clock will be here before you know it on Saturday, December 1st. Of course we will be involved again this year and open that day for our regular hours from 10 AM to Noon and then re-open at 4 PM until about 10 PM. We hope to have lots of visitors and hopefully a few shoppers looking for Christmas gifts. I would like to invite you all to join us and help be hosts for all the people who visit us. It is always a lot of fun.

I want to remind everyone that with winter coming soon, when the schools close due to bad weather, so do we. If we are open and the schools close early, so do we.

I also want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of our members who spend hour after hour volunteering every week so that we can be open to serve our community. Thanks to you all.

Bernie



Veterans' Day Window



Replaced Bank window [

Who is the girl in the center left?



Schools Through the Ages

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Asst. Curator: Vacant

Standing Committees:

Acquisitions:
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Joseph G. Hofbauer

Membership:
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ITEMS FOR REFERENCE OUR NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings are:
October 23
November 2
December — No meeting

HOURS OF OPERATION

NOTE: We have changed our hours of operation back to our regular hours since the last Farmer's Market was October, 4, 2012.

If you would like to get in the museum at a time we are normally closed you can do so by calling 614-570-2962 to set up an appointment.

Tuesday 10 AM to Noon
Thursday 12:00 Noon to 3:00PM
Saturday 10 AM to Noon

OTHER EVENTS

December 1 — Christmas Under the Clock

THE RED STAR

This is the month that "THE RED STAR" will appear on the address page of the newsletter for those who have not paid their dues for the current year. This will be their last issue unless they pay their dues.



PIONEERS STOOD THEIR GROUND WITH WOLVES!

The following modifies excerpts are from a story by John Switzer in the Columbus Dispatch on Sunday, May 25m 1997.

Mary Hawn and her son claimed that she was the first* white female baby born in the Ohio territory. They said she was born in in '1791 in a blockhouse where Cincinnati now stands.

Her story is is engraved on an old stone in Mitchell Cemetery near Unionville Center. Union County Darby Township trustees have restored the stone.

Mary Hawn's son, Joseph later wrote about his family's experiences in the wilderness. , where the howls of wolves were as much a part of the night as the moon.

On January 24, 1883, Joseph wrote in a column in the *Marysville Tribune*: We landed at our new home on the sixth day of April, 1830, three miles north of Plain City in the mist of the big woods among wolves and other wild animals.

Once when his family was making maple syrup his mother and father "left me asleep in a camp in a sugar trough, while they went a few distance to sap some more trees. They had two large dogs with them. The wolves got after the dogs and the dogs made for the camp ... where I laid.

At the sugar camp the dogs "turned upon their pursuers. Just then father and mother came in the rear and whipped the wolves out and I was saved," he wrote. "After I became 12 or 15 years old, if I was on a good horse I was not afraid of them, " he said. He said he got used to being surrounded by howls of dozens of wolves at night.



THE CURATOR'S PAGE:

BOB BALDRIDGE, CURATOR

For this months' newsletter, I have chosen Irwin, Union Township, Union County for my historical vignette.

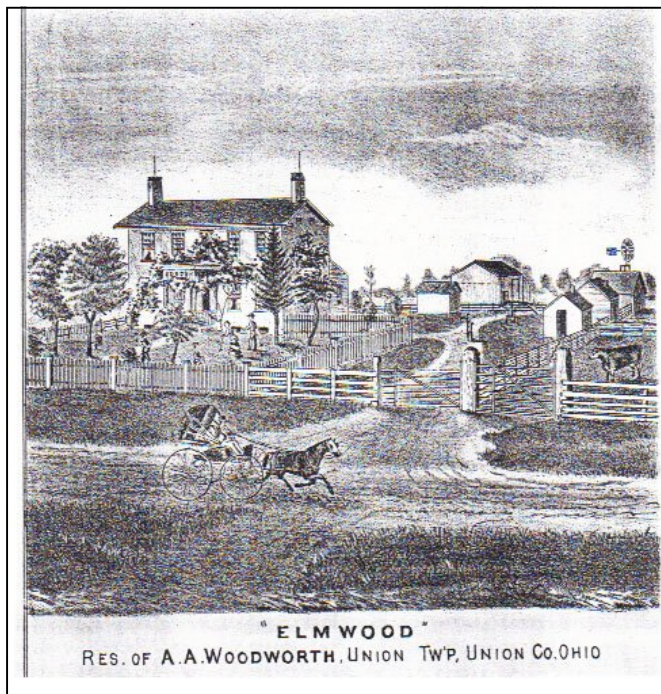
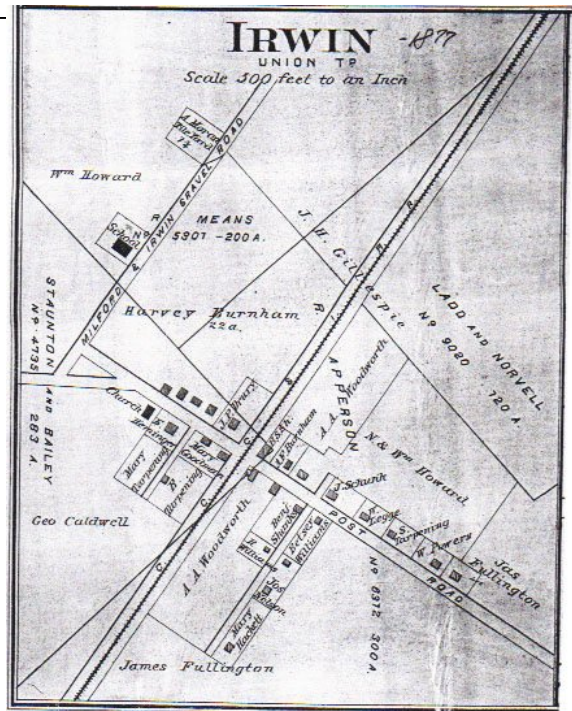
Prior to the formation of Union County in 1820, this area was a part of Madison County. In 1807, John Irwin and his son, A. Irwin, established a farm. One year later, in 1808, he founded the little town that bears his name. John Irwin chose a good location for a farm because the area had good fertile ground and was well furnished with water from nearby creeks. The first home erected was that of James Miller. The first store was owned by John Parkinson and the village had William Phelps as the blacksmith.

In May of 1848. the post office opened up with David Clements as the first postmaster.

By the 1880's, a number of railroads crossed the township and many people referred to Irwin as Union Station .because it had a station on the Big Four Railroad. It was known as a shipping point for hog and straw as well as wood.

In 1880, a large school building was erected at a cost of \$6,000. A big investment for a village with a population of around 125.

Today, it is an easy drive down Rt. 161 to visit Irwin. The old school house still stands. The town continues to have a operating post office and there are a few small churches. I would guess the population today is less that it was in 1880. When you get a chance, take the time to visit Irwin.



This postcard was mailed in 1913. Note the numeral "4" in the bars of the cancellation device. This means that the post office had less than \$400 in total revenue the year the post office received the postmark device.



This letter was mailed from Irwin, Ohio April 17th, (probably 1863) to a lady attending Xenia Female Collage in Xenia, Ohio. Since the Irwin post office was so small it did not have a cancelling device so the postmaster used a "manuscript" cancel.

"IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY..."

By Rosemary Anderson

This story could begin "it was a dark and stormy night," although "It was a dark and stormy midday" would be more accurate.

One hundred years ago, on Sunday, June 16, 1912,



downtown Plain City was devastated by a tornado, or "cyclone," as it was also called. The fast-moving storm struck between noon and one o'clock, moving east along Main Street, angling slightly south to the creek, and continuing east, causing more damage in Kileville and Dublin. There was little or no rain associated with the storm, but considerable electrical activity. Many buildings lost roofs and upper stories, electric and telephone poles were blown down, and one ubiquitous photo shows a calf that was carried 200

yards unharmed.

In 1912, Henry Wenzel had been Plain City's resident photographer for seventeen years. His studio was on the second floor of the Kahler & Justice Building (Pioneer Coffee Company) on West Main. Wenzel was working in his darkroom when the storm struck, tearing the roof off the building. A telephone pole fell into the building, just missing him. By the next day he was busy photographing the damage. The town clock, just ten years old, was damaged, as was the municipal building (which had 2 stories before the storm), and the power plant, where a large smokestack was demolished. The Universalist Church on S. Chillicothe (now the Christian Life Church) was nearly a total loss, with the roof and a substantial portion of the front destroyed. The farm-

yards unharmed.

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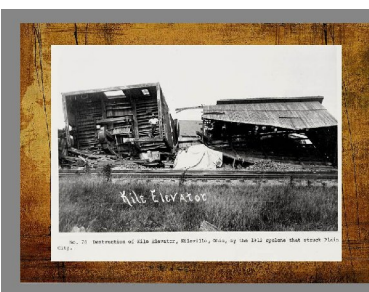
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ers' Nation Bank, Howland Brothers, and the Presbyterian Church all suffered considerable damage. The elevator at Kileville was demolished.

The oddities that such a storm generates were noted in the ADVOCATE report of June 20. "Many families were eating dinner and just as Sel Heffley reached for a piece of meat, the table and contents were blown away." "Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Warner's two oldest children were in a little shed playing with their rabbits at the time of the storm. The shed was whirled around and the children crawled out without a scratch." "Lee Horn's barn damaged. Flying board pierced a window and was driven into a bed."

It was estimated that the total loss was as much as \$100,000 (roughly \$2,325,000 in today's dollars). In part because the storm occurred on a Sunday after church and when the



downtown businesses were closed, there were very few injuries and no loss of life.

The newspaper article noted: "Words are inadequate to describe the appearance of our beautiful little village after the wind had subsided."

"Many are lamenting the destruction of beautiful shade and fruit trees, as it will take many years to produce as many beautiful trees as were destroyed in a few seconds Sunday."

The Plain City Historical Society has available for sale (\$10) a CD with photographs of the damage and a reprint of the ADVOCATE report.





**BEAN DINNER
SATURDAY- OCTOBER 27
NOON – 4 P.M.**

PLAIN CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Historical Society's big fund raiser is fast approaching! We are hoping to raise around \$1,000.00 to operate on in the coming year. More would be even better. Tickets are \$5.00 each and entitle you to Ham and Bean Soup, Corn-bread, Coffee, Iced Tea, or Water, and Dessert with John Miller's Homemade Ice Cream! Take-out will also be available for the same price. Pre-

sale tickets are being mailed out to current members in the area. If you do not receive them and would like some, contact Kathy Cosgray at the Historical Society or by phone at 614-873-5562.

We are also requesting donations of desserts for the dinner. Cakes, pies, cookies, and brownies are needed for that day. If you would like to help out with a donation and/or volunteer to work that day, again, contact Kathy Cosgray at the Historical Society or by phone. Ann Weeks is co-chair for the event and can be reached at 614-873-3591.

There will be raffles and our newest items for sale during the dinner, so bring plenty of change to get in on the action!

We look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it. Bring your neighbors, family, or even a stranger off the street!



**PAST ACTIONS OF THE PLAIN
CITY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

These three ordinances are the second in our series of past actions by the Plain City Mayor and Council, as compiled by Lynn Ballwin, our society's Secretary..

ORDENANCE NO. 4

To licence Shows Concerts or Other Exhibitions

Passed May 11, 1863

Sec 1st

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Town Council of the Incorporated Village of Pleasant Valley Madison County Ohio That before any person or persons Shall be allowed to Exhibit any natural or artificial curiosity or give any Concert or other exhibition whatever for any price gain or reward he or they Shall apply to the Mayor for a permit and the Mayor Shall give him or them a permit specifying the time and place he or they may be allowed to exhibit hold concert or other exhibition within the limits of the Incorporation on the payment of a Sum not exceeding five dollars nor less than fifty cents.

Sec 2d

That if any person or persons Shall exhibit any public Show give any concert or other exhibition whatever within this Incorporation for any price gain or reward without first having obtained the permit accordance to the provisions of this ordinance he or they Shall for every such offense pay a Sum not less than three dollars nor more than twenty five dollars with Cost of prosecution at the Suit of the Marshall or other Citizen of the Incorporation before the Mayor and to be paid into the Treasury there-of.

Sec 3

That all moneys paid into the Treasury under the provisions of this ordinance Shall be appropriated for the general purposes of the Incorporation.

Sec 4

That this ordinance Shall take effect on and after its passage.

Wm I. Ballinger, Recorder

Selatheal Ewing, Mayor

ORDENANCE NO. 5

An Ordinance to Govern assistant marshall passed

May 16th 1863

Sect 1st

Be it ordained by the mayor and Town Council of the Incorporated Village of Pleasant Valley Madison County Ohio That it Shall be the duty of the Assistant Marshall to discharge all and singular the duties imposed on the marshall by law and that he be required to give bonds to the satisfaction of the Council for the sum of \$100 conditional for the faithful discharge of his duties before entering upon the duties of his office

Sect 2d

This ordinance be in force on and after its passage.

Wm. I Ballinger, Recorder

Selathiel

Ewing, Mayor

ORDENANCE NO. 6

An ordinance authorising arrests in certain cases Passed May

23d 1863

Sect 1st

Be it ordained by the mayor and Town Council of the Incorporated Village of Pleasant Valley Madison County Ohio that it shall be the duty of the marshall of this Incorporation to arrest an view any person or persons found violating any ordinance made to preserve the peace and good order within the limits of this Incorporation and take him or them forthwith before the mayor or some Justice of the Peace for trial

Sect 2d

That it Shall further be the duty of the Said Marshall to arrest any person or persons found Intoxicated within the limits of this Incorporation and commit him or them to the Calaboos untill he or they become Sober and then take him or them forth with before the mayor or some Justice of the Peace for trial

Sect 3d

This ordinance to take effect on and after its passage

Wm. I Ballinger, Recorder

Selathiel Ewing, Mayor

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AUGUST 28, 2012

Call to Order

The 317th meeting of the Plain City Historical Society was called to order on August 28, 2012, at 7 p.m. by President Bernie Vance. Twenty-two members were present.

Approval of Minutes

Sue Ann Pieroni moved and Don Friend seconded that the minutes from the May, June, and July meetings be approved as printed in the newsletters. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Cosgray reported a balance of \$30,751.60. Harley Bodenbender moved and Sue Ann Pieroni seconded that the report be accepted. The motion carried.

Acquisitions and Display

Bob Baldrige told us that the Society has recently received some vintage kitchen items.

Bob, as Commander of the American Legion, took the opportunity to present Harley Bodenbender his 25 year award and pin. Bob thanked Harley for his service.

President Vance then announced that there would be a ten-minute break so that everyone could have some of the home-made ice cream brought in by John Miller who had just arrived. The ice cream went with the birthday cake that was being served in celebration of Ben Cosgray's birthday.

Finance

Bernie Vance is still looking for suggestions for some new fund raising projects.

Historic Sites

Joe Hofbauer encouraged everyone to get their family histories turned in.

Membership and PR

Kathy Cosgray reported that the Society has a current membership of 293.

Past President/Advisor - No report

Newsletter

Editor Don Friend informed us that the next newsletter is scheduled to come out in October.

Cataloging

Rosemary Anderson discussed some of the kitchen items in the Society's collection.

Old Business

President Vance would very much appreciate some suggestions for future programs. Please let him know if you or a friend have a hobby that you would like to share or if you have any ideas for speakers.

Announcements

*The OSU Alumni Band will be performing at Benny's Pizza tomorrow. The event benefits the Stephanie Spielman Cancer Fund.

*Nola Freeman received a phone call from Society member Susie Rickard. Susie would like the Society to consider having its meetings on Sunday afternoons.

**Images of the Great Depression," a pictorial display created by the Ohio Humanities, could come to Plain City if a large enough venue can be found.

*Volunteers are needed to help with the 4 mile run/walk on September 22.

Program

The evening's program was a brain storming session for ideas, activities, events, etc. to celebrate Plain City's bicentennial in 2018.

President Vance showed us some books and pamphlets from Ripley's bicentennial that Nola Freeman brought in.

President Vance began by asking "What do we have here in Plain City to celebrate?" Suggestions included:

historical society	Amish heritage
his story of Jonathan Alder	arming heritage
railroad	Steam Thresher show
proximity to Columbus	3 movie theaters & opera house
town clock	war heroes
ancestors	school system
Pastime Park	churches
Indian history	Sesquicentennial celebration in 1968
Plain City fair	Corn Carnival

postal history

Next, President Vance discussed the need for funding. Possible sources included: local businesses, corporate sponsors, grants, other civic organizations, church fellowships.

Finally, possible events and activities were considered. These ideas included:

parade	pageant
church service	quilt show
king/queen	bake sale
photo contest	baseball game with the Muffins
ice cream social	contest to design bicentennial logo
postal cancellation	newspaper articles

historical tours of town, clock, homes

Cat's Meow T shirts

post cards of historic scenes wine tasting

book on Plain City history circus

Other topics of discussion included possible dates for the celebration. July 4th was suggested as was July 8th (the date the plat for Westminster was filed). The celebration could last one to three days.

Adjournment

Before closing the meeting, Jack Mercer showed us some pictures of his ancestors Elizabeth and Andrew Noteman, the old Noteman home, and a framed deed to their farm dated 1812. The Notemans were very early settlers in the Plain City area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m. The next meeting will be September 25. The program will be announced.

Lynn Baldwin, Secretary

WHY THEY SAY THAT1

To go off half-cocked: The origin has nothing to do with roosters with their heads cut off. It has to do with guns. In previous times, muskets were rather clumsy to load and took time. And, they wouldn't fire until they were cocked. To save time (but to still be safe) hunters would load their muskets but keep them only half-cocked until ready. However, there would be some real hyper guys who forgot about their guns and just fired when they saw their game! Of course the gun wouldn't fire when it was only half-cocked. The phrase then slipped into society to mean anyone who was trying to do something without first checking that everything was in order for the project.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING SEPTEMBER 25, 2012

Call to Order

The 318th meeting of the Plain City Historical Society was called to order on September 25, 2012, at 7 p.m. by President Bernie Vance. Thirty members were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the August minutes were deferred to the October meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kathy Cosgray reported a current balance of \$30,515.62.

Acquisitions and Display

In the absence of Bob Baldridge, Karen Kile Vance showed us a framed certificate that Carol Stalnaker came across at the Country Closet. The certificate had been issued to Mary Venrick for her attendance at Vacation Bible School in 1934. The VBS had been a joint venture of both the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. The certificate was signed by Elizabeth Barto and the pastors of both churches.

Finance

Finance chairman Bernie Vance reported that a committee consisting of Harley Bodenbender, chairman; Rosemary Anderson, Jane Isaacs, and Mary Mitchell audited the Society's books. The committee reported the books to be in good order but recommended that a third person be authorized to sign checks.

Kathy Cosgray and Ann Weeks proposed having a ham and bean dinner to raise some money. The event would be held on October 27 at the Presbyterian Church from noon to 4 p.m. The meal would consist of ham and beans, corn bread, dessert, and a drink. Tickets would be \$5 and carry out would be available.

Kathy Cosgray moved and Marty Wade seconded that the proposal be accepted. The motion passed.

A sign-up sheet was passed around so that members could sign up to donate supplies, desserts, or volunteer to work at the dinner. It is hoped that most supplies will be donated so that more of a profit will be made.

Bernie told us that he had received a call from Joe Craft of the local business association. Joe informed Bernie that the organization was no longer interested in selling the annual Christmas ornaments. Joe offered to pay for half of a 50-ornament order if the Society would pay the other half. The ornaments would be sold for \$15 to \$20 and the Society would receive all the profits.

Sue Ann Pieroni moved and Ura Mullett seconded that the Society accept Joe's offer. The motion passed.

Bernie told us that the Society has recently received from Plain City artist Bob Wilson some notecards that Bob created. The pictures on the notecards are prints of some of Bob's paintings. Bob is best known for wildlife and covered bridges. The notecards are \$12 a pack or two for \$20.

Historic Sites

Joe Hofbauer reminded everyone to get their family histories in.

Membership/PR

Kathy Cosgray reported a total membership of 313 members of which 287 are paid up active members and 26 are still unpaid.

Past President/Advisor

Karen Kile Vance told us she is taking orders for denim shirts with the Society's logo on them. The shirts are \$25, and money is due when the order is placed. This Saturday is the deadline for orders.

Newsletter

Editor Don Friend said October 1 is the deadline for any articles for the October newsletter.

Cataloging - No report

Old Business

We are still looking for speakers for future programs.

A request was made at the August meeting that the Society consider having meetings on Sunday afternoons. President Vance told us that he is looking into having November's meeting at the Presbyterian Church on a Sunday afternoon. The program would be a tour of the Church.

New Business

President Vance said that he has received a request for the Society to purchase an ad in the Jonathan Alder High School yearbook. In previous years, the Society has bought a half-page ad for \$100 and a book for \$50.

Randy Wiseman moved and Don Friend seconded that the Society make the purchase. The motion passed.

Announcements

The American Legion will be selling raffle tickets for its 3rd Annual 90-Second Shopping Spree at Lovejoy's. Tickets will be \$5 and the drawing will take place during Christmas Under the Clock.

Program

Geoff Tedder spoke about his collection of antique mechanical toys. Geoff brought in several examples from his collection. He believes that toys can have an impact on what you do later in life. He cited as an example the No. 8 Meccano set that he received as a young boy growing up in England as giving him a great understanding of basic engineering. That understanding would eventually lead to a career as an engineering draftsman. Geoff extended an invitation to visit his "Toy Shop" to see all of his collection.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting is October 23 and may be a field trip.

Lynn Baldwin, Secretary





Barbara George Team

Barbara George REALTOR®
Michael George REALTOR®
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