

February, 2014



# *The Village Crier*

*A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society*

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

As a child growing up in Strongsville, I had no idea that a firefly produced light from a chemical reaction called Bioluminescence. I only knew that if I ran around our yard on Howe Road when it got dark in the summer, I could capture bugs in my Mason jar and I'd have my own little lantern that flashed on and off.

My family lived four miles from the center of town and us kids had to create our own fun because there were limited number of children in the neighborhood who were our age. I think part of being a happy child growing up in Strongsville during the 1950s and 1960s was the freedom to explore, use my imagination, and learn things through hands-on experience. My brother, Rich, and I would play near a stream and pond a couple acres behind our house. Sometimes, we'd carry home a bucket of tadpoles - I think we wanted to see if we could grow frogs (bad idea). The stream and pond are gone now as that land in between Howe and Benbow Roads is what we now know as Interstate 71.

I learned to build elaborate cities in the dirt with sticks and rocks or float little boats when the driveway flooded. I also learned to look before sitting to avoid landing on a wasp (trust me on that wisdom), or that my brother trying to float me down the stream in a washtub was **not** a good idea, but I also learned to swab mud on my foot when I stepped barefoot on a bee. Another important lesson: hanging on a flower box is not a good choice because, a.) it hurts when it pulls away from the brick garage and you fall, and b.)

it's embarrassing to go through the next step where that fall is followed by dirt and flowers landing on top of you. Though the summers were fun, I anxiously awaited school to start because that meant I could be with other kids. Actually, maybe my parents were just as anxious for me to go back to school!

I was fortunate to have Neal Coughlin for 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Olive Bedford Allen Elementary, the beloved Sylvester Zellers ("Chief") for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Geography, and one of our Society's founders, Howard Chapman, for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math. These were good, solid people in my life who helped me learn and grow. By the way, Mr. Chapman conducted the first meeting of the Strongsville Historical Society in 1962 - the same year he had me as a student.

As the new president of the Strongsville Historical Society, I feel blessed to help children and visitors learn through unique events that we host throughout the year. Mr. Chapman, his wife, and our other early founders of the Historical Society gave the people of Strongsville a wonderful gift with our Village. Hundreds and hundreds of people over the years have carried the Village vision with them by giving many hours of volunteer time, energy and use of their talents, passions and resources. Now that I have retired and returned to my Ohio roots, I am so fortunate to be a part of this effort.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in Strongsville go on a yearly field trip to the Village to hear costumed docents tell about the houses, people, and collections. The past suddenly comes alive for these children

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## **PREDIDENT'S MESSAGE**

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through seeing how the early settlers made a rope bed, were taught in an academy where the blackboard was, literally boards painted black, or by seeing the Victorian influence on Strongsville architecture. The children step out of the history book for a short time and can ask their docent a question about how something was done 100-200 years ago, or learn that the gizmo in front of them is actually an early toaster and not a cheese grater.

Another unique learning opportunity for our youth is coming this summer from July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>. These youth will experience a slice of life during the Civil War era by participating in real experiences mimicking what happened during that time in our history. Please call the Strongsville Historical Society (440-572-0057) for the cost and how to sign up your child or grandchild for the Camp.

Visitors to our Harvest Festival will see and learn firsthand how to make many wonderful crafts. They also get to eat a warm Snickerdoodle cookie made in the cabin over an open fire, or purchase a tasty lunch of roasted pig, German Potato Salad and sauerkraut.

Through our various tours and events, visitors learn about Strongsville history. They have an opportunity to ask why Victorian houses had such high ceilings, or learn about children playing with very simple toys like the corn cob doll in the cabin. They also step back in time to an era where ladies wore hats and they collected beautiful glassware for their homes.

We have many fun events scheduled throughout the year - please visit our calendar on our website at: [strongvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://strongvillehistoricalsociety.org) or call us at 440-572-0057 if you would like to learn more. You can also join us as a volunteer and help us carry on with the early vision of Velda and Howard Chapman and the other founders of the Strongsville Historical Society.

I'm enthused about working with the outstanding people who make the Village a success, and know this is going to be a terrific year. Come join us in the fun!

*Marsha Lundgren*

## **DEGENHART GLASS**

Glass collectors know the name of Elizabeth Degenhart and know her art glass. Both her factory and museum in Cambridge are closed, but the Strongsville Historical Society is now home to her personal collection of American pressed glass and many examples of her art glass.

On display in the Lathrop kitchen and library is Elizabeth's large American pressed glass collection, and upstairs in the front bedroom of the Lathrop House are her collections of glass paperweights and many samples of her factory's art glass products.

For sale in the Olds Store are examples of her glass owls, glass tomahawks, glass Priscilla and John Alden figures, glass mini pooches, Scottie Dog candy dishes and other glass figures. Glass collectors would be pleased to add a piece of Elizabeth Degenhart's art glass to their collection. Plan to visit the displays and stop in at the store when you visit the village.

## **OLDS GENERAL STORE**

The Olds General Store will be opening up for the 2014 season. Stock up on pottery, books, afghans, cards, and Degenhart glass.

Consider Strongsville items for Mother's Day, Graduations, thank you gifts, bridal showers, wedding gifts.

**Special limited time pricing on  
"Strongsville Pottery" Vases and Planters  
Reg. \$22.....SALE \$20  
(April 1 thru May 31)**

Contact Kathy Ader 440-572-2670 or Terri Mosley 440-238-6470 for more information.

## **WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

Our website continues to have more information. The Calendar has the latest information about events at the village as does our Facebook page. Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at [www.strongvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongvillehistoricalsociety.org).

Current and back issues of the Scribe are also posted on the website.

## **THE ARMY OF THE OHIO MARCHES ON**

Once again 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders can be mustered into the Army of the Ohio to commemorate the fourth year of the American Civil War. From 9:00 am until noon Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> through Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, campers will gather at the Village to participate in a variety of Civil War activities typical of the Union Army of 1864. Cost of the five morning camp is \$80.00 per recruit which includes the haversack and kepi. Daily snacks are included.

For reservations or more information please contact Ruth Brickley at rrbrick@aol.com or Marty Shaw at 878-1357.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Volunteers are always needed and welcome!

### **Docents**

Do you like to work with people? Would you enjoy telling the history of the Village? We have a great position for you as a docent! The Village gives tours each week from April 16, 2014 until October 15, 2014 on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Would you like dressing up and being a docent for one of the many 3<sup>rd</sup> grade tours conducted in the spring? We need docents in the buildings we use for our educational tours. Would you enjoy working in a winter wonderland setting during the first and second Saturday and Sunday in December? Docents are needed in the buildings to answer questions and direct visitors to Santa Claus.

### **Computer/Technology**

Retired from a computer job, but it is still in your blood? We have a volunteer position for you and we need your expertise!

### **Snow removal**

The Village does have activities and meetings in the winter and we need someone who has a snow blower or loves to use an old fashioned snow shovel who can keep the sidewalks cleared. Must be in good health!

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

A new and exciting year is upon us. We would like to thank all those individuals, families, and businesses who have continually renewed their memberships; your support is greatly appreciated. This is just a reminder that if you have not had a chance yet to renew, please do so. Last newsletter had a membership envelope in it with our new rates. Dues are always renewed in January and are good for a year, unless you are a Lifetime Member! A lifetime member is a person who contributes \$300.00 one time and does not pay dues again.

Please help us increase our membership by sharing your experiences with the Strongsville Historical Society and Village with your family and friends. We are always looking for new members and organizations that would like to join our membership. If you run, own or know of someone who runs or owns a business and would like to join the Historical Society, please contact Dana Martin at 440-572-1353 for more information.

*Did you renew for 2014?* Do you know if you are due or not? Please check the mailing label on this newsletter and if there is a colored round sticker, that means you are due for your renewal. You can just send in to the Historical Society with your check made out to Strongsville Historical Society. If you recently renewed, please disregard the dot on the label.

### **NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS**

**Terry Siedler  
Laura Green**

### **CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS**

**Strongsville Chamber of Commerce  
Image Builders Marketing, Inc.**

**Become a Corporate Sponsor and have your company's name listed in our newsletter.**

**Contact Dana Martin 440-572-1353**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 8    **Spring Fashion Show/Luncheon**    12 noon    **Don's Pomeroy House**  
For Reservations call Pam 440-238-0000 or Gina 216-403-9226
- March 25    Founder's Day Program    7:00 PM
- April 22    General Meeting: Program - Tragedy on the Frozen Plains 1888  
Presented by Cathy Clager    7:00 PM Lathrop House
- May 27    General Meeting: Program - To be announced    7:00 PM Lathrop House
- June 24    Pot Luck    Lathrop House
- Sept. 27,28    Harvest Festival

Strongsville Historical Society  
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