



May, 2021

# The Village Crier

A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society  
[www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org)

## President's Message

It's hard to believe that more than a year has passed since the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We sincerely hope that you and your family are well and vaccinated! It seems like a long time, however in the scheme of life it really is a short time.

We look forward to the future when events will return, family and friends can gather safely and perhaps masks will be a thing of the past. Not sure how soon all of this will happen, but with vaccinations increasing we are on the path to herd immunity.

Please be sure to read the article about the opening of the Village! We're excited to offer tours again although circumstances will be different.

Rentals have not, as of yet, been resumed for the Lathrop Great Room. We hope that will happen also in 2021.

We currently do not have any General Meeting programs scheduled. We hope that this too will change.

Be sure to watch our website for changes in schedules at the Village. We are not sure as of now if there will be Teas at Christmas. The committee is ready but we need to be sure all is safe for our members and guests.

Here's hoping for the light at the end of the tunnel to come soon with much sunshine and joy for one and all. Until then, stay safe and stay well.

*Ruth Brickley*

## Open for the Season



We are excited to announce that we will be OPEN for tours in 2021! The Village will open on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 through Wednesday, August 25, 2021 for tours.

There will be some changes to note.

Tours will begin at 1 pm.

There will be only one tour per day with a limited number of guests.

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!** Please call Valerie at 440-268-6386 to secure your place on a tour.

Group tours will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

All tours are on a cash only basis.

New fee schedule is as follows:

All Adults - \$5

Children 6-10 years - \$3

5 years and under FREE

Any questions please check with Valerie at 440-268-6386.

## **Yard Sale**

Our Annual Yard Sale will take place on Thursday, June 24 from 9-4 and Friday, June 25 from 9-2. If you have items to donate to the sale, please call Ruth at 440-572-0535 to make arrangements to drop off items. If you would like to help set up on Wednesday or work at the sale please call and let us know. We'd love to have your help. Masks will be required.

## **First Decoration Day Celebration in Strongsville**

According to previous notice the meeting was called to order at the Town Hall by the President of the day, Mr. E.H. Reed, and the order of exercises read after which the procession under the direction of Marshall J.J. Bartlett was formed in the following order: Martial Band, Decorating Committee, President of day, clergymen, speaker, singers, ex soldiers and families, Committee of Arrangements, Citizens.

Lead by the band the procession moved on to the cemetery where the Committee of young ladies decorated each grave with a wreath of evergreens and a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Near the center of the cemetery a large cross trimmed with evergreens was erected bearing the names of those whose place of burial was unknown with the motto "Remember above. This cross was decorated with wreaths, bouquets, and flags; over the middle entrance to the grounds an arch was placed bearing the inscription, "Our Fallen Heroes Cover them over with beautiful flowers."

After the Committee under the direction of assistant Marshal A.L. Wing, had placed the flowers, the exercises in the cemetery were concluded by the chanting of the Lord's Prayer, remarks, and prayer by Rev. J.W. Turner; Reading hymn by Rev. L. Smith and singing by the choir. After fifteen minutes the procession again formed and marched to the Hall where the meeting called to

order and opened by singing, after a prayer by Rev. L. Smith, the names of those who enlisted in Strongsville was read and some appropriate remarks by Rev. Mr. Turner.

Hon. G. H. Foster was then introduced to the audience. Thought as he enlisted in the army from Strongsville and since the war has often addressed us we needed no formal introduction. An address from Mr. W. A. Wood was next listened to with interest. The closing speech was by Mr. Gilbert Torrey.

A vote of thanks was given to the speakers and the exercises closed by singing "America."

The exercises were enlivened by the singing of a number of pieces by the choir under the lead of M.S. Haynes, and also martial music by Messrs. Tuttle, Strong, Carman, Webster, Hatch, and Bartlett. Some of the boys who handled the drum sticks and fife are a little young but they did first rate.

A move in the right direction was a motion by Rev. L. Smith that the names of all who entered the Army from Strongsville with a short sketch of their life or service be prepared and left with the town Clerk for preservation. Mr. Foster also moved that a committee of five be appointed by the chair for this purpose: Mr. F.J. Bartlett, L. Strong, Joseph Merrick, A.L. Wing, and Gilbert Torrey were named as a committee.

The list at present numbers sixty-five or about one-fourth of the male population at that time. What town did better?

The Cemetery looked very neat and tidy. The attendance was large considering the short notice given. The addresses and music were good and listened to with interest and we doubt not all went to their home feeling that it was well they thus honor the dead by thus publicly observing the day. W.W.S.

Berea Advertiser June 5, 1884

*Story was originally in the Spring 2006 newsletter*

## In Memoriam

Our sincere sympathies go out to the family, wife Jan, and friends of Bill Miller, who passed away in February, 2021. Bill was an amazing man who did so much to help us at the Village for many years. He served faithfully as our “handyman”, offering his services in fixing whatever was broken. He often made himself available whenever work had to be done at the Village - organizing, checking in, and keeping an eye on any scheduled maintenance. Whenever something needed done, Bill was always willing to help, even after he took a break to spend more time with his family. Bill and his wife Jan also served as chairmen for the annual Soup Supper, as well as taking an active role in meetings and many of the events of the Society. He will be deeply missed. Memorial donations may be made to the Strongsville Historical Society, 13305 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136.

## Olds General Store

With plans to reopen for tours, the Olds General Store is glad to welcome you back. Realizing just how important our home has been over the past year or so, now is the time to remind those graduating or moving away or moving back how special our hometown is. The store is stocked with Strongsville mugs for soup and for coffee and Strongsville afghans in green. We also have books detailing this city's founding and growth. These are some of the great reminders of our hometown, Strongsville. Don't forget to check out the antique corner also.

We plan to be available to you during your visit to the Village. Masks and social distancing are still required in the store.

If you prefer, call for your personal shoppers, Marty or Marie, at 440-879-1092 to shop at the store with one of them.

## Historical Tidbits

### Who is Foltz Parkway named after?

Fred Foltz worked for the city for 30 years. He was a councilman, council president, and involved in the city planning commission. When he passed away in 1970, the industrial parkway was named after him.

### Can anyone answer this?

When the Ohio Turnpike was constructed in the 1950s, the northwest corner of Strongsville was ceded to Berea. The reason remains unknown. A person affiliated with the Berea Historical Society and who worked at the administration building on Sprague Rd., rescued portions of a 1955 and 1957 Annual Report from the dumpster, but the rationale was not mentioned.

### John D. Rockefeller in Strongsville

Yes, he came to Strongsville at age 14. His father William was involved in horse trading and patent medicines (“snake oil”) in upstate New York , and he incurred the wrath of his neighbors. He moved the family to Strongsville in 1853 in a Conestoga wagon; the boys slept under the wagon at night. They stayed in Strongsville with a relative of John’s mother until renting a house on Whitney Rd. about a mile down from Pearl Rd. The house no longer exists. John did not attend school here, but rather, was boarded in Cleveland. In summer, he worked at a shingle factory in Albion. After 2 years, the family moved to Cleveland.

## Help Needed

Great news, we will be open for limited tours this Summer! This also means our houses need to be dusted and vacuumed to prepare them for visitors! If you are wondering how to help us, please volunteer to help with some Spring cleaning. Please call Jane Laffoon at 216-233-7530 to volunteer. A date agreeable to everyone will be chosen, then we can get the cleaning done in a timely fashion. Looking forward to hearing from you.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2 Village will open for tours. Every Wednesday, 1 PM. Masks are required.  
Reservations are required. Call Valerie 440-268-6386

June 24 Annual Yard Sale. 9 AM - 4 PM. Masks are required.

June 25 Annual Yard Sale. 9 AM - 2 PM. Masks are required.

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