

September, 2017



# *The Village Crier*

*A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society*  
*www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org*

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## **President's Message**

What an exciting summer it has been at the Strongsville Historical Village! Much has been accomplished once again thanks to many! The Lathrop House is looking great again. It's amazing what some new siding and fresh paint will do! The foundation work on the Chapman and Lathrop archive areas has been completed and we are once again dry and sound! Our grounds crew is keeping us looking better than ever with many compliments headed their way.

Tours continued on a regular basis in spite of the hot temperatures. Our docents were ready to go on schedule and shared our story with so many guests. Rentals of the Great Room in the Lathrop House allowed many more guests to see what a special place our Village is. Our Doll Show and Yard Sale also brought in new friends who had never been through the Village. We continue to try to spread the word...please tell a friend or neighbor to stop in!

This fall we hope to have 3 new display areas open during Harvest Festival. The second floor of the Doll Museum has been cleaned out and a display is ready for visitors. In the basement of the Chapman House our Tool Room display will be of interest to one and all but especially to the men who visit and remember the tools used by their fathers and grandfathers. Outside of the Tool Room (where for years we had a cellar sale) we will have a display of household items such as wringer washers, a mangle, and irons from many eras

along with other items. Be sure to stop in and see what we have brought out and put on display.

Be sure to make note of all of the events listed on the calendar on the back of this newsletter and join us! If you would like to become more active in helping at the Village, please call Ruth at 440-572-0535 and we will find just the right place for you. Our really busy time of the year is just ahead and we need lots of hands to make the work go quickly.

*Ruth Brickley*



## **9th Annual Trick or Treat at the Village**

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 3-4:30 and bring a preschool child or kindergartener and join the fun. The Village will be open for these young ones to come Trick or Treat. Admission is one non-perishable food item per person or \$1 per person - all going to the Strongsville Food Bank. RESERVATIONS are required. Please contact Ruth at 440-572-0535. If you would like to help at our event or donate candy- just let us know.

## Harvest Festival

Please join us Saturday and Sunday, September 23 & 24, 2017 from 11AM-5 PM. Admission is free for all but donations are always happily accepted.

Each day from 11AM-5 PM we are planning to have displays and demonstrators with a focus on celebrating Strongsville's history. Come see basket weaving, candle making, rug hooking, Art Show, Antiques, Farmer's Market, Food, Children's Petting Farm and more. Children's Crafts and face painting will take place from 1-4 PM.

Special events on Saturday, September 23rd include the Great Brad, a magician, at 1 PM and "Babes in Black", a folk rock and jazz duet performing at 3 PM. On Sunday, September 24th, the Cow Pie Lottery will begin at approximately 12 PM - don't forget to get your tickets. The Classic Car Parade will take place at 1:30 PM and the BW Alumni Brass Collective will perform at 3 PM. The Quilt Raffle will take place at 4 PM.

The annual Chicken Dinner will be on Sunday, October 1 from 4:30-6:30 PM at the Strongsville Methodist Church.

Call Michelle Piech at 440-714-6544 or the Historical Society at 440-572-0057 with questions. We are always in need of more volunteers to help with this event. Please get involved!!

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHICKEN DINNER

Sunday, October 1, 2017—4:30-6:30 PM

Location- Strongsville United Methodist Church  
Royalton Rd., Strongsville

Adults \$10, Children 5-10 \$6, under 5 free

Please spread the word to friends and family that tickets are available NOW for this delicious dinner.

Menu includes: baked chicken, real mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, cole slaw, home made desserts and more!

This is a fundraiser for the Strongsville Historical Society.

Call Ruth Brickley to order your tickets...

440-572-0535 or email rrbrick@aol.com

Carry out available

## Membership News

We would like to thank all those individuals, families, and businesses who have continually renewed their memberships; your support is greatly appreciated.

Please help us increase our membership by sharing your experiences with the Strongsville Historical Society with your family and friends. We are always looking for new members and organizations that would like to join our membership. Remember you can join online at [www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org). If you own or manage a business, or know of someone who does and would like to join the Historical Society, please contact Dana Martin at 440-572-1353 or [martindl34@twc.com](mailto:martindl34@twc.com) for more information on corporate memberships.

Come visit me at the Membership table during Harvest Festival and if you join or RENEW during and at the Harvest Festival, you will get \$5 off the renewal or membership fee!!! So come see the Village and save on your membership! You will get 3 months free because memberships start January 1. The months of September thru December will be free. Tell friends who are not members to take advantage of this offer for new members!

## Olds General Store

The Olds General Store is well stocked and ready for your shopping! New pottery is on the shelves; flower pots, vases, utensil holders, mugs and jars, to name a few. Also ready for your purchase are books by and about Strongsville families, warm woven afghans in green or red, and prints by Velda Chapman. We still have some of her prints of the former High School for sale. Also, all Degenhart glass purchases over \$10 are 20% off until Christmas. Kids love the Degenhart pouches. Degenhart glass is unique, and we are the only place in northern Ohio to stock pieces.

We have something for everyone on your gift list. Visit the store during regular hours of operation or call Marty or Marie at 440-879-1092 for personal shopping. All sales help maintain the Village.

## Lathrop House

Wow! Renting the Lathrop House was very popular this year. Were you looking for your family and friends this year? If you couldn't find them, they were probably at the Lathrop House attending one of the 16 events that have been held there so far in 2017. Bridal showers, baby showers, birthday parties, alumni reunions, picnics, and meetings are just some of the gatherings that have been held at the Lathrop House. Plus, this year there have been three weddings held at the Lathrop House and already three more weddings are scheduled for 2018.

The multipurpose room is one of the Society's "hidden gems." Due to the setting of the room, the easy access and the low rental rate, it is perfect for a variety of celebrations or meetings. Even though the Village is not open year-round for tours, the multipurpose room is available for rent year-round, seven days a week.

The available seating of up to 44, flexible room arrangements, wheelchair accessibility, and close-up parking all combine to make this a perfect meeting place for many gatherings. And, best of all, the rental rate is only \$25 per hour for Strongsville Historical Society members.

Reservations are starting to come in for holiday parties for this year, so do get in touch if you want to schedule something for your group. For rental information and availability, call 440-572-0057 or go to our website at [www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org) and click on the rental tab to be in touch with the Rental Coordinator.

And remember, it's never too early to book for 2018!

*At right is a photo from the 1880's with the Maatz family in front of the barns. Pictured left to right is a hired hand that assisted the family, Arthur Maatz (Carol's father, his parents Emilia (Krueger) Maatz and Frederick Maatz.*

## October Meeting



*A horse drawn buggy and sleigh that Carol's family used*

Please note - Due to the Harvest Festival on September 23 and 24, there will be no September General Meeting. Join us for our next General Meeting on October 24 at 7 PM at the Strongsville Library. Carole Maatz will present a program entitled "Where Did All The Buggies Go?" The Strongsville Branch Library in collaboration with the Strongsville Historical Society will present a stroll down memory lane to Strongsville in the 1860s. Relive early farm life and see how one family happily lived and survived on a dairy farm, which was recognized in 1976 by the National Bicentennial as the only century farm remaining in Cuyahoga County owned by the same family. Carole Maatz will share family and local photos, history and memorabilia in this fascinating presentation. A short Strongsville Historical Society meeting will precede the presentation. Registration is requested by calling 440-238-5530.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 23-24	Harvest Festival, 11 AM - 5 PM	Historical Village
October 1	Historical Society Chicken Dinner, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Strongsville United Methodist Church
October 21	9th Annual Trick or Treat at the Village , 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	
October 24	General Meeting, Strongsville Library, 7:00 PM	Program presented by Carole Maatz "Where Did All The Buggies Go?"
November 19	Christmas Lighting Ceremony on the Commons	Historical Village open to public, 5:30 PM - 8 PM

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTING IN THE VILLAGE

On Sunday, November 19, 2017, the Village will once again be open from 5:30-8 pm for guests to tour our buildings, enjoy the festive holiday decorations and visit with friends. Please mark your calendar now and come join in the celebration. The City of Strongsville will be holding the annual Lighting Ceremony on the Commons this same evening. Hope to see you there.

Strongsville Historical Society  
13305 Pearl Road  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

## HISTORY FROM 1840 – 1890

### THE PIONEER PICNIC OF 1876

On Thursday, August 24, 1876, was held one of the most successful picnics in Strongsville's history. The beautiful grove of second-growth maples on the farm of M. S. Haynes was a delightful place for the gathering of pioneers from Strongsville and adjacent townships to exchange hearty greetings and reminiscences. It was estimated that about 3,000 were present, for 800 carriages were counted. A platform with seats for seventy-five was provided.

A martial band, organized by M. S. Haynes and Lorenzo Strong as committee, consisted of Flavel Whitney, B. Tuttle, Elder E. Ensign, Banner Osborn, Dr. Somers, Clark Davis, D. Van Arsdale, C. H. Parker, F. J. Bartlett, Joseph Webster, J. Gouch, Alfred Whitney, and L. Strong. The orchestra and chorus of thirty singers under the management of Prof. L. A. Tuttle furnished the instrumental and vocal music. One of the sensations of the day was the arrival of John Stowe, of Brunswick, driving a yoke of Devonshire oxen, attached to a cart, upon which were riding a number of gray haired pioneers. He was met by the martial band and escorted to the grounds.'

At eleven o'clock, Mr. E. H. Reed called the assembly to order. After music, prayer was offered by Rev. O. W. White, of Weymouth, a former Strongsville pastor. A letter from Sidney Strong, giving many interesting facts in the early history of the town, was read by Dr. George Lee. This was followed by the Early History written by Hon. M. E. Gallup. Dinner being announced, the pioneer, musicians and guests marched to the tables loaded with the best the land afforded, of which not the least in importance were the hearty, old-fashioned corn bread, Indian puddings, pork and bean and other pioneer dishes.

After dinner the assembly was called to order by A. J. Pope, who announced the rules of the program to be: First, no apologies; second, do as well as you can; third, stop when you get through." By request, Rev. White read a poem, two stanzas of which we give;

We'll live with them, their olden times;  
Go back, enjoy with them old ways;  
We'll weave the wonders into rhymes  
And let them live those good old days.  
We'll join with them High Power to bless,  
And ne'er forget the thanks we owe,  
Who led them to the wilderness  
And gave them strength to fullness grow.

After music, Rev. A. W. Knowlton read a letter from Rev. D. C. Blood, of Collamer, a pioneer pastor, in which, after expressing regrets, he said: "You have ever held a prominent place as regards morals, humanity, charity, patriotism and religion. May Strongsville never dishonor her past record nor lose her present position. My heart says, 'Peace and prosperity to dear old Strongsville forever.'"

A list of professional men, who have been reared in Strongsville, was next read. Ansel J. Pope told his experiences, when at the age of nineteen, he started west with a knapsack weighing twenty-five pounds on his back. Traveling at the rate of thirty miles a day, he soon reached Cleveland, where he found two or three shops and a blacksmith shop, the latter kept by Abram Heacox. The first man he met was Chipman Porter. He visited Strongsville, but soon returned to New York. Ten out of the fifteen dollars earned on the way proved to be counterfeit. At that date, 1876, Mr. Pope had suspended in the shop in good working order the old bellows brought by him into Strongsville, on his return in the spring. Mr. Pope stated that he believed the old bellows had pumped more wind in sixty years than there is in the township. He referred to tools made by him fifty years ago still in use, and told of a time when he only had potatoes for his meals.

Deacon Abial Haynes, eighty-two years of age, spoke of the time when only ten men lived in Strongsville. He was glad to meet acquaintances, which he had (not) seen for fifty years. These old people reminded him of a windfall, where only a few stubs are left standing.

John Watson, of Berea, told of one of the earliest methods for the suppression of drunkenness. The regulators made a rule that if a man was found to be drunk, he must be taken on a rail and thrown into Conyne's millpond. This treatment proved more effective than Crusaders, or Good Templars, and never failed to sober a drunken man. Binoni Bartlett told of successful and unsuccessful hunts for deer and turkey. A solo, "Fifty Years Ago," was rendered by Miss Florence Reed.

Among the relics brought forth at this time were an ancient sword, a cane over 100 years old, which formerly belonged to Asa Drake's father; also a jug bought in Boston by Abial Haynes in 1793, steelyards marked 1779, Bible 100 years old, two plates 120 years old, a piece of linen over 150 years old, and a cane once owned by Geo. Whitefield.

After a social tune the many pioneers and their friends wended their way to their homes. For a few years following, pioneer picnics were held in Strongsville and adjacent townships.

*History of Strongsville 1893*

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