



May 2025

The Village Crier

Preserving and Interpreting the history, Significance, and Traditions of the Strongsville Area

President's Message

It's hard to believe we're already almost halfway through the year, spring has gone fast! We have focused our attention on maintenance projects leading up to our annual tour season which runs from April to October.

We must also prepare the village for our annual 3rd grade tours that take place every year in May. The grounds are looking nicer every year with increased volunteer attention to keep everything weeded and pruned. This will be the 4th year we have middle schoolers coming to the village to spread mulch in all of our beds.

An important milestone was reached at our May board meeting, the adoption of a new Strategic Plan for 2025-2030! A Strategic Planning committee was formed and met several times, culminating in a presentation to the board, and their approval of the plan. Committees will now be meeting to discuss plans focused on accomplishing strategic goals in the following five areas:

- ◆ Hiring paid part/full time staff;
- ◆ Creating a village master plan and Village Welcome Center;
- ◆ Expanding our use of information technology and automation;
- ◆ Incorporating a fund-raising versus transactional funding approach; and
- ◆ Enhancing community engagement.

Here are the Mission and Vision statements from the new Strategic Plan:

MISSION

Strongsville Historical Society collects, preserves, and promotes the history of the Strongsville area and its contributions to our regional and national history. We do this for our community by fostering an understanding and appreciation for our past through education, programs, and exhibits.

VISION

To serve as a hub for community education and engagement for the preservation of our historical heritage and become a vibrant and accessible place for all to explore and engage with our history to cultivate a community that encourages lifelong learning.

Look for more exciting news to come as we make progress on our newly defined goals.

Scott Maloney



OFFICERS

Scott Maloney, President
Grace Hardison, Vice President
Dan Sage, Treasurer
Terry McGreal, Asst Treasurer
Jan Miller, Corresponding Secretary
Jim Southworth, Recording Secretary

DIRECTORS

John Bedford 23-25	Marty Shaw 24-26
Barb Krivos 23-25	Dennis Dimengo 25-27
Mary Pultz 23-25	Jamie Miles 25-27
Vacant 24-26	Sylvia Pakish 25-27
Vicki Maloney 24-26	

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Membership Committee—Vicki Maloney

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their memberships this year!



If you haven't renewed your membership yet for 2025, it's not too late! You can renew by visiting the Strongsville Historical Society website. As always, we accept the traditional paper membership forms with cash or check, which can be downloaded from our website. We are now also offering online membership renewal. The link can be found on the home page of our website or scan this QR code!



We're communicating electronically with members more than ever! If you're email address has changed or you're not sure we have your email address, **please contact us at StrongsvilleHistoricalMembers@gmail.com and provide your current email address.**

We will update our records, and you will soon start receiving our electronic communications!

In the coming months, we plan to schedule a member activity on the grounds of the Historical Village. More information to come...

Maintenance Committee—Scott Maloney

With old buildings come unexpected surprises...we discovered two structural issues this spring that required immediate attention to protect our most valuable assets - our buildings.

On the Lathrop House, excavation was required around the south and east walls of the basement under the all-purpose meeting room to correct hydrostatic pressure that was pushing the basement wall inward. On the Olds General Store, it was discovered that the front wall of the building was not properly supported and water running between the porch floor boards had been damaging the support joists underneath. The porch floor will be replaced with tongue-and-groove flooring, the structure will be properly reinforced, and the front wall of the store has been jacked up to the proper elevation to remove a sag that was affecting operation of the entrance door and windows.

More work is planned for our buildings this summer to correct wood rot and repaint the exteriors of buildings that are due so we keep them water tight and protected from the elements.

Memorial Day—Grace Hardison



On Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th, the Historical Village will once again open our doors for all to visit. The Village will be open 11:30am-2pm.

After the parade, come visit the Lathrop Dining Room where a white table, also known as a missing man table, will be in the forefront. Our military display is also definitely a must-see. The Lathrop meeting room will feature crafts for kids and a snack.

This year, we are excited that the DAR will be joining us to host a kick-off sale for Wreaths Across America for the wreaths we will be placing in December 2025 at the graves of our military veterans.

We hope to see you on this very important day!

Greetings from the Olds General Store—Marty Shaw

The Olds General Store is offering a collection of vintage and antique pottery from the Degenhart Glass Museum of Cambridge, Ohio. Many pieces are one-of-a-kind or experimental pieces offered at greatly reduced prices. Names like Fenton, Universal, Weller, Roseville, Labino, Holly Amber, Hobbs, St. Clair, Crooksville, McCoy, Hull, Hall, and others are on display and available.

Call 440-409-5925 for an appointment to view or visit the Olds General Store on Wednesdays from 10am to 2pm. Or plan a visit to the Olds General Store on Saturday, May 17th, 10am to 2pm. Cash, check, and credit card accepted.



Annual Yard Sale Fundraiser—Rosanne Coyne

Just in time for Spring Cleaning – we are currently accepting donations of all household items for our annual Yard Sale Fundraiser! This year's event will be held on June 19th, 20th & 21st to coincide with the Rib Burnoff. We will also be having a 50/50 raffle this year!

Hours are Thurs 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-2pm and Sat 10am-2pm.

We are currently accepting donations of all household items except clothing. Boxed or bagged items may be dropped off at the General Store on Wednesdays from 10am-2pm. We will also have drive-thru drop off days on Sat 6/14 & Sun 6/15 from 10am-2pm. If you would like to arrange a donation pickup, please call or text Rosanne at 440-749-1688. Anyone interesting in volunteering to work the Sale or Drop Off Days, please contact Rosanne. Thanks!

Harvest Festival 2025—Grace Hardison



The Village Harvest Festival will take place on Saturday, September 27th from 11am until 4pm. There will be wonderful entertainment, fun crafts and games, great vendors, a food tent, and all the houses will be open for touring.

A wonderful endeavor like this, of course, needs a great deal of volunteers. Plans for this year's Harvest Festival are well underway and the next planning meeting will be July 19th at 10am in the Lathrop meeting room. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please reach out to Grace Hardison for additional information. Grace can be reached at gmhdesign78@gmail.com or (440) 862-1129.

Historian Report—Dennis Dimengo

In April 1965 a severe weather system produced a large number of tornados that caused major damage and loss of life across the mid-west. Strongsville was in the path of an F-4 tornado which caused significant damage and one death in the city. In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of that tornado, Strongsville Historical Society member, David Maloney, will present “A Twist in Our History: A Look Back at the 1965 Palm Sunday Tornado” on August 20th, 7pm at the Strongsville Library (18700 Westwood Drive, Strongsville, Ohio 44136). If you wish to attend, please register on the library website. There is no charge for this event.

Our rotating exhibit in the Strongsville Veterans and Military Museum, “The History of the Gold Star Tradition”, will close on May 14th. A new exhibit, “Trench Art: Soldier Artwork of the 20th Century”, will open on Memorial Day, May 26th. This exhibit will showcase artwork done by military personnel while in uniform. The exhibit includes works from several different nations including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Spain.

Happy 100th Birthday to Ruth Mitchell!

One of our long time members and volunteers, Ruth Mitchell turned 100 years old on March 29th! She is doing quite well, still lives independently, and is sharp as a tack!

Ruth was an active volunteer for decades, serving as a docent for house tours, and helping with the Spring Fashion Show committee, the annual teas, ice cream socials, Christmas in the Village, cleaning crew, gardening, raffle ticket sales, Trick-or-Treat at the Village, and served as a house aid for rentals quite often. She was one of those people who was always there to help whenever she could!

If you know Ruth, reach out to congratulate her on a century of life!



Wait, What? Cattle Drives in Strongsville?

by Dennis Dimengo, Society Historian

I don't know about you, but when I hear the words "cattle drive" I conjure up an image of cowboys in ten-gallon hats and chaps riding stallions across the Great Plains. They're usually on their way from Texas to Omaha with a herd of Herefords and a chuck wagon following them. So, you can imagine my surprise when, while researching John Stoughton Strong, I read about cattle drives in Strongsville. It turned out to be quite a story.

For Strongsville's early settlers, creating a functioning local economy was a difficult and slow endeavor. Most of them were farmers who invested the bulk of their money in their land. It took time to create a functioning farm and produce a crop so most early settlers were subsistence farmers, using their crops to feed their families. It took several years to produce enough surplus crops to sell. Even then, there wasn't an active market for them since their neighbors were in the same situation. As a result, Strongsville operated as a barter economy. But without cash, the local economy and market couldn't develop.

John Strong, from his vantage point as land agent negotiating the sale of lots within the township, soon devised a solution to the problem. An experienced businessman and investor, he recognized that many of the farms did have an immediately available cash crop: cattle. Furthermore, since there was no market in Strongsville for cattle, they would have to be taken to where there were markets: back east. In 1820, Strong purchased cattle ready for market from farms around Strongsville and organized the first cattle drive. His method was to assemble the herd on the commons then drive the cattle along existing roads east to markets in Boston, New York or Philadelphia. He made the trip on horseback and was helped by hands he hired in the area. When the herd was in eastern Pennsylvania, he would ride ahead to the markets to determine which one would have the best price, then drive the herd there. The one-way distance was 450 to 700 miles depending on the market he chose. The cattle could make 8-10 miles per day so the one-way trip would take 2-3 months. Along the way, Strong would also recruit new settlers for the township. After the sale, he and his hands would make the return trip to Strongsville with the proceeds which would be used to purchase more livestock or invested in businesses.

Strong led a drive annually for 21 years finally stopping at the age of 70. In addition to cattle, he also drove sheep and hogs to markets in the east and later in the Midwest.

So, yes, there were cattle drives in Strongsville. They were an important factor in Strongsville's economic growth by bringing in desperately needed cash to help farms and businesses thrive and by attracting new settlers. Now I'm wondering if John Strong ever said "Move 'em out, head 'em up" on his way back east (with apologies to "Rawhide").

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 17 (Sat) 11am to 2pm - **Antique Pottery Sale at the Olds General Store**

May 26 (Mon) 11:30am-2:00pm - **Memorial Day Open House**

June 19 (Thu) 10:00am-6:00pm; June 20 (Fri) 10:00am-2:00pm; June 21 (Sat) 10:00am-2:00pm -
Annual Historical Society Yard Sale

Aug 20 (Wed) 7pm - **“A Twist in Our History: A Look Back at the 1965 Palm Sunda Tornado”**
Strongsville Public Library, registration is requested

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

**Tim Canitia
Robb Hollosy
Rebecca Prucha
Andrea Rice
Karol Ann Summers**

**Remember to renew your membership for 2025—visit
strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org to renew online or to print our membership form**

**Strongsville Historical Society
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Strongsville, Ohio 44136**

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