



March, 2022

The Village Crier

A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society

www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org

President's Message

It seems like forever, actually about 2 years, since we have been on a normal schedule at the Historical Society. This year we hope to be able to get to a new norm which will include having the Village open for tours, programs for the community to enjoy, and some of our favorite events brought back for all to attend!

Back in 1961, when the Society was founded by a dedicated group of friends led by Howard and Velda Chapman, they most likely never thought about us being shut down by a pandemic. Sure, Mother Nature could always throw us a rain storm or bad snow storm here in Ohio or a tornado, but a pandemic which would change so many lives most likely was not thought about. With the advances in medicine, who would have thought even if we had many folks getting sick that so many would suffer so badly and for so long, even resulting in death. With advances such as the first medical x-ray machine in February 1896, developed by Dayton C. Miller, born in Strongsville, Ohio and oh so many other medical advancements over the years, it's difficult to understand how a pandemic of this nature got so out of control.

Back to 1961 and the founding of our Historical Society...it has been 60+years of work and the dedication of hundreds of volunteers who have brought us to where we are today both with the collections we proudly preserve and display and the financial stability we are grateful to have. We have weathered the pandemic. We are more than ready to move ahead with your help.

Please think about getting reacquainted with the Historical Society by stopping in for a tour, volunteering to help or maybe even making an extra donation to support the work being done. Just a reminder that we have no paid staff and count on volunteers to get the work done and spread the word about our Society and Village.

Coming this year to the Village will be a new pathway to make it easier for everyone to get around the Village to see the buildings and displays. Work on this new path is scheduled for April, weather permitting,

Please follow us on Facebook and on our website at www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org to get up to date information about programs and events.

We look forward to seeing you at the Village this year!

Ruth Brickley

Spring Cleaning Helpers Needed

As the Society prepares to open the Village buildings in May, we need to clean each of the areas we open! The more hands we get to help, the easier and quicker the job will be. We are grateful for any and all help in dusting, vacuuming, washing floors, washing curtains and more. If you can work for an hour or 2 it would be appreciated. This task is usually done in April. Please contact Ruth at 440-572-0535 or by email at rrbrick@aol.com to volunteer. Bring a friend and it's more fun than work!

Records Update

We are in the process of updating our computer records. We have cleaned out all committee volunteer records other than those sent in this year with membership payments. If you would like to help with any of the following, or in other ways, please notify Michelle at michellepiech@yahoo.com or Ruth at rrbrick@aol.com. The following committees need help: Buildings and Grounds, Restoration projects, Collections, Strategic Planning, Education, Fundraising, Membership, Hospitality, Publicity, Docent (tours), Gardening, Finance, Harvest Festival, Christmas Events, Spring Fashion Show, and Tea Committees. We have found that when calling to request help our lists of volunteers are old and not accurate. We do need your help!

We also need you to update your email, phone numbers and mailing address so we may easily contact you! With changes in all of our lives, our phones and addresses also change, so stay in touch.

Yard Sale

Mark your calendar for our Annual Yard Sale! This fundraiser helps us raise money for the Society and helps you clean out some of your extra "stuff". This year it will be held on Thursday, June 23, from 9am-4pm, and Friday, June 24 from 9am-2pm. If you have items you would like to donate or if you would like to help, please contact Ruth at 440-572-0535. We will have the opportunity available again this year to rent a space for you to sell your own items. Contact Ruth for more information on this. There are limited spaces available at \$15 per day.

Welcome to the Olds General Store

With St. Patrick's Day right around the corner, make an appointment to check out all the green in stock to ensure the luck of the Irish is with you.

Owls, scarves, afghans, fleece zip ups and polos are on the shelves. The newest green items are Irish coffee mugs, Irish whiskey glasses, and a lovely two handled Beleck vase. All are decorated with the green shamrocks of Ireland of course.

Don't forget the antique corner of the store. All collectors have room for one more piece! Some beautiful glassware and vintage kitchen items await your viewing.

Call Leprechaun Marty at 440-879-1902 for a personal shopping appointment or stop in when the Village is open again in May. Looking forward to seeing you again.

Lathrop House Rentals

Something new is going on at the Multipurpose room at the Lathrop House! The Institute of Learning in Retirement (ILR) out of Baldwin Wallace is holding classes at the Lathrop House. Just finishing up the winter session is the quilting class and soon it will be time to register for the spring classes.

The purpose of the ILR is to provide senior adults the highest quality, most accessible and least expensive educational, social and cultural experiences possible. The Strongsville

Historical Society is very happy to provide a location so close to home for many of us for some very interesting and affordable classes.

Registration for all the spring classes (not just those being held at the Lathrop House) is from March 14-27 at www.ilrbw.org. You should take a look and see what might interest you.

The Multipurpose Room in the Lathrop House is now taking reservations, and the calls are starting to come in for dates this spring and summer. Check out our website for contact information on rentals. Rentals (strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org)

Membership Corner

Please spread the word to family, friends and neighbors - we are always excited to welcome new members to the Strongsville Historical Society. Those interested can join by filling out the membership envelope or by visiting our website. Annual membership fees have not increased, they are as follows: \$10 for Students (22 and under), \$15 for Seniors (65+), \$40 for Families (includes children up to 18 yrs.) Those who are interested in upgrading to a Life Membership can do so for a one time payment of \$300. In addition, for those who own their own business or frequent a favorite company, we have a business membership as well. What a great way to give back to the community, by helping to preserve the past!!

Membership isn't just about writing a check or paying a fee, we also rely on our members for their manual support. We have a variety of committees that are looking for people who can share their skill, hobby or passion. You can sign up for as many of the committees as your time allots. Please note: Each year the committee selections are cleared from all membership files, you have to select the committees you are interested in each year as you renew.

This year's Harvest Festival is currently in the planning stages and is scheduled for the weekend of September 24th. If you are interested in helping with the event in any capacity, have a talent to share, and/or know anyone who would be interested in helping, please reach out to Michelle Piech at michellepiech@yahoo.com or 440-714-6544. We are grateful for our members, without whom we wouldn't be successful. Thank you!

Historical Tidbits

The John Strong party of 7 arrived in 1816, and others soon followed. They cleared land, built cabins, and planted crops. In 1819, a log cabin was built on the Commons. It served as the church, school, and town meeting house.

School ran for 6 or 8 weeks in summer, between planting time and harvest. The qualification to be a teacher was being able to read, write, and do a little arithmetic.

In 1825, the cabin was replaced with a wood-frame building, for grades 1 through 7. The first public high school classes began there in 1859; earlier high schools were private, pay-as-you-go.

When a new town hall was built in 1896 (our Old Town Hall), school classes were held on the first floor- elementary school in the west room and high school in the east room. The first graduating class in 1899 consisted of 7 students: Camilla Carpenter, Louis Clement, Will Draper, Ida Dunham, Lola Heazlit, Agnes McConnell, and Hattie Webster. (from Strongsville Pictorial Historical Book I)

Sad News

We are sad to report that longtime treasured Historical Society member Mary Hastings passed away on February 10, 2022. Mary held leadership positions in the Society, as well as being an active member of many committees in the Society and throughout the community of Strongsville. Her knowledge of the history of Strongsville and the Society, as well as her cheerful and helpful presence, will be sorely missed.

Something's Brewing

We are brewing some public programs for the 4th Tuesday in April and May, probably at the Library.

April 26th will be "The History Hooligan's Random Stories". A hooligan is generally a combative trouble-maker. The program presenter - your history researcher - chooses the hooligan nickname because of a preference for earthy "real" stories that make you say "Are you kidding me?"

When paved highways were built, the effect on Strongsvillites' lives will be the topic of the May 24th program.

Later in the year (dates to be determined), probable programs will include: how to research your house, John D. Rockefeller in Strongsville, and the "mansion" property on Albion Hill along Pearl Rd.

Keep checking the website for updates and details!

Group Tours

There are already several requests for group tours to be scheduled this year. These will be in addition to open hours.

The more building monitors we can get, the better the experience for visitors. You don't need to memorize anything if you don't want to, but we would love to have you come chat with the guides or shadow us doing open hours. We are always looking for more help with tours.

If you are involved with a club that is looking for a nice "field trip", contact the Tour Scheduler, Valerie, at vmattingley79@gmail.com or (330)-952-1095.

Tours- Y'all Come

When was the last time you toured our lovingly maintained Village of fascinating buildings? There have been improvements; and furnishings are being swapped out of storage on a regular basis.

Last year, tours were by appointment. We learned visitors prefer earlier hours; many would go to lunch afterward. This year, we will go back to specific open hour tours. Open tour dates will be May through August, the 1st Wednesday and the 3rd Saturday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Unfortunately, every time we train a new host/guide, we lose one...or two. There will be fewer "open" days than in the past...much like many/most historical museums. See the website for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 26 Public Program 7 PM Strongsville Library
 “The History Hooligan’s Random Stories”
 Presented by Valerie Mattingley
- May 4 Opening Day for the Village
- May 24 Public Program 7 PM Old Town Hall
 “Crossroads of the Nation: Development Boom from Horses to
 Highways” Presented by Jamie Miles
- June 23 Yard Sale - 9am-4pm
- June 24 Yard Sale - 9am-2pm
- September 24, 25 Harvest Festival
- October 22 Trick or Treat in the Village (preschool through kindergarten)
- November 20 Christmas Open House and Lighting

Strongsville Historical Society

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