

**Strongsville Historical Society: Archive Preservation and Digitization  
OHRAB Grant Report  
August 31st, 2024**

The Strongsville Historical Society has, thus far, completed roughly 60% of our Archive Preservation and Digitization project, funded by the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board. We used the grant funds to purchase the digitization equipment, including a laptop, flatbed scanner, and printer (receipts attached). This equipment has been purchased, delivered, has been installed in our archives space, and has already been key to improving our processes in digitization of our archival materials.

Portability of the laptop in particular has been instrumental in improving volunteer access and use of our new collections management software, CatalogIt. Using the laptop, our Collections Committee Chair has been able to accurately record and inventory items across our Historical Village, adding images to metadata for 1500 objects, representing 10% of our collection. Volunteers have also begun the process of scanning photos and documents in the archives using both the flatbed scanner and printer-scanner. So far, 66 of these photos and documents have been scanned. Additionally, we have continued to work with Ohio History Service Corps members to streamline and incorporate best practices for our inventory and cataloging processes. Images below show our last work session with the Service Corps members, with the new technology in place and in use. The work completed thus far for the OHRAB grant represents about 140 hours of volunteer work from Strongsville Historical Society members.

This fall, we are continuing to make progress on digitization of our photo and document collection, as well as improving digital representation of the objects in our collection. We are in the process of recruiting additional volunteers in order to better distribute the workload. The project is on track to be completed by December 31st, 2024. We have publicized the grant project in our Newsletter that goes out to all Strongsville Historical Society members, which is attached as well.





June, 2024

# *The Village Crier*

A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society

[www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org)

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## President's Message

Welcome to the June 2024 issue of the Strongsville Historical Society newsletters. We have been busy over the past couple months cleaning up the Historical Village grounds to be ready for our tour season. Cub Scout Pack 157 and Schonhut Landscaping once again came to our aid, along with numerous members who have generously donated their own time to weed prune and mulch our beds. Ben Kish from Boy Scout Troop 221 installed a wonderful paver patio for our picnic table near the Chapman House as his Eagle Scout project. We also wrapped up our cleanup of the green space on the west side of the barn, and new grass seed is starting to grown nicely in that area.

We hosted our 2nd annual Memorial Day open house from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm and had almost 300 visitors! The crafts for children were once again a hit and we continue to get many visitors who tell us they are visiting for the first time.

This year's Harvest Festival is on Saturday, September 28th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please contact Grace Hardison, the chairperson, if you are interested in helping with this event. We are one again lining up exhibitors, demonstrators and vendors to make it an enjoyable event for everyone. A new twist this year is that the Rotary Strongfest beer tasting event is scheduled for the evening of the same day. We will jointly promote our events as a full day of fun in the Strongsville Town Center!

*Scott Maloney*

## News From the Olds General Store

Did you know that on the museum side of the Olds Store there are over 350 accessioned artifacts? And these are sorted by categories like kitchen wares, cooking spices, imported tobaccos, medicines, and even cleaning products. Stop in to reminisce. While there, look on the gift shop side to notice new Strongsville pottery (we are the only source of Strongsville pottery), glassware and pewter. All waiting for you to purchase and take home. Make certain to look at the pottery item of the month by Westerwald Pottery. It's a table size sugar and creamer for only \$24.00. And remember: for every ten dollars you spend at the store you will fill out a ticket to win the Harvest Festival gift basket full of Strongsville goodies.

Keep in mind that the Olds General Store does accept donations of items to be sold to benefit the Village. Gently loved Christmas items are especially needed for this year's Christmas in the Village celebration. Consider donating by calling Marty at 440-409-5925 to plan a date to meet at the Olds Store.

# School Tours

We are shouting out thanks for your part in making 3rd grade school tours in May 2024 in the Strongsville Historical Village a huge success. This year we had all Strongsville city 3rd graders plus Sts. Joseph and John participate. Prior to the tours Jean Wittrock visited each classroom with a preview of the tour along with some artifacts and a graphic storybook for each student. Included this year was the Roe-Chapman Museum. It was a challenge.

This year there were 459 students attending and over 70 chaperones and 20 teachers. A total of \$1590.00 went into the general fund. We are grateful for the school district participation. There were 20 Historical Society members staffing 45 positions.

We look forward to next year and making our founders Velda and Howard Chapman proud of us in our mission to interpret the history of Strongsville through programs that inspire, stimulate and educate our community.

Sincere thanks to the Villagers who were involved in the school tours: Elaine Cairnes, Laura Schlegel, Jean Wittrock, Sonia Reber, Charlotte Schneider, Vicki Maloney, Jan Miller, Wendy Steller, Tom Drost, Ralph Sammon, Butch Krivos, Carol Conrad, Andrea Galassi, Pam McConnell, Jane Ludwig, Janet Noss, Marty Shaw, Barbara Krivos, Jamie Miles Jan Jameyson, John Beford.

Thanks again and see you in the Village!

Jean Wittrock, Laura Schlegel, Elaine Cairns

# Strongsville Ties to Our Nation's Military History

Come and learn about the new military history exhibit located in the Ebenezer Pomeroy House at the Strongsville Historic Village. David Maloney will be presenting at 7:00 pm on July 16th at the Strongsville branch of the County Library.

We will discuss how the military history exhibit was assembled, including the research process undertaken to uncover and present the history of our veterans and American military conflict, and provide an in-depth look at the stories behind some of the artifacts and veteran possessions on display. There will be a question and answer period, and a sneak peek at future artifacts coming to our display.

# Memorial Day

Thank you to everyone who helped and volunteered to make our second Memorial Day Open House such a success. The Lathrop meeting room hosted both crafts for kids and refreshments. Thank you to Barb Krivos who baked Star cookies in Gold, Silver and Blue. The Fallen Soldier table in the Lathrop dining room brought about many interesting conversations. The Pomeroy house hosted the Gold tree this year where Gold, Silver and Blue stars were available. The Cub Scout Troop 157 that we sponsor, both walked in the parade and joined in the crafts this year.

# Outdoor Decorations

Plans are already underway to think about Halloween, Fall, and of course Christmas decorations for the Village. Some of the items that are needed are grapevine wreaths, garland for both fall and Christmas, outdoor extension cords and any sized Christmas Trees. Please contact Grace Hardison at 440-862-1129 for information.

# Harvest Festival 2024

The Village Harvest Festival will take place on September 28th from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. There will be wonderful entertainment, fun crafts and games, great vendors, our food tent and all the houses will be open for touring.

A wonderful endeavor like this of course needs a great deal of volunteers. Please reach out to Grace Hardison for volunteer information. The next committee meeting is July 13 at 11:00 am in the Lathrop meeting room.

# Village Yard Sale 2024

The Village Yard Sale will take place this year! It will be held on Thursday, August 22 from

9 am till 7pm, Friday, August 23 from 9 am till 2 pm, and Saturday, August 24 from 9 am till 12 pm. Marty Shaw (440-409-5925) will be at the Village on Wednesdays, from 10 till 2 every week until the sale to accept donations. August 20th and 21st will also be drop off days during the set up of the sale.

Call Grace Hardison (440-862-1129) or Marty for an appointment to drop off donations at another time. We are not accepting clothing again this year. Please watch for the sign up genius to volunteer for this wonderful event! Thank you in advance for your help in making this event a success!

# Ohio History Service Corps Partnership

We wanted to share a quiet effort we have undertaken under the leadership of Jamie Miles, our Historian, and Jane Ludwig, our Library and Collections Committee Chair, to partner with the Ohio History Service Corps. We have had a series of meetings with John Clement and Kaitlyn Brulia from this volunteer organization so they can lend their expertise, knowledge, and contacts to advise us on opportunities to enhance the management of our archives and collections. The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) created the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (STEPS). THE full steps workbook is divided into six sections and allows institutions to review their practices and policies in the context of national museum standards. Formal participants of the STEPS program can receive certificates from AASLH that demonstrate their progress and achievements. The Ohio History Service Corps (OHSC) informally utilizes the STEPS workbook and STEPS standards while assisting organizations. They use surveys based on each section of the STEPS workbook. The AmeriCorps section surveys are slightly more condensed than the full workbook sections, but the standards and assessment questions are the same. The completed surveys are submitted to the AmeriCorps program director so there is tangible evidence of the impact the OHSC has upon local organizations, and it provides a blueprint for activities the Strongsville Historical Society will undertake to enhance our processes.

# OHRAB Grant Award

We are excited to share that a Strongsville Historical Society grant request to the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board was recently approved! We will receive a funding match in the amount of \$2,784.00 to help cover the cost of purchasing a laptop, multi-function printer, and platter scanner. This equipment will be set up in the archive room at the Village to support digitizing our paper documents and photos to make this valuable historical information more accessible over time. This is also a necessary step to make progress on our acceptance into the Cleveland Memory Project in 2023 where communities and history oriented organizations throughout Northeast Ohio have come together to digitize historical documentation and make it searchable and accessible to the greater community. Go to [clevelandmemory.org](http://clevelandmemory.org) on the internet to view a treasure trove of historical images and content.

## Technology Update

Technology may not be something that comes to mind when one thinks about the operations of a historical museum. However, it has gradually become more and more prevalent in the daily operations of our Historical Society. To help protect our buildings, grounds, and the contents, we now operate almost 50 security cameras throughout our buildings and grounds to record video we can reference in the aftermath of vandalism or theft. We also have a security system with motion and door sensors in every building.

We have a website, Facebook, and Instagram to promote our organization and build awareness of our existence throughout the Strongsville community and region. We use software called QuickBooks to manage our books, and online banking to manage our bank accounts and pay bills. WE can log onto both through the Internet to manage our finances from anywhere. We recently signed up with a credit card processor to accept credit cards for purchases in our General Store and at our events.

WE converted our collections management to a new software called Catalogit that provides significantly more flexibility, as we can now take pictures of an accessioned item with a smart phone and download the pictures right into the Catalog software. We can take a laptop or tablet right to any room where we're managing our collections and input information on the spot without having to write it down to input later. These technology investments will position us to do more with less in the coming years, making processes easier for our volunteers to manage.

**Follow us on Instagram: @strongvillehistorical**  
**“Like” our Facebook page: Strongsville Historical Society**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 16                    Program: Strongsville Ties to Our Nation's Military History  
Presented by David Maloney  
Strongsville Branch Library   7:00 pm
- Aug. 22,23,24            Village Garage Sale - Strongsville Historical Village  
Thursday Aug. 22    9:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Friday    Aug. 23    9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Saturday Aug. 24    9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Sept. 28                    Harvest Festival   11:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Strongsville Historical Society**

**13305 Pearl Road**

**Strongsville, Ohio 44136**