

Now & Then in Ripon ... Looking back with the Ripon Historical Society

Ripon has ties behind the founding of Berlin

Many people do not realize how interconnected the communities of the area truly are.

Nearby Berlin is celebrating the 175th anniversary of its founding this year, and its beginning started in Ripon.

In May 1844, settlers came to the area and created the community of Ceresco near today's Ceresco Park on Union Street in what is now part of the city of Ripon.

In July of 1844, Nathan H. Strong (1782-1862), along with his wife, Sarah Westover Strong (1790-1852), came to live in Ceresco as a part of what was known as the Wisconsin Phalanx.

Their daughters, Betsy Strong Bates (1807-1887), Elizabeth Strong Barnes (1820-1906), Cynthia Strong Willson and Phebe Ann Strong Clark Starr (1824-1906) also moved to the Phalanx, either bringing their husbands or marrying in Ceresco.

Son Nathan H. Strong II (1813-1852), a lawyer, came to the Phalanx in February 1845 with his wife, Sarah Sheldon Strong (1816-1845), and five children. After Nathan II's wife died in Ceresco, he remarried Amanda Carhart Strong (1833-1919) and had one more child. Another son, William Strong (1808-1893) also came to the area.

Strong II and his brother-in-law, Hiram Barnes (1810-1879), along with two other men were contracted by the Territory of Wisconsin to find a good crossing over the marshes to the lands further west of what is now Ripon. They left Ceresco and traveled northwest.

"When Nathan Strong saw the 'high ground' east of the Fox River and the acres upon acres of good timber, he decided to lay claim to these newly opened lands," Berlin historian Bobbie Erdmann wrote.

She went on to write, "but here the story gets foggy. Some say the group went back to Ceresco and started making plans to move to Strong's land. Some say Strong stayed and built himself a shelter and laid claim to the lands from the river east."

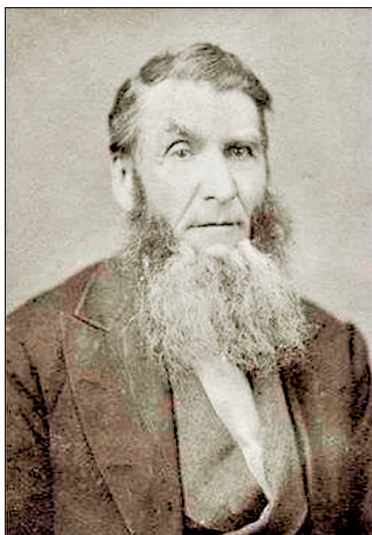
The 1860 Album of Green Lake et al Counties states Nathan Strong II "was the first settler of the city of Berlin and its founder; he settled on the site in the fall of 1846, and platted a village which he called Strongville, and which was afterwards known as Strong's Landing; he built the first sawmill in the village and also erected the first



Nathan Strong



Elizabeth Barnes Strong



Hiram Barnes

residence."

The History and Directory of the City of Ripon, Green Lake and Waushara Counties printed in 1881 noted, "When Nathan Strong entered the land on which a part of the city of Berlin now stands, he and O. Willson were the only inhabitants; that was in May 1847." Willson was another brother-in-law.

The 1860 Gillespy's History



THIS 1867 BIRDS-eye-view map of Berlin shows how large the community had grown fewer than 20 years from when it was founded in 1848 by settlers from Ceresco, now a part of Ripon. *submitted photo*

of Green Lake County states that "Nathan H. Strong II entered the land on which a part of the city of Berlin now stands in May 1847; he established a ferry there in 1848 across the Fox River, hence the name of Strong's Landing, which later gave way to the name of Berlin."

The 1881 History of Northern Wisconsin notes that "He (Strong II) and his brother William were first settlers of Berlin, built the first ferry boat and took an active part in organizing the town of Berlin."

According to Erdmann, stories of Strong establishing a ferry in Berlin cannot be verified and the ferry might have been established after 1850 or 1851 by someone else.

The first plat for the village of Strongsville was filed in 1848, the same year that Wisconsin became a state.

The History of Northern Wisconsin, printed in 1881, notes that Strong II, and his brother-in-law, Oscar Willson, along with three other men, laid out the town plat of Strongville.

Erdman related that the settlement got the nickname "Strong's Landing" because pioneers would pull into the community to purchase lumber from Strong II as they traveled up the river to their nearby

claims.

The Sexton's Record of the Phalanx noted that Strong's sister's family, the Barnes family, moved from Ceresco "to Strong's Landing in the fall of winter of 1847." But the Barnes left Berlin in 1857 and returned to Ceresco. They lived there until 1863, when they purchased a farm in Rosendale. The other family members who moved with Strong II stayed as the first settlers to help establish what would become the city of Berlin.

Over the years, the commu-

nity of Berlin grew to a population of more than 5,000 people, and many have forgotten its founding was due to settlers from Ripon.

The Ripon Historical Society wishes to extend best wishes to Berlin on the 175th anniversary of its founding.

The Ripon Historical Society is the oldest continually operating historical society in Wisconsin. It is open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information follow us at Facebook/riponhistory or www.riponhistory.org.

H.L. Holmes Asphalt Paving

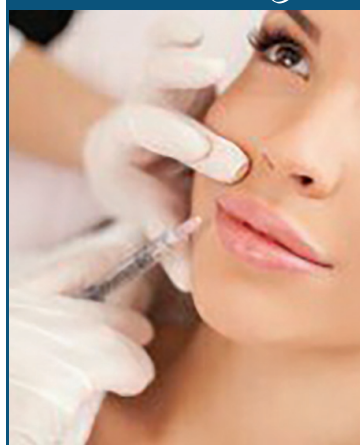
HLHolmesAsphaltAndPaving.com **SAVE NOW!**

- ☆ All Asphalt Maintenance
- ☆ Driveways ☆ Parking Lots
- ☆ Farm Lanes ☆ Patch Work

Call Now for FREE Estimate! ☆ 1-877-722-8207

Refresh YOUR APPEARANCE

EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS FROM BOTOX & DERMAL FILLER TREATMENTS



- SMOOTH FINE LINES
- ALLEVIATE TENSION HEADACHES
- FAST RESULTS
- DELICATE TREATMENT
- NO SURGERY INVOLVED
- COST-EFFECTIVE
- INCREASED COLLAGEN & ELASTIN PRODUCTION



CALL US TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR CONSULTATION!
920-299-5833



www.SilverCreekDentistry.com
1209 W. Fond du Lac Street
Ripon, WI

Mon, Tue, Thurs 8am-5pm | Wed 7am-7pm | Fri 8am-4pm

Dr. Courtney Miyamoto



The Ripon Food Pantry

We are available to assist anyone in the community in need of food!

Must call ahead.

920-748-3196

218 Blossom Street, Ripon

Call your local



We deliver heating service you can count on. We'll be there on time. We do the job right at a fair price. Call us for the best in customer care.

BREWER
HEATING & COOLING

866-803-8428

920-748-6494

Central Wisconsin - Fox River Valley

www.brewerheating.com

WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS