

# Fitchburg Historical Society

APR 11  
1991



McCoy House



Fox Hall



Hunt House

## APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Spring is here and it is time for our April general meeting. We will be meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 1991 at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenfield Room of the Fitchburg Community Center.

Following a brief business meeting we will welcome Jim Draeger from the State Historical Society who will provide us with some answers to questions like, "Why do Wisconsin buildings look like they do?" and "Where did the idea for that sort of building originate?" and "What's the style of my house?" He will offer a slide presentation on the history of Wisconsin architecture, which includes examples of area structures. The presentation should provide us, not only with the answers to the above questions, but also with a new awareness of the significant architectural styles and heritage surrounding us. Also, if spring is here, summer can not be far behind, and that means we will be changing our display case exhibit to celebrate "Weddings." We need your assistance in providing articles for the display. Please rack your brain and search the attic to help us find wedding dresses. We need one from circa 1900, and one from 1920-30 to make our exhibit complete. We will also need dress forms to display the dresses. Do you have one, or know of one, that we could borrow?

In addition to searching for these wedding dresses, we also need wedding memorabilia from our members, which we would like you to bring to our April meeting. Items might include old family wedding pictures (please identify the persons in the photo and approximate date of the picture), wedding announcements, etc.

At the April meeting you may also pick up items that you may have brought for the "Containers" display which will be taken down to make room for "Weddings." We think we have a full agenda, plus refreshments, and we look forward to seeing you Wednesday, April 10.



## REMINDER

If a yellow membership form accompanies this newsletter, its purpose is to remind you that your dues have expired and you need to renew in order to continue as a member.

As in the past, all dues expire at the annual meeting each February. We hope you find the Historical Society to be a worthwhile group with which to be affiliated, and that we have offered programs or information that has inspired you to renew your membership.

Please mail your renewal dues and membership form to Treasurer Ellen Green at 5449 Irish Lane, Madison, WI 53711. If you have suggestions for programs or topics of interest, please jot them down and send them along. We welcome your input.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, or helping with the display case, or assisting in planning the direction of the Historical Society, please let us know.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU

The Fitchburg Historical Society participated in the City's "Cabin Fever Festival" this year by selling soda and popcorn at the March 1 dance. We made approximately \$95.00 for our treasury. Special thanks goes to the following members for their assistance during the evening---Joy and Kent Anderson, Bill Stoneman, Jeanie and Jerry Sieling, Al Colvin and Patricia Delker.

A thank you is also in order for Jerry O'Brien who graciously agreed to lead off our reminiscences about "Neighborliness" at our annual meeting. He jogged quite a few memories for many. Other storytelling participants included Bill Stoneman, Bill Kinney, Mary Kinney, Marc Jones, Bob Keenan, and Winnie Lacy.

Finally, thanks also to those of you who brought pictures to share---Phil Fox, Anna Fox, and Mickie Schudlach---and Tom Capp for taking slides of those pictures.

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FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
2421 West Hill Dr.  
Fitchburg, WI 53711



## AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIPS

Once again we will be distributing Affiliate Membership cards at our April general meeting. As one of the 240 historical organizations affiliated with the State Historical Society, every member of our society automatically becomes an Affiliate Member of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

The cards you will receive entitle you to a 10% discount for admission to any of the seven historic sites owned by the State Historical Society. To receive the discount, show your card each time you visit a site.

Each card also includes an invitation to join the State Historical Society as a regular member. If you do join, the Fitchburg Historical Society will receive \$5.00 for each person who uses the invitation to become a new member of the State Society.

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## 1991 OFFICERS

The Board of Directors met during the week following our annual meeting and selected the officers for the year. They are:

President --- Patricia Delker  
Vice-President --- Joy Anderson  
Treasurer --- Ellen Green  
Secretary --- Janet Keenan

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## DO YOU KNOW?

Do you know about the role Irish immigrants played in the settlement of Fitchburg? I am certain some of you with those Irish surnames know the Irish history of Fitchburg, but shortly many others will know about it as well, due to the efforts of Fitchburg Historical Society member, Tom Kinney.

Tom has prepared a presentation entitled "The Irish Settlement in Fitchburg, Wisconsin, 1840-60" which he has been asked to present as part of the American Conference for Irish Studies to be held on the UW-Madison campus, April 10-13.

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Speakers from across the country and Ireland will take part in this prestigious conference. Topics are widely varied and include "Irish Facts/Historical Fictions," "The Politics of Irish Nationalism," "The Great Irish Rebellion," "Irish Poetry," "Politics of Women," and "Early Ireland." Tom's presentation will be part of a session called "Migration and Settlement" held on Thursday, April 11 at 1:45.

Conference registration will be held at the Wisconsin Center, and you may wish to call the UW History Dept. or the Wisconsin Center for more information on this particular session or for full conference information.

Irish immigration in the late 1840's and 50's occurred primarily as the result of the potato famine in Ireland. Other Irish settlers came to America to escape persecution by the English. Tom has talked with many of Fitchburg's Irish families and his presentation will include the personal stories of the Irish settlers in Fitchburg.

Congratulations Tom---the Fitchburg Historical Society is pleased with your efforts to document Fitchburg history and proud to have Fitchburg represented at this important conference.



## UPCOMING CONFERENCE

"Celebrating Preservation '91", the annual Wisconsin Historic Preservation Conference will be held in LaCrosse on May 3-4 at the Radisson Hotel.

The conference will present several topics under three general tracks which are: "The Three R's: Restoration, Rehab and Renovation," "The Three P's: Planning, Protection and Preservation," and "Preservation Issues Forum."

Registration must be completed by April 24. Contact the State Historical Society for registration forms and additional information.

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