



HISTORY IS YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW.

February 2016

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Fitchburg Historical Society will be held Sunday, April 17th. Membership renewals will be due at that time. Mark your calendars now. A reminder will be sent out prior to the meeting. Our speaker for the meeting will be Ed Janus. His topic for the day will be ***How Cows Created Wisconsin.*** Before the speaker's presentation a short business meeting will take place including an election for Board of Director positions. Four board members have terms expiring this year. They are Winnie Lacy, Kay Harty, Dianne Reynolds and Roger Tesch. The Board meets six times a year on the first Saturday of the month. The Board plans for upcoming events and helps with the operation of the FHS. We always welcome new members to the Board. If you would be willing to serve a three-year term please contact the nominating committee by phone or email at the FHS office prior to the April meeting. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the time of the meeting.

Contact numbers are:

608-729-17835 or

woodedarchives@gmail.com

Historical Society. The Sewing Circle, which has been in existence for one hundred years, has kept records and scrapbooks for the entire time. Pictured below are members who were able to attend the November meeting. Standing: Marge Blaney and Mary Kay Clark (current president of the Sewing Circle). Seated: Carole Kinney, Betty Blaney Guy, Barbara Stoneman



NOVEMBER MEETING

Members of the Swan Creek Sewing Circle were feted during the November general meeting of Fitchburg

Mary Kay's grandmother, Amanda Culp, was instrumental in starting the Sewing Circle in 1915. A short history of the Sewing Circle was given to the attendees by Carole Kinney. After celebrating the Sewing Circle, Professor Emeritus William Tishler

treated us to an interesting slide program centered on the architecture of rural Wisconsin. Bill is a resident of Fitchburg and is involved in several activities in the community.

KEEPING UP-TO-DATE

Check the archives of FACTv's *Talking Fitchburg* for a taped interview with Carole Kinney who gave a brief summary of the Sewing Circle. Other interesting segments of *Talking Fitchburg* can be found on FACTv. The program can be accessed on Fitchburg television cable station or by going to the City of Fitchburg website, factv@fitchburgwi.gov or on the FACTv facebook page. They already have a notice about the spring Annual Meeting posted. There is also a Fitchburg Historical Society facebook page with many interesting photos. Keep watching for updates.

ARCHIVES

Now that the holiday season is behind us the archive committees have resumed work on their various projects. One group is making an inventory list of all the items in our files. It is now possible to find names, places events from Fitchburg's past. Another group is working on obituaries. It is a collection of

people with Fitchburg connections. You are encouraged to add any family names and stories you may have. A third group is working on cataloging the photos in our possession. The database can lead you to the images of people, places and various happenings in Fitchburg, both past and present. If you have items you think would be of interest to the photo file please leave a message at the FHS office either by email, voice mail or snail mail.

FITCHBURG ...A HISTORY

There are only a few copies of *Fitchburg ... a history* left in stock. The book was originally printed in the Bicentennial year. However until a decision is made to have more copies printed the book can be checked out at various libraries in the area. Our own Fitchburg Public Library has two copies. One can be checked out and the other can be read in the reference section of the Fitchburg Room on the second floor. It

is also available to be read on the digital collection of the State Historical Society Library. Look for it at: <https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/wi/wilocalhist/> *Wisconsin Local Histories*

Fitchburg Bicentennial Committee (ed.) / *The Fitchburg Bicentennial Committee presents Fitchburg, a history* (1976)

DISPLAY CASE

Through this election year the display case on the second floor of the Fitchburg Public Library will have a series of displays relating to elections through the years in Fitchburg. It will not be a political showcase of the present but it will show some of the elected officials through the years from the founding of the Township through the formation of Fitchburg as a city. The election-based displays will be interspersed with other displays through the year. Be sure to check the case as you visit the library to see what is new.

WISCONSIN'S JOHN MUIR

During 2016 the Wisconsin Historical Society is providing a free traveling exhibit to local public libraries and historical societies in 25 communities around the state. "Wisconsin's John Muir" explores Muir's youth in Wisconsin, his advocacy for national parks, and his views on environmental issues such as logging, hunting, and climate change. Its eight panels share facsimiles of images and manuscripts from the Society's library and archives alongside Muir quotes and interpretive texts. The exhibit and reading programs have been created to celebrate the centennial of the National Park Service, which was formed in 1916 to preserve the nation's wild areas. The closest sites to view this exhibit will be at libraries in Sun Prairie May 24th and Monona on Dec. 6th. Watch for news of this traveling exhibit as the event comes to this part of Wisconsin. More information about this can be found at www.wisconsinhistory.org.