

Fitchburg Historical Society

JAN
1991



FEBRUARY ANNUAL MEETING

Can you believe it---it's "annual meeting" time again! We will be meeting Sunday, February 10, 1991 at 1:30 p.m. in the Greenfield Room of the Fitchburg Community Center.

The theme for this year's get-together is "Being Neighborly". Following a brief business meeting, Jerry O'Brien and Bill Stoneman will be recalling what "neighborly" meant to farmers in the past. As they tell us some of their stories, we hope they will jog some members' memories as well, and we can all share a brief tale of how Fitchburg residents would pitch in and help one another. Perhaps you can recall a time when people came together to help during a harvest, a family illness, or special event. Look forward to a pleasant afternoon of reminiscing and spoken history.

Also, because of the grand success of last year's "Picture Day", we are going to do it again. The more slides we can accumulate, the more complete our slide history of Fitchburg will be.

There was such a response to our first call for pictures, we were somewhat overwhelmed. Also, because of the limited amount of film we had purchased, we could not take slides of all the photos that members brought.

This time we are asking that each of you bring up to three pictures---either photos that did not get used last year, or other photos that you have but did not think to bring last time. Remember, we are looking for pictures that depict an element of Fitchburg history, like family occupations, homesteads, entertainment, politics, buildings, etc.

It would also be very helpful if, prior to the meeting, you could write down any pertinent information about a picture---who is in it, when it was taken, its particular significance, plus a short description of the photo so later on we can match the slide to the description.

As you can see, we have a full agenda, plus refreshments. Hope you will join us, Sunday, February 10.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All Fitchburg Historical Society memberships expire at each year's annual meeting. As always we will have membership forms and cards available at the meeting and hope you will choose to renew your membership at that time.

If you are unable to attend the annual meeting, please mail your renewal dues to our treasurer, Ellen Green, 5449 Irish Lane, Madison, WI 53711. Dues remain the same---\$5.00 - single membership, \$10.00 family membership, and \$2.00 - junior membership.

If there are any address changes, please enclose a short note to Ellen so we can make the necessary changes in our directories. Also, if you have any suggestions, comments or special programs that you would like to see us present, please let us know at renewal time.

WE WERE APPROVED

The State Historical Society Board of Curators approved the Fitchburg Historical Society's permanent affiliation with the Wisconsin State Historical Society on November 9, 1990.

Our affiliation allows us to participate in many programs and activities, and the recent approval of permanent affiliation signifies the State Historical Society's recognition of our accomplishments on behalf of Fitchburg history to date.

Included in the materials that were reviewed by the Board of Curators was a documentation of the programs and projects we had accomplished in our four years as a trial affiliate. All persons who actively participated in those past programs or past research projects should be proud of their efforts that resulted in our final approval. The current Board of Directors extends its thanks to all of you for your contributions.

THANK YOU

The Historical Society would like to thank Dick Sweeney for his donation of the Sweeney Family History. We also extend thanks to Darrell Ace for the donation of his time and expertise in completing the construction of our new display case pedestals.





DID YOU KNOW?

Many of you have no doubt had the opportunity to watch the superlative Ken Burns' documentary on the Civil War which has been shown on the local PBS station. Did you know that total Fitchburg enlistments in the Civil War were 97 men. Of those 97 who went to war, 16 died.

Fitchburg: A History documents several stories of Fitchburg's participation both in men and money during the war, including the following information:

"Preceding the war, a military company was organized in Fitchburg under the leadership of William C. Young of Dogtown Corners. This group called themselves the "Rough and Ready Guards" and was composed of men from several towns who met once a week at Lake View to drill. When the Civil War broke out, Captain Young and most of his men joined the 8th regiment of the Union Army as a group on August 3, 1861.

Another group, perhaps branch members of the "Rough and Ready Guards," organized at Oak Hall, also under the leadership of Captain Young. Out of the Oak Hall group, a musical band formed. Mary (Sholts) Anderson writes in a history of Oak Hall that during the war, the band was almost completely wiped out. Mrs. Anderson explains "This band had a wagon to ride in. On the day of the calamity, one member gave his place in the wagon to a sick soldier who was not able to ride his horse. The wagon was blown up in an encounter with the enemy and all in it were killed."

In an effort to learn more about Fitchburg's participation in the Civil War, we are asking Historical Society members to provide information about family members or others that you know participated in Civil War events.

Also, our next exhibit in the Community Center display case will feature pictures, stories and memorabilia from the Civil War. Please bring artifacts or pictures that you would allow us to use in the display to the annual meeting, or contact Connie Darling at 274-5375 no later than February 24.



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



WISCONSIN'S RUSTIC ROADS

The Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation has recently published an updated edition of the booklet describing the Rustic Roads program. "Wisconsin's Rustic Roads...A Positive Step Backward" details the fifty-six designated roads.

The Rustic Roads System in Wisconsin was created by the 1973 State Legislature to preserve what remains of our scenic, lightly traveled country roads for the leisurely enjoyment of bikers, hikers and motorists. A unique brown and yellow sign marks the route of all officially designated Rustic Roads.

The goals of the program include the identification and undisturbed preservation of road having unusual or outstanding natural or cultural beauty, by virtue of native vegetation or other natural or man-made features associated with the road.

Many of the roads are over one hundred years old, and feature historic structures including bridges, farms, homesteads, cabins and mills, as well as an octagon house, lighthouses, round barns, artesian wells, an old lime kiln, historic schools and churches, and even an old stone filling station.

To receive a copy of "Wisconsin's Rustic Roads..." write the Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society, 816 State St., Madison, WI 53706 or the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation, Rustic Roads Board, P.O. Box 7913, Madison, WI 53707.

reprinted from
Wisconsin Preservation
magazine, Jan./Feb. 91



NEVER TOO SOON TO ADVERTISE

This summer look forward to "Old Fitchburg Days", a city-wide celebration of days gone by. Plans are underway for an event that will feature old-time games and recreation, food and entertainment.

The Fitchburg Historical Society will be actively involved in the celebration, and if you would like to get involved too, please contact Patricia Delker at 275-7141 or Joy Anderson at 271-9773.