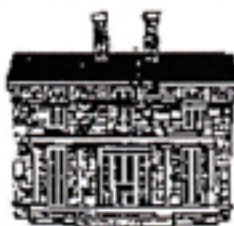


Fitchburg Historical Society



McCoy House



Fox Hall



Stark Building

HISTORY IS YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW



Fish Hatchery Road and McKee Road in 1980

Photo © Arlan Kay



Same intersection (relocated to the south) today

Photo by Rich Eggleston

Our Oct. 10 Meeting: **The Changing Face Of Fish Hatchery Road**

Architect Arlan Kay lives in the town of Oregon, and like many Fitchburg residents, he has been navigating Fish Hatchery Road for years.

Unlike most of us, though, he has been taking slides that reflect the changing face of Fish Hatchery Road since the late 1960s.

That face is sure to change further as the busy street becomes the "gateway to Fitchburg."

Join the Fitchburg Historical Society **on Sunday, October 10, to see what Kay has seen.** Everyone is welcome!

The meeting begins at **12:30 p.m.** in the community room of the **Stark Realtors Building** at **2980 Arapaho Dr.**, on the northwest corner of Seminole Highway and McKee Rd. Come around the back: Seminole to Croix to Arapaho.

Fitchburg: where development ebbs and flows

By Rich Eggleston

Development in Fitchburg never stops, but it does go in spurts. One of the biggest growth spurts (in percentage terms) Fitchburg has seen occurred in the early 1970s, when apartment developments sprang up in northern Fitchburg.

The number of dwellings in the then-town more than doubled from 1970 to 1973, according to Fitchburg's 1974 land-use plan, with apartments accounting for more than 90% of the new units.

Single-family home builders weren't sluggards during that period either. There were 190 single-family homes constructed during those three years, mostly in subdivisions, the Dane County Regional Planning Commission noted.



Bulldozer poised to move earth at new Oak Meadow subdivision, July 10, 2004

Rosalie Vroman dies

Rosalie W. Vroman, a long-time member of the Fitchburg Historical Society, passed away May 3. She was 88.

Rosalie married Gordon Vroman in 1938. She was active in St. Andrew Catholic Church, Verona, and raised four children.

Gordon and Rosalie Vroman's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are descended from the first permanent settlers in Fitchburg.

The pioneering Vroman brothers, William, George and Joseph, began farming in 1839 and built the first home between Madison and Monroe.

The Vroman homestead is in Section 20, T 6 N, R 9 E. (see map at right)



Fitchburg Plat Map, 1861
(from the Society archives)

Fitchburg honors fallen hero

By Rich Eggleston

On Memorial Day, 2004, Fitchburg honored the memory of its fallen war heroes with a touching tribute to Cpl. Robert James Schley, who died in combat in Vietnam.

Schley, 23, was killed in April, 1967, during a fierce battle for Hill 881 just south of the Demilitarized Zone near Khe Sanh.

Those who gathered at the Harry Whitehorse "Vietnam Warrior" sculpture at Gorman Wayside Park, 2377 S. Fish Hatchery Rd., heard a comrade of the fallen Marine's, "Doc" Rod Hardin, tell of Cpl. Schley's bravery on other missions in the months before the battle for Hill 881.

Hardin also read from the citation accompanying the Navy Cross awarded posthumously to Cpl. Schley, and described how the young man fought on though grievously wounded.

"By his dauntless courage, initiative and indomitable fighting spirit, (Cpl. Schley) served to inspire all who observed him and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service," the citation states. "He gallantly gave his life for his country."

It's a fact...

Andrew and Michael Kinney came to Fitchburg in 1844. Six generations later, Kinneys still live in Fitchburg.

— Fitchburg Star, July 15, 2004.



Niles and Hazel Schley, Cpl. Robert Schley's parents, at Fitchburg's Memorial Day, 2004, observance


Bill Stoneman dies

Farmer, longtime Fitchburg assessor and member of the Fitchburg Historical Society William Thomas "Bill" Stoneman passed away July 11, 2004, in the farm home in which he was born, on the land that his parents, Edgar (Ted) and Gladys, had farmed since 1918.

He attended the one-room Syene School on the corner of Syene and Lacy Roads, and the old Wisconsin High School on the UW campus. He was Fitchburg's assessor for 44 years until his retirement in 1997, and saw the community swell from a rural haven to a teeming suburb.

He fondly remembered horse-and-wagon milk delivery, when electricity came to his family farm in 1943, and attending the one-room country school, a *Madison Magazine* feature article noted shortly before his death. Yet he understood the future as well as the past, the magazine added.

"It is sad to see so many acres of farmland turned into parking spaces," he told assistant editor Judy Frankel. "But with the location of Fitchburg, it is just inevitable."



Fitchburg Historical Society
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