



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for the Fitchburg Historical Society was held on February 10 at the Community Center. A cold, snowy day kept the attendance down but those who were there were treated to some interesting articles brought in by members. Some of the articles included a honest to goodness Irish shillelagh, beautiful amethyst jewelry, a cross and chain worn by a bride in 1876, an early mechanical toy, books from the 1880s and a collection of postcards and religious cards from 1860. A mysterious wooden piece which could not be identified was given a thorough going over in hopes of determining its use. Another interesting wooden piece was a hand carved rolling pin from 1850. The Vromans brought a copy of the 1880 History of Dane County which they in turn donated to the Society for its library. Thank you Gordon and Rosalie.

MEETING SCHEDULE

At present the only meetings scheduled are for Board of Directors meetings. They are open to all the members and attendance is encouraged. The meetings take place on the first Saturday of April, June, August, October and December. They are held at the archives in the old city hall building at 2377 S. Fish Hatchery Road at 10:30 in the morning.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Included in this mailing is the affiliate membership cards for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Our local society receives a \$5.00 rebate for each member who joins the State association. If you have not paid your dues to the Fitchburg Historical Society for 2002 this would be a good time to take care of that also. Dues can be sent to Janet Maves at

5781 Chapel Valley Road, Fitchburg WI 53711. In another matter pertaining to the State Historical Society; many of you may have read the disturbing news of the cuts in funding for the State Historical Society. One of the recommendations which has been made to the legislature is the elimination of the Office of Affiliated Local History. This is a very important part of SHSW which concerns our local society directly. Other significant cuts are on the table for the Library itself. People who are doing family history would be greatly affected by these cuts. It has been suggested that a letter writing campaign be waged to save these very important parts of the State Historical Society. Your help is needed. Please write to you assembly person and your state senator and ask them to be mindful of the impact such cuts would make in the preservation of the history of the State of Wisconsin. Fitchburg residents are represented in the Assembly by:

Rick Skindrud	Teresa Berceau
P.O. Box 8953	P.O. Box 8952
Madison 53708	Madison 53708
266-3520	266-3784

The state senators representing Fitchburg are:

Fred Risser	John Erpenbach
P.O. Box 7882	100 N. Hamilton
Madison 53707	Rm. 104
266-1627	Madison 53703
	266-6670

A letter or a telephone call to these people would show that we care enough about our history to be willing to preserve it for future generations. For members of the FHS living outside of the area but in the state please contact the representatives from your area.

O'FITCHBURG DAYS

After last summer's disastrous heat spell the O'Fitchburg Days committee has decided to move the celebration to the weekend of May 17, 18 and 19. Due to unforeseen circumstances there will not be a parade this year. Other activities are still scheduled. A cultural tent will be present and the FHS has been asked to have someone available to provide information on Fitchburg's history. Any Volunteers?

PHOTO SHOW

John Hendrickson of E. W. Parker Jewelers has called to inform us of his plans to have a photo show in honor of Wisconsin's birthday on May 29, 2002. The event will be held at his store on the Capitol Square. He would like all of the historical societies in the area to bring pictures of Wisconsin that he could display throughout his store. He will also be hosting a similar event honoring Dane County later in the summer.

QUERIES

The FHS has received several queries about ancestors in recent weeks. If anyone has any information about John Lindstrom or the Albert Anderberg family from the 1910 era please contact one of the board members. Another query has come seeking information about the Darmondy family including Martin O'Connell, John and Thomas Purcell. Again if anyone has information about these families please contact a board member to be put in contact with the inquirers.

PROGRAM NOTE

An invitation has been received from Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society to attend their meeting on April 28th. The featured speaker will be Patty Loew, author of the recently released book, *Indian Nations of Wisconsin*. The program will start at 3:00 p.m. at the Lussier Family Heritage Center at

Lake farm park, 3101 Lake Farm Road. Watch for more information in area newspapers or call 221-1948 for more information.

CENTURY FARMS

Jill Diehnelt of the Sesquicentennial and Century Farm and Home Program of the Wisconsin State Fair has again sent application blanks to be used by property owners whose property has been in their family 150 or 100 years. The application deadline for this year is May 1, 2002. If you are eligible for this award you can get an application blank from Richard Blaney.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Last but not least; at the Annual Meeting the members re-elected Betty Brantmeyer, Carole Kinney and Mike Engelberger to the board of directors. The nominating committee was unable to present a fourth candidate at the meeting. Our board of directors needs one more member. We need someone to step up and volunteer for the position. The work is not hard. We have six meetings a year at which we discuss the workings of the organization. We also plan for the three or four general meetings which are held throughout the year. It is not a time consuming job and rarely does it involve physical labor. The pay is non-existent so there is nothing to foul up your tax returns. We need some fresh ideas and new enthusiasm. If you have the time and are willing to help please come to the April 6th meeting and offer your services.

REMINDERS

* Please check to see if you have paid your dues for this year. This is our only funding for operating expenses.

* Please write or call your representatives in the State Legislature in regard to funding for the State Historical Society.