



HISTORY IS YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

May 2015

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for the Fitchburg Historical Society was held on Sunday April 19, 2015 at the Fitchburg Public Library. The speaker for the program was Molly Fifield-Murray. Molly received her undergraduate degree in history at the University of Missouri, and her graduate degree in landscape architecture at the UW-Madison. She has been outreach and education manager at the UW arboretum more than 20 years and has been a frequent guest on the Larry Meiller show on Wisconsin Public Radio discussing such topics as the place of native plants in our ecosystem and in our gardens. She presented a power point lecture showing the growth of the Arboretum from the early Native Americans to the vision of Aldo Leopold and others who saw the need of conserving green space in a growing urban area. Molly then fielded questions from the audience. We extend our thanks to her for her impressive presentation. It made us all aware of the wonderful oasis we have in our "neighbor" to the north. After the program a brief business meeting was held. The Annual Meeting is renewal time for membership and time to hold an election for the Board of Directors. Four members of the

Board had terms expiring: Dan Carpenter, John Darling, Rich Eggleston and Catherine Schneider. Dan declined to run for another term due to conflicting time schedules. The other three agreed to have their names put on the slate of candidates. The nominating committee added Alan Tereba to the slate. A request for nominations from the floor went unanswered. A motion was made and seconded to elect the slate of candidates as presented. A unanimous vote to elect them followed. The other members of the Board of Directors are: Eric Amlie, Verne Brummel, Kay Harty, Adrienne Imilkowski, Carole Kinney, Winnie Lacy, Dianne Reynolds, and Roger Tesch. Regular meetings of the Board are held six times a year on the first Saturday of every other month. If there are things you want the Board to know or if you have questions about Fitchburg History you can send an email to woodcdarchives@gmail.com.

JUNE PROGRAM

On Tuesday, June 2nd. The Fitchburg Public Library and Fitchburg Historical Society are hosting Tom Laughlin, producer of

Wisconsin Public Television's "American Barn Stories" series. Tom will discuss the history and preservation of Wisconsin Barns. The program will be held at 7 p.m. in the second floor meeting room at the Library.



Dane County Cultural Affairs poster 2014

In conjunction with the presentation the case outside of the Fitchburg Room in the library now has a display of barns of Fitchburg.

FITCHBURG HISTORY 101

When Fitchburg became a township in 1847 it was known as Greenfield. It was overseen by a Town Board consisting of a Chairman and two Supervisors along with other officials: Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor, Constable, and Commissioners of Highways and Schools. Because of confusion with the Township of Greenfield near Milwaukee the post office mandated a name change and Fitchburg was chosen. Town meetings were held at the homes of the various Supervisors until 1877 when \$500.00 was allocated to build a suitable town hall. Instructions were to have it built in time for the 1878 November 1st election. A wooden town hall was built in section 21 at what is now 2377 S. Fish Hatchery Road. That building was used until 1964 when an addition to be used as a town hall was built on to the already present garage for town trucks. The new Town Hall was built for \$141,000.00.

The wooden building was sold to a neighbor who removed it from the property. Fitchburg's growth continued and in 1983 the town won approval to become a 4th class city and the Town Hall became "City Hall." Space in that City Hall became very tight and in 1989 a new City Hall was built on Lacy Road where it remains to this day. The population of Fitchburg has grown from 598 in 1850 to its present population of 26,000 (more or less). Additional information about the history of Fitchburg can be found in the book *Fitchburg....a history* which is available for purchase at the front desk of City Hall or at the Fitchburg Historical Society.

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

We have not received any word from FHS members who would be willing to help with some of the projects we have on the agenda. A big help would be someone who could enter data into the photo index about our images. One day a month would be a big help. The volunteer would not have to work alone. A member of the archives would be there to help. Another project would involve scanning the 35mm slide images in our collection onto a more retainable format. The equipment for this project is available to us.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Memberships seem to have fallen by the wayside. If you have not sent in membership for the 2015 – 2016 year you can still do it by sending your information to the FHS, 5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg WI 53711. Individual membership is \$10.00 and family membership is \$12.00.