



HISTORY IS YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

OCTOBER 2013

TRAIL MARKER DEDICATION

On Sunday, October 20th the FHS Fall General Meeting will take place in two sections. The first session will be held at 1:30 p.m. along the Badger State Bike Trail on what is now Wendt Road. (Wendt Road runs north and south between Adams Road and Highway M.) At that time there will be a dedication ceremony of a new Dane County Historical Society marker honoring the early settlement at that site and the Illinois Central Railroad which ran from Freeport IL. to Madison through Fitchburg. The Fitchburg settlement was once the location of a bustling community of homes, a general store that included among other things, a post office, a one-room school, a blacksmith shop, a lumberyard, and the depot of the Illinois Central Railroad. After the short dedication ceremony the meeting will reconvene at 2:30 in the lower level dining room of the Fitchburg Community Center, 5510 Lacy Road. Access will be on the north side of the building with plenty of parking and handicap accessibility. At that time we will be able to view photo exhibits about the history of the settlement and the Illinois Central Railroad. Discussion will be encouraged and it is hoped that FACTv will have a video of the

dedication ceremony ready to view on the big screen TV. You are welcome to attend both sessions and you are especially encouraged to attend the 2:30 session to view the photos and add to the discussion. Refreshments will be served. Membership in the FHS is not required. The Historic Marker is a joint project of the Fitchburg Historical Society and the Dane County Historical Society.

OTHER SETTLEMENTS

Besides the settlement on Wendt Road there were other early settlements in the Township of Fitchburg that have all but disappeared. Lakeview had an inn and a saloon, Oak Hall had a creamery and a blacksmith shop, and Syene had a railroad stop on the Chicago Northwestern Railway line. The area called "Dogtown", located where Lacy and Fish Hatchery road now intersect, had a butcher shop and a quarry in the vicinity. These settlements had various other businesses and usually a one-room school. You can read about them in the books, *FITCHBURG: a history*, and *IRISH SETTLERS OF FITCHBURG 1840 -1860*. Both books are available for purchase through the FHS.

FACEBOOK PAGE.

There is now a Facebook page for the Fitchburg Historical Society that is interesting to check out. Just make sure you get Fitchburg Wisconsin, not Fitchburg, Massachusetts. One of the items on the site includes a photo of a boulder with a marker that honors the work Lawrence and Esther Monthey did to restore the native habitat on the farm they purchased on Fitchburg Road. It also tells of the work they each did in their own fields of endeavor. Their children installed the marker. It can be seen on Fitchburg Road, north of Whalen Road or viewed on the FHS FaceBook page. Check out these and other items of interest about Fitchburg. Perhaps it will inspire you to add some of your photos for others to see.

HELP

The archivists of the FHS are urgently asking you to add a family history to the collection we have started. The history does not have to be a genealogist's book. A single page or two of your family's arrival in Fitchburg would be sufficient. They are also asking for volunteers from the general membership to help with archival projects such as sorting and identifying photos, filing newspaper articles and copying obituaries. You would not be expected to work alone. An archivist would be working with you. In addition, do you

FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
5530 LACY ROAD
FITCHBURG WI 53711

have any ideas for future programs? We are open to suggestions.

BARN QUILT

The history of American Barn Quilts can be traced back almost 300 years to the arrival of immigrants from the central regions of Europe. Decorating barns with colorful designs and quilt squares peaked by the beginning of the 20th century. Today barn quilts have become popular again with more and more becoming visible. Fitchburg now has its first "barn quilt". There is a lovely barn quilt on the east facing side of the machine shed on the Paul Lacy farm at the corner of Mutchler and Lacy Roads. Paul and Milda Lacy's daughter, Joan Kleinheinz, did the artwork. The pattern, "Mariners Compass", stands out nicely on the green siding of the shed.

