



FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORY IS YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

September 1999

GENERAL MEETING

The Fitchburg Historical Society will hold its fall general meeting on Sunday October 3rd at 2 P.M. at the Fitchburg Community Center. The meeting will be held in the old city council chambers on first floor. After a short business meeting Tess Mulrooney will talk to us about the book recently published by Historic Madison Incorporated titled From Bishops to Bootleggers, the story of Madison's Resurrection Cemetery. Hopefully she will also speak about a book HMI published several years ago, "Forest Hill Cemetery. A Biographical Guide to the Ordinary and the Famous Who Shaped Madison and the World". For several years HMI has sponsored a walk through Forest Hill Cemetery pointing out the final resting places of early Madisonians. This year they toured the Catholic cemetery and pointed out grave sites of the famous and notorious, from Bishop O'Connor and Bishop O'Donnell to the early German, Irish residents of Madison (and Fitchburg) right up to the alleged bootleggers that resided in Madison during prohibition. It should be an interesting talk. Please mark you calendar now. As usual, guests are welcome.

SPACE

We have received unofficial word from the City Hall that we will be able to move into some of the space vacated at the site of the old city hall. This is a much needed move. At the present time the actual room (or rooms) which will be made available to us has not been set but we are in hopes of having sufficient room to work with the material we have been able to collect up to this point. It

will also give us additional room to house other valuable written records of Fitchburg and its families. We can now actively pursue the search for a used computer. We would like a simple system we could use for word processing and perhaps a data base. If anyone hears of a used computer looking for a home please remember to put in a good word for the Fitchburg Historical Society.

ORAL INTERVIEW TAPES

The Fitchburg Historical Society has been given the oral interview tapes made in 1975 and 1976 by the bicentennial committee. These tapes were used to form the background for the book FITCHBURG: a history. The tapes had been transcribed by hand at that time and we are now in the process of transcribing them onto a computer disc and printing off readable hard copies. It will be a long process. Thirty five tapes had been made and only six have been transcribed at this time. It takes about five hours to transcribe each one hour tape. As the tapes are transcribed they will be filed in the archives of the FHS and will be available for future reference. Not all of the material on each tape was used in the book.

REMEMBER WHEN

This month's gleanings from the Town Clerk's Records; 1847-1911 include notices of the appointment in 1885 of a "commissioner on Canada Thistle and a health officer". In 1890 the position was changed to read "Commissioner of Noxious Weeds". In 1892 the position was changed again. This time the highway commissioner for each district was to

also be the commissioner of weed for that district. This meant Fitchburg was blessed with between 14 and 16 commissioners of weeds.



FITCHBURG ON THE MOVE

Perhaps you have seen the newspaper article about the granary from the Vincent Lacy farm. It has been donated to the Dane County Parks and has been moved to the Schumacher Farm Park which is located just east of Waunakee on Highway 19. The building was dismantled on August 13th and placed on three flat bed trucks. On August 31st, with

all the necessary paperwork and permits finished the trucks took off for the new location. The building will be restored by a local Boy Scout troop and will be part of the outdoor laboratory/classroom at the farm.

HAPPENINGS

The weekend of August 6th, 7th and 8th was the annual O'Fitchburg Days in McKee Farms Park. The FHS was represented at a table in the shelter house. We were able to present some of our items of interest to the public. We had copies of Fitchburg; *a history* for sale along with Tom Kinney's book, *Irish Settlers of Fitchburg, 1840-1860*. Both books are available for purchase at the main desk of the City Hall. If you wish to send a book to someone USPS mailers are available which can be posted for \$3.20. The Fitchburg book sells for \$10.00 and the Kinney book sells for \$15.00. We also plan to have a booth at the Fitchburg Fall Farm Festival on September 11 and 12. FFFF is held at Eplegaarden on Fitchburg Road.