



HISTORY IS YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW
September 2002

GENERAL MEETING

The next general meeting of the Fitchburg Historical Society will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2002 in the Fitchburg Room (old city council chamber) of the Community Center. The meeting will start at 1:30 P.M. Richard Zeitlin of the Veterans Museum in Madison will speak about the Civil War. We would like to include information about ancestors of FHS members who served in the Civil War. If you are a descendant of a Civil War Veteran or know of an interesting story concerning the Civil War please contact Richard Blaney (271-6539) to forward the information to the speaker.



HELP WANTED

We have a large collection of back issues of the Fitchburg Star. After contacting the newspaper office and being told they bind them in yearly volumes, we decided not save our copies as it is redundant and newspapers deteriorate rapidly. We would like to have several people take some of the issues and go through them to clip interesting articles about people or places. The clippings would then be placed in appropriate files. The pay is low but we would be able to furnish the scissors for the project. The work can be done at home. Any Volunteers?

PLAT MAPS

Do maps interest you? We have large, laminated plat maps of Fitchburg township in our collection. We have had copies of the years 1861, 1873, 1899, 1904, and 1911 for some time. We recently have added 1953, 1948 and 1980. It is quite a study in Fitchburg history to track the changes on the maps. We also have a large volume containing individual townships maps of the entire state of Wisconsin. This seems to be a 1925 publication. Additionally we have several Dane County Atlases; 1911, 1968 and 1999 for example.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

It has been suggested the Board of Directors sponsor a program that would feature short vignettes about people from Fitchburg's past; including the recent past. It could be presented to the schools in Fitchburg and perhaps involve some of the school children as actors. To start with we would need several people to write concise stories that could be acted out by a small case of characters.

LOCAL HISTORY MEETING

The Capital Region of the Local History Council met on August 24, 2002 at the new Lussier Family Heritage Center at Lake Farm Park. It is a lovely building; well worth the effort to visit and to enjoy the view of the area. The regional roundtable was led by John Grek, President of the WI Council for Local History. His opening remarks centered on the budget cuts affecting the Wisconsin Historical Society. One of the positions cut was that of Debbie Kmetz, a long time staff member of the Local History Office. Her



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FITCHBURG, WI 53711

FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

absence will be a great loss. She was an excellent resource for the various local chapters. Leslie Eisenberg and Deidre March spoke on the subject of burial sites. All burial sites are to be listed with Burial Sites Preservation division of the SHSW. Literature to help people identify and preserve these sites is now available at FHS archives. After a sandwich buffet the Dane County Historical Society, which was the host for the meeting, presented a program of their projects. This included the placement of historical markers at diverse areas of Dane County; their publication of the book "Forward! A History of Dane the Capitol County"; and their new archival center in the lower level of the Lussier Family Heritage Center. A brief business meeting followed. After the business meeting Art Shegonne, a member of the Kickapoo Tribe presented a program of Indian dances. He was dressed in his ceremonial dance costume and spent some time explaining various elements of his costume including feathers, bead work and breast plate. He also invited about 20 people from the audience to join him in one dance. It was a very enjoyable performance. At the conclusion of the meeting the attendees had time to walk the trails of Lake Farm Park.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Several events which are scheduled for the near future in the Madison area:

October 6: Historic Madison Inc. will sponsor "Talking Spirits" at Forest Hill Cemetery. Actors will portray selected people who are buried in Madison's oldest cemetery. Historic Madison will also sponsor a walk through Resurrection Cemetery with talks about some of its burials. At this time the date has not been set.

October 26: Friends of WHS (Wisconsin History Society) will offer a day long program at the Historical Library in Madison with presentation by four genealogical reference librarians and archivists. The program will appeal both to novice and veteran genealogists. To register or obtain information mail a request to Mary Jane Herber 434A N. Broadway, De Pere 54115 (Phone: 920-226-5927)

November 2: The Annual Meeting of Wisconsin Historical Society at the Historical Library in Madison. This is an all day program featuring booths from various local history affiliates; interesting programs and an award luncheon. Notices will be mailed out in the near future. Watch for information about these events in the local paper.

REMINDER: GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 20 2002

