



HISTORY IS YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW
January 2004

NEW YEAR



Welcome to the year of 2004. "History is Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" takes on real meaning when we see the calendar pages turn to a new year. We tend to think of history being 50 or more years past but that is not the case. The events of the past year are now history. Tomorrow, 'today' will be added to that list.

Have you given any thought to items you might have in your possession that would be an asset to the archives of the Fitchburg Historical Society? We are not looking for museum type items. Printed material and photos are the things we are able to house and preserve. With today's technology it is easy to have quality photo copies made to share. This means you would not have to give up your own treasured memories.

Among the items we are seeking are obituaries of people who have made their home in Fitchburg. Many of us have saved obituaries of family and friends. They would make great resource material for genealogy researchers in the future. Photos are also most welcome for our archives. And of course, we are always begging for people to write a family history. We have histories in our collection that range from single sheets of school composition paper to hardbound volumes that cover many generations. Both are equally welcome.

GENERAL MEETING

The October General Meeting, with the theme "Railroads of Fitchburg" was very enjoyable. Vern Brummel showed slides and talked to us about the Chicago Northwestern Railway that ran through Syene and Oregon and then to Chicago and of the other CNW line that

traversed the northwest corner of Fitchburg to Verona and beyond. He also had information on the Illinois Central line that ran from Freeport, Illinois to Madison's near west side. Various members of the audience offered their own reminiscences of living near the lines. Their stories were captured on video. Printed copies of their stories have been added to our archives. We thank them for sharing their memories with us. If you have stories of the railroads you would like to share with future generations we have just the place for them to be preserved!



ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be coming up Sunday, February 15, in the upstairs meeting room of the Community Center. The meeting will start at 1:30p.m. with a short business meeting. February is membership renewal month. A blank is included with this mailing. Bring it with you the meeting or mail it to the address on the form.

It is time again to consider being part of the Board of Directors. Every year we elect four members to serve for a term of three years. The Board meets on the first Saturday of the even months of the year: February, April, June, August, October and December. This is a great opportunity to get involved with the inner workings of the FHS. It would be a treat to see new faces on the board - please consider volunteering.

After the business portion of the meeting we will proceed to the program for the day; a slide presentation of stained glass windows in Madison. Ann Waidelich, who is a member of Historic Madison Inc., will do the honors. Since this date is close to St. Valentine's Day we also ask members to bring in their own cherished valentines

from the past to show to the members.

KUDOS



CENTURY FARMS AND HOMES

We have again received applications from the Wisconsin State Fair organizers for Century Farm and/or Home recognition. To be eligible the farm (in whole or in part) or home must have been in continuous family ownership for 100 years. There is also a program for Sesquicentennial awards for property that has been in continuous ownership for 150 years. Those qualifying will be recognized at a special breakfast program held during the Wisconsin State Fair. The tentative date for the Awards Breakfast is August 10, 2004. Applications must be in by April 1, 2004. Details of the event will be mailed to accepted applicants by mid June. If you would like an application blank please contact Winnie Lacy by phone at 845-7594 or by mail at 5897 Whalen Road, Fitchburg. 53711. They will also be available the at the February meeting.

Thanks to several members who have given of their time this past year to do some major housekeeping at our "home office" in the former City Hall building. One warm summer day saw Diane Reynolds, Carole Kinney, Catherine Schneider, Janet Maves and Winnie Lacy toting volumes and boxes outside to be brushed and dusted. The room itself was also dusted down. When they finished it looked great! Later in the summer Janet and Carole returned with shirtsleeves rolled up and cleaned the main meeting room. We still have a big project to sort, file and catalog some of the many items we have in our archives. Wouldn't you like to help?

Mary Kinney

Death has claimed our dear friend Mary Kinney. She was a charter member of the Fitchburg Historical Society and a former member of the Board of Directors. She contributed to many of our activities; even loaning her wedding dress to be used in our display case. We extend heartfelt sympathy to Mary's family.

Members Josephine Darling and Kathleen Mikow have died this past year. We extend our sympathy to their families also.



FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Dues for One Year:

Junior Historian (under 18)	2.00
Individual	5.00
Family	10.00
Business	20.00

Dues can be paid at the annual meeting or mailed to: Fitchburg Historical Society
Janet Maves, Treasurer
5781 Chapel Valley Road # 206
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Membership cards can be picked up at the annual meeting or if you wish to have one sent please include a self addressed stamped envelope.