



HISTORY IS YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

NOVEMBER 2011

The Annual Meeting of the Fitchburg Historical Society was held on July 30, 2011 in the Thermo Fisher Room of the new Fitchburg Public Library. Vice President Roger Tesch, sitting in for President Richard Blaney who is on sick leave, called the meeting to order. Mayor Shawn Pfaff welcomed the FHS to its new home in the Fitchburg Library. A lively group of 55 people attended the meeting. A vote was taken to amend the by-laws. The changes had been sent to the members in a previous newsletter. The amended by-laws included a change of the date of the Annual Meeting from February to April. The membership voted in favor of the changes. Along with the new meeting date it was decided the membership year would go from April 1st to March 31st. If dues are not paid by April 30th the person will be removed from the membership list. At present the FHS has 45 members. Votes were taken for the four open positions on the Board of Directors. Verne Brummel, Deb Henke, Adrienne Imilkowski and Carole Kinney were elected by a unanimous vote.

The business meeting was followed by a musical presentation of patriotic songs by the First Edition Trio (plus one). It was a rousing program enjoyed by all. After the program concluded the attendees were able to tour the new location of the FHS, which is located on

the second floor of the new library. The Fitchburg Room, stocked by the library with books about Wisconsin history, is open whenever the library is open. Our permanent collection of files including family histories, photos, local history and obituaries are located in our closed business office adjacent to the Fitchburg Room. We also have archival storage space in the climate-controlled basement of the library. These collections include early tax records of the Township of Fitchburg, records of the various one-room schools, scrapbooks and other ephemera. The collections are open to the general public for research by appointment. We now have a mailing address, 5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, 53711; an email address, woodedarchives@gmail.com and a direct telephone number, 608-279-1783. Our telephone has voice mail capability. Please use any of these to contact us.

The FHS also has two glass enclosed display cases in the library. A large case is located on the outside wall of the Fitchburg Room and a smaller one is inside. When the library opened the large case displayed some of the matted photos that had decorated the walls of the Tony Roma restaurant. The photos were returned to the FHS when the restaurant closed. That display has recently been changed to feature photos, booklets and newspaper articles from the

Lawrence Monthey collection. Professor Monthey's family lived in Fitchburg in the 1960s and 70s. He was a proponent of eating from the landscape; dandelion salads, edible mushrooms and various



Mary Lou Monthey Oothoudt plant life, sometimes called weeds, that are easy to include in the daily diet. He was also instrumental in returning neglected acreage into a productive farm including prairie and forestland. Our thanks go out to the Monthey family who donated this collection to the FHS.

The smaller display case located inside the Fitchburg Room now features two scrapbooks of Lyman McKee. The

books contain photos and articles about Lyman's career in the dairy industry. They are on loan from Lyman's family. The books will be opened to different pages throughout their stay in the case. Be sure to stop in and read some of Lyman's interesting travels and activities.

Now that we have a permanent home with room to organize and work on our permanent collection we are in urgent need of the general membership to help on various projects. This would include help with cataloging, sorting photos, filing newspaper articles, photocopying documents. No one would be expected to work alone. They would work with one of the archivists. This would be a great opportunity to become an active part of the FHS. Please contact Deb Henke by FHS voice mail or email to set up a time convenient for you. We are still asking member and non-members to donate copies of family photos, histories and obituaries to the FHS. These items are the most asked for items when people are doing genealogical research.

FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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