



Fitchburg Historical Society
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As we approach a third winter with COVID in our world, many of our usual routines are returning. The Fitchburg Library, which houses our office, display case, and a small storage area, is open to the public. We have been able to resume in person Board meetings at the library, and as noted in the article below, hosted an in-person fall meeting and presentation.

But the limitations on meeting in person or accessing our office didn't mean our activities stopped! Unlike historical societies that have storage space or a building, from its creation in 1987, the Society decided to primarily limit their collection to photographs and documents, rather than artifacts, memorabilia, etc. Due to this limited space, the website has been developed with the goal of making our collection widely available using the internet, and the pandemic did not stop progress on that goal. Numerous items were added to our website, monthly videos with FACTv continued and were added to our website, additions were made to our database of obituaries of current or former Fitchburg citizens, and enhancements were made behind the scenes to our website, <https://fitchburghistory.org>.

Our website provides a wealth of information, including digitized photographs, previous newsletters, links to video presentations and recordings of live programs, plat maps, and information about Fitchburg businesses, to name a few. If you haven't checked it out lately, put it on your "things to do in the winter" list. We think you'll be surprised at the wealth of information and material that is available.

Fall Program: Insights of a Growing City

About 20 people attended our fall program by, Chad Brecklin, City Administrator. Although relatively new to the Administrator role, his knowledge and perspective of Fitchburg is much deeper, having been with the city's police department since 1999, culminating as Police Chief prior to his appointment as City Administrator. The program focused on the recent growth of businesses, population, and housing and their projected trends, the addition of parts of the Town of Madison effective October 31, and the financial, regulatory, and environmental challenges the City faces while striving to keep Fitchburg a desirable and diverse place to live.



Links to this presentation as well as other FHS presentations and interviews can be found on our Video Presentations webpage, <https://fitchburghistory.org/video-presentations>

Website Deep Dive: Obituary Database

Local historical societies are often approached by people conducting genealogical research. They may be searching for a grandparent or relative who lived here at some point, and may also be looking for more information about a family. Obituaries often contain a wealth of information about a person and can provide clues about others as well. Although many obituaries are available online through a variety of sources, some may require a subscription to access and others may never surface in an online search.

The obituary database we maintain provides a way to help unearth some of that information. Key information, such as the deceased name, date of birth, date of death, internment location, survivors, etc., is extracted from the obituary and recorded in a database. This enduring project currently is 275 pages long, contains over 1400 obituaries, and is regularly updated.. This database is searchable using a computer find menu. All names, dates, locations, etc., are as they appear in the published obituary.

Earlier this year, Board Vice-President Catherine Schneider interviewed Dianne Reynolds, FHS board member and curator of the FHS obituary collection. Dianne described the process of collecting and archiving obituaries of people who have lived and/or worked in Fitchburg and how to view the FHS Obituary Database that contains the birth and death dates and places as well as listing names mentioned in each obituary.

Access the database here <https://tinyurl.com/2m4w86hk> and view the presentation here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qq94cUtIGY>

Fitchburg Historical Society Obituary Database

| Name | Birth Date | Birth Place | Death Date | Death Place | Other Names | Publisher | Obit Date | Cemetery |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Barnhart, Margaret E. (nee Beavin) | 6/14/1926 | Reedsburg, WI | 1/31/2013 | Fitchburg, WI | Kermit W. Barnhart; Lizette Beavin (nee Alt); Thomas Beavin; Edee Woerdehoff; Mike Woerdehoff; Kirk Barnhart; Kent Barnhart; Erin Harley; Dave Harley; Meghan Gansauge; David Gansauge; Kevin Barnhart; Kristopher Barnhart; Kyle Barnhart; Allycen Harley; Olivia Harley; William Harley; Bart Beavin; Helen Beavin; Kathryn Terman; Gilbert Terman; Dorothy Gorman; Clarence Gorman; Paul Beavin; Kathleen Barnhart | Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, WI | 2/2/2013 | Richland Center Cemetery, Richland Center, WI |
| Barrett, Timothy William | 4/8/1940 | Madison, WI | 8/18/2014 | Madison, WI | Alphonse Barrett; Bemice Barrett; Peter Barrett; Tara Barrett; Kevin Barrett; Bruce Barrett; Laurie Stone | Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, WI | 8/24/2014 | Highland Memory Gardens, Madison, WI |
| Bary, Bridget | 3/7/1852 | | 9/6/1946 | Madison, WI | | Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, WI | 9/7/1946 | |
| Bary, Catherine (nee Fox) | 3/7/1854 | Fitchburg, WI | 8/20/1940 | Fitchburg, WI | George Fox, Garrett Barry, George Barry, Anna Barry, Catherine Barry | Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, WI | 8/21/1940 | St Marys Cemetery, Oregon, WI |

SUPPORT OUR WORK: BECOME A MEMBER!

JOIN US!

Our work may be carried out by volunteers, but we do have expenses, including website and speakers. We don't have a nifty t-shirt or tote bag to offer, but we hope that won't deter you from joining. Individual membership is \$10/year, family \$12/year, and business/profession, \$50.

Fill out the membership form on our website at <https://tinyurl.com/4rf8vkh9> or send your name, address, email address, membership level and check payable to Fitchburg Historical Society, to Roger Tesch, 3417 Brighton Place, Fitchburg, WI 53713-2842.