

For immediate release:

June 15, 2015

Contact: Susan Navarre, Executive Director
director@fitchburghhistoricalsociety.com 978-345-1157

Photographs available

Interviews available: Joel Kaddy

Fitchburg Historical Society Offers Expanded Hours During Summer Events

Historic Iver Johnson Bicycles Return to the Fitchburg Historical Society

during Fitchburg Rides, the Longsjo Race and Civic Days

This year, the Fitchburg Historical Society will bring back its popular exhibition of classic Iver Johnson Bicycles from June 20 through July 22, 2015. The Historical Society is presenting *Historic Iver Johnson Bikes*, a display of the popular and historic bikes that were made for decades in Fitchburg by the Iver Johnson Arms and Cycle Works.

The bicycle models on exhibition are a favorite among bicycle historians for the quality of their construction and their capacity for high speed in long-distance bike races. From 1891 to 1941, Iver Johnson's Arms and Cycle Works in Fitchburg manufactured nearly 700,000 bikes. These included racing bikes, standard and touring bikes, as well as children's bikes and tricycles. They are known as some of the highest quality bikes ever made.

The series of bicycle events kicks off on Saturday, June 20, when the FITchburg Rides program will offer bicycle events for riders of all ages: a "Bicycle Rodeo" event, a giveaway of free safety helmets, a free raffle of 50 children's bikes, and a guided tour of the proposed Stoddart river trail. The *Historic Iver Johnson Bikes* exhibition at the Historical Society will be open extra hours that day, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information about Fitchburg Rides, email joelkaddy@gmail.com. (The rain date is Sunday, June 21.)

On Sunday, June 28, the Longsjo Bicycle race will return to Fitchburg: part of the course skirts the Fitchburg common, and the racers pass in front of the Fitchburg Historical Society headquarters in the historic Phoenix Building on Main Street. During the Longsjo race, the

Historical Society's George R. Wallace Jr. and Alice G. Wallace Exhibit Hall will be open extra hours: from noon to 5 p.m. In addition, the exhibit will be open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. during the popular Fitchburg Civic Days block party celebration on Friday, July 3. The exhibitions are free and open to the public.

The historic bikes exhibitions shares the Historical Society's exhibition hall with the Wallace Exhibit Series, "Law and Justice in Fitchburg: the Worcester County Superior Court", which is on view through July 15. The Fitchburg Historical Society and Crocker Family Center for the History of Fitchburg is located at 781 Main Street, Fitchburg in the historic Phoenix building. It is open Monday and Tuesday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is abundant on-street parking near the Historical Society and free parking behind the building. The building is handicapped accessible.

For more information, call 978-345-1157, write fitchburghhistoricalsociety@fitchburghhistoricalsociety.com or visit www.fitchburghhistoricalsociety.org or <https://www.facebook.com/FitchburgHistoricalSociety>.

- 30 -

Wallace Exhibit Series: Law and Justice in Fitchburg: the Worcester County Superior Court"

Ongoing, through July 15, 2015

George R. Wallace Jr. and Alice G. Wallace Exhibit Hall, Fitchburg Historical Society

Free and open to the public.

FITchburg Rides celebration

Additional exhibition hours: ***Historic Iver Johnson Bikes***

Saturday, June 20, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, June 21, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00p.m.)

George R. Wallace Jr. and Alice G. Wallace Exhibit Hall, Fitchburg Historical Society

Open hours during the Longsjo Bicycle Race

Additional exhibition hours: ***Historic Iver Johnson Bikes***

Sunday, June 28, 2015, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

George R. Wallace Jr. and Alice G. Wallace Exhibit Hall, Fitchburg Historical Society

Open Hours during Fitchburg Civic Days Block Party

Additional exhibition hours: ***Historic Iver Johnson Bikes***

Friday, July 3, 2015, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

George R. Wallace Jr. and Alice G. Wallace Exhibit Hall, Fitchburg Historical Society

About the Fitchburg Historical Society: Founded by James F.D. Garfield in 1892, the Fitchburg Historical Society is an independent non-profit that was created to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of Fitchburg. Now located in an historic H.M. Francis-designed building on Main Street, the Society hosts lectures, exhibits and annual events relating to the city's history. Exhibitions and educational programming about Fitchburg history are supported by a grant from The George R. Wallace Foundation, and are presented in the George R. Wallace Jr. and Alice G. Wallace Exhibit Hall.