

For immediate release:

September 27, 2016

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Photographs available

Interviews available: Darren Barry, speaker and history teacher

First Autumn History Talk at the Fitchburg Historical Society On October 18

Presents New Research on Fitchburg and the Civil War

(Fitchburg, MA) **On Tuesday, October 18 at 5:15 p.m., Fitchburg educator Darren Barry will present a talk on Fitchburg and the Civil War that is based on his new research in the records of the Fitchburg Historical Society. The talk kicks off a new academic year at the Fitchburg Historical Society, and is free to the public.**

Barry's talk is entitled "Fitchburg's Unionist and Emancipationist Civil War Collective Memory: 1861 – 1930" and is based on his new research into the unique legacy of the anti-slavery movement in Fitchburg. The city continued to honor its Civil War veterans for many decades. For example, Fitchburg's Monument Park - containing Martin Milmore's renowned Civil War monument – was one of America's first monuments honoring the Civil War. Even forty years after the war, President Teddy Roosevelt visited Fitchburg and in his speech recognized the city's Civil War veterans.

Speaker Darren Barry is a history teacher at Montachusett Regional High School in Fitchburg. Recently he completed his Master's thesis titled: "Union and Emancipation – Conflating Revolutionary Heritage with Abolitionist Practice: Civil War Collective Memory in Fitchburg, Massachusetts 1861-1930." Next spring, a thesis chapter that analyzes the legacy of Fitchburg's Civil War Soldiers' Monument will be published in the *Historical Journal of Massachusetts*.

The Fitchburg Historical Society is located at 781 Main Street, Fitchburg in the historic Phoenix building. 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, email welcome@fitchburghhistoricalsociety.com, visit www.fitchburghhistoricalsociety.org or <https://www.facebook.com/FitchburgHistoricalSociety>.