

## *Fashion With a Touch of History*

At the annual meeting and membership drive of the Auxiliary of the Christian Community Campus, the St. Croix County Historical Society partnered with Elan of Hudson to present a fashion show “Fashions Then and Now.” Elan presented the fashionable modern day designs now available for purchase at their Locust Street shop while the historical society revealed some of the treasured vintage fashions in its collection, with bits of Hudson history. Among the vintage outfits were a turn of the century bathing suit with long black stockings and the type of bloomer outfit which had been promoted by Amelia Bloomer in the 1850’s as healthier than the corseted fashions of the day.

Featured, also, was a middy blouse originally worn by Essie Williams, a colorful character from Hudson’s past. Miss Williams was an early Hudson lawyer with an interesting career, whose home was located on the land now occupied by the Hudson Fire Department.

Closing the show was a vintage wedding dress worn by three generations of one family. The dress was worn first by Margaret Ingram when she married John Moffat Hughes in 1913. John Moffat Hughes was a member of the third generation of the Moffat Hughes family to live in the Octagon House. The dress was worn again when their daughter, Betty Hughes, married James (Al) Swanson in 1952. Betty and Al’s daughter, Peggy, was the last to wear it when she married Leslie Stern in 1989. The dress was then donated to the historical society for preservation. A picture, with a bridal portrait of all three brides, was carried by the model wearing the dress, so guests could see how the three brides looked on their wedding days.



Michelle Serkowski wearing vintage wedding dress (left) and Nancy Weeks wearing modern attire (right)

