

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 10 NO. 4 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2003

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MICHAEL F. DWYER NAMED VERMONT TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Michael F. Dwyer

The Rutland Historical Society is pleased to announce that Michael F. Dwyer, its new vice-president, was named Vermont Teacher of the Year for the year 2004.

Michael's varied interests and skills have not only been exhibited in the classroom but also in his involvement with the Rutland Historical Society in its many activities. From 1999 to 2003 Michael was a director of the Society and from 2000 to 2003 he was Chairperson of the Board of Directors. Since 1999, he has been Chairperson of the Program Committee. He is also Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Rutland Italian Immigration Project.

Michael has presented a number of programs about the immigration of many of Rutland's ethnic groups for the Society's "Historically Speaking" television series on cable channel 15.

He has also presented a couple of programs on health and medical care in early 20th Century Rutland as well as hosting a program on the Korean War.

He is a very articulate presenter who is also an expert genealogist. He presented a series of programs on the basic elements of genealogical research for the Society. He also has a great interest in and knowledge of early photography and has presented a program on that subject for the membership of the Society.

The Society is proud that one of its own has been given this prestigious award. It is also of important note that this year's award went to a history teacher.

ELECTION RESULTS

At the Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society on 15 OCT 2003, the following officers and directors were elected by the membership:

Pres. Dorothy Whitford
V.P. Michael Dwyer
Sec. Jacob Sherman
Treas. Thomas Carpenter
Dir. (2 yrs.) Robert Cassidy
Dir. (2 yrs.) Helen Davidson
Dir. (2 yrs.) Robert Perkins

Continuing Directors are:
Carmine Pacca, Karen Sanborn and
Morris Tucker.

Karen Sanborn has been elected by the Board of Directors as Chairperson for this year.

"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society produces "Historically Speaking" on cable Channel 15. A new program is produced each month. The series includes interviews and historical pictorial material in a rather flexible TV magazine format. The programs can be seen every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and Friday at 7:30 p.m. Videotapes of the following episodes can be obtained from Channel 15, Rutland Region Community Television, P.O. Box 500, Rutland VT 05702-0500. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to the above. You must provide a self-addressed padded bag with postage. Channel 15 provides the tape. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

Episode # 49 - Jim Davidson hosts Dylan Duncan, one of the producers of *Ghosts of Vermont*, a video production which focuses on four Vermont ghost tales. The program includes the Whipple Hollow ghost story of Frank Kurant. Jim Davidson provides a short historical segment on the history of Whipple Hollow. The program discusses the genesis of the idea for the production and some of the difficulties that had to be overcome.

Episode # 50 - Michael Dwyer hosts World War II and Korean War veteran Frank Fressie in "Remembering Korea". Fifty years after the armistice which ended the Korean War, Mr. Fressie shares his reflections about serving in this conflict and how it impacted his life. He also shares his thoughts on this war's larger place in history between World War II and Vietnam. Viewers will find Fressie's testimony moving.

VISITS TO THE SOCIETY

About 15 home school students and their instructors visited the Society on 14 OCT. The students ranged from first to third grade ages. They explored the "Eight Generations of Rutland's History" exhibit with Jim Davidson and Carmine Pacca. Afterward they viewed a video program from the Historically Speaking series entitled "David Sawyer's World". This gives a view of life in 1898 Rutland. On 17 OCT the Christ the King School third grade visited the Society for a similar program.

On 23 OCT, Joe Flory, new curator of the Fair Haven Historical Society, made a visit to the Society to view the Society's operations and discuss issues pertinent to local historical societies. Jim Davidson hosted the visit.

OUTREACH

On 20 SEP Jim Davidson presented the "David Sawyer's World" video program from the "Historically Speaking" series for the Pentecostal Church Seniors group. On 4 NOV he presented a program on the Frank T. Hopkins Hoax for the newly formed West Rutland Historical Society. On 7 NOV he provided a musical program at the Maples for their ice cream social.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Archives Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Artifacts Committee

Ann Glagola - 775-1302

Building Committee

Morris Tucker - 773-7356

Exhibit Committee

Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Finance Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Historic Preservation Committee

David Nettleton - 438-2689

Library Committee

Ann Glagola - 775-1302

Membership Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Personnel Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

Publications Committee

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research Committee

Patty Pickett - 438-2759

Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

President

Dorothy Whitford - 776-1018

Board Chairperson

Karen Sanborn - 775-6928

GIFT IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND BEYOND

So often there are family members and friends for whom finding a gift that goes beyond the token gift of food or clothing is quite a challenge. If only the gift could be something that could keep giving, something that could convey the feeling of fond memories that could be shared.

The Society has some wonderful items and ideas for gifts that can help share that love for family and community. Prices range from as little as one or two dollars to thirty dollars.

For as little as a dollar each, back issues of *Quarterlies* can be selected on a topic of interest to the recipient. (See "An Important Note" at the bottom of this page as to how to get a listing of back issues of *Quarterlies*). Any number of back issues ordered will be mailed to a single recipient for one dollar. For two dollars each, the 2004 *Quarterly/Calendar* can be purchased for family, friends and neighbors that might enjoy a copy. Again, if mailed to a single address, the shipping and handling fee is one dollar per order.

A gift of a whole year's worth of *Quarterlies* and Newsletters can be obtained through a gift membership. Memberships are as little as eight dollars for a senior citizen (age 62 and over) or a student (18 and under). A regular membership/subscription is ten dollars. A membership/subscription provides four *Quarterlies* and four Newsletters from January to December.

For those particularly interested in family history, the book *Early Families of Rutland* might be an appropriate choice. This 464 page book focuses on families from the old Town of Rutland prior to the Civil War. It includes a nice map package of four fold-out maps and it is only thirty dollars. The material in this book was compiled over a lifetime by genealogists Marvel G. Swan and Donald P. Swan and edited by Dawn D. Hance. The book is amply illustrated with many photos of individuals where available.

For those who may be more interested in the general history of Rutland, there is *The History of Rutland, Vermont 1761 - 1861* by Dawn D. Hance. This 690 page work is a summary of all the historical material available on Rutland's first one hundred years plus much original research by the author. The book is organized in topical chapters and includes a six fold-out map package as well as a thorough index. At thirty dollars this volume is a great bargain.

The above books can be mailed for a shipping charge of three dollars for each book.

The Society also has available *Rutland Town: A Collection of Stories Spanning Over 200 Years of Town History*. This 120 page illustrated paperback by The Historical Society of Rutland Town sells for five dollars. *Proctor: My Home Town*, which is an illustrated 92 page indexed book by Herbert W. Johnson, Sr., is available for ten dollars. There is also *Thus Far By Faith: A History of Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 1788-1988* which is a 115 page illustrated paperback which sells for six dollars. *Home: A History of St. Peter's Parish, Rutland, Vermont* is a 166 page paperback by Patrick T. Hannon which was edited by Jim and Helen Davidson. It includes 41 illustrations and a detailed index. It sells for ten dollars.

The Society is proud to have produced fifty thirty minute video programs in its "Historically Speaking" series. One or two of these programs on a particular subject might make a great gift for someone who has not had an opportunity to see them on Channel 15. (See "An Important Note" at the bottom of this page for information on how to get a complete listing and synopsis of each programs.) . See the top article on page two for information on how to obtain copies of these videos. Come check out the gift options at the Society.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE

A list of back issues of *Quarterlies* and a list and Synopsis of "Historically Speaking" video programs is available for one dollar to cover cost of copies and postage.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

On 31 OCT the Society participated in what may have been the largest attended parade in the history of Rutland halloween parades. The weather and the crowds were terrific. The Society's presentation was a body basket with an occupant accompanied by four pall bearers. A pickax bearer and a shovel bearer emphasized the theme of "We dig history". One set of Society banner bearers led and another followed the historic body basket. Banner bearers were Helen Davidson and Dorothy Whitford and William and Krista Gower-Johnson. Pall bearers were Paul Crossman, Jim Davidson, Robert Perkins and Morris Tucker. Pickax bearer was Larry Kelley. Shovel bearer was George Lengol. Taylor Davidson was the body in the basket.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS MEETING

The Society co-sponsored a meeting with the Rutland Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans at the Society on Friday 21 NOV. Musician Robert Allen, who is the author of a book on abolitionist John Brown, explored John Brown's raid and subsequent execution. In particular, he discussed the impact of the song "John Brown's Body" on Civil War America.

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Publications Committee of the Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701-4023. Tel. (802) 775-2006. Jim Davidson - *Editor*

DUES SCHEDULE

Sponsor	\$50.00	Students	\$8.00
Contributing	\$20.00	(18 & under)	
Regular	\$10.00	Senior citizens	\$8.00
		(62 & up)	
Life Membership			\$200.00
(Individuals only)			
Memorial Membership			\$200.00

ELMO DEMONSTRATIONS

Jim Davidson made a demonstration of the ELMO for the TwilightHomemakers' Club on 30 SEP at the Society. On 2 NOV he also provided a similar demonstration at the Rutland Free Library Open House.

JOHN PHAIR CASE REVIEWED

Jim and Helen Davidson led a mock jury trial of the John Phair murder case on 22 and 29 SEP for Elder Hostel groups attending the Elder Hostel programs of the "Old Homestead" in Castleton. They also presented this program on 1 OCT at the Society as a part of the fall program series. On 24 OCT they again presented the program for a group at the Gables. Jim and Helen's program involves the audience in a reading of the *Quarterly* on the murder of Anna Freese followed by a mock jury discussion of the evidence that led to a conviction of Phair and his ultimate execution, although Phair steadfastly denied his guilt.

**REMEMBER 2004
MEMBERSHIPS ARE
PAYABLE IN JANUARY.
CHECK YOUR MAILING
LABEL FOR YEAR FOR
WHICH ALREADY PAID.**

**THE FACILITIES OF THE
RUTLAND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY ARE OPEN ON:
MONDAYS 6 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS 1 - 4 PM**