

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 12 NO. 3 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2005

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be on Thursday evening 20 October 2005 at Fellowship Hall of the Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Court Street, Rutland, Vermont. At 5:30 p.m. there will be light hors d'oeuvres followed by a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. At approximately 7:00 p.m. there will be a brief Annual Business Meeting of the Society and the election of officers and directors. There will also be brief reports on the Society's new web site, a projected online Encyclopedia of Rutland History and Biography, potential building expansion and the Halloween Parade, followed by the principal address of the evening at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The principal presenter is Chuck Piotrowski, a new member of the Society. His topic is "Turning Your Junk into the Stuff of History" This program is an introduction to preserving the materials that document your family's history. There will be an opportunity to inspect samples, ask questions, and offer comments. Chuck Piotrowski is a past Director of Information Asset Management and University Archivist at the University of California at Santa Cruz, where he also served as chair of the University of California Archives Committee. Currently he is the Records Manager for Central Vermont Public Service.

To facilitate the organization of the supper, folks are asked to respond by phone regarding their attendance and the dish that they wish to bring, to Helen Davidson at 773-7525 or Pat Tucker at 773-7356 by Monday 17 October 2005.

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS NOMINATED

Pres. Dorothy Whitford
V.P. Michael Dwyer
Sec. Jacob Sherman
Treas. Thomas Carpenter
Dir. (2 yrs) Helen Davidson
Dir. (2 yrs) Robert Perkins.
Dir. (2 yrs) Chuck Piotrowski
Continuing Directors are:
Mary Fregosi, Carmine Pacca
and Patty Pickett (Brogren)

SALE

The Society will hold a sale of a variety of materials on SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER and SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Society. The sale includes a wide variety of books, magazines, prints, LP records, old AV equipment, trunks and what have you. Come see what we have that we no longer need.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

The Society plans to present a gathering of "vampires" with the theme of "We Want New Blood" for the Halloween Parade on Monday 31 October 2005. Vampires, young and old, member and non-member, are encouraged to join in the parade where they will hand out membership blanks to interested onlookers. Participants should gather at the Society at 96 Center Street by 5:30 p.m. The parade starts at 6:30 p.m. Contact Helen Davidson at 773-7525 with any questions.

**REMEMBER YOUR
2005 DUES - CHECK
THE MAILING LABEL**

"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, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 108, Rutland VT 05701-4460. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to the above. You must provide a self-addressed padded bag with postage or \$1.50 for shipping and handling. Channel 15 provides the tape. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

Episode # 65 - Jim Davidson hosts Michael F. Dwyer in a program commemorating the men and women who served the country in World War II. The program also covers life on the home front in a war that was a total war for survival. Michael lists the names of those serving from Rutland. Now, 60 years removed from the end of World War II, it would be so easy to dismiss this generation that many have called "The Finest Generation" as just another piece of history. This program is devoted to an effort to see that we never forget what this generation contributed. There was not a household that was not in some way directly touched by the war.

Episode # 66 - Jim Davidson hosts Monty Butterfield of the Rutland Railway Association and Linda Doty, Chairperson of the Proctor Fall Festival in a presentation on Rutland Railroad Day 2005 and the Proctor Fall Festival which were held on 24 September 2005. The program discusses briefly the history of the Rutland Railway Association and the Proctor "Our Yard" project. Details of the events of the day are thoroughly discussed. The day included a train trip from Center Rutland to Proctor and back to Center Rutland. The program emphasizes the partnership aspects of the day's events. The Rutland Railway Association has a web site at www.rutlandrailway.org.

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Patty Pickett, Tom Carpenter, Michael Dwyer, Larry Kelley and Jim Davidson. The site is now operational at <http://www.rutlandhistory.com>. Since February 2005 over 35,000 "hits" have been received. The free message board has received a number of queries. The committee has continued to meet and fine tune the site.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy L. Whitford, President

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

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

Mary Fregosi - 459-2723

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The Rutland Historical Society is open for public use on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Materials for research purposes are welcomed as additions to the Society's collections relating to the original Town of Rutland and its successor municipalities of Proctor, West Rutland and Rutland Town and City. Volunteers meet three times a week to accession materials. Volunteer members also assist local and out-of-town folks seeking genealogical and historical information. The Society offers special arrangements for individual visitors and groups.

"Historically Speaking" continues to be shown three times weekly on public access cable television station Channel 15. Subjects presented this year include programs dealing with "Political Messages in Ordinary Objects" with Dr. Kevin Thornton of UVM; "History of the Rutland Courts" with Jim Davidson and Dorothy Whitford; "Information To Be Gleaned from Late 19th or Early 20th Century Photos" with Michael Dwyer; "Discussion with Rutland Society members concerning the Society's New Web Site"; "Rutland History Days" with Tony Romeo, Sons of Union Veterans, Ripley Camp #4 and Mary Goulette from the Downtown Rutland Partnership; "The Family Photo Album as Social History" with Jim Davidson and Michael Dwyer; and "The Making of 'The North and South: A Woman's Perspective' with Anna Whooley".

Other activities included participation in the Vermont History Expo presenting a Rutland and Vermont covered bridge exhibit with our local covered bridge expert, Robert Cassidy, as well as well as Anna Whooley's dramatic monologue of two women of the Civil War Era. The Society also provided a musical setting for First Night headquarters on New Year's Eve, took part in the Halloween and Loyalty Day parades and provided walking tours of Rutland for visiting groups, local school students and for Rutland History Days.

The first Elwert Essay Contest, held to commemorate the service to the Society by Fred and Eleanor Elwert, was completed in March. First prize was won by Kahner Dowdy, Grade 6 of the Rutland Area Christian School, for her essay on the "Berwick Hotel Fire". Elizabeth Lambert, Grade 6, won second prize and third prize went to T.J. Engler also of Grade 6. Certificates of participation were also awarded. The contest is open to middle school students, grades five through eight, in any public, private or home school within "the original Town of Rutland". This is an annual contest.

Helen Davidson, Past President, was honored by the Society at the Annual Meeting for her excellent weekly "Tidbits From Then and Now" published in *Sam's Good News*, a local free weekly paper. Helen is one of our most dedicated volunteers and has been producing this column for over six years.

Quarterlies published this year were "Lost Buildings of Rutland Revisited, A Calendar" by Jake Sherman"; "July Guns of Colonial Patriots II: The Battle of Hubbardton Revisited" by Carmine Pacca; and "The 1908 Diary of Charlotte Chaffee" in two parts edited by Helen Davidson.

Programs for the year included "Rutland Silver" by David Perrin; "The Future of Vermont History" by Kevin Graffagnino, President of the Vermont Historical Society; "History, Politics and the Schools" with Lincoln Fenn; a demonstration of the ELMO for the Twilight Homemakers; a presentation of historical research materials for a Vermont History class from the College of St. Joseph; video and exhibit tours of the Society for school children; "Proctor: 100 Years Ago and Today" presented by Maureen Dobart of the Proctor Elementary School; "Sam Slick, a 19th Century Peddler" presented by John Peterson, a social studies teacher at Rutland High school and "The Vermont Marble Company Strike of 1935-36" by Mary Fregosi, retired history teacher from Rutland High School and present Chairperson of the Board of the Society.

An important project for the Society has been the production of a Web Site which opened in February 2005. Those participating have been Karen Sanborn, Chairperson, Robert Perkins,

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FALL PROGRAMS

The Program Committee of the Society has announced the following programs for Fall 2005:

Thursday 6 October 2005 - Rutland Historical Society 7:00 p.m.

"The World of Children's Historical Fiction" - Janice Ovecka. Janice, a Brandon resident, is the author of *Captive of Pittsford Ridge* and *Cave of Falling Water*. She will talk about the world she has recreated in her books for young people and why she hopes to excite them about history.

Thursday 13 October 2005 - Rutland Historical Society 7:00 p.m.

"Genealogy Workshop Encore, Part I" - Michael F. Dwyer and panel. This part one of a two part hands on workshop will revisit basic principles of genealogical research as well as acquaint participants with the latest genealogical websites. With so much new information available, how does one determine the quality of the information? Each workshop will be tailored to the needs of its participants. Handouts will be provided.

Thursday 20 October 2005 - Fellowship Hall of Grace Congregational United Church of Christ at approximately 7:30 p.m.

"Turning Your Junk Into the Stuff of History" - Chuck Piotrowski. See Annual Meeting on page one for details. Note that all are welcome.

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*

Thursday 27 October 2005 - Rutland Historical Society 7:00 p.m.

"Genealogy Workshop Encore Part II" - Michael F. Dwyer and panel. This is part two of a workshop that began on 13 October. New participants may attend the workshop even though they did not attend part one. Again, handouts will be provided.

ELWERT ESSAY CONTEST

The names of Fred and Eleanor Elwert are deeply etched in the foundation and the first 25 years of the Rutland Historical Society. To commemorate their service, the Board of Directors of the Society have established this annual essay contest. Prizes: The contest offers a 1st prize of \$100, a 2nd prize of \$50 and a 3rd prize of \$25. Eligibility: The contest is open to middle school students, grades five through eight, in any public, private or home school within the original Town of Rutland (i.e. Proctor or Rutland Town or City or West Rutland.) Topic: A notable event or person in the history of greater Rutland. Requirements: 500 to 700 words, typed or word processed, with a list of works used (bibliography). Submit before 15 MARCH 2006 to: Michael F. Dwyer, Otter Valley Union High School, 2997 Franklin Street, Brandon VT 05733.

**IMPORTANT DATE
TO REMEMBER:
MONDAY 17 OCTOBER
R.S.V.P. FOR
ANNUAL MEETING**

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

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