

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 13 NO. 1

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2006

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## SOCIETY WEB SITE rutlandhistory.com IS GREAT SUCCESS

The Society held an open house and reception on Monday evening, 13 February 2006, at the Society to mark the one year anniversary of the Society web site "rutlandhistory.com". During the first year of operation the site's automatic statistical analysis recorded 91,000 visitors. However, this very exciting number has been well-eclipsed by a monthly average of over 20,000 for the months of January, February and March of this year. At this pace the site could come close to a quarter of a million viewers during the year 2006.

The Society is most appreciative of the early design work contributed by David Soulia, who had to stop his involvement due to family needs, and the follow-up technical work by Gary and Cindy Besaw of Ready Page.

Ready Page has provided the Society with a new and more effective message board and templates which make it possible for committee members to add and edit materials. A search engine on the site services the site except for the message board which has its own search engine.

The web site has most recently added new items to its "Rutland Tidbits" section. These include: # 4 Flooding Edsonville - 1863; # 6 & 9 Hookey Jackson and Jack Howard, street sweepers circa 1910; # 11 Investing in Wool in the Civil War; # 12 Short Skirts Awake Civil Strife; # 14 Parent Teacher Organization and # 16 Mrs. Riley's Evening Party - an 1895 Poem.

A number of items have also been added to the "Historical Miscellany" section. These include: A List of People Living at the Poor Farm in 1897; Local news items from the 17 April 1899 *Rutland Herald*; Letters at the Rutland Post Office 31 December 1847; the Voter Registration List of 1867; Civil War Veterans buried in Rutland cemeteries; 1867 Rutland Village Directory and the Row on Rebel Hill in West Rutland.

The Rutland Historical Encyclopedia is a bold and ambitious new project which also resides on the Society web site. Look under the "Rutland Historical Encyclopedia" section. A special sub-committee is working to develop this exciting project. To date there are four entries in the Encyclopedia. The Society will need to depend on members and non-members to contribute items for inclusion in the Encyclopedia. If you are interested in learning more about contributing to this project, please visit the "Rutland Historical Encyclopedia" section on the web site or call the Society. Requirements for contributions can be found there or can be mailed to you. For those who would like a preview of the possibilities of the Encyclopedia, look at the model at The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History at the following site: <http://ech.cwru.edu/>.

**IF YOU HAVE AN 05  
ON YOUR MAILING  
LABEL YOU OWE  
DUES FOR 2006**

## "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 # 70 - Michael F. Dwyer introduces John Peterson who plays the role of "Sam Slick", a fictional itinerant peddler of the 1830s. John's wife, Laura, plays the role of Mrs. Folger, a typical housewife of the time. Mr. Peterson presents the pitch and barter of the country salesman in a wonderful and humorous manner. He also reports about a visit to a woolen mill of the time.

Episode # 71 - Tom Carpenter hosts Jim Davidson of the Society in a program on "The Black Presence in Rutland". Jim discusses the role of blacks in early Rutland and emphasizes the number who lived in Rutland before the Civil War. He also notes that most were born in Vermont. He makes particular note of the Reverend Lemuel Haynes and the Freeman family including Martin Freeman. The large contingent of black men from Rutland who joined the Massachusetts 54th Regiment (Colored) in the Civil War is also discussed. The program concludes with discussion about the late 19th and early 20th Century black presence in Rutland.

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

# 72 (12 April to 28 April 2006) - Jim Davidson will host a program on "Rutland's Spring Heritage Activities". Representatives from the Downtown Partnership, the Sons of Union Veterans and the Loyalty Day Parade will briefly cover the "All Aboard, Rutland" railroad project, the History Days living history activities and the Loyalty Day Parade.

# 73 (3 May to 2 June 2006) - Michael F. Dwyer will host Mary Fregosi of Proctor in a program entitled "Practicing History". Mary recently retired from a long career in education but has kept busy researching and writing articles and books on local history. Michael will converse with Mary about her historical projects which have engaged and enriched her retirement hours.

## 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 - 775-1706

#### Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

#### President

Dorothy Whitford - 776-1018

#### Board Chairperson

Mary Fregosi - 459-2723

## SPONSOR MEMBERS FOR 2005

The following either became SPONSOR members in the year 2005 or renewed their previous sponsorship. Others (\*) made gifts of \$50 or more in the year 2005.

M/M John P. Crowley  
 Dr. Francis D'Auria  
 M/M Lawrence Dellveneri  
 Hugh Duffy Coal Company, Inc.  
 Factory Point National Bank  
 M/M William F. Gillam Jr.  
 D/M John Hinsman  
 Holiday Inn of Rutland  
 Initial Ideas  
 M/M Lee Keirstead  
 M/M Wayne F. Krevetski  
 M/M Richard Lavictoire

Virginia Lindholm  
 Anthony Marro  
 M/M William Mather Jr.  
 McNeil & Reedy  
 M/M Robert Noble  
 \* Andrea Pompelli  
 Patricia Pool  
 \* Michelle Shipley  
 Smalley Contractors  
 \*Reiko C. Tuttle  
 Anne Walker

Robert W. Beauchamp became a new Life member of the Society in 2005.

## SOCIETY OUTREACH

Jim Davidson was the guest on Riverside News on Rutland's PEG-TV in December 2005. He reviewed much of the material that he had shared on a walking tour of the Southwest neighborhood that he had led in November. Jim also presented a four-part History of Rutland for the Osher Program on 6, 13, 20 and 27 January 2006. Each 90 minute presentation developed an overview of two generations of Rutland's history. Helen Davidson spoke to the Hexagon Club on 18 January about her "Tidbits from Then and Now" series which appears weekly in *Sam's Good News*. She shared a sampling of some of her more interesting stories. On 10 February Jim Davidson brought the video "The Flood of 1927" from the "Historically Speaking" series to the residents of the Meadows. He answered questions about the flood and also about the flood of 1947 which many residents had experienced. On 20 February the Society hosted the brown bag luncheon-discussion of the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance (VMGA) from 12 to 2 p.m. Jim Davidson demonstrated the ELMO for interested visitors. On 15 March Tom Carpenter presented a program on "Rutland Banks and Banking" for the Mendon Historical Society. On 16 March Jim and Helen Davidson presented a program on "Made in Vermont" for the Poultney Women's Club. On 22 March Jim and Helen did a mock trial presentation at the

Godnick Center for the Triad Program. The trial is based on the murder case of John Phair who supposedly murdered Ann Freese in Rutland in 1874. On Tuesday 28 March Helen Davidson presented the "Made In Vermont" program for the Twilight Homemakers Club at the Society.

## NEW EXHIBITS

The Exhibit Committee of the Society has installed a new exhibit entitled "A Sampler of 19th Century Rutland Photography". There is also a separate exhibit of "Cameras Through Time". The committee has also added a selection of artifacts to each of the generations in the "Eight Generations of Rutland's History" exhibit.

## "ALL ABOARD, RUTLAND"

The Downtown Rutland Partnership will open a season-long celebration of Rutland's rich railroad heritage on Saturday 29 April 2006. Mark your calendars.

**REMEMBER 2006 DUES  
 ARE PAYABLE NOW  
 CHECK YOUR MAILING  
 LABEL FOR YEAR  
 ALREADY PAID**

## SPRING PROGRAMS

**Abraham Lincoln Tonight! - Tuesday 2 May 2006 7:00 p.m. at the Fox Room, Rutland Free Library. Co-sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society and the Rutland Free Library.** More than 140 years after his death, Abraham Lincoln remains the subject of scholarly and popular debate. Three new biographies all speak to the complexity and depth of Lincoln's character. In this book discussion, we will survey C.A. Tripp's *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln*, Joshua Wolf Shenk's *Lincoln's Melancholy: How Depression Challenged a President and Fueled His Greatness*, and Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. Participants in this book discussion may draw from any or all of these biographies.

**Two roundtable sessions on "19th Century Irish Immigration To the Old Town of Rutland" - Wednesday 17 May and Wednesday 24 May - 7:00 p.m. at the Society. Participants MUST REGISTER BY PHONE at 773-7525 by the Tuesday prior to the event. Each session is LIMITED TO 17. Participants may register for only ONE of the sessions.** These sessions will provide an opportunity for those interested in early Irish research to share common interests and information. The Society will provide three experts on Rutland Irish research for the sessions. The roundtable sessions are appropriate for any level of skill from beginner to expert.

*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

## SECOND ANNUAL HISTORY DAYS

The Rutland Parks and Recreation Department, the Sons of Union Veterans, the Rutland Historical Society and the Downtown Partnership will offer a Second Annual History Days in the Main Street Park on Saturday 6 May 2006. The event will include Revolutionary War and Civil War living history encampments which will operate from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be a concert in the park from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. featuring *Woodchucks Revenge*. (Rain location for the concert will be at the IHM school gymnasium.) The Rutland Historical Society will offer a one-hour walking tour from Main Street Park down Center Street to the Downtown and up Washington Street to the Park at 10:00 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. At 11:00 a.m. Don Wickman will speak at the Society about the Black Soldiers from Rutland who served in the Massachusetts 54th Regiment (Colored) during the Civil War. At 2:30 p.m. there will be a program at the Society describing and demonstrating medical care during the Civil War. The History Days program will conclude at 4:00 p.m.

## LOYALTY DAY PARADE

The Loyalty Day parade will be held on Sunday afternoon 7 May 2006 at 2:00 p.m. The Rutland Historical Society will introduce "Nickwackett Nick", the Society's new squirrel mascot, at this time. "Nickwackett" is an old Indian word which means "place of the squirrel". A crew of folks who are "nuts about history" will assist "Nick" in distributing "nuts" along the parade route. These "nuts" will contain gift slips redeemable for a choice of ten (10) back issues of the Society's quarterly magazines while supplies last. Each nut has a \$10.00 value. Don't miss this great giveaway.

**THE FACILITIES OF THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE OPEN ON:**

**MONDAYS 6 - 9 PM**

**SATURDAYS 1 - 4 PM**