

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 13 NO. 3 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2006

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## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday evening 26 October at Fellowship Hall of Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Court Street, Rutland, Vermont. At 5:30 pm there will be light hors d'oeuvres followed by a potluck supper at 6:00 pm. At approximately 7:00 pm there will be a brief Annual Business Meeting and the election of officers and directors followed by the program. (see Fall Programs on page 1). 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 23 October.

## SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

On 11 and 29 JUL Jim Davidson did walking tours for the Rutland Recreation Department and the Rutland Free Library respectively. On 12 JUL Jim Davidson offered a video program for the Recreation Department and on 12 AUG he offered the Flood of 1927 for a Veterans group at South Station. On 19 AUG he provided an evening of dance music for the RHS class of 1954. On 18 SEP the Rutland Historical Society hosted a workshop for the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance.

## SALE

The Society will hold a sale of a variety of materials on SATURDAY and SUNDAY, 7 & 8 OCTOBER from 10:00am to 4:00pm at the Society. The sale includes books, magazines, prints, LP records, old AV equipment, trunks, shelving and what have you. .

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS NOMINATED

Pres. Michael Dwyer  
V.P. Chuck Piotrowski  
Sec. Dorothy Whitford  
Treas. Thomas Carpenter

Dir. (2 yrs) Robert Cassidy  
Dir. (2 yrs) Mary Fregosi  
Dir. (2 yrs) Patty Pickett (Brogren)

Dir. (1 yr) Lloyd Davis

Continuing Directors are:Helen Davidson and Robert Perkins.

Submitted by Mary Segale  
Chairperson of Nominations Committee

## FALL PROGRAMS

28 SEP - A Workshop On How To Write History - Michael Dwyer & Mary Fregosi - At Society

12 OCT - Book Discussion On Irish Life and Fantasy: Excerpts from "The Coopers Wife Is Missing" - Helen Davidson - At Society

26 OCT - Fireside Poets Longfellow and Whittier Revisited: An Interactive Program - Michael Dwyer - At Fellowship Hall

All programs at 7:00 pm on Thursdays

**REMEMBER R.S.V.P.  
BY MONDAY 23 OCT  
FOR ANNUAL  
MEETING**

## "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 # 75 - "Vermont's Forgotten President: Chester Alan Arthur". One hundred years after his death, Vermont's first president deserves a new appraisal of his life and times. Mary Fregosi interviews Michael Dwyer on the subject of the 21st president.

Episode # 76 - Jim Davidson hosts Paula Baker, Director of the Rutland Free Library, and Jake Sherman, Library historian, on the occasion of the library's 120th birthday. The program blends an historical overview of the library with how libraries are rapidly changing in the technological age.

Episode # 77 - Jim Davidson hosts Chuck Piotrowski who presents a power point program entitled "Turning Your Junk Into the Stuff of History". This is Part One of a two part offering.

## HALLOWEEN PARADE

The Society plans a presentation for the Halloween Parade on Tuesday 31 October. The theme will be "Chasing Ghosts of the Past". The Society mascot squirrel, "Nickwackett Nick", will chase down folks wearing masks of the faces of important Rutland citizens of the past.

There is an opportunity for people of all ages to sign up to participate. Costumes will be a simple ghost costume. (Just a sheet will do). The Society will provide individual masks and signs that identify the Rutland people of the past. Join us. More people means more characters from Rutland History and more fun. Contact Jim Davidson at 773-7525 for information and a Rutland face. Early birds get the best characters. Since we need to prepare the masks and signs, please sign up by 26 October.

## 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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During its Saturday afternoon and Monday evening hours the Society has been very busy servicing researchers who for the most part are seeking family roots. Materials that the Society receives are always welcome additions to the Society's collections relating to the original town of Rutland and Proctor, West Rutland and Rutland Town and Rutland City. The past year has seen numerous gifts of this nature. Volunteers meet weekly to process materials. Volunteers also assist local and out-of-town folks seeking genealogical and historical information. The Society arranges special hours for out-of-town visitors and groups.

"This year's "Historically Speaking" programs on cable channel 15 include Jim Davidson and Michael Dwyer noting names of Rutland men and women who served in World War II; Monty Butterfield and Linda Doty discussing Rutland Railroad Day 2005 and the Proctor "Our Yard" project; Larry Kelley and Jim Davidson discussing the 19th Century Creek Road Kelley Family; a program with Michael Dwyer and Jim Davidson offering ten tips for family researchers; Michael Dwyer and Maureen Dobart and her Proctor their grade students discussing their project "Young Eyes Look At Long Ago Proctor"; a program with John Peterson playing the role of "Sam Slick"; Tom Carpenter and Jim Davidson reporting on "The Black Presence in Rutland before the Civil War"; a program on the Loyalty Day Parade, All Aboard Rutland and History Days; Mary Fregosi in a program entitled "Practicing History"; "West Rutland in the 1920s as Seen Through The Camera Lens of Frank Hinchey"; a program by Michael Dwyer on President Chester Arthur and a program celebrating Rutland Free Library's 120th Birthday.

Other activities include participation in the Halloween and Loyalty Day Parades; providing music at First Night; a program on the Rutland home front during World War II at the 6th grade at Rutland Intermediate School; a visit with Cub Scouts and parents at the Rutland Town School; a program by Helen Davidson for the Fortnightly and Hexigon clubs on "Tidbits From Then & Now"; the Flood of 1927 video for the residents of The Meadows; Tom Carpenter on "Rutland Banks & Banking" for the Mendon Historical Society; Jim and Helen Davidson gave a "Made in Vermont" program for the Poultney Women's Club and a mock trial at the Godnick Center based on the murder case of John Phair; Chuck Piotrowski represented the Society at the Creative Economy public meetings and Jim Davidson attended Castleton State College Career Day. Other meetings attended were a breakfast meeting of the Rutland Rotary South, the Annual meeting of Rutland PEG TV, and the Hubbardton Battlefield Historic Site where Jim Davidson presented "History Is Everywhere".

Robert Cassidy was honored by the Society with a certificate of appreciation and a covered bridge picture at the 2005 Annual Meeting for his valuable contributions to the Society. Robert, a Life Member of the Society is a member of the Vermont Air National Guard and a Castleton state College student. He is a local and statewide covered bridge expert and has previously served on the Society's Board of Directors. He has served both his country and the Society with distinction.

The Society Web Site "rutlandhistory.com" and its message board are averaging over 20,000 visitors per month. The public hours at the Society have also been very busy. Society Director Chuck Piotrowski, Ken Wild, Elaine Purdy and Jim Davidson have been working on an online encyclopedia of Rutland History and have prepared an overall design and four sample entries. It will include articles on historical topics and biographies.

"Nickwackett Nick", a large squirrel mascot portrayed by Jim Davidson, was introduced during the Loyalty Day Parade. "Nickwackett" means "place of the squirrel". Irish Roundtable Programs moderated by Michael Dwyer, Rosemary Vandenburg, and Patty Pickett were an excellent resource for beginners in family research.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorothy Whitford, President

## BYLAW CHANGES

*The Society's bylaws have not been reviewed or changed since 1982. This year the Board of Directors has proposed some modest changes that bring the bylaws into line with current practice. The "Library Committee" has been renamed the "Collections Committee" in view of the variety in the Society's collections. A new committee for "Technology and Telecommunications" is created to deal with the rapid technological changes of our time. The following changes were approved by the Board of Directors on 12 September:*

In Article II add new "Section 5. Complimentary Memberships. The Board of Directors may award complimentary memberships." Delete Section 3 of Article IV and all references to "auditors". In Article VII Section 4 the requirement of a voucher purchase system is changed from "shall" to "may". In Article VIII Section 4 Exhibits Committee delete the last sentence regarding responsibility for storage etc. of artifacts and exhibit materials. Artifact responsibility will reside with the Collections Committee. Add: "The Chairman of the Collections Committee will be an ex officio member of the Exhibits Committee." Article VIII Section 7 Library Committee. The "Library Committee" is renamed the "Collections Committee" with a new description: "This committee shall be responsible for the storage, repair and safekeeping of the Society's collections." All references to "Library Committee" need to be

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changed accordingly. In Article VIII Section 8 Long Range Planning Committee delete "and future problems" that occurs after "problems". In Article VIII Section 10 Personnel Committee replace "the museum when open." with "Society activities". In Article VIII Section 11 Program Committee add at end of section: "The Program Committee shall be responsible for radio and television programming, parade participation, walking tours, and similar programming activities. It shall also be responsible for outreach in historical education in local schools and community organizations." In Article VIII Section 12 Publications Committee "Radio and television programming" is deleted here and moved to the responsibility of the Program Committee. In Article VIII Section 13 Public Relations Committee "The outreach in historical education in local schools and community organizations" is moved to the responsibility of the Program Committee. In Article VIII Section 14 Research Committee, add "genealogical" so that section reads "historical and genealogical matters." Add new "Section 15 Technology and Telecommunications Committee" in Article VIII. "This committee is established to provide knowledgeable oversight for the selection, purchase and use of technological and telecommunications items. Such items include computers, computer related hardware and software, communications and audio-visual equipment. Committees using or planning to use, selecting or purchasing such items shall consult with this committee which in turn shall recommend to the Board of Directors. For the purposes of this section, technology and telecommunications shall be interpreted in a broad sense." Change number of old Section 15 of Article VIII Ad Hoc Committees to Section 16.

## 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**