

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 13 NO. 4 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2006

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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Society was held on Thursday evening 26 October 2006 at Fellowship Hall of Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Court Street, Rutland, Vermont. At 5:30 pm there were light hors d'oeuvres followed by a potluck supper at 6:00 pm. attended by approximately 40 people. At the brief Annual Business Meeting that followed, the slate of officers and directors that were submitted by the Nominating Committee were elected and the proposed bylaw changes were approved. (See page 4 of "News From Nickwackett", Vol. 13 No. 3). A series of readings by members from the poetry of the late part of the 19th Century concluded the evening.

ELECTION RESULTS

At the Annual Business Meeting of the Society the following officers and directors were elected by the membership:

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.

Mary Fregosi was re-elected as Board Chairperson by the Board of Directors at the following board meeting.

JACOB SHERMAN HONORED

Since 1999 Jacob Sherman has served the Society as its Secretary. Although the Board of Directors meets only monthly, "Jake's" job was never done until the minutes were completed and mailed or emailed to the Board members. "Jake" also served as Chairperson of the Publications Committee and co-editor of the *Quarterly*. He has frequently been the author of a *Quarterly* and regularly called upon to write the text for the annual calendar *Quarterly*. Although relinquishing his duties as Secretary, he will continue his publication activities. At the Annual Business Meeting "Jake" was honored by the Board of Directors for his service to the Society.

SUCCESSFUL SALE

The Society's sale on Saturday and Sunday, 7 & 8 October was again successful. Although not as much money was realized as last year, a significant amount of storage space in the basement was regained. The Society was able to dispose of much material it did not need, especially some shelving. Originally started as an alternate year activity but recently an annual event, there has been some thought to going back to the alternate year format.

**WE NEED DUES FOR
2007 NOW. CHECK
YOUR LABEL FOR
YOUR STATUS**

"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 # 78 - Jim Davidson hosts Chuck Piotrowski who presents part two of his power point program entitled "Turning Your Junk Into the Stuff of History". Part two emphasizes the treatment of photographs and other illustrative material.

Episode # 79 - Jim Davidson hosts Michael F. Dwyer who presents a power point program on his favorite images from the 1978 pictorial history of Rutland entitled "Rutland In Retrospect". In the program Michael addresses the rationale for his choices. This program offers an opportunity for viewers to see a high quality sampling from a long out-of-print work.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

With the reorganization of some of the committee structures in the bylaw changes that were recently approved, there have been some changes in committee chairpersons. Tom Carpenter chairs the new Collections Committee which has consolidated the Archives, Library and Artifacts committees. Jim Davidson chairs the Program Committee which now oversees all Society programming and has oversight of three sub committees, each of which operates quite independently with its own chairperson. Helen Davidson now chairs the Exhibit Committee and Robert Perkins chairs the Membership Committee.

WEBSITE PROGRESS

The Society website, rutlandhistory.com, started in February 2005. In its first year it had over 90,000 visitors. This included folks from England and Japan. This year, January to December 2006, the visitor total is on a pace to achieve a quarter of a million visits by 31 December 2006. The message board has had a great deal of activity and the web masters have been very busy answering genealogical queries. Patty Pickett has placed much historical data in the Historical Miscellany section. Check it out.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Building Committee

Morris Tucker - 773-7356

Collections Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-0286

Exhibit Committee

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Finance Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Historic Preservation Committee

Membership Committee

Robert Perkins - 773-0184

Personnel Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee

Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Publications Committee

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research Committee

Patty Pickett - 775-1706

Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Technology and Telecommunications Committee

Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

President

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

Board Chairperson

Mary Fregosi - 459-2723

DONATION OF SAFES

Sanborn Partridge, an ex-officer and long-time life member of the Society recently donated two large fireproof safes to the Society. He also covered all costs of moving them to the Society. These will provide long term security for numerous rare, one-of-a-kind items.

MUSIC AT EDEN PARK

In 2007, the Society will mark its tenth year of providing music of the past for the residents of Eden Park. Each month, except December, the Society has provided an hour of recorded musical memories to liven the spirits as well as the fingers and toes of the residents.

HISTORY DAYS

The Third History Days in Rutland will be held on Saturday 5 May 2007 followed by the Loyalty Day Parade on Sunday 6 May 2007. The encampments of the Living History units will highlight Saturday's activities as always. Watch for more detailed information on these events in the next Newsletter and mark your calendar now.

VISITS TO THE SOCIETY

On Saturday 21 October the Society provided space for a luncheon for a group of 16 members of an arts tour group from New York City. After lunch Jim Davidson led a walking tour which included a stop to view the interior of the Paramount Theater which was led by a Paramount staff member. On Monday 23 October two members of the Collections Committee from the West Rutland Historical Society met with Jim Davidson of the Society Collections Committee to view and discuss collection materials and procedures used by the Rutland Historical Society.

MAJOR DONATIONS

The Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, in keeping with its community service support of non-profit agencies recently made a \$1,000 donation to the Society in support of the Society's work in preserving the history of the community. The Society will use these funds for materials in support of their all-volunteer work. Residents of the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility made a donation of \$100 to the Society for cemetery restoration work. The Society will use these funds for materials for cemetery restoration work.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

During the past year the Society has been in the process of moving its membership database from an old MacIntosh computer to a new PC format. Robert Perkins, new Membership Chairperson, has developed a relatively simple database to serve the Society's needs and has been entering this data into the PC. The current mailing labels are from our new system. If there are any problems with addresses or membership data, please contact the Society immediately. Please keep the Society informed of any address change you make.

SOCIETY OUTREACH

On 13 October Helen and Jim Davidson presented the program "Made In Vermont" at The Gables. On Tuesday 17 October Jim Davidson made a presentation on "The Green Mountain Boys" for an Elderhostel program at the Brandon Inn. On Friday 27 October Jim Davidson played a video program on "The Flood of 1927" from the "Historically Speaking" series for the dinner meeting of the Old Homestead Community Center in Castleton. On Wednesday 13 December Jim Davidson provided a program of Christmas music for the Eden Park annual Christmas party.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RUTLAND HISTORY

A sub-committee chaired by Chuck Piotrowski, Society Vice-president has prepared a section of the Society website where four sample entries in the Encyclopedia can be found. Click on "C" for a biography of Percival W. Clement with picture; "F" for an overview of the Flood of 1947; "P" for a description and history of Pine Hill; and "R" for a biography of William Y Ripley with picture. The Committee seeks volunteer submissions for the Encyclopedia. Overview essays on selected topics are requested. Items for the Encyclopedia are not lengthy. They serve to provide an introduction to the topic rather than a complete history. A brief bibliography is required and all submissions will be reviewed by the Committee before posting. Appropriate historical pictures are encouraged. Click on "Rutland Historical Encyclopedia" on the Society website at rutlandhistory.com. Use the "click here" button at the top of the page to see an outline of submissions requirements or request a copy from the Society. The Committee will be soliciting members to write on specific topics for the Encyclopedia in the near future. A list of these topics can be found on the web page. Please help if you can. If you would like to view a completed site check out <http://ech.cwru.edu>. It is the site of the Cleveland Encyclopedia which has been more than 10 years in development.

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*

AWARD

On 13 October 2006 the Vermont Historical Society, through its League of Local Historical Societies, presented an Award of Excellence to the Society in the category of Society Operations for the Rutland Historical Society Website. The Website Committee and the Society are quite proud of the success of the website and hope that it may encourage other historical societies to try this new method of outreach.

THIRD ANNUAL ELWERT ESSAY CONTEST

Students in the area of the "old Town of Rutland" are reminded of the 3rd Annual Elwert 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 2007 to: Michael F. Dwyer, Otter Valley Union High School, 2997 Franklin Street, Brandon VT 05733.

**REMEMBER 2007 DUES
CHECK YOUR MAILING
LABEL FOR THE YEAR
ALREADY PAID**

DUES SCHEDULE

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

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