

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 14 NO. 1

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1
Spring Programs

History Days

Vermont History Expo 2007

First Night

New Life Members During 2006

Page 2
"Historically Speaking" On Channel 15 In Rutland

Website Report

Committee Corner

Page 3
Sponsor Members and Donors For 2006

Membership Report

Page 4
Martin Luther King Day

St. Patrick's Day Bus Tour

It's A Video World

Rutland Railroad

SPRING PROGRAMS

SUN 15 April - A powerpoint lecture on "The Rutland Railroad" - Monte Butterfield of the Rutland Railway Association.

SUN 29 April - "The Remembrances of a Mayor" - John Cassarino, ex-mayor of the City of Rutland.

SUN 20 May - "A Roundtable Discussion of the Rutland Royals Baseball Teams and Seasons (1938 - 1941)" - Chaired by Chuck Piotrowski, baseball historian. Public participation is invited.

All programs will be at the Rutland Historical Society at 96 Center Street on Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

HISTORY DAYS

The Rutland Historical Society is again partnering with the Rutland Recreation Department and the Rutland Ripley Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans to offer a Living History exposition in the Main Street Park on Saturday 5 May 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

There will be Living History participants from the Revolutionary War and the Civil War to share a reality day with the local public.

The Rutland Historical Society will offer walking tours to and from Downtown. There will be speakers at the Society during the day as well as a musical program in the Park at noon.

All events are free and appropriate for all ages. Researchers are reminded that the Society research facilities will be limited on that Saturday.

On Sunday 6 May 2007 the Society will again participate in the Loyalty

Day Parade with a Revolutionary War tableau. Nick, the Nickwackett squirrel, will participate with a surprise adventure.

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO 2007

The Vermont History Expo 2007 will be held on Saturday and Sunday 23 and 24 June 2007 at the Tunbridge Fair Grounds. This year the theme is Transportation History and the Society is partnering with the Rutland Railway Association to offer a Rutland Railroad exhibit.

Mark your calendars for these days for a full buffet of exhibits. Watch for further details in the various media. And don't forget to check out the Society exhibit.

FIRST NIGHT

On 31 December 2006, Rutland celebrated First Night and the Rutland Historical Society provided a multicourse musical program in the Asa Bloomer Office Building atrium. The program included music from the 1920s, selections from the Big Band Era, a taste of Rock 'n' Roll from the 1950s, the Latin music of Herb Alpert and even some jazz from the 1990s.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS DURING 2006

The following became new Life Members of the Society in 2006:

Edward R. Downe, Jr.
Mark Foley
Paul Gallo
Ronald N. Lazzaro
Charles D. Piotrowski

"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 # 80 - Jim Davidson hosts Michael F. Dwyer, President of the Rutland Historical Society, in a program entitled "Multi-Ethnic Rutland". By focusing on the 1910 Census and its ethnic information, the program demonstrates that Rutland has had a rather large and diverse number of ethnic groups. The first individual considered is Eliza Johnson, wife of Charles Johnson, a barber, who was part of the Rutland black community. The program also discusses George Haddad who was born in the Lebanon district of Syria and Sam Lung, a Chinese laundryman who came to Rutland.

Episode # 81 - Jim Davidson hosts Tom Giffin, President of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association, in a program on "The Restoration of Old Cemeteries". Tom is joined by Chris Book, Chairman of the new Cemetery Committee of the Rutland Historical Society. Both guests are commissioners of the Rutland City Cemetery Commission.

WEBSITE REPORT

On 31 December 2006 the Society web site, rutlandhistory.com, passed a milestone of over 250,000 visits during the calendar year 2006. This year the website has continued to attract visitors at an astonishing rate. During the first three months of the calendar year 2007, visits have totaled over 80,000 with over 30,000 visits in the month of March alone. This occurred in spite of a problem with the message board which took a number of days to remedy.

The Website Committee has continued to be amazed at the numbers of visitors and is meeting regularly every month to work on improvements to the site and the selection of new material for the site. It is certainly becoming a digital world. Have you visited rutlandhistory.com?

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Building Committee

Morris Tucker - 773-7356

Cemetery Committee

Chris Book - 773-6252

Collections Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-0286

Exhibit Committee

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Finance Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

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

SPONSOR MEMBERS AND DONORS FOR 2006

The following either became SPONSOR members in the year 2006 or renewed their previous sponsorship. Others (*) made gifts of \$50 or more in the year 2006.

*Central Vermont Public Service Corporation	D/M John Hinsman Holiday Inn of Rutland	*Sanborn Partridge *Rutland High School Class of 1951
*Raymond C. Cotter	Initial Ideas	*Rutland High School Class of 1954
M/M John P. Crowley	M/M Lee Keirstead	*Rutland High School Class of 1956
*James and Jane Curtis	D/M Thomas LaPlaca	*Rutland High School Class of 1956
Dr. Francis J. D'Auria	M/M Richard LaVictoire	*Silver Sneakers, LLC
*M/M James Davidson	Virginia Lindholm	*Judith Swain
M/M Lawrence Dellveneri	Anthony Marro	Anne Walker
Hugh Duffy Coal Company	M/M William Mather Jr.	*Dorothy L. Whitford
*M/M Robert Eaton	McNeil & Reedy	
Factory Point National Bank	*Mendon Historical Society	
*First Night Rutland	M/M Robert Noble Jr.	

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Committee

Robert Perkins has been appointed new chairperson of the Membership Committee and new Membership Secretary. Under Bob's leadership the Society has moved the membership database from an old Apple computer to a Personal Computer Microsoft Excel file. Some membership policies and procedures have been modified and all have been carefully documented.

First Year Members

Memberships are on an annual, calendar year basis. However, a person who becomes a new member after mid-year will be credited with membership for the following calendar year as well.

Grace Period

In the past the Society has not had a clear policy on carrying members who fall behind in their annual dues payments. There will now be a one-year grace period during which Quarterlies will continue to be sent to members who are no more than one year late in payment.

Two For the Price of One

In order to save money on printing and postage the Society has long offered joint memberships to married couples (e.g., Mr. & Mrs. John Doe) at the individual membership fee. The Society now offers the same advantage to any two people (not necessarily a married couple) at the same address who are willing to share the single Quarterly. Each person becomes a member in his or her own name. (e.g. Mary Doe, and John Doe).

Student Members

The Society has long had a reduced membership fee for students, aged 18 and under. The Society now offers the reduced membership fee to students regardless of age.

Complimentary Memberships

The Society policy on complimentary memberships has been formalized and documented. Complimentary memberships are now offered to a selected list of public officials and to all schools and colleges, both public and private, in the area of the original Town of Rutland. In addition, on an individual basis, the Board may offer a complimentary membership to an individual or an organization that has provided a significant gift or service to the Society.

Memorial Memberships

Memorial memberships, which have never been used, will no longer be offered, but the Society would, of course, be pleased to accept a gift in memory of, or in honor of, someone.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

On 15 January 2007 President Michael F. Dwyer presented a program at the Diamond Run Mall as part of a Martin Luther King Day celebration. His topic of "Multi-Ethnic Rutland" explored the various ethnic groups that came to Rutland in the early 20th Century. It focused in particular on a black family, the Johnsons, a Lebanese family, the Haddads, and a Chinese laundryman, Sam Lung.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BUS TOUR

On Saturday morning 17 March 2007 the Society ventured out on its first guided bus tour at 10:30 a.m. in spite of a snowstorm the previous evening. The bus had been filled with reservations and nearly two-thirds ventured out. Jim Davidson guided the tour which followed the old south belt trolley line in the southwest neighborhood on "the other side of the tracks". At the end of Forest Street the tour doubled back to go down Meadow Street, by St. Peter's Field and Calvary Cemetery and along Granger and Howe Streets to West Street and back to the starting point at the Society.

The tour was the brainchild of Paul Gallo of the Society who also handled transportation arrangements with "The Bus".

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	Senior Citizens \$8.00
Regular \$10.00	(62 & up)
Life Membership (Individuals only)	\$200.00

The tour included a discussion of the various names of the neighborhood from "Nebraska" to "The Gut" to "Happy Valley".

IT'S A VIDEO WORLD

On Friday 30 March 2007, as part of the Arts Hop series, the Rutland Historical Society presented an evening of video from its "Historically Speaking" series and demonstrations of the ELMO from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The ELMO is video filming equipment which enables folks to place still images on video in a very high quality. The public may use this equipment at no charge by appointment. Folks using it must provide their own video tape.

Video programs shown were: "The Flood of 1927", The Restoration of Antique Wedding Gowns", "George Schmitt's Flying Career" and "Sam Slick - Fictional Itinerant Peddler of the 1830s".

RUTLAND RAILROAD

On Saturday morning 31 March 2007 Jim Davidson presented an illustrated talk on the Rutland Railroad for the meeting of Delta Kappa Gamma at South Station.

The program included some background to Rutland's railroads, the development of the trolley lines and the role of autos and trucks in closing the trolley lines and reducing the traffic potential of the railroad.

The abandonment of the Rutland Railroad was particularly noted.

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

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