

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 15 NO. 2

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2008

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"THE TALEGATORZ" HIGHLIGHT SOCIETY LOYALTY DAY PARADE PRESENTATION



"The Talegatorz", a local old-time jazz band, played 1920s style music from the back of the Society's parade vehicle. As the words from "Tailgate Ramble" go, they "travelled all over town with the tailgate down." The group played 1920s tunes whether moving or stopping and were a great hit with crowd. Meanwhile Society members in 1920s costume walked and danced along the parade route. The Society and the crowd had a great time and thank "The Talegatorz" for their great presentation. As President Chuck Piotrowski put it, "We've got to do this again".

VHS TUTTLE LIBRARY FUND

The Vermont Historical Society has received a generous challenge grant from the Freeman Foundation. If the

VHS can raise \$25,000 by September 2008, the Freeman Foundation will match the amount in setting up a special endowment for the VHS Leahy Library, The VHS is over half-way to this goal and would invite anyone with Rutland ties who may remember the Tuttle family and the bookshop or who just loves the VHS, to make a contribution to this fund. You may send your check to the VHS Development Director, Jane Campbell, at the Vermont History Center, 60 Washington Street, Barre VT 05641.

Thanks, Sarah Dopp, VHS President.

CHECK YOUR RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY DUES

"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. DVDs of past episodes can be obtained from Channel 15, Rutland Regional Community Television, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 108, Rutland VT 05701-4460. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to RRCT. Include \$2.50 for shipping and handling. Channel 15 provides the DVD. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information. Consult the Society website at rutlandhistory.com for a complete listing.

Episode # 94 - Chuck Piotrowski presents some pieces from the collections of the Society that illustrate the wide range of material that the Society holds. These materials range from the 1880s until today and include many eras of Rutland baseball from paid professional and semi-professional leagues to organizational and industrial leagues to high school and American Legion baseball. Rutland's rich baseball history begs development of a more complete history. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

Episode # 95 - Deborah Clifford, an independent scholar who has done a great deal of research on Julia Dorr's life and work, shares an illustrated overview of Julia's life. Deborah has been active with the Vermont Women's History movement and Julia Dorr has been a great example of a 19th Century Rutland woman who let her talents shine in Rutland and throughout the American literary scene. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

Episode # 96 - Megan Smith, executive director of "Dimensions of Marble" is the guest in this episode. The development of a marble trail along the marble valley of western Vermont is a prominent activity of this organization but not the sole activity. Other projects of the organization are discussed and the wide reach of the organization's goals and activities merit viewing by the general public. Jim Davidson hosts this presentation.

Episode # 97 - Susan Schreiber of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission is the guest for this episode. Susan briefly relates the history of the development of this pathway from Giorgetti Park to the College of St. Joseph. She also reports on the rapid progress of the project to the engineering of the first two segments of the path. Jim Davidson of the Society and host for the episode shares images of 16 identified historical sites along the pathway which provide a wonderful glimpse of Rutland's economic, recreational, religious, and cultural history.

COMMITTEE CORNER

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Mickey Kelly - 773-9402

Cemetery Committee

Chris Book - 773-6252

Collections Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Exhibit Committee

Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

Finance Committee

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Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee

Jim Davidson - 773-7525

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Jake Sherman - 775-2784

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Mary Fregosi - 459-2723

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

You don't have to look far in government, business and the professional archives communities to see the greatest challenge to historical societies of the future: The Digital Dilemma. Electronically stored information ("ESI") is alternately hailed as a savior and berated as a scourge. Whether friend or foe, historical societies like ours will have to be aware of the Digital Dilemma and do what we can to prepare for the new future of history.

In spite of laws and public records mandates that have been on the books for years, federal, state and local governments have made little effort to meet their obligations to preserve electronic records. Already two presidential administrations have lost tens of thousands of emails. Businesses are no better than government as the work force is too busy creating ESI to take the time to manage ESI. It is believed that by 2020 the total amount of information on the planet will double every 73 days. Compare this to the 150 years it took for information to double between 1750 and 1900.

Questions abound. What will a government or business "record" look like in 20 years? Will the archives be able to collect and preserve ESI? Will the historian be able to glean the marrow of history from these digital bones?

The optimist inside of me says that all of this information will be a boon to historians in the future. For this to occur two things must happen. First, historians will have to adopt new methods of historical inquiry, both technical and intellectual. Finally, archives and historical societies will have to work extra hard to understand, if not embrace, new technology, fund appropriately for the necessary equipment and be prepared to stare at screens, rather than papers, for generations to come.

In order for the future historian to succeed, today's historical societies must learn to collect and preserve information generated today. I am confident that we are up to the challenge!

AT THE SOCIETY

On Saturday morning, 10 May, spring cleaning took place at the Society. Thank you to all who made this a short morning. On 17 May, Chuck Piotrowski, president of the Society, led a "Rutland Baseball History Roundtable" which emphasized the riches of Rutland's baseball history. On 10 June a class from the Rutland High School YES Plan visited the Society and watched "Climb To the Star", "David Sawyer's World" and "The Flood of 1927". On 12 June the Seventh Grade from Christ the King School visited the Society. They took the walking tour and watched "David Sawyer's World". On 13 June the Sixth Grade from Christ the King School came to the Society where they presented tapes, transcripts and booklets they had produced from interviews with a number of Rutland citizens. The Society shared "The Flood of 1927" with the class.

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The web site committee has been very busy adding new material and new features. Selected Rutland History Tidbits which previously appeared in *Sam's Good News* weekly are added periodically to the web site.

A number of the Rutland Historical Society Quarterlies are out of print. The web committee is scanning these and they will be on the web site for viewing and free download.

For folks who may wish to consider a visit to the Society for research, the Society's Archival Finding List is being prepared to be placed online.

A beginning list of 19th Century Rutland photographers is now on the web site. This is a work in progress so some dates may be refined and some names may be added.

The current *News From Nickwackett*, the Society's quarterly newsletter, will also appear on the web site.

SOCIETY OUTREACH

With the disappearance of snow, the Society outreach activities picked up perceptibly. On 2 April Jim Davidson presented "The Great Horse Race From Texas to Rutland in 1886" [which never happened] for TRIAD at the Godnick Center. On 4 April Jim was at WVNR radio in Poultney as a guest on the morning "Coffee Hour" show to talk about the Rutland Historical Society and some of the exciting activities in which the Society is involved. On 8 April he was at the Kervick Center sharing with the residents memories of "Home Deliveries" in the 1930s and 1940s. On 12 May he was at the Loretto Home sharing memories about "The Games We Played". This program was also presented at the Kervick Center on 16 June.

On 9 June Jim and Helen Davidson represented the Society at the PEGTV Annual Meeting. Jim had been invited to submit a column for the first PEGTV Newsletter as an independent producer of many years from the Rutland Historical Society. His column emphasized the background of the Society's long and wonderful relationship with PEGTV. On 21 and 22 June at the Vermont History Expo a team from the Society manned the exhibit which focused on the role of three Rutland inventors and producers of marble processing machinery. O

On 1 July Helen and Jim Davidson presented "Made In Vermont" for 50 members of the Rutland County Retired Teachers organization

at the American Legion in West Rutland. On 14 July Jim Davidson was a presenter at the Preservation of Collections meeting in Manchester VT. His theme was the impact of new technology on the preservation and use of materials. On 15 July Jim shared memories about "The Movies" with residents of the Loretto Home. On 25 July Jim and Helen Davidson manned the Society presentation at the "Dimensions of Marble" kickoff at Friday Night Live in Rutland. The Society offered its Vermont History Expo exhibit on "Three Rutland Men and Their Machines" in the window of the Lake Sunapee Bank in downtown Rutland. The Society also played its five minute video on the marble industry in the lobby of the Lake Sunapee Bank from 6 - 9 pm.

WEB SITE CONTENT GROWS AS DOES THE NUMBER OF VISITS

The Society web site has been tremendously successful. If you haven't visited it, please do. There are numerous sections to be explored.

At the end of June, the projected visits to the site by the end of the year should be well over 450,000 for the year 2008. That is an increase of 100,000 over last year. Started in February 2005, the site should receive it's one millionth visit sometime in October.

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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*

IF THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL IS 2007 YOUR DUES FOR 2008 ARE NOW DUE

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