

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 15 NO. 3 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2008

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday evening 30 October 2008 at the Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont at 7:00 pm. A brief Annual Business Meeting with reports and the election of officers and directors will be followed by a program which will begin at approximately 7:30 pm. The public is welcome to both the Annual Business Meeting and/or the program. Light refreshments will be served.

FALL PROGRAM AT ANNUAL MEETING

On Thursday 30 October 2008 the 7:30 pm. fall program will be a special presentation by Clifford Giffin, a member of the Society's Collections Committee.

Clifford has led a team that has scanned the 1884 Beer's Map of Rutland. The Society's map was quite complete but in danger of rapid deterioration. The map is approximately five feet by five feet and this size made a reproduction of the map in a size that would be usable, a real task. The map includes West Rutland, Center Rutland and Rutland Village (soon to be a city).

Clifford's team explored numerous options, none of which seemed practical or cost-effective. Finally, the decision was made that the maps could be scanned in pieces and successfully knitted together through a computer program. Clifford volunteered to do a task he had never done before. Hours were spent knitting and re-knitting the pieces until this phase of the project was completed.

The material scanned will soon be available on a digital disk for purchase. The village map, because of its size, will be presented in four sections or quadrants.

Clifford's presentation entitled "Technology Preserving the Past: The 1884 Beer's Map of Rutland" will include background on the project and numerous examples from various sections of the maps. The examples will be projected on the Society's large screen where the audience can read the names of ancestors homes and businesses.

If you like historical maps of the local area, this is a program you will not want to miss. The Scott's map of 1854 and the Beer's map of 1869 were previously reprinted by the Society. Now the Society has the Beer's map of 1884.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS NOMINATED

Pres. Chuck Piotrowski

V.P. Jim Davidson

Sec. Helen Davidson

Treas. Tom Carpenter

Dir. (2 yrs) Clifford Giffin

Dir. (2 yrs) Francis (Mickey) Kelly

Dir. (2 yrs) Carolyn Ranftle

Continuing Directors: Lloyd Davis, Ron Hemenway and Dorothy Whitford

Submitted by Mary Segale
Chairperson of Nominations Committee

"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 # 98 - President Chuck Piotrowski and Curator Jim Davidson present a video tour of the Rutland Historical Society web site. Various sections are explored and Chuck and Jim explain some of the material to be found in each section and some of the uses of the sections. There is also some note of future improvements to the site. Notice is given that the site will receive its one millionth visitor this fall.

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Live Programs: While the Society continued its long tradition of providing live programs, it should be noted that these programs tend to draw very few people. Last year's programs featured two roundtables. While the Society will continue to encourage live presentations it has concluded that its efforts will be better spent performing the kind of outreach mentioned earlier in this report.

Finally, it must be noted that none of the above could have happened without the efforts of a volunteer member corps who give unselfishly to the Society. We are always looking for new members, new volunteers, new artifacts and new histories. We thank the people of the Rutland community for their support.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Piotrowski
President

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Building Committee

Mickey Kelly - 773-9402

Cemetery Committee

Chris Book - 773-6252

Collections Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Exhibit Committee

Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

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

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Technology and Telecommunications Committee

Scott Ludwig - 287-8225

President

Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

Board Chairperson

Mary Fregosi - 459-2723

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rutland Historical Society is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that serves the community through collecting, preserving and sharing the history of the communities of the old Town of Rutland. It continued over the past year to promote the history of Rutland in the community and throughout the world. Here is a summary of some of the highlights of the Society's past year.

In the Community: The Society's commitment to the community continued unabated. Society members gave presentations to the Boys and Girls Club, the Godnick Center, the Kervick Center, The Meadows, the Loretto Home, the Rutland County Retired Teachers Association, the Grace Church Fortnightly club and others. It took people on bus tours, walking tours and "virtual" tours. Members created exhibits at Lake Sunapee Bank, (in conjunction with Friday Night Live) and at the Winter Farmers Market. They also participated in Rutland Creative Economy meetings and both the Loyalty Day and Halloween parades. Members also provided research help for community projects such as the Rutland Creek Path.

In the Schools: The Society endeavored to encourage Rutland's youth to get involved in their past. The Society's research library was used by students for their research projects. Classes visited the Society and Society members visited classrooms to give presentations on aspects of the area's history.

In Vermont: The Society continued its leadership role among the state's local historical societies. The Society's Curator, Jim Davidson, was a featured speaker at the joint meeting of the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance and Vermont Local Historical Societies. Three of the Society's members were featured speakers at the Fall Conference of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Society celebrated Rutland's marble heritage at the Vermont History Expo. The Society exhibit focused on three significant Rutland industrialists and explored their contributions to the marble industry. The Society's exhibit entertained many and was featured in a *Rutland Herald* article on the Expo.

In Print: *News From Nickwackett*, the Society's newsletter, and the *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly*, the Society's award-winning publication, were published regularly throughout the year. The *Quarterly* featured serious explorations of local history written by local volunteer authors. Helen Davidson continued to write a weekly column entitled "Tidbits From Then and Now" which is published in *Sam's Good News*.

On Television: The Society continues to produce *Historically Speaking*. As of this report, 98 episodes of the popular half-hour television program have been created and broadcast to the Rutland area. Episodes are now broadcast to the world via PEG TV's web page. This television series, along with the Society's web site, took the history of Rutland to a regional and global audience. Based on this success the Society is working in the upcoming months with PEG TV on a second series on the historical background of numerous community issues for channel 21, the government access channel.

On the Web: The Society's web site is a great success. The site, www.rutlandhistory.com was opened in February 2005 and reached its one millionth visitor on September 12th of this year. The Society projects over 450,000 site visits for 2008 alone. The site is devoted to sharing Rutland history, discussing family genealogy and related topics. People from all over the world in pursuit of information interact with Society volunteers through the free message board.

In Person: The Society continued to receive visitors to its headquarters at the restored Nickwackett Fire House. There visitors perused the exhibits or took advantage of the expertise of volunteer local historians and genealogists.

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HALLOWEEN PARADE

The Society will take part in the Halloween Parade on 31 OCT. The Society's theme again will be "Chasing Ghosts of the Past". It is hoped that there will be new and more ghosts.

Ghosts can be of any age and can represent any time period. Parents should accompany younger children. Costume is a ghost gown made of an old sheet or curtain. Plastic table cloths with a neck hole are an easy and cheap gown. The Society will make the face masks of deceased Rutlanders and the signs identifying them and their occupation. All should meet at the Society before 5:30 pm.

Contact Jim Davidson at 773-7525 for information and to arrange for a Rutland mask and sign by Sunday night 26 OCT.

SALE

On Saturday and Sunday 11 and 12 OCT the Society will hold a sale of duplicate materials from its collections. Quarterlies will be on sale at one dollar each. Buy five and get five free. There will be numerous LP vinyl records at ten cents each plus many other items.

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

On 6 AUG the Society provided a walking tour for a group of visiting Japanese students. On 18 AUG Jim Davidson presented a program and discussion of "The Movies in Rutland" at the Kervick Center. On 11 SEP Jim and Helen Davidson presented a "Merusi Photo I.D. Program" for the Rutland County Foster Grandparents at Fellowship Hall.

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

WEB SITE VISITS REACH ONE MILLION

On 12 SEP 2008 the one millionth visit to the Society's web site at rutlandhistory.com was recorded. Opened in February 2005, the site has seen a significant and rapid growth in visits. In its first short calendar year it had 60,000 visits although by its February anniversary it was over 90,000. In calendar 2006 annual visits grew more than 150,000 over the previous year to a total of 250,000 (a quarter of a million). In 2007 visits grew over another 100,000 to a total of 356,000 (over a third of a million). In 2008 the site numbers are projected to be over 450,000 (nearly half a million) this year alone.

The growth of visits to the web site has been most gratifying and mind-boggling to all associated with the web site. Crucial to its continued growth has been the careful initial planning and design work by the Web Site Committee and the continual addition of material and services that are freely and easily accessible.

The Historical Miscellany section, the reprints of selected articles from the series "Tidbits From Then and Now" from past issues of *Sam's Good News*, an easy access to the streaming video of the Society's "Historically Speaking" episodes through PEG TV's web site and the web site message board have been leaders in providing continually developing information.

On Saturday 18 OCT 2008 during the Society's public hours from 1 - 4 pm. there will be a reception for the members of the Web Site Committee to honor their commitment and their success. The public is invited to explore the site with the aid of web site members and to congratulate the committee members. Light refreshments will be served.

THE FACILITIES OF THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE OPEN ON:

MONDAYS	6 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS	1 - 4 PM