

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 16 NO. 1 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2009

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SPRING PROGRAMS

The Program Committee is pleased to announce two great programs for the spring season. Both programs will be held in the Fox Room of the Rutland Free Library and will be co-sponsored by the Society and the Library.

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Wednesday 29 April at 7:00 pm.
"Major League Baseball Challenges Rutland, 1916 - 1920" - Dick Leyden, Society For American Baseball Research.

Rutland baseball during the "deadball era" was competitive to the point that major league teams wanted to come to Rutland to play. Dick will share some of the excitement of Rutland baseball during this era.

*

Wednesday 20 May at 7:00 pm.
"Mining Historical Weather Records Across Vermont" - Dr. Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux, Vermont State Climatologist and professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Vermont.

Dr. Lesley-Ann will provide an overview of Vermont weather research, focusing on the history of Vermont weather. We all talk about the weather but what do we really know about Vermont's weather history. Please join us to find some answers to your history of Vermont weather questions. There will be a short question and answer period after the presentation.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

In the last six months the Society has received three large collections of Rutland materials:

1. The City Treasurer's Office recently underwent a reorganization of the old records stored in the basement of City Hall. A number of materials were removed for disposal. The Treasurer's Office worked closely with the Society to sort out historically useful materials for the Society.

2. A large collection of Burditt Family materials were acquired from Manchester, Vermont, where a niece had maintained family and business records from the Rutland activities of the Burditt and related families.

3. A collection of Rutland's Chaffee and Smith Lumber Company records (1890s to 1950s) was recently offered to the Society. The collection was massive in volume. The materials had been acquired by former Professor Holman Jordan. The Castleton History Department decided it could no longer house this collection.

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

President Chuck Piotrowski is pleased to announce that Bill Notte has agreed to become editor of "News From Nickwackett". Bill works as an editor at Tuttle Publishing and his work experience will provide a seamless change of editors.

After 15 years as editor of the Newsletter, Jim Davidson felt that it was time to divest himself of this task. Fortunately Bill Notte was graciously willing to accept the task.

“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 Wednesdays at 4:00 pm, Thursdays at 1:30 pm and Fridays at 7:30 pm. DVDs of past episodes can be obtained from 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. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

Consult the Society website at rutlandhistory.com for a complete listing. Current shows are available in streaming video on PEG-TV's web site. (See “ON DEMAND AT PEG-TV.COM” below)

Episode # 102 – “Rutland’s Greatest Fire: The Bates House Fire 1906”

On 18 February 1906 this fire consumed all the buildings on the northeast corner of Merchants Row and Center Street and halfway up the north side of Center Street. Although there were no deaths in the fire, the amount of destruction has not been rivaled in Rutland's history. Chuck Piotrowski narrates a pictorial tour of the fire and its results.

Episode # 103 – “Resources for Rutland History: 1850 – 1890”

Jim Davidson, Society Curator, reviews a wide range of resources available to understand Rutland's history in the era 1850 – 1890. He also makes some suggestions on how to work through the maze of material in a most effective manner.

ON DEMAND AT PEG-TV.COM

The currently playing episodes from “Historically Speaking” and “Notes from the Past” and the next previous episodes from each series are now available in streaming video on your internet computer.

These episodes can be watched at any time. To access and play any of the shows please: (1) go to the Society web site (rutlandhistory.com), (2) click on “Historically Speaking”, and (3) click on the second paragraph which will link you directly to the “Video On Demand Library” on the PEG-TV web site. Scroll down to the show you wish and click on it. If you need the free Quicktime Player, you can easily get a download at this site.

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 - 775-7525

Publications Committee

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research Committee

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Technology and Telecommunications Committee

Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

President

Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

Board Chairperson

Lloyd Davis - 773-3590

SPONSOR MEMBERS AND DONORS FOR 2008

The following either became SPONSOR members in the year 2008 or renewed their previous sponsorship. Others (*) made gifts of \$50 or more in the year 2008.

Berkshire Bank
 Casella Waste Systems
 Clifford Funeral Home
 John & Kathleen Connell
 John & Judith Crowley
 Dr. Francis J. D'Auria
 Lawrence & Karen Dell Veneri
 Hugh Duffy Coal Company
 M/M William Gillam, Jr.
 Heritage Family Federal Credit Union
 Dr. John & Mrs. Glenda Hinsman
 Holiday Inn of Rutland
 Initial Ideas
 Lee & Mary Keirstead
 Dr. Thomas & Mrs. Linda LaPlaca

Richard & Angie Lavictoire
 Virginia Lindholm
 Gus Louras
 Anthony Marro
 NBF Architects
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Noble, Jr.
 Owner Services
 Paramount Center Inc.
 *Rutland County Retired Teachers
 *Rutland High School Class of 1943
 Smalley Contractors
 *Smart Trips Inc.
 *Dr. William B. & Lillian Thiel
 Anne P. Walker

The following became new Life Members of the Society in 2008.

Mark L. Courcelle
 Gerard H. Coursey
 Debby Dubay

Edward Gilman, Sr.
 Susan Morse Kuhn

“NOTES FROM THE PAST” ON CHANNEL 21

“Notes from the Past” focuses on political and economic issues of the past that have a relevance to similar issues today. A new show is offered each month. Episodes can be seen each week on Mondays at 6:30 pm, Wednesdays at 3:00 pm, Fridays at 6:30 pm and Saturdays at 8:00 pm.

Episode # 3 – “The Division of Rutland”.

The original Town of Rutland today stands as four municipalities: the towns of Proctor, Rutland, West Rutland and the City of Rutland. This program presents the history of that division and discusses its impact on today.

Episode # 4 – “A History of Transportation in Rutland”.

Trains, autos and airplanes have all impacted the social and economic history of Rutland and leave issues to be resolved.

Episode # 5 – “The Communication Revolution”.

Early communication was by the printed word whether by book, newspaper or correspondence. Then came the electronic devices: telegraph, telephone, radio and television. What happens to the email and cell phone business records of the future?

*

Episodes of “Notes from the Past” are also available on DVD. (See “HISTORICALLY SPEAKING” on page 2 for details.)

OUT-OF-PRINT QUARTERLIES NOW ON WEB SITE

The Society’s out-of-print Quarterlies are now available on rutlandhistory.com for free reading or printing. Go to “Publications”; then to “List of Quarterlies”. Those in maroon are out-of-print. Select the item you want to access in a high quality PDF.

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

On the afternoon of 19 January, Jim Davidson entertained the residents of Loretto Home with an interactive discussion of "Old Time Winters". The memories were great and timely. In the evening a Tiger Scout group made a visit to the Society where host Jim Davidson played a short video of old Rutland. On 20 January, Jim brought "Country Brass" music to The Pines at Rutland (formerly Eden Park) where he has done monthly musical programs for the Society for over 12 years. On 24 February, Jim returned to The Pines at Rutland with a musical "Mardi Gras" program that has become an annual tradition. On 2 March, Jim brought the "Old Time Winters" memory day to the Kervick Center. On 10 March, Jim made a presentation to the West Rutland Historical Society on the "Division of the Old Town of Rutland". On 13 March a statewide meeting of Americorp volunteers was hosted in the morning at the Society and in the afternoon Jim made a presentation on "Volunteerism" for the group at the College of St. Joseph. On 17 March, Jim was back at The Pines at Rutland for a St. Patrick's Day musical party. On 23 March, Jim led the residents of Loretto Home in sharing their childhood memories about "Swimming".

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. William Notte - Editor

IF THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL IS 2008 YOUR DUES FOR 2009 ARE NOW DUE

DUES SCHEDULE

Sponsor \$50.00	Students \$8.00
Contributing \$20.00	Senior Citizens \$8.00 (62 & up)

Life Membership \$200.00
(Individuals only)

LOYALTY DAY PARADE

This year the Society will participate in the Loyalty Day parade on Sunday 3 May 2009 starting at 2:00 pm. Again the Society will sponsor the old-time 1920s jazz music of "The Talegatorz". Last year "The Talegatorz" were a hit of the parade as they played non-stop lively music that drew continual crowd applause. Don't miss them.

HISTORICAL FASHION SHOW

The Downtown Rutland Partnership is exploring the possibility of a "Historical Fashion Show" at a Friday Night Live sometime this summer. The show will be open to all eras of dress. Interested folks should contact Don Wickman at the Partnership at 773-9380.

JIM COOKE AT RUTLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Jim Cooke, Calvin Coolidge impersonator, will be making a presentation on Wednesday 29 April 2009 at 12:45 pm in the Theater Room at the Rutland High School off Stratton Road. Light refreshments will be served. The program, which is sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council and the Vermont Adult Learning/Learning Works, is open to all as a free program. Folks are invited to wear straw hat or pretty bonnet of that period.

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