

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 16 NO. 2 THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JULY 2009

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THE SOCIETY WEBSITE

The Society website continues to average over 30,000 visits per month.

Back issues of the Society newsletters have been scanned and will soon be available on the website.

New entries from the "Tidbits From Then and Now" series will also soon be added.

In the near future the Society's Collections Finding List will be added as well. That list is currently being refined and updated. (See paragraph 3 in "Behind the Scenes" on page 4.)

Have you used the Society web site on the "Historically Speaking" page to quickly link to the website of PEG-TV.COM for streaming video on demand of both "Historically Speaking" and "Notes From the Past?"

Watch the "What's New" section of the Home Page for news of the Society's varied activities and new features on the website.

If you have not used the Message Board, take a look at a thread of messages that began in October 2007 and ends with an entry in June of 2009. There are eight responses to the original query from four different people. A posting in June 2009 successfully links together the four individuals in their genealogical searches. This is an excellent example of the interaction that the Message Board can offer.

To view the interaction go to the Society web site (rutlandhistory.com), click on the "Message Board," click on "All About People," click on "McGarry/McGary" from

20 June 2009, and follow the message interaction. The Society webmaster is the "nonnypatty" in the message interaction.

Readers may be interested in some of the resource information shared in the Message Board thread:

1. "nonnypatty", the webmaster, notes that the book series "The Search for Missing Friends" is taken from advertisements in the Boston Pilot, mainly for Irish seeking missing friends and families. The Boston Pilot was the newspaper of the Catholic diocese. Many advertisements are available online at: <http://infowanted.bc.edu/results/>.

2. Sara Noonan notes that she had helped an individual to do some McGarry research. As a part of that research she has some copies of Rutland County Naturalization papers that she lists.

3. A mwmjr.mrh notes that he has just stumbled on the fact that he is the great great grandson of John McGarry (1818-1904) and Bridget Cannon McGarry, both of whom are buried in St. Bridget's Cemetery in West Rutland.

DUES SCHEDULE

Students \$8.00	Senior Citizens \$8.00 (age 62 & up)
Regular \$10.00	Contributing \$20.00
Sponsor \$50.00	Lifetime \$200.00 (Individuals only)

2008 ON YOUR LABEL MEANS DUES FOR 2009 ARE NOW DUE

“HISTORICALLY SPEAKING” ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society produces a new program 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 of shows.

Episode # 104 – New York Giants vs. Rutland All-Stars – 1916

Dick Leyden, Vermont baseball historian, discusses the baseball game at the Rutland Fairgrounds on 22 October 1916. This game was played during the “deadball era” when pitchers were able to “doctor” the ball in many ways and only one ball was used for the whole game. Thus home runs were few and far between. Dick’s presentation provides a wealth of information on the participants and background on baseball in this era. The Rutland game was arranged by the New York Giants as part of a post-season “barnstorming” tour despite baseball’s official disapproval of “barnstorming.” Betting was a large part of such challenge games that were quite popular, as the attendance of 3,500 people attests.

Episode # 105 – History of Vermont Weather

Jim Davidson interviews Dr. Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux, Vermont State Climatologist, in a fast-paced discussion of the history of Vermont weather. Lesley-Ann talks about the various weather professions and their roles. Farmers were the ultimate non-professional climatologists. The discussion mentions a number of Rutland weather observers and the connectedness and impact of weather and climate in Vermont history. Dr. Dupigny-Giroux carries on a continual search for Vermont weather history and invites historical weather information.

ON DEMAND AT PEG-TV.COM

To watch episodes of “Historically Speaking” or “Notes From the Past” in streaming video on your computer 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 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 download it 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

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

On Making History

It is a rare day when one does not read about someone, something, or some group "making history." It seems that "making history" is so commonplace these days that we may lose the meaning of "making history." As we hit the lazy, hazy days of summer here is a way to keep the noggin in shape. I want you to think about the following: What has happened in the last day, month, or year that has truly "made history?"

When I think of this question I can't help but to think of state, national, and international events. The Vermont budget veto, the presidential election, and the world financial situation come immediately to mind. If everybody in the Society created a list there would be some similarities, but many differences. I am sure that you would come up with a different list than mine. Your list might include more personal items, like the birth of a grandchild, a stellar garden, or beating cancer. And your list will be just as valid as mine. The personal is just as important as the international, because you make history every day.

So as you read yet another story about something "making history," please keep in mind that because of your love of the past, your personal accomplishments, and your hope for the future, you make history every day...even in the lazy, hazy days of summer.

"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 produced 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 # 6 - Public Safety

Jim Davidson of the Rutland Historical Society talks about the history of crime in Rutland and the protection from crime, particularly theft. Crimes of violence were infrequent. Protection from crime was pretty much in the hands of the county sheriff. As the population grew, so did crime. In the 1880s a village police force performed the police function. As the city of Rutland was organized a small full-time police force was employed. The program also talks about the development of the Rutland Fire Department from a volunteer fire department to a full-time professional fire department. The program includes a note about Rutland's major floods and fires. The program concludes with

the note that crime is an unsolved issue in Rutland as well as most of America.

Episode # 7 - Recreation

Jim Davidson of the Rutland Historical Society presents an overview of the history of recreation in Rutland. This includes the development of music and sports in Rutland's history. A number of buildings were built and primarily used for entertainment purposes. Rutland soon became the county center for entertainment from many traveling entertainers and later a center for movie theaters. The organization of a Rutland Bicycle Club in the 1880s stimulated great interest in the high-wheel bicycle. Roller skating and dancing also provided physical activity for both men and women. Through the years recreation interests and structures have changed greatly. Today's recreation has less physical activity, with much of today's recreation and entertainment found through an electronic device.

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

On 1 April Clifford Giffin made a presentation on the scanned version of the large 1884 map of Rutland at the Godnick Center for Triad program. On 14 April Jim Davidson provided a "Memories Program" on "Swimming" for the residents at the Kervick Center. On 28 April Jim Davidson brought the lively music of "Bada Bing, Bada Boom" to the residents of "The Pines". On 3 May "The Talegatorz" provided music from the 1920s as the Society parade presentation in the Loyalty Day Parade. This group has been a great hit in each parade in which they have participated. On 11 May Lloyd Davis and Jim Davidson brought a "Memories Program" on "All About Autos" to the residents of the Loretto Home. Also on 11 May Jim and Helen Davidson represented the Society at the PEG-TV Annual Meeting. On 12 May Paul Crossman made a presentation for the Interage group on "The History of Rutland High School." On 14 May Jim Davidson hosted the Rutland Stamp Club at the Society and presented a program entitled "The Eclectic Collections of the Society." On 18 May Jim Davidson made a brief presentation for merit badge candidates of the Grace Church Scouts at their meeting. Opportunities for completing their projects at the Rutland Historical Society were outlined. On 1, 15, and 22 June small groups of scouts visited the Society and were helped to select topics and resources for their badge work. On 26 May Jim Davidson brought the music of "The Ames Brothers" to "The Pines." On 23 June the "All About Autos" memory program was presented at the Kervick Center. On 30 June the music of the Russ Morgan Orchestra was the program at "The Pines." A range of lively music from the 20s to the 60s, both vocal and orchestral, has been provided at "The Pines" (previously called Eden Park) for over 10 years. The reception by the residents of music from their eras has been most rewarding.

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

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE SOCIETY

A great amount of activity goes on at the Society which is unseen by all but the volunteer participants. There are regular volunteer work hours on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 to 4 pm. On average, seven volunteers work each of these days each week. On Wednesday evenings three to five volunteers work from 7 to 9 pm most weeks. They sort, accession, catalog, and store historical materials. Others scan materials.

The success in gathering new historical materials has raised questions regarding the availability of space for the future. Accordingly a Space Committee was formed to analyze and assess the various options. After the initial consideration of building new space, the committee realized that making better use of existing space and a long-range plan to digitize more of the Society's collections was the most practical direction for the Society to pursue.

Meanwhile, Carolynn Ranftle has been working on a new cataloging procedure to catalogue only the files in the various document boxes and not each piece of paper. This will greatly speed up the completion of a new finding list that will be placed on the website.

Clifford Giffin and Bob Ranftle have inventoried the space available in the Society basement and appropriate committees are eliminating items that are not part of the Society collections that seem to gather in a basement but can be disposed.

On 30 May the Society volunteers held a Clean-up Day from 10 to 12 noon.

President Chuck Piotrowski is working on a new version of the 1884 Map Scan Disc.

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