

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 16 NO. 4

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society was held on Thursday 29 October at the Nickwackett Firehouse at 96 Center Street, Rutland at 7:00 PM. The business reports were submitted and approved. Board Chairperson Lloyd Davis commented on the outstanding and cooperative work of the Board of Directors, Officers, and Committee Chairpersons as well as the many volunteers during the past year. The Nominations Committee's proposed slate of officers and directors was approved.

A three-part program celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Society was presented upon adjournment. As President Chuck Piotrowski was unable to attend, Vice-President Jim Davidson chaired the meeting.

Jim, a member of the Society since its inception in 1969, presented the first part of the anniversary program that covered the lack of a historical society for nearly 100 years since the town's first 100-year celebration in 1870, the founding of the Society in 1969, its growth, and some of its activities in the last 40 years.

Part two of the program consisted of brief reports by committee chairpersons on important accomplishments in their areas of responsibility during the current year. The reports of the activities of the many volunteers were impressive as committee after committee reported on their accomplishments. It was obviously a very good year and highly appropriate for the 40th Anniversary.

President Chuck Piotrowski was unable to attend the meeting in person

as his professional employment took him to Florida to receive both a corporate and a personal award from an international organization. The Society is especially proud of Chuck's performance outside the Society as well as inside. With his usual resourcefulness, Chuck recorded an eight-minute videotaped vision of the Society's future. He noted that scanning materials into a digital format will allow the Society to both preserve materials and at the same time save storage space. Although this is a massive undertaking for the Society, the past year's exploration with the technology on some individual projects gives evidence that the Society volunteers can do this. Chuck reminded all that this is not to replace the valuable human interaction of the members of the Society with each other and with the public. Books, papers, and photos will not disappear in the wake of technological advancement.

Attendees shared a 40th Anniversary cake with a tasty punch. There was a great deal of conversation as folks enjoyed both the refreshments and a refreshing program. Many said it was the best program ever.

ELECTED

Pres. Chuck Piotrowski

V.P. Lloyd Davis

Sec. Helen Davidson

Treas. Tom Carpenter

Dir. (2 yrs) Ron Hemenway

Dir. (2 yrs) William Powers

Dir. (2 yrs) Dorothy Whitford

Continuing Directors are Clifford Giffin,

Francis (Mickey) Kelly, and Carolynn

Ranflet. Clifford Giffin was elected

Board Chairperson.

“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 website at rutlandhistory.com for a complete listing of shows.

Episode # 108 – The Cemeteries of the Old Town of Rutland

Chris Book and Tom Giffin, Rutland City Cemetery Commissioners, are guests for this program. The program includes images of most of the cemeteries, new and old, of the old Town of Rutland. The program also discusses some of the issues and problems in the proper preservation of cemeteries. The programs for the preservation and care of the graves of military veterans are also discussed. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

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.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

A dozen “ghosts of the past” and Nick the Nickwackett Squirrel gathered at the Society on Saturday 31 October for the Halloween Parade as a steady rain settled in. Unfortunately the masks and signs of the Society participants were very susceptible to destruction in the wet and the participants would also be exposed to a thorough cold and soaking rain. As a result President Chuck Piotrowski made the difficult decision that the Society should not participate this year. Parade weather always seems problematic.

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

Clifford Giffin - 773-3743

WEBSITE COMMITTEE REPORT

The number of visits to the website still averages about 1,000 per day. Doreen McCullough scanned the out-of-print quarterlies that are now on the web site. They are in searchable PDFs and can be read or downloaded for free. She has also scanned the complete collection of all Society Newsletters and these will also be placed on the website. Currently Doreen is scanning the Town of Rutland Reports for 1857 (the first published report) through 1894.

The Web Committee is reviewing the structure of the website and may be consolidating some sections to make them more user friendly.

The Web Committee will also be adding the Society Collections Finding List to the web site.

1884 MAP VERSION

The 1884 map project has moved to a much more usable version 2 disk. Anyone with a version 1 disk can request an exchange at no cost. Most replacements have already been made. The map project received an Award of Merit from the Vermont Historical Society on 6 November at the St. Albans meeting of the League of

Local Historical Societies. Clifford Giffin and Jim Davidson worked on the scanning. Clifford spent hours knitting the pieces together. Chuck Piotrowski put the map sections into PDFs and onto a computer disk with high quality images that are easily and quickly accessible. The map disk is available for \$10 with free postage.

FINDING LIST REVISION

Carolynn Ranftle and Ron Hemenway have patiently worked for nearly a year on a complete revision of the Collections Committee Finding List. Carolynn has entered all files into the Past Perfect cataloging program—a huge undertaking. She then designed a report that organizes the materials into a three-level hierarchy. The third level files have the file name, document box number, and the location of the material.

In addition, Carolynn has provided a small search program for the finding list on the Society's computers. In the near future some elements of the Finding List will be placed on the website.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Is it time to renew?



Please check the date above your name on the mailing label.

• If the date on your label is 2008 or earlier your grace period has expired and this is the last Quarterly you will receive unless you renew by 28 February 2010

• If the date on your label is 2009, your dues for 2010 are now due. Please use the membership form on this page.

• If the date on your label is 2010 or later, your dues are up to date. Thank you.



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Rutland Historical Society – Membership Form
 96 Center Street, Rutland, VT 05701-4023
 Phone: 802-775-2006

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street Address or Post Office Box _____

City or Town _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Phone (optional) _____ Email Address (optional) _____

\$8 Student \$8 Senior (62+) \$10 Regular
 \$20 Contributor \$50 Sponsor \$200 Lifetime

Second Person at same address (if any). No additional fee
 (Not available for Student or Lifetime memberships.)

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