

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 4 NO. 3 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 1997

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## EXHIBIT PLANS FOR FALL SEASON

The Exhibit Committee of the Society met on 15 August and discussed exhibit plans for the next few months.

In late SEPTEMBER the Flood of 1947 material in the Event Exhibit will be replaced by materials on the Bates House Fire of 1906.

The paintings of Mr. and Mrs. Strong have returned and they will be exhibited in the Treasures Exhibit in OCTOBER. Some other Strong memorabilia will be exhibited in addition to the paintings.

In NOVEMBER the Exhibit Committee will replace the Ripley material in the People Exhibit with material on John Clement, particularly some watercolors that he did while in France during WWI. The November Quarterly features a journal that Clement kept while in France during WWI and includes these watercolors. Ken Wild is preparing this material.

In DECEMBER-JANUARY the Howe Scales material in the Things Exhibit will be replaced with an Exhibit on the products of the Patch-Wegner company.

The Place Exhibit will continue to show the Sanborn Insurance maps of Rutland in 1890. These have been popular and seem to have a potential for much further viewing.

The Building Exhibit will not change.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society will be held on Thursday 16 October 1997 at the Fox Room of the Rutland Free Library which is located on the northeast corner of Center and Court Streets in Rutland.

The business meeting, which includes reports and the election of officers and directors, will start at 7:30 pm. At approximately 8:00 pm Kathryn Brownell will present a slide lecture to the Society on "The Spirit of The Age: John Cain's Architecture". John Cain came to Rutland from the Isle of Man in 1832. He was an architect who designed and supervised the construction of numerous public buildings in the community. He founded and edited the weekly Rutland Courier from 1857 to 1873. He was also the Rutland postmaster for seven years. The public is invited to attend the business meeting and/or the program.

## SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS NOMINATED

Pres. Elaine Purdy  
V.P. Helen Davidson  
Sec. Gloria LaMontagne  
Treas. Thomas Carpenter

Dir. (2 yrs) Alex Alexander  
Dir. (2 yrs) Jacob Sherman  
Dir. (2 yrs) Morris Tucker

Dir. (1 yr) Dorothy Whitford

Continuing Directors are: Mary Segale and Alan Shelvey

## GUIDED COACH TOUR

The Chimney Point & Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Sites and the Castleton Historical Society are sponsoring a guided coach tour exploring the history and architecture of western Rutland County on Sunday 12 October 1997 from 12:45 to 5:00 pm. The tour will be led by Curtis Johnson and Elsa Gilbertson, editors of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's book, *The Historic Architecture of Rutland County*.

A fee of \$15.00 per person includes the tour, a copy of the Division's *Guide to Vermont Architecture*, and light refreshments. There will be several short stops at historic points en route. The tour begins in Castleton village at 12:45 pm. The coach, equipped with a restroom, will leave promptly at 1:00 pm and return around 5:00 pm.

Reservations and advance payment are required as space is limited. Contact: Chimney Point  
RD # 1, Box 3546  
Vergennes VT 05491  
Tel: (802) 759-2412

Registration confirmation and directions to the start of the tour will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation.

## CROWN POINT ROAD ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday 19 October 1997 the Crown Point Road Association will host its Annual Meeting at the Orwell Town Hall with a Potluck Dinner at 1:00 pm. Bring a place setting and a dish to share. There will be a speaker from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

## AUTHOR DISCUSSION AND SIGNING

Annie's Book Stop will host Vermont author Thomas Visser on Saturday 4 October 1997 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. He is a recognized authority on historic barn preservation and teaches a special course on barn preservation at the University of Vermont.

His recently published book, *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*, offers help to those trying to determine the date and heritage of barns or farm buildings.

The discussion is free and open to the public. Books can be purchased in advance for author signing.

## COMMITTEE CORNER

### Chairpersons

#### Archives Committee

Alan Shelvey - 775-4168

#### Artifacts Committee

Eleanor Elwert - 773-3417

#### Building Committee

Morris Tucker - 773-7356

#### Exhibit Committee

Jim Davidson - 773-7525

#### Historic Preservation Committee

Ann Singiser - 773-8172

#### Library Committee

Ann Glagola - 775-1302

#### Long-range Planning Committee

Bob Beauchamp - 773-9281

#### Membership Committee

Helen K. Davidson - 773-7525

#### Personnel Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

#### Program Committee

Donald Wickman - 775-4350

#### Public Relations

Ken Wild - 773-8687

#### Publications

Elaine Purdy - 773-6819

#### Research

Dorothy Whitford - 773-3219

#### President

Don Bordeau - 775-2761

#### Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rutland Historical Society continues its efforts to interest and educate the community about its heritage. By offering programs, exhibits and quarterly publications, it hopes to create an awareness of the people, places and events that shaped Rutland's past.

This year the Society offered a fall exhibit on "Summer Leisure In the 1920's and 1930's". Presently, the focus is on a series of mini-exhibits which include the Nicwackett Fire Station, the General Edward Ripley Family, the 1890 Rutland Sanborn Insurance maps, the Howe Scales of the Howe Scale Company, the Flood of 1947 and the 19th Century Ladies in Their Finery. Arrangements for small group tours can be made by appointment.

Four Quarterlies were published by the Society during the past year. As the result of a gift of a Goddard clock to the Society, Dawn Hance devoted the last Quarterly of 1996 to Rutland's early clockmakers - Lord and Goddard. Angela Hinchey, who has been editing the diaries of Charles B. Mead (1843-1864) wrote the first Quarterly of 1997. It is entitled "Charles B. Mead - A Young Man of Promise. The second Quarterly, "An Incident At Velletri: On the Road To Rome" features first Society President Frederic P. Elwert's narrative of his experiences during the Italian Campaign in World War II. The third Quarterly, "Charles A. Hayles: A Man Out of Time" by Donald Bordeau, focussed on the multifaceted life of an early 20th Century "Edison" in Rutland

James Davidson and Tom Carpenter created a video on "The Flood of 1947". It debuted on Channel 15 on the anniversary date of the deluge.

There have been several programs offered jointly by the Society and the Rutland Free Library.

The Society wishes to extend its appreciation to the following speakers: Sanborn Partridge (Crown Point Road), Dr. Russell Irvine (Martin H. Freeman - First Black College Professor In America), Erick Tichonuk (Steamboats On Lake Champlain), Peter Cooper (The Rutland Road) and Jack Anderson (The Civil War Trail In Vermont).

The collection of Marvel Swan, local genealogist, was given to the Rutland Free Library after her death. Part of this collection is housed in the glass cases of the Library's Vermont Room. Recently, the uncatalogued manuscript portion has been donated to the Society. Appreciation is extended to the Library and staff for their generosity.

The Society laments the loss of Carroll Jones, who passed away. For several years Carroll has chaired the Nominating Committee, conscientiously filling the slate of officers for the coming year.

At its annual meeting in October, the Society awarded two certificates of commendation to Elaine Purdy and Thomas Carpenter. Elaine diligently chairs the Publications Committee and serves as Co-Editor of the Quarterly. Tom, the Society's Treasurer, is a whiz at keeping finances in balance.

A special thanks goes out to all the volunteers who assist the Society in any way. They can move mountains when it's necessary.

All visitors are welcome at the Rutland Historical Society Building at 96 Center Street on Monday evenings 6:00 - 9:00 pm and Saturday afternoons 1:00 - 4:00pm. We look forward to serving you.

## FROM THE EDITOR OF THE QUARTERLY

Are you being entertained and edified by our Quarterly or do you have a particular historical interest you think that we are neglecting?

The Publications Committee is open to suggestions and aims to please its readers. As you know, the Society's scope includes the original boundaries of the Town of Rutland, which now covers the towns of Proctor, Rutland, West Rutland and the City of Rutland. Our goal has been to fairly represent each area in our selection of topics and to cover varying time periods from the founding of the Town up to the present day.

We appreciate the input of our readers and

welcome fresh, well-researched articles to be considered for publication.

## WE'VE HEARD

Members have given a wonderful response to our most recent information requests. The Solomon Jewett house on our last cover is at 90 East Street and part of it still stands. We also received information on the Sharpshooters and, from a member's lead, we found a picture of Charles B. Mead. A number of people also remembered the "Chowder and Marching Society" from 1974.

## GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

New gift memberships received now will be effective from receipt through the 1998 calendar year. This is a good opportunity to get five issues of the Quarterly for the price of four.

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

## DUES SCHEDULE

Sponsor \$50.00	Students	\$8.00
Contributing \$20.00	(18 & under)	
Regular \$10.00	Senior citizens	\$8.00
	(62 & up)	
Life Membership		\$200.00
Memorial Membership		\$200.00

**RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
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Jim Davidson - Editor

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