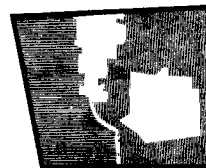


RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Serving the original Town of Rutland chartered in 1761 and now composed of Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town and West Rutland.

Newsletter



VOL.6 NO.1

96 CENTER ST., POB 6473, RUTLAND, VT 05702

SUMMER 1989

MEMBERS GIVE \$16,776 TO BUILDING FUND

We are most grateful to all the members of the society who responded to our Nickwackett building fund drive. We have yet to solicit the large firms, corporations and businesses in the area who, we think, would want to support us in a meaningful way. Following is the list of contributors, all from Rutland unless noted otherwise:

- \$4000 - Grant from The Fund for Vermont's Third Century, Burlington
- \$2000 - Grant from the Windham Foundation of Grafton, the check came from the Bunbury Co. of Princeton, N.J.
- \$2000 - Eleanor J. Elwert
- \$2000 - Harriet M. Ross, West Rutland
- \$1000 - Sibyl Kirby
- \$1000 - Marion Loveland
- \$500 - James & Helen Davidson
- \$500 - Green Mountain Heavy Haulers
- \$500 - Virginia Mitchell
- \$500 - Anna Marie Ryan
- \$110 - for a window:
 - Ann Glagola
 - R. Virginia Gregory
 - Ron & Dawn Hance
 - Jean & Deborah Ross
 - Elizabeth A.C. Smith, Cambridge, MA
- \$100 - Jeannette B. Ballard
- " - Steven A. Clifford
- " - L.C. Kelley Assoc., Ludlow
- " - William H. Kirby, New Canaan, CT
- " - Josephine Macomber, Pittsford
- " - Mintzer Brothers
- " - Agnes C. Norton
- " - Herbert G. Ogden, Jr.
- " - Wallace Rogers, Castleton
- " - Mr. & Mrs. John L. Steele
- " - Vermont Gas & Steam Engine Assoc.
- \$65 - Beverly S. Seward
- \$50 - Louise N. Adams
- " - Mrs. Donald L. Buck, N. Clarendon
- " - Barbara & John Densmore
- " - Col. Barbara E. Earle
- " - Edna M. Hardie
- " - Minerva R. Lamboy
- " - John J. Lanzillo, Sr.
- " - Merritt L. Thomas
- " - Mary W. Woods
- \$25 or less:
 - Jane Anderson
 - David H. Ashley, Yonkers, NY
 - Thomas A. Carpenter
 - John & Mary Daley
 - Lillian Davidson
 - Miss Elaine Davis
 - Irene Durkee
 - Margaret Elwert, Brooklyn, NY
 - Vera H.R. Fish
 - Nancy Gottlieb, Wallingford
 - Mr. & Mrs. Fred A. Harvie, Pittsford
 - Mrs. Frances C. Horan

THE ARCHITECTURE BOOK

"The Historic Architecture of Rutland County" was published in May by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Curtis B. Johnson was the Editor and Elsa Gilbertson the Assistant Editor, both of whom are employed by the Division. It took many years to bring the book to fruition but the 500 page volume sets an example that will challenge all the other county architectural histories that will follow.

The society offered to its membership a one time opportunity to purchase the book at less than retail price. We had a very good response with 115 members sending orders which totaled 75 County volumes, 57 just of Rutland City, 22 for West Rutland, 25 for Rutland Town and 31 for Proctor.

The book is the first of a planned series covering each county in the state. It includes a history of the county and of each individual town with town maps and historic district maps. Also included is a guide to Vermont architecture, a comprehensive style guide and a glossary of architectural terms, both illustrated with local buildings.

Hundreds of city buildings which are listed in the State Register of Historic Places are given by street and number, and many of them are pictured. With the book as a guide there could be some rewarding Sunday afternoon walks or drives. Maybe some of our special architectural heritage would be recognized and better appreciated.

Without an operating home base the society cannot take orders but both the complete county volume and the individual town pamphlets are available at Book King in the Opera House on Merchants Row.

- Philip & Isabelle Howard, N. Clarendon
- Edith D. Mangan, Teaneck, NJ
- Thomas B. McDevitt
- Miss Barbara Mellow
- Robert F. Moore
- Robert Myers
- Robert Perkins, Charlotte, NC
- Vera A. Perkins
- Mrs. Bernice C. Powell, Seal Beach, CA
- Mrs. Roma E. Pulling
- Angeline Savery
- Gordon B. Smith, M.D.
- George & Katherine Stewart
- Donald P. Swan
- John & Linda Taft, Pittsford
- Catherine H. Thomas
- Esther L. Webber
- Doris G. Welch
- David P. Wright, Middletown Springs

If you forgot or misplaced our appeal we still welcome your donation to the Building Fund, POB 6473, Rutland, VT. 05702. All contributors will be listed on a plaque in the building eventually.

In 1905 there were 27 owners of automobiles in the City of Rutland. Their names and registration number were:

47 Fred R. Patch
 48 Timothy A. Reardon
 56 R.W. Goodrich
 73 George S. Haley
 91 A.C.H. Bachand
 92 M.A. Britton
 118 Charles A. Matthews
 119 Wayne S. Clark
 120 Wallace W. Nichols
 121 Erwin E. Keyes
 157 George T. Chaffee
 186 Brown & Garrett
 191 Charles A. Willard
 237 Raymond F. Russell
 247 Albert Colombe
 271 Sumner W. Childs
 283 Percival W. Clement
 284 Percival W. Clement
 285 John H. Frenier
 287 Erwin White
 288 Edward F. Hassey
 308 John N. Woodfin
 320 Martin L. Gleason
 321 Samuel M. Willson
 339 Harry L. Willard
 341 John A. Mead



The State Law relating to automobiles provided for registration, regulation of speed and licensing of operation. The registration cost \$2.00; an operating license was also \$2.00. The speed limit was fixed by law at 15 miles per hour outside of a city and 10 miles within the village or city limits. An unlicensed car operator could drive lawfully if accompanied by a licensed chauffeur or operator.

The registration for the whole state totalled 372, including eight motorcycles. There were also three women licensed as operators. The numbers one and two registration plates were owned by Mr. Charles C. Warren of Waterbury. He purchased his first Haynes-Apperson automobile in 1899. It was a four-cylinder machine, produced by the Packard Motor Car Company.

There were 14,910 miles of public highway in the state in 1905. An automobile running at the speed limit of 15 mph would require 41 days to cover all that distance. (Remember, these were unpaved roads.)

From THE VERMONTER A State Magazine, Recreation Number Vol. X No. 12, July 1905

Excerpts by Jean Ross

Moving Daze

Up to late August there was little evidence of progress in rehabilitating Nickwackett Fire House. We are all frustrated but that is the lot of non-profit organizations. The plans are really wonderful though and we guarantee the front entrance will be very, very attractive. It will be the only real change in the building's current appearance.

Moving out of 101 Center St. was accomplished in April. Our historical collections are safely stored and the furnishings and such are in a barn in the town. There was a lot of climbing up and down three flights of stairs but somehow the job was finished. Later one

This marvelous picture from our collection, a gift of the Rutland Herald, shows a cement surface being poured on Church St. between Williams St. and Library Ave. looking north. The houses are still there but not the awnings. This was a Public Works Administration (PWA) job done before World War II. The purpose of the PWA was to put men to work on public facilities so as to overcome the depression of the 30's.

The Herald recently ran a picture of Church St. being repaved with asphalt from West St. to Williams.

whole roomful of our collection had to be moved, so again plenty of up and down stairs. In addition we had to move many bound volumes of the Rutland Herald from the third floor of the Rutland Free Library to storage at the law office of our chairman, Herb Ogden, Jr.

Odds and ends of items we could not use were sold at a garage sale which brought in \$400 for the building fund.

Recognition must be given to some very dedicated and helpful people who volunteered for these hot, dirty and tiring jobs.

April move from 101 Center St. - Tom Carpenter, Jim Davidson, Eleanor Elwert, Patrick and Susan Farrow, Ernie Hathaway, Herb Ogden, Jr., Al Pacca, Sandy Partidge, Moe Tucker, Ann Glagola

Newspaper move - Jerry and Mark Bourassa, Helen and Jim Davidson, Paul Kerns, Debby Ross.

August move - Jim Davidson, Eleanor Elwert, Ann and John Glagola, Kevin Metcalf of Clarendon, Al Pacca, Mike Seward and Jerry Barker.

New Books.....



Advertising cards from a scrapbook given by the late Kenneth Fisher of Rutland

While we would prefer not to have to deal with historic Rutland material right now, if there is no other solution to your disposal problem let us know. We would not want to miss important historical items.

Diaries, collections of letters, scrapbooks, post cards, Manning's City Directories from 1978 to now and before 1900, family pictures including the family home identified and dated if at all possible. NEVER write such information on the item itself, instead attach, with a plastic paper clip, an explanation on a separate sheet of paper.

Paintings, business records, playbills, school records, photographs of events, street scenes, buildings outside of downtown, interiors, etc., etc. We cannot take three dimensional artifacts, except for very small items because we do not have the room. We might want to borrow from you for an exhibit but not to own.

SING A LONG was a financial success but a washout artistically. It really poured just at the time people would have been coming to the armory, our substitute site in case of rain. The show went on nevertheless for 20 participants. It was only the second time in 7 years we've had rain.

We took part in the Loyalty Day parade, Sunday, May 7th. While waiting for the parade to start we chatted with David Zsido, a member of our society and also of the Green Mountain Heavy Haulers, an antique truck association. He told us that they proposed to sell caps with their logo and would donate the profit to the Nickwackett Building Fund. They did just that and presented a check for \$500 in mid August. No moss was growing under their feet!

- Speaking of history books, the society's history of Rutland is moving along slowly. Dawn Hance of Rutland has done a monumental job compiling, with help, the genealogy of the early families. It will be the first volume to be printed probably late next year. The history of Rutland to about 1860 has been written, also by Dawn, and is being edited by Jean Ross and Eleanor Elwert. Tom Carpenter, our treasurer, is entering it into the computer.

For both of these volumes we are especially interested in obtaining portraits, paintings or photos up to c. 1860 which were not used in our picture history, "Rutland in Retrospect".

Our plan all along was to have a new history of Rutland, at least partly done, by the city's centennial in November 1992.

- Another book just published by one of our members, Warren Dexter, and Barbara Castle Hanson, is "Vermont, Wilderness to Statehood, 1748-1791". It is profusely illustrated and may be obtained from Book King for \$15.95.

- A third new book by Robert E. Laird of Chasanna Drive, Rutland, is "Maximum Effort - a First Hand Account of a WW II B29 Crew and Their Bomb Group". Available at Book King, \$16.95.

Still on books - the society wants books, pamphlets, articles, whatever, by Rutland, West Rutland and Proctor authors, past and present. We would very much like to have the first two works by Julia C.R. Dorr written under her pseudonym Caroline Thomas. They are "Farmingdale" and "Landmere".

- Also, speaking of "Rutland in Retrospect", it was a great success but there are no plans to reprint it. With many new people arriving in the area we are often asked if we have copies, which of course we don't. So, if any of you are clearing out "stuff" and know "R in R" is "too good to throw out" we would be glad to have your copy - in good condition - given to the society as a donation, for resale by us, or we will pay you \$10 for it.

THE QUARTERLIES of 1989:

The Quarterlies Vol. XIX No. 1 "Vermont War Convention" and No. 2 "Riverside Women's Reformatory" will be followed by another of our Ethnic Series, on the Jewish Community by Sandra Gartner and the last for this year will be by Fred Elwert titled "Where Have All the Ripleys Gone?"



NECROLOGY

Richard P. Thull - died February 1, 1988 age 71. He was a retired salesman for Melody Radio and TV and a security officer at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Hugo W. Melen - died May 10, 1988 age 85. He owned a monument engraving business. He was the last surviving stone cutter who helped build the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington.

Dorothy B. Covalt - died February 27, 1989. Mrs. Covalt along with her late husband, had been a charter member of the society. With her intuitive sense of style and order she lent a special expertise when an exhibit had to be mounted.

Harriet M. Ross - Died February 25, 1989 age 87 in West Rutland. She was the widow of Donald Ross and a Life member of the society. Among her gifts to the society was the James Hope painting of a West Rutland marble quarry which is on loan to the Vermont Historical Society. It is featured at the entrance to their current exhibit "Faces of the Land" (through December).

Edmund L. Boyce - died May 22, 1989 age 87. High school math teacher, city alderman and Rutland County assistant judge.

Donations to the society in memory of Dorothy Covalt from: Martha D. Malum, Herbert & Dorothy Walker and James & Audrey Woodruff. Also a donation in memory of Mrs. Covalt and her daughter Sarah Ann from Dency Kahn of St. Louis.

PLEASE NOTE - If the number after your name is not 89, your dues are in arrears. We don't like to lose members, we invite your renewal and will forward the already published Quarterlies. Membership Secretary is Mrs. Mary O'Brien, 145 Ash St., Rutland. Dues categories are \$5 - Basic; \$15 - Contributing; \$25 - Sponsor.

Newsletter Editor: Eleanor J. Elwert, 19 Crescent St., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-3417

"OUR TOWN" SERIES

A new series of Wednesday evening meetings on subjects of historical interest will be sponsored by the society and the Rutland Recreation Department. They are a continuation of the informal get togethers that began this spring. They will be held at the Senior/Adult Center on Deer St. at 7:30 P.M. every Wednesday evening. Contact: Recreation office 773-1822. There is no charge and light refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

"Our Town" is the general title of this series of conversations on the historical origins of Rutland with some of its own local historians. The schedule follows:

Sept. 20...Break-up of Old Rutland Town into existing city and surrounding communities.

Sept. 27...History of Rutland City Bands

Oct...4.... " of " " Fire Dept.

Oct...11... " of " " Police Dept.

Oct...18... " of " Hospital

Oct...25... " of " Theaters

Nov...1....Early Flight/Flying in Rutland

Nov...8....Major Floods of 1927, 1936, 1947

Nov...15...Women's Reformatory in Rutland

Nov...29...History of Rutland Fair

Dec...6....Rutland During World War II



Loyalty Day Parade, May 7, 1989 - Eleanor J. Elwert
James S. Davidson, President

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 6473 Rutland, Vermont 05702

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