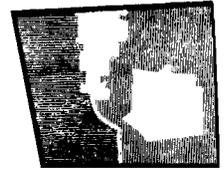


RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter



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

VOL. 7 NO. 1

96 Center St., POB 6473, Rutland, VT 05702

WINTER 1990

BUILDING FUND UPDATE

In our Summer 1989 Newsletter a headline stated that members had given \$16,776 to the Nickwackett Building Fund. Actually, while the total was correct \$6,000 of that was improperly credited which we do sincerely regret.

We received a \$4,000 Grant from the Fund for Vermont's Third Century which must be matched. Another \$2,000 came from the Windham Foundation of Grafton. So the total from members at that time was \$10,776. As of now member contributions total \$13,691. The total received in matching funds is \$760, leaving \$3,240 to be raised by midsummer.

Much more is needed to complete this building project. If you haven't given yet we hope you will consider doing so soon. All contributors will be listed on a plaque in the building eventually.

The following gifts were received since we published the first list in the Summer Newsletter, all are from Rutland unless noted otherwise:

\$200 - Gilbert Howland
\$125 - Mary C. Keirstead
\$110 - Martha Tucker
\$110 - Morris Tucker
\$100 - Eastman's
\$100 - Barbara Hood
\$50 - IBM Matching Grant, N. Carolina
\$50 - Willard Squier, N. Clarendon
\$25 - or less
" - Mildred Conner
" - Mary L. Huntley, Naples FL.
" - Anthony A. Luciani
" - Mary McMahon, Brandon
" - N.E. Two Cylinder Club, Bethel
" - Catherine Reynolds

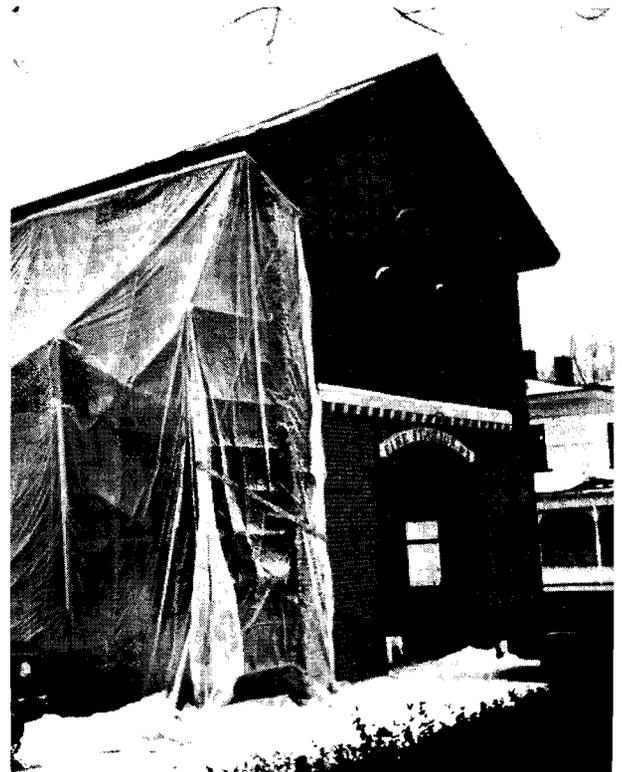
The society's annual meeting was held October 18th 20 years and two months after it was founded on August 6, 1969. The program featured recollections of the several hospitals that have served Rutland over the years. The Rutland Senior Citizens Center was the site as it has been for several years.

The following officers were elected:

President - James S. Davidson
Vice-Pres. - Jean Ross
Treasurer - Thomas Carpenter
Secretary - Ernest Hathaway

New Directors - Donald Bordeau, Eleanor Elwert, Joanna Seward
Continuing Directors - Herbert G. Ogden, Jr., Arch Todd
Morris Tucker
Auditors - Vic Sevigny, Thomas C. Ryan

As you learned when we mailed the membership renewal we had to increase our dues in all categories. If you forgot we hope you will renew soon because the first quarterly of 1990 is at the printers.



Nickwackett Firehouse in December

Repointing the brick has been completed and the results are terrific. With plastic covering the scaffolding and a propane heater going full blast John Timms and his helpers were able to work even in December's bitter cold. The thermometer went over 32 degrees only once in the whole month! A temperature of 40 is necessary for the proper setting of the mortar.

We do not have a firm date for the rehabilitation to be completed, mayhap in late summer. It has been a trying time for historical research with the Rutland Free Library's Vermont Room collection in storage, the Vermont Historical Society closed for a while for asbestos removal and our own collection almost inaccessible and in storage for 11 months.

Two albums of photos of the Farm Museum collection with documentation was compiled by Ernie Hathaway. The pictures were taken by Joanna Seward with assistance from Bonnie Horn. Jim Davidson, Arch Todd and Moe Tucker helped with the documentation. One album will remain with the historical society and an identical one was given to the Rutland County Agricultural Society.

The "Our Town" series last fall was very well received. The informal round table format gives everyone a chance to contribute with worthwhile information and stories about Rutland's past. The series will not be held this spring. Instead the program committee is working to prepare a series for presentation on Public Access Channel 15 in the fall. Sounds like a great idea.

RUTLAND GENEALOGY BOOK

Collecting pictures for the forthcoming book of genealogies of early Rutland families has been a most enjoyable experience. Many people have invited me into their homes, shared family anecdotes and relics and allowed their photos to be copied.

Eleanor Elwert, Warren Dexter, our photographer, and myself spent a day (we needed a week!) at the home of Dorcas Chaffee in Lyme N.H. Her house was filled with treasures - oil paintings of the Gove family, pictures of the Thralls and Chaffees besides a great many early letters and papers. Mrs. Chaffee has graciously offered to let the society duplicate any of these.

I also appreciate the kindness of Araby Gilmore who allowed me to make selections from her valuable collection on West Rutland. Gladys Kenney of Springfield, Massachusetts, who inherited many of the Mead and Gorham photos from the Florence Mead estate, has been very generous.

It is always exciting to uncover oil paintings as many pre-date photography. The latest finds are of Dr. Joel Green (1831), Daniel Sullivan Ewing, his wife Polly (Tuttle) Ewing and her mother, Martha (Thomas) Tuttle who died in 1848. The Green portrait is at the Springfield Art and Historical Society. The Ewing pictures are owned by Elizabeth (Ewing) Fox of Westport, N.Y.

Finding the Ewing portraits is an example of the fun and rewards of genealogical research. When I did my book on the history of the town of Shrewsbury I came across the Polly Tuttle will which listed the three portraits and to whom they would go. A phone call and voila! we will receive photo copies for the book.

The book. It will contain two hundred genealogies and over one hundred photos and will be available by fall. Watch for pre-publication announcements.

Dawn D. Hance

through Murray's head. The Boston patriots who did it left a note to Murray, a Tory, stating that "next time we'll get you."

Murray was a resident of Rutland, Massachusetts and the first named proprietor in the Rutland, Vermont charter given by Gov. Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire.

Among the subscribers to our Quarterly are the Dallas Public Library, the Wisconsin Historical Society, the University of Vermont and Vermont Historical Society.

Our society holds membership in the Vermont Historical Society, the American Association for State and Local History, Vermont Old Cemetery Association, Vermont Archeological Society, Vermont Genealogical Society, Vermont Geological Society and the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance. We exchange with the Rutland Railroad Historical Society.



Rojane Danforth and Jean Ross at 10th anniversary celebration

SURPRISE PARTY

A surprise party celebrating 10 years of collaboration between Mrs. Rojane Danforth of Sharp Offset Printing and Mrs. Jean Ross, chairman of the Publications Committee was held at Sharp's on December 8th.

Mrs. Danforth does the layout for our Quarterlies and generally helps Mrs. Ross in the various steps needed to have them ready for printing.

QUARTERLIES PLANNED FOR 1990 -

1. This will be the publication of one-fourth of the material from Jim Davidson's Master's thesis about the very early history of Rutland. For the next three years the first quarterly of the year will continue with the material from this thesis forming a small volume when it is completed.
2. The second issue will feature the sculptor, Cesare Ratti of Proctor.
3. Peter Cooper, longtime public relations director of the Rutland Fair, will recall some highlights about the Fair for the summer Quarterly.
4. Depending on who finishes their task first the last quarterly will be either on Dr. Emily Perkins or the Gilmore Family.

There is an interesting story about the picture you will see on the cover of the next Quarterly. When we saw the proof it was obvious there was a blemish on the head of the subject, John Murray (1720-1794). Upon inquiry of the director of the New Brunswick, Canada Museum which holds the portrait by John Singleton Copley, we were told that the mark showed where a sword had been rammed

HISTORICAL SURPRISES

Historical surprises happen all the time. The one we will tell you about was lots of fun. In early June 1980 the society had not managed to plan an exhibit for the summer when the museum would be open. What to do?

Enter Meg Ostrum, at the time a consultant in the museum field for the state. She came down, asked what did we have and, after hearing the list, made some valuable suggestions.

The eventual result was "Rutland Experiences the West" an exhibit which won the Award of Merit in the exhibit category from the Vermont Historical Society. Included was material from our Ella Bean Livingston Indian Collection, William Henry Jackson photos of the west, "Bronco Charlie" Miller, the last Pony Express rider, Wild West Show advertisements and many photos of Indians which were loaned to us.

The day before the exhibit opened we received in the mail a letter from a lady in Arizona which she had sent to the Rutland Postmaster. Here's what she said:

Dear Sir:

A few days ago we were celebrating the "glorious fourth" here in this little Arizona town down on the Mexican border with marching bands and floats and fireworks in the evening. I'm sure the day was being marked in a similar fashion in Rutland, Vermont.

By a strange coincidence I was going thru an old trunk a day or so later and came across this letter written by a Mr A B Foote to my grandfather who had just left Rutland to try his luck in Wisconsin. My grandfather's name was John Perkins Woodward and my grandmother was a Mary Dodge. I believe they resided in Benson, Vermont just before moving to Wisconsin.

Is there still a Rutland Herald after all these years? If so the Editor might like this account of the celebration of July 4th 1855. Some of the names mentioned may still be extant in that area.

I am one of the few living descendants of John Perkins Woodward and feel this letter should go back to Rutland. If you have an Historical Society I'm sure they would like it eventually....

I shall deeply appreciate your seeing that this letter gets into proper hands.

Truly yours,

Ruth Woodward Collins
(Mrs. Paul R.)

Needless to say it did, in fact it was reprinted in the Fall 1980 Quarterly, Vol. X No. 4. We had it photocopied and highlighted it in the part of the exhibit that showed advertisements for Wild West Shows.

Since it is four long handwritten pages we will excerpt only a small amount.

"...The celebration of "The Glorious Fourth" in this place, showed that Rutland isn't dead yet. "The Day" was ushered into Rutland at half past six (or thereabout) in the morning; at which time a bunch of firecrackers -ignited- were thrown into Thrall's office window by "Reuben's" hired man. At 10 o'clock a very large quantity of fire-crackers were lighted and thrown into "an empty barrel of flour" placed on the common for that purpose. The effect was truly startling!....

So then you get the Rutland Herald, do you? Look out then for a little "more of the same sort" of doggerel. I commenced some this morn-could not make it go to suit-dropped it and "took up my pen to inform you" -&- have now I see got to the bottom 4th page of my sheet [this letter]-after which, if sufficient light breaks in upon me, shall try to finish said doggerel today-and if I do, may be 'twill appear this week-Excuse the wretched penmanship and give my respects to Mr. T and all "enquiring friends". Write again when convenient and be assured, for the present of my "high esteem, etc."

A.B. Foote

Herewith a sample of Foote's poetry taken from a volume edited by Abby Maria Hemenway titled "Poets and Poetry of Vermont". It was published in Rutland by George A. Tuttle in 1858.

THINKS I TO MYSELF

I saw her again but a few days ago,
When Kossuth came down to our city;
The name of the lady I never did know,
But thinks I, she's uncommonly pretty;
And witty,
And clever, no doubt, as she's pretty.

Thinks I to myself, I have seen her before-
Fine face, black eyes, and black hair;-
But could not tell when, as I thought of it more,
And hang me if I could tell where;
I declare,
I could not tell how, when or where.

But now both the time and the place I remember;
I remember her pleasing address;
At a certain hotel, in the month of September,
We met in the doorway-I guess-
Yes, yes;
Thinks I, she's the person, I guess.

Thinks I, she would make a good partner for life,
But she's married or spoke for, I s'pose;
Still, if that's not the case, and if-I had no wife,
Thinks I to myself, I'd "propose:"
Goodness knows,
If it wa'n't for all that, I'd propose.

But I'm married: thinks I to myself 'tis a pity;
I'm tied, and I cannot undo it;
Yet thinks I, there's no harm in just writing this
ditty-
Though it's well that my wife doesn't know it-
Old poet!
'Tis well that your wife doesn't know it.

Madame Schumann-Heink

THE WORLD RENOWNED CONTRALTO

ARMORY, Rutland, Vt.

TUESDAY EVENING

MARCH 18

at 8:15 o'clock

1924

Prices: \$1.00-1.50-2.00-2.50 and \$3.00, Plus tax.
Regular Seat Sale opens March 10th. CASH SALE NOW.
Local Management: Thomas A. Boyle.

Exclusive Management: S. HUROK, Inc., Aeolian Hall, New York

NECROLOGY

Kenneth Fisher - died April 28, 1984. Graduate of Brown University. Worked for General Motors for many years. He was an avid fisherman and hunter and a charter member of the society.

Rita L. Bole - died October 6, 1989. Miss Bole taught in rural schools and at Lyndon Institute. From 1927 to 1955 she was head of Lyndon Normal School. She was the first President of Lyndon State College, named to the position in 1947. She was 94 years old.

Thomas Kiernan Egan - October 12, 1989. 75 years. The consummate Irishman, multi-talented. The creative juices were always flowing, very often on behalf of the Historical Society resulting in awards from the Vermont Historical Society and the Association for State and Local History. There aren't many people like Tom around. We were blest that he included the society in his endeavors.

Edward McClallen, Jr. - October 28, 1989 at 81 years. Served as a Rutland alderman, judge in the Municipal Court and from 1967-1979 he was the judge in the District Court.

W. Joseph Simonds - died September 19, 1989 at 73 years. Rutland City Treasurer for 32 years, an exemplary city employee.

PLEASE NOTE - If the number after your name is "89" your dues are in arrears. If there is a question about your status please contact the Editor, see below

Dues categories are:

Member_____	\$10	Sustaining_____	\$125
Senior Citizen, 62 & up_____	\$ 8	Business_____	\$125
Student, 18 & under_____	\$ 8	Life_____	\$200
Contributor_____	\$20	Memorial gift_____	\$200
Sponsor_____	\$50		

Our Life Memberships total 74 of which 33 are Rutland residents, 16 are Vermonters outside of Rutland and 25 live out of state.

Joanna Seward of Rutland and Theodore Munsat, M.D. of Newton, MA are the latest to become Life members.

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



Board members Eleanor Elwert and Joanna Seward will attend two workshops in Manchester relating to the Vermont Bicentennial. One will provide guidance on Planning Exhibits and the other one has suggestions for events like parades, pageants, home-coming doings.

Our society is giving some thought to having a video produced relating to Rutland history.

We have been asked by Tim Lewis, of WCAX-TV, Bicentennial Project Producer, to help with a 14 month long effort to spotlight one county a month during a week long broadcast of the 6 PM News from that county. He is looking for tips about people, places and things that go beyond the usual, superficial stories and represent the true state of a Vermont county in the 1990's.

Rutland County, as it happens, will be the last one to be covered. By that time Rutland City will have, we hope, completed plans for its own celebration of its 100 anniversary of becoming a city in November 1892.

If you have a story or information about Rutland County that would be news to the rest of the state that is just what Mr. Lewis is looking for and soon. The address is PO Box 608, Burlington, VT 05402.

KEEP IN MIND -

SING-ALONG - Friday, August 3, 1990 - Center St. Alley

REPUBLIC of VERMONT license plates. They may be bought at downtown Howard Bank and at Wagon Wheel Gift Shop on Woodstock Ave. Only \$5, they are an easy way to help the society financially. Our appreciation goes to these two public-spirited outlets.

Other society activities include a continuing exhibit in the first floor corridor of the Rutland County Courthouse which is available to the public. There was also an exhibit of postcards of Center St. scenes over the years that was displayed before Christmas in the Paramount Theater window.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 6473 Rutland, Vermont 05702

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