

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 7 NO. 3 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2000

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Page 1

**Holiday Inn To Host Rutland Historical Society Annual Meeting**

**Slate of Officers and Directors Nominated**

**Did You Pay Your Year 2000 Dues?**

### Page 2

**"Historically Speaking" On Channel 15 In Rutland**

**Let's Talk About History!**

### Page 3

**President's Report**

### Page 4

**Fall Programs**

**Exhibit News**

**Council of the League of Local Historical Societies**

## HOLIDAY INN TO HOST RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Holiday Inn in Rutland, one of the Society's new sponsor members, will host the Annual Meeting of the Society on Thursday 19 October 2000 in the Frost Room. The Holiday Inn is located off Route 7 South in Rutland.

The Holiday Inn is generously offering guests attending the Society Annual Meeting a 50% discount on their meal and beverage selections from the menu that evening between 5:00 and 6:45 p.m. Guests are asked to tip based on the full price of the meal so as not to penalize the wait staff. Guests are also asked to call 775-1911 and ask for Paynter's Restaurant to obtain reservations. Please identify yourself as attending the Society Annual Meeting.

Before and after dinner, guests are invited to view over 70 reproductions from the Rutland Historical Society which have been framed and now adorn the walls of the restaurant and lounge.

The Society will also put still photos and images on video tape from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. for individuals who bring their own video tape and not more than 12 items. This equipment will be demonstrated in the Foyer.

Please come early to browse, eat and take advantage of this free service.

The public is invited to attend the annual business meeting which will

start at 7:30 p.m. The business meeting will include reports and election of officers and directors.

At approximately 8:00 p.m. the Society will offer a program on Caring For and Sharing Family Photos. The program will include examples and demonstrations. After the program there will be light refreshments and the Society will continue to put still images on video tape for those who bring tape and materials.

## SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS NOMINATED

Pres. Helen Davidson  
V.P. Dorothy Whitford  
Sec. Jacob Sherman  
Treas. Thomas Carpenter

Dir. (2 yrs.) David Nettleton  
Dir. (2 yrs.) Karen Sanborn  
Dir. (2 yrs.) Morris Tucker

Continuing Directors are: Alex Alexander, Michael Dwyer and Angela Hinchey.

Submitted by Mary Segale, Chairperson of Nominations Committee.

## DID YOU PAY YOUR YEAR 2000 DUES?

If your mailing label has a "99" circled in red, this is your last issue. Membership runs from January to December. If renewing this late, why not add your 2001 dues in your 2000 renewal check?

## "HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society continues to produce "Historically Speaking" on Channel 15. A new program is presented each month. The series includes interviews and historical pictorial material in a rather flexible TV magazine format. The programs can be seen every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and Friday at 7:30 p.m. Videotapes of the following episodes can be obtained from Channel 15. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

Episode # 16 - Tom Carpenter hosts Dennis Charles, Civil War presenter, in a program in which Dennis models and describes the clothing, shoes and equipment used by the Civil War soldier. The program notes the changes and variations in these items throughout the Civil War.

During August and early September the Society offered a replay from last year of Episode # 6 on the Farm Museum at the Vermont State Fair in Rutland.

Episode #17 - Jim Davidson presents a program on the tour of the Mediterranean and the Near East taken by Egbert C. Tuttle and Dr. John A. Mead, both of Rutland, in the Spring of 1903. The program features selected items from E. C. Tuttle's three scrapbooks of the tour. The two month trip included stops at the Madeira Islands, Gibraltar and Spain, Algiers, Malta, Athens, Constantinople, Smyrna, Beirut, Palestine and the Holy Land, Egypt, Naples, Rome, Monte Carlo, and Nice and Paris, France.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT HISTORY!

This Fall the Vermont Historical Society will sponsor an evening of discussion at five locations that will explore the choices that the Vermont generation of 1820-1850 made as it encountered change. Each discussion will be led by historian Paul Searls of the University of Vermont. Upon registration, readings appropriate to the topic will be mailed to each participant. Participants are expected to read the articles prior to the session and be prepared to discuss their ideas about the readings and the relationship between the past and the present.

Five discussion groups, each limited to 20 participants, will read the same articles and meet for one evening at a host location. Participants may register for the group of their choice. There is a \$5 registration fee. Spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

All groups will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. (except for the Burlington group, which will meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m.) at the following locations: Registration deadline

11 OCT 2000	Montpelier	Vermont Historical Society	(2 OCT)
18 OCT 2000	Swanton	Swanton Public Library	(9 OCT)
25 OCT 2000	Burlington	Fletcher FreePublicLibrary	(16 OCT)
1 NOV 2000	Rutland	Rutland Historical Society	(23 OCT)
8 NOV 2000	Chester	Whiting Library	(30 OCT)

For questions or registration forms please call Pat Wiley or Jennifer DePrizio at (802) 828-2291.

## 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

#### Finance Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

#### Historic Preservation Committee

Ann Singiser - 773-8172

#### Library Committee

Ann Glagola - 775-1302

#### Membership Committee

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

#### Personnel Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

#### Program Committee

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

#### Public Relations

Kendall Wild - 773-8687

#### Publications

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

#### Research

Dorothy Whitford - 773-3219

#### President

Elaine Purdy - 773-6819

#### Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The highlight of the Rutland Historical Society's 30th Anniversary year was the dedication of the Julia R. Dorr Vermont Historic Site marker on 9 August 1999. Representatives of the Rutland Free Library, Grace Congregational Church and the Society paid tribute to one of New England's foremost poets of the 19th century in ceremonies held at the marker on Court Street. A reception followed at the Society's Nickwackett headquarters and music was provided by the First Republic Brass.

During the Fall the Society provided free public programs by Civil War historian Jeffrey D. Marshall and writer Joe Citro at the Fox Room of the Rutland Free Library. A panel discussion of the West Rutland marble quarries was held in West Rutland and the farms of Rutland Town were the topic of a roundtable held in Center Rutland. A workshop on photo scanning was offered by Karen Sanborn at the Society. The Society provided a singalong program as a contribution to Rutland's First Night celebration on New Year's Eve.

The speaker at the Society's annual meeting was treasurer Thomas Carpenter who shared his research on Rutland's early banks. During the meeting tribute was paid to longtime member and past president Eleanor Elwert. Mrs. Elwert has contributed greatly to the heritage of Rutland through countless hours of service since the Society's inception.

With the support of the Vermont Council on the Humanities, the Society presented programs by Gregory Sharrow on Hands-on History, Donald Wickman on Mount Independence and Ray Zirblis on Vermont's Underground Railroad. A special showing of selections from the Society's "Historically Speaking" video series was presented at Nickwackett headquarters. These programs are aired on Rutland Channel 15 and feature Society members and guests exploring various aspects of local historical interest. The summer dance series has completed its third year at the Godnick Center with James Davidson hosting and providing music from his record collection.

Additional programs include slide shows and lectures for school and adult groups. These take place at the Society or "on the road". Volunteer hosts welcome visitors to Nickwackett headquarters on Mondays from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and on Saturdays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm to view exhibits and make use of the research library. Researcher Dorothy Whitford will assist with genealogical inquiries upon request.

The main exhibit during the past year has been selected from the Southwestern Indian collection of Ella B. Livingston. An exhibit depicting Rutland's history as a railroad center and home of heavy industry drew many favorable comments at the Vermont Historical Society's Expo 2000 held in June at Tunbridge. An exhibit was shared with the Rutland Railroad Historical Society and materials were loaned to the Vermont Historical Society for its exhibit on Vermont baseball.

Four newsletters and four Quarterlies were published. Quarterly subjects were Redfield Proctor, Secretary of War, edited by Nancy H. Kennedy; the Rutland Vermont Free or Reform Convention of 1858 by Dr. Thomas Altherr; Rutland Jails by Paul J. Crossman, Jr.; and Henry Safford Fiske, artist and minister, by Stephen L. Fiske. For the past year the Society has had a weekly column in Sam's Good News called "Tidbits from Then and Now" depicting changes in the face and lifestyle of Rutland, written for the Society by vice-president Helen K. Davidson.

A computer and specialized software were purchased through a generous gift and will enable the Society to inventory its collections. Two new display cases were the gift of past president Morris Tucker. The Society also received the gift of a television monitor and VCR.

Color copies of the many historic images in the Society's collections have been made available to the public at cost and can be seen decorating the walls of many area businesses.

The Society thanks its members, volunteers and the people of Rutland for their continuing support.

Elaine G. Purdy, President

## FALL PROGRAMS

The Program Committee of the Society has announced that the Fall programs will all follow a theme of genealogical and family research. The Society finds that this is a fast growing area of interest and that many folks have numerous questions about how to do this.

All these programs will be held at the Fox Room of the Rutland Free Library on the corner of Court and Center Streets in Rutland. Each program will be on a Wednesday and start at 7:00 p.m. The Fox Room is handicapped accessible by elevator.

### WED 20 September 2000

"An Overview of GenExchange" (A free genealogical database on the Internet) - Debbie Whitman, Vermont State Coordinator for GenExchange

### WED 27 September 2000

"Practical Hints and Advice on Family Research in the Rutland Area" - A panel of researchers from the Rutland Historical Society: Dorothy Whitford, Jim Davidson and Carmine Pacca.

### WED 25 October 2000

"A Case Study: The Hannorah Higgins Family Tree" - Michael Dwyer, genealogist.

The Program Committee will also present "Caring For and Sharing Family Photos" at the Annual Meeting in the Frost Room at the Holiday Inn on THURS 19 October 2000 at 8:00 p.m. This program will offer about everything you ever wanted to know about family photos and more. Don't miss it.

*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. Jim Davidson - *Editor*

## 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

## EXHIBIT NEWS

The current exhibit of Pueblo pottery and baskets from the Ella Bean Livingston Collection of the Rutland Historical Society will close on Tuesday, 17 October 2000.

A new exhibit of the art work of Henry Safford Fiske will open on Saturday 4 November 2000. Fiske, a minister at St. Paul's Universalist Church in Rutland from 1891-1894, sketched and painted throughout Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont. [See *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly* Volume 30 Number 2 "In Search of Henry Safford Fiske".] His work is currently on exhibit through 15 October 2000 at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum at Basin Harbor.

The Rutland Historical Society will exhibit primarily the Vermont portion of the collection through November and December. Many pieces of the framed original art work are available for sale.

A reception to celebrate the opening of the Society's first historical art exhibit will be held Saturday 4 November 2000 from 2 - 4 p.m.

## COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Society representatives attended an organizational meeting of the Council of the League of Local Historical Societies hosted by the Vermont Historical Society. The Council will provide a voice at the state level representing the concerns of local historical societies. Six provisional regions were established. Jim Davidson of the Rutland Historical Society and Robert West of the Manchester Historical Society will represent the Rutland-Bennington County Region. A regional meeting will be held before 15 October 2000 to involve all local societies.

## THE FACILITIES OF THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE OPEN ON:

**MONDAYS**            **6 - 9 PM**  
**SATURDAYS**        **1 - 4 PM**