

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 9 NO. 1 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2002

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SPRING PROGRAMS

On **WED 10 APR** at **7 p.m.** the Rutland Historical Society in co-sponsorship with the Council On the Humanities will offer a program by **Vincent Feeney** on "**The Celery War: Struggle in the Catholic Church**" at the Society.

In 1908 at the death of the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Burlington, a power struggle ensued between the French-speaking clergy and those who favored an Irish-American candidate for bishop. This brought to the fore issues which had plagued the Church since the days of Bishop DeGoesbriand. Mr. Feeney will tailor his program to the Rutland area.

On **WED 24 APR** at **7 p.m.** the Rutland Historical Society and the Multiracial Alliance of the Rutland Area (MARA) will co-sponsor a program on "**The Black Presence In Rutland**" at the Society. The program will open with a viewing of Episode # 33 of the "Historically Speaking" series which traces the history and purpose of MARA and the black presence in Rutland up to the Civil War. Luther Brown and Jim Davidson, principals in the program, will be present to answer questions and respond to audience input.

There will be a discussion of the opportunities offered by MARA to be involved in current racial issues in Rutland and those offered by the Society to research, document and publish materials on the black presence in Rutland's history.

On **WED 8 MAY** at **7 p.m.** the Rutland Historical Society, in collaboration with the Vermont Historical Society, will present a **lecture and**

book signing by **Deborah Clifford**, author of *The Passion of Abby Hemenway*, at the Society. The evening will celebrate the partnership between the Vermont and the Rutland Historical Societies.

Ms. Clifford's talk will focus on the life of Abby Hemenway, who worked tirelessly in the 19th Century to compile the histories of towns across Vermont. Her work, published in the monumental five-volume *Vermont Gazetteer*, continues to be a primary source for local Vermont historians. By soliciting the help of local historians in collecting town stories, Hemenway contributed to the upsurge in local, state, and national pride that played an important role in the formation of local historical societies. Ms. Clifford will draw on the *Gazeteer* to provide some interesting anecdotes about the local history of Rutland and neighboring towns.

The evening will include a brief presentation by **Gainor Davis**, Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society, on the new History Center now under construction in the Spaulding Graded School building in Barre. She will discuss ways in which the new Center will be a resource for local societies in Vermont.

On **TUES 28 MAY** at **2:30 p.m.** **Anna Whooley**, who presented a monologue on Ann Story last year, **will present a new monologue on "Who Will Defend Us: The Plea of the Irish Mill Girl"** at the Society. This program is co-sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society and the Twilight Homemakers Club.

All programs will be at the Society.

"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING"

"Historically Speaking" can be seen on Channel 15 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 # 31 - Jim Davidson hosts a program about Rutland's early aviation history with Robert Laird, author of *Wings Over Vermont*, as his guest. The program discusses some of Rutland's early aviators and airfields and the risks of early airflight. Bob shares some of his youthful memories of association with some of these early flyers.

Episode # 32 - Luther Brown of the Multiracial Alliance of the Rutland Area (MARA) talks about the history and purpose of MARA. Jim Davidson of the Rutland Historical Society describes the "Black Presence In Rutland in the Late 18th and Early 19th Century Up To the End of the Civil War". Rutland had a number of black persons of significant achievement. Persons of color also comprised over one percent of the Rutland population by 1860. Rutland contributed 20 black members to the Massachusetts 54th Regiment (black).

Episode # 33 - Michael F. Dwyer makes a presentation on "Polish Immigration To the Rutland Area". The program includes an historical and geographical background to the late 19th Century Polish immigration to Rutland. A significant portion of the program is devoted to what happened to Polish names. It also presents an extended discussion of how to use the Ellis Island web site to search for family members of Polish ancestry. The program offers an alternate access to the Ellis Island records which offers more search flexibility. This access portal is: "home.pacbell.net/spmorse/ellis/ellis.html".

VETERANS MONUMENT FOR WEST STREET CEMETERY

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUV), Ripley Camp # 4 in Rutland, Vermont, are seeking funds to erect a marker to all veterans buried in the old West Street Cemetery. There are over 40 veterans of early wars buried in this cemetery near the intersection of Pine and West Steets. The SUV was approached by the Rutland Veterans' Council to take leadership in this project.

The SUV are in the process of obtaining quotes for purchasing and engraving a marker to be located near the new flagpole at the West Street Cemetery. Before making a final commitment to this project, it was necessary to confirm the level of financial support from local veterans groups and historical societies.

The Board of Directors of the Rutland Historical Society have voted to support this project with a \$100 gift. They are also recommending this project to the individual members of the Society. For further information and gifts, please contact Dennis Devereaux, Commander, Ripley Camp # 4, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at 259-2460.

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

David Nettleton - 438-2689

Library Committee

Ann Glagola - 775-1302

Membership Committee

Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Personnel Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

Publications Committee

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research Committee

Dorothy Whitford - 773-3219

Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

President

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Board Chairperson

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

SPONSOR MEMBERS FOR 2001

The following either became SPONSOR members in the year 2001 or renewed their previous sponsorship. Others made gifts of \$50 or more in the year 2001.

M/M Donald Adams
 Casella Waste Systems, Inc.
 Chittenden Bank
 Clifford Funeral Home
 M/M John P. Crowley
 Dr. Francis D'Auria
 Downtown Rutland Partnership
 Hugh Duffy Coal Company, Inc
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 Factory Point National Bank
 Federal Family Credit Union
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 Heritage Family Credit Union
 Drs. Alexander Herzen & Gordon Kelly
 Holiday Inn of Rutland
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 Owner Services
 Patricia O. Pool
 Rutland Herald
 Rutland Inc.
 Rutland Regional Chamber of
 Commerce
 Sharp Offset Printing
 Smalley Contractors
 Reiko Tuttle

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATION

The Rutland Historical Society made its facilities available for a celebration of Martin Luther King Day on the afternoon of 21 JAN. Two interesting interracial presentations were made to a small but enthusiastic audience.

WELLNESS THROUGH WALKING

Jim Davidson represented the Society at a local meeting of organizations interested in promoting wellness through walking. The Society has offered to provide walking tours and/or dance programs for non-profit organizations as its contribution to wellness activities.

DISASTER WORKSHOP

Jim Davidson and Karen Sanborn attended the Cultural Disaster Workshop sponsored by the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance on 15 MAR. The need for emergency planning by local organizations was effectively made.

VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST

Jim Davidson attended a breakfast for volunteers at the Pittsford Lothrop School. Jim had worked at the Society on a number of Friday mornings with a group from the school.

CLEMENTWOOD

Recently the Society was able to respond successfully to a request for information about Clementwood, a residence of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Sisters needed information and pictures of the mid-19th Century home, built by Charles Clement, for a potential application for historic preservation funds. Fortunately the Society had a history of the Clement Family which included information about Clementwood. Also, among the glass-plate prints of the Society, there were about a dozen photos of buildings, grounds and even the interiors of the lovely complex. It is especially rewarding to the Society and its clients when the Society's resources meet contemporary needs. It is also an occasion to remind everyone of the importance of family histories and family pictures. Have you organized your family history and family pictures? Remember the Society when you do.

CITY HALL PHOTOS

Last year the Board of Directors of the Rutland Historical Society decided to donate a series of framed reproductions of photographs of historic Rutland to the City of Rutland for the halls of the refurbished building. In February 47 pictures and frames were installed in the corridors on the lower and upper floors of City Hall. Exhibit brochures relating the pictures to the history of Rutland have been prepared by the Society and are available at each entrance and on each floor.

A sub-committee of the Society's Exhibit Committee met with the Mayor and his Board of Finance to review the Society's picture proposal which met with resounding approval. The City also has enhanced the bare walls of the Aldermanic Chambers with four large reproductions of Rutland's past. The Society helped to select and make arrangements for the large reproductions of these photos. The north wall has a 1903 view of Merchants Row looking north and a 1903 view of Center Street looking east. These mounted reproductions are each approximately six feet high by eight feet wide. On the south wall are two mounted reproductions. One is an 1879 view of the Rutland Railroad yard and the other is the Howe Scale workforce with the first mayor of Rutland, John A. Mead, in the foreground. These reproductions are approximately six feet high and four feet wide. The Society has also provided a brochure describing these items.

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
(Individuals only)			
Memorial Membership			\$200.00

NEW VOLUNTEER PROCESSING GROUP FORMED

In the last issue of the *Newsletter* an article described the need for volunteers for the Archives and Library Committees. The Society is pleased to announce that a strong response to this appeal led to the establishment of a third work group of six volunteers who work on processing, cataloging and storing materials. This new group meets on Thursday afternoons from 1 - 4.

In addition to this new group, a group of five meets on Wednesday mornings from 9 - 12. On Thursday evenings a group of three volunteers meet from 7 - 9. There are now 14 people working each week. This gives the Society 39 man-hours per week devoted to processing materials. Previously there were 21 man-hours per week devoted to this task. This has enabled the Society to nearly double its efforts to clear a backlog of unprocessed material. Additional volunteers at any of these times, but especially on Thursday evenings, are still needed.

LOYALTY DAY PARADE

The Rutland VFW will again sponsor the Rutland Loyalty Day parade on Sunday 5 MAY. The parade will start at 2 p.m. The Rutland Historical Society plans to note the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Hubbardton which will have special commemorative activities on Saturday and Sunday 6 and 7 JUL.

**IF YOU HAVE A "01" ON
YOUR MAILING LABEL
WE NEED YOUR DUES**

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