

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 9 NO. 2

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2002

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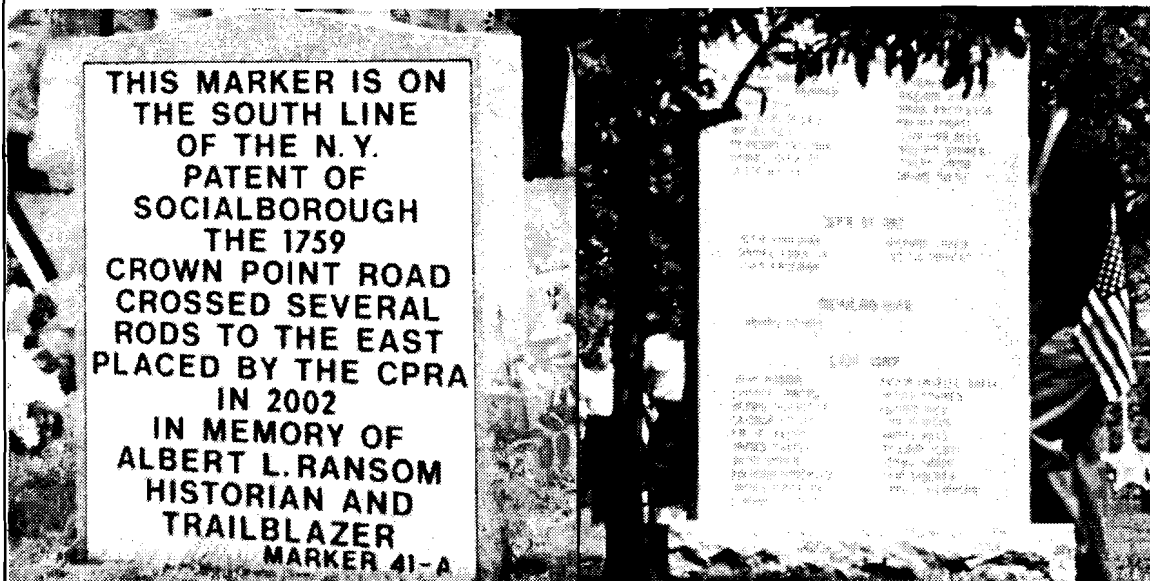
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ALL ABOUT MONUMENTS



Left photo is the Crown Point Road Association marker to the memory of Al Ransom. Right photo is the West Street Cemetery monument commemorating all veterans who are buried in the grounds of the cemetery.

A monument is defined as "something set up to keep alive the memory of a person or event". Rutland has numerous monuments to people and events from its past and recently two new monuments were added to these.

On Sunday, 26 May, the Crown Point Road Association dedicated a marker to the memory of Al Ransom. For over 20 years Al had researched and studied the path of the Crown Point Road, especially in the Rutland area. The Crown Point Road was the 1759 military road from Fort No. 4 in Charlestown, New Hampshire to Crown Point on Lake Champlain which became one of Vermont's main settlement routes. The marker is located on the southwest corner of Creek and Horton roads and is near where the Crown Point Road crossed the Otter Creek in Clarendon.

On Monday, 27 May, the Rutland Veterans Council and the Sons of Union Veterans, assisted by many community donations including one from the Rutland Historical Society, dedicated a monument to the veterans of all wars from the American Revolution to the Civil War who are interred in the old West Street Cemetery. This cemetery is located on the north side of West Street just a little west of the intersection with Pine Street.

The Memorial Day weekend was a most appropriate time to dedicate these two monuments as many folks make visits to local cemeteries to remember family members interred there. Our community cemeteries by and large are well mowed and neat. But the effects of time, vandalism and neglect have left many monumental

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"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society produces "Historically Speaking" on Channel 15. A new program is produced 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, Rutland Regional Community Television, P.O. Box 500, Rutland VT 05702-0500. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to the above. You must provide a self-addressed padded bag with postage. Channel 15 provides the tape. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

Episode # 34 - Jim Davidson hosts Helen Davidson, President of the Rutland Historical Society, in a program reviewing Society activities and describing opportunities for volunteers to become active in the Society. The Society's image as an important participant in community activities has grown and with this growth has come an additional need for volunteers.

Episode # 35 - Jim Davidson hosts Gainor Davis, Director of the Vermont Historical Society, in a discussion of the Vermont Historical Society's new center in Barre in the old Spaulding Graded School. The program also discusses the 2002 Vermont History Expo at Tunbridge, Vermont, on Saturday and Sunday, 22 and 23 June.

Episode # 36 - Tom Carpenter hosts a program on the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Hubbardton. His guests include: Grace Calvin, President of the Hubbardton Historical Society, George Davis, Chairperson of the Hubbardton Selectboard and Jim Dassatti, Executive Director of the Living History Association. The program reviews the plans for activities on Saturday and Sunday, 6 and 7 July, at Hubbardton Battlefield.

AWARDS

At the Annual Meeting of the Rutland Cable Public Access channels on Monday, 29 April, Jim Davidson accepted an independent producers award for the Society and its "Historically Speaking" series. This June the series completed its third year of production.

On Saturday, 4 May, the Society was again the recipient of an award. This time the Society received a Merit Award from the Vermont Local Historical Societies at their annual meeting in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. The award was for the Society's exhibit which was donated to the City of Rutland for the corridors of its newly renovated City Hall.

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

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Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

President

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Board Chairperson

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

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stones badly in need of repair. The community's collective respect for its past members demands a correction of this situation.

The Rutland Historical Society, in keeping with its purpose to preserve and conserve the elements of the community's past, is interested in the repair and maintenance of the stones that mark the resting place of our historical brothers and sisters. The concern given our cemeteries is tangible evidence of how we respect our past.

A number of community organizations including the municipal governments who bear primary responsibility for the care of cemeteries, various churches, the Vermont Old Cemetery Association, the Rutland Historical Society and other community service groups and individuals are concerned about shortfalls in our care of our cemeteries. Repair and maintenance, especially of the monumental stones, is urgently needed as this part of cemetery care tends to receive a low priority. The Vermont Old Cemetery Association is able to provide training for volunteers who are willing to work on such projects.

If you or your organization are interested in working on a program to restore the cemeteries of Proctor, West Rutland, Rutland Town and Rutland City, please contact Dorothy Whitford, Vice-president of the Rutland Historical Society at 775-2006 or 773-3219. In the next few weeks we will be gathering interested parties to discuss plans for this restoration effort. Later there will be specific plans and requests for volunteers to make this happen.

If you have ever commented on some need in one of our cemeteries, here is your chance to become part of the solution and not just a voice blowing in the wind. There is a need. Can you help?

LOYALTY DAY PARADE

The Venture Scouting Program from the Castleton-Poultney area built and manned a float of the Battle of Hubbardton. This float was included in the Society's section of the Loyalty Day Parade which was dedicated to the 225th Anniversary of the Battle.

VERMONT PRESERVATION TRUST ANNUAL MEETING

The Vermont Preservation Trust held its annual meeting in Rutland on 10 May. The Rutland Historical Society manned a table dedicated to the Society's historical picture program. Jim Davidson also participated in a walking tour program which included the exhibit pictures which were donated and installed by the Society in City Hall.

HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS

The Society offered walking tours of Rutland's historic districts during the noon hour on Monday, 3 June, and Friday, 7 June, as a part of the "Heart a la carte" program of the Rutland Wellness Council. On Friday a small group of students from the Success School took the tour and also viewed the video, "David Sawyer's Rutland - 1898" after the walking tour.

RESEARCH VISITS

Recently a number of researchers have visited the Society to gather material for their projects. The range of projects well-illustrates the research potential of the Society's collections. Brenda Isaacs of the Rutland Garden Club came to obtain some background information and view some pictorial material in preparation for a project that the Garden Club is undertaking in Main Street Park.

Mary Lee Dunn from Massachusetts spent four days gathering material on 19th Century evictees from Roscommens County, Ireland, who came to Rutland. Her work will culminate in a Masters's Degree thesis.

Michael Austin has periodically used Society material for his PhD dissertation on "The Making of the Marble Valley of Vermont".

Kevin O'Connor of the Rutland Herald visited to search for pictorial material for his multi-part series on Vermont life in 1927.

The range of research use of the Society's collections not only reassures the Society that its collections are valuable but helps the Society to see new uses for its materials.

SCHOOL VISITS

This spring and early summer, the Society has had school groups visit from Grade 1 to the college graduate school level. On 23 May the Society hosted two first grade groups from Rutland's Northwest School. On 10 June four 6th Grade classes from the Rutland Intermediate School came to the Society for walking tours and programs. A fifth group was rained out on 12 June but the Society went to the classroom with a brief presentation and the video program that was offered to the other sections. On 29 May, 21 students from the College of St. Joseph held their summer graduate class on Teaching Social Studies at the Society. On 24 June, a summer Vermont History class from the College of St. Joseph visited the Society.

SOCIETY CURATOR GETS AROUND

Jim Davidson, Honorary Curator of the Society, has been on the move representing the Society. In connection with the visit of the College of St. Joseph's summer Vermont History class to the Society, Jim was a guest on the college's public access television program on 17 April. On 25 April Jim was a luncheon guest of Eden Park where he provides the Society's regular monthly music program for the residents. On 4 May Jim was a presenter for the Annual Meeting of the Vermont Local Historical Societies. His presentation on historical society activities in

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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 |

collaboration with other community organizations was very well-received. On 11 May he represented the Society at a Bennington-Rutland County Regional Meeting of the Vermont Local Historical Societies at Castleton. On 13 May he and President Helen Davidson made a presentation for an Elder Hostel group program sponsored by the Homestead in Castleton. On 18 June Jim represented the Society at a meeting of the Physical Activity Alliance where plans were developed for producing a walking tour map for Rutland. In the afternoon, he attended a workshop with faculty and potential community partners at Castleton State College. This meeting was devoted to the development of a college volunteer program whereby Castleton State College students would get to explore and participate in the real world. There are numerous possibilities for student involvement at the Rutland Historical Society.

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO 2002

This year the Society's exhibit at the Expo in Tunbridge, Vermont, on 22 and 23 June, featured Rutland's covered bridges and a large display of quarterlies, books and prints which were for sale. The presentation was entitled "Building Bridges to the Past Through Publications".

SUMMER PROGRAM

On 13 August Paul Zeller will offer a presentation on "The Second Vermont Volunteers" at the Rutland Historical Society at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Zeller is the author of a book about this Civil War unit. The program is sponsored by the Rutland Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans but is open to the public. There is no admission charge.

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