

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 18 NO. 1

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011

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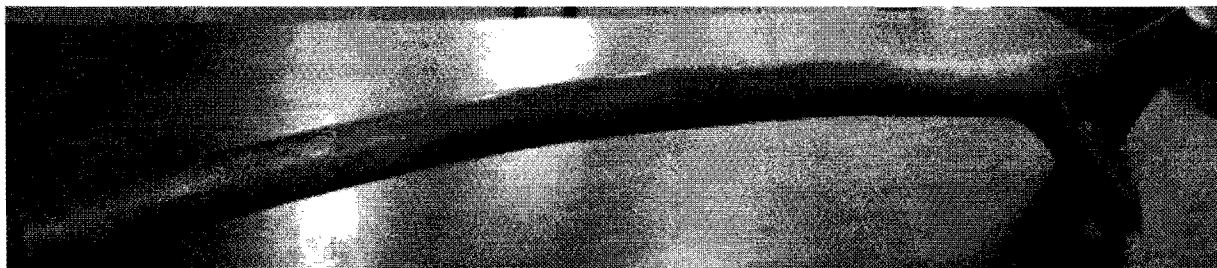
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"HISTORY DETECTIVES" VISIT RUTLAND



This club became an "object of concern" that led "History Detectives" to Rutland in a search to verify its authenticity and a potential Rutland connection.

This winter "History Detectives" contacted the Society for information that might verify an inscription on a club (see above) that purportedly had been presented to ex-President Teddy Roosevelt at his speech in Rutland on August 29, 1912 during his Bull Moose or Progressive Party campaign. Research in the Rutland Herald produced a report on Teddy Roosevelt's speech. It contained a short paragraph that stated that such a club had been given to Roosevelt after his speech. Both "History Detectives" and the Society were thrilled to find such documentary support to the inscription on the club.

The "History Detectives" program is produced for distribution to public broadcasting stations throughout the country. Each hour-long program presents investigations of three 20-minute mysteries. As a result of this finding, "History Detectives" asked if Jim Davidson would be willing to be interviewed in Rutland at the Society regarding the local history of that day. Fortunately, the Society found a picture of Roosevelt and the crowd taken in Rutland on that day.

On Thursday, February 24, 2011, a film crew arrived in Rutland and on Friday

spent all day at the Society filming segments for the program. Scenes were filmed on all three floors of the Society. The owner/discoverer of the club was flown from Chicago, where the club was found, to Rutland and on Saturday was the primary focus of a day-long filmed interview at a Society member's home.

Society involvement in such an exciting project led to video coverage on WCAX-TV and PEG-TV's Channel 15 weekly Access program. Front-page coverage with photo and story appeared in the Rutland Herald.

It will be great to see the Society as a backdrop to a successful search by the "History Detectives." The program is scheduled to be distributed in late summer for viewing on local PBS stations.

PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY

Your opinion about our programs and services will help us to plan for the future. If you regularly use a computer, please take the online survey at www.rutlandhistory.com. If you do not regularly use a computer please fill out the enclosed survey and return to the Rutland Historical Society. Thank you.

“HISTORICALLY SPEAKING” ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society produces a new program each month. The series includes interviews and historical pictorial material in a rather flexible TV magazine format. The programs can be seen Wednesdays at 4:00 PM, Thursdays at 1:30 PM, and Fridays at 7:30 PM. DVDs of past episodes can be obtained from Rutland Regional Community Television, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 108, Rutland, VT 05701-4460. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to RRCT. Include \$2.50 for shipping and handling. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information. Consult the Society website (rutlandhistory.com) for a complete listing of past shows.

To watch the current or previous episode of “Historically Speaking” in streaming video on your computer: (1) go to the Society website (rutlandhistory.com), (2) click on “Historically Speaking,” and (3) click on the second paragraph which will link you to the Video On Demand Library on the PEG-TV website. In the search box at the top of the video player, type in “Historically Speaking” then click on the magnifying glass button to the right. You should get a choice of the two most recent programs.

Episode # 116 – “Faces of the Past: Part II

Jake Sherman, of the Rutland Historical Society, provides a biographical commentary on the 14 people whose images and bios fill the Society’s 2011 calendar issue of its Quarterly. Most of the people were important in Rutland in the era after the Revolution and before the Civil War. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

NOTES FROM THE PAST

The nine episodes in the “Notes from the Past” series, originally broadcast in 2009, are being rerun on Channel 21. Each month an episode is offered four times a week. The following early episodes can now be accessed in streaming video on the PEG-TV website:

1 Settlement, Conflict & Government – The 18th Century land controversy with New York and the credit problems of an economic system based on notes and accounts dominated late 18th Century Rutland. The threats of foreclosure have a close relationship with today’s issues.

2 Water, Water, Everywhere – Water power was the sole source of power for mills. The episode also deals with the development of water and sewer systems and the current issues caused by these aging systems.

3 The Division of Rutland – The original Town of Rutland is now divided into four municipalities: Proctor, Rutland Town, West Rutland, and the City of Rutland. This episode presents the history of that division and discusses its impact on today.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Building Committee
Mickey Kelly - 773-9402

Cemetery Committee
Chris Book - 773-6252

Collections Committee
Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Exhibit Committee
Chuck Piotrowski - 770-4088

Finance Committee
Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Membership Committee
Robert Perkins - 773-0184

Personnel Committee
Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee
Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Publications Committee
Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research Committee
Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Society Historian
Mary Segale - 773-2326

**Technology and
Telecommunications
Committee**
Chuck Piotrowski - 770-4088

Website Committee
Doreen McCullough – 776-5232

President
Carolynn Ranftle - 855-8219

Board Chairperson
Clifford Giffin - 773-3743

SPONSOR MEMBERS AND DONORS FOR 2010

The following either became SPONSOR members in the year 2010 or renewed their previous sponsorship. Others (*) made gifts of \$50 or more in the year 2010:

Thomas M. Anderson	* Sibyl Kirby
Berkshire Bank	Gus Louras
* Loren L. Capron Management	Anthony Marro
Ernest Cioffi & Chris Kiefer-Cioffi	* June Matson
Clifford Funeral Home	Robert & Nancy Noble
Paul & Marian Cones	* Sanborn Partridge
John & Judy Crowley	* Frederic & Linda Remington
* CVPS	* Rutland County Diversion Programs & Restorative Justice Center Inc.
Francis J. D'Auria	* Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Lawrence & Karen Dellveneri	* Vermont Country Store
Heritage Family Credit Union	* Anne P. Walker
John & Glenda Hinsman	* Dorothy Whitford
Initial Ideas	
Lee & Mary Keirstead	

The following became new Life Members of the Society in 2010:

Thomas H. Giffin	John Ruggerio
Michael T. Murphy	

LONG RANGE PLANNING UPDATE

As may be remembered, of the many topics discussed at the November Long Range Planning Meeting, it was decided that initial efforts would be to: 1) Identify the needs of our consumers and supporters, 2) Share and preserve our collections through digitization, and 3) Expand our volunteer and membership base.

Committees were formed to focus on these three areas and they are making considerable progress.

1) To identify the needs of our consumers and supporters an online survey was developed, which will profile visitors to our website, find out what they like about it and ask what they would like to see added or changed. It is available on the website. Recognizing that some folks do not use the website, a similar survey is enclosed with your newsletter (See page 1). It asks what you like about the Historical Society and what changes and additions you might like to see. We're hoping to get a good response to help guide us in the planning effort.

2) To address sharing and preserving collections through digitization, a list of ten top projects was drawn up and approved. These projects will also drive the technology and financial plans. Sharing through digitization continues with the most recent addition to our website, the first of three original Civil War lists of Rutland men liable to military duty. The first list was compiled in August 1862.

3) To increase and retain our volunteer base, we've developed a detailed list of work tasks so that a potential volunteer will have something specific to keep him or her busy and give a sense of accomplishment upon completion of the task. Informational inserts on volunteering and membership were put in the donor gift bags handed out at the December Blood Drive. Since then we've created a new insert which will be put into old Quarterlies which will be distributed to waiting room settings where reading material is available. In addition, the board of directors has approved offering complimentary memberships to those on active military duty.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

There's no shortage of volunteer opportunities at the Society. We can use your special talents and interests to help us organize, document, and preserve our collections and archives, support our website and computers, plan events and programs, do research, author/edit historical articles, plan and build exhibits on site or online, scan photos and documents, and care for the Nickwackett Firehouse. Best of all you will have good conversation with interesting people and learn much about Rutland history. If you work during the day, we are open one evening for volunteer work, and special arrangements can be made for Saturday. Once you start, it is possible that some of the work can be done from home. Call the Society for details.

SPRING EVENTS

Sunday, May 1st

Loyalty Day Parade – Annual parade starts at 2:00 P.M.

Saturday, May 21st - Special full day of displays and activities commemorating the first Vermont troops leaving Vermont to fight in the Civil War. Program to be held at Rutland Main Street Park.

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

MONDAYS 6-9 PM

SATURDAYS 1-4 PM

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WEBSITE COMMITTEE

The Website Committee has now placed the Society's Collections Finding List on the website. Hopefully, this will assist our web visitors by providing an overview of our collections.

With the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War occurring this year, the committee has placed the 1862 list of Rutland men liable for military service in the Civil War on the website. Other lists will be added.

There are also some still photos from the visit of the "History Detectives" to the Rutland Historical Society.

Numerous other web additions and improvements are in the planning and implementation stages.

REQUEST FOR PHOTOS

The Society has had a request for any photos of the rope ski tow that was at the Rutland Country Club in the winters of the 40s and 50s. Can you help us?

PHYSICAL LAYOUT CHANGES AT THE SOCIETY

The Society has been busy designing and implementing changes in the basement of the facility that allow a greater use of that area of the building.

On the upper level (the Library) there also have been a number of changes to make better use of space.

On the main floor there have been some changes in furniture location. Again, this has the goal of greater efficiency as well as an improved look for the public.

SURVEY

Don't forget to complete our survey (See page 1). Note that the survey can be done online and we recommend that way for those with computers.