

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 18 NO. 3

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Page 1

Annual Meeting

Nominees

Proposed By-Laws Changes

Gifts

\*

### Page 2

"Historically Speaking" On Channel 15 In Rutland

Complimentary Memberships For Active Duty Members

Committee Corner

\*

### Page 3

President's Report

\*

### Page 4

Greetings From Rutland, VT

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society will be held on Thursday October 27, 2011 at the Society at 96 Center Street at 7:00 pm. The meeting, with reports and the election of officers and directors, will be followed by a presentation entitled "1957 Airplane Crash in Rutland County Gets Rediscovered in 2009" by Bill Powers of Rutland. Bill was at the original crash site in 1957 and he recounts the poignant saga of the initial discovery and the rediscovery of the crash site 52 years later. The site was rediscovered only after years of searching. The process of rediscovering the site is a fascinating story. You may have read about it in a June 2011 issue of the Rutland Herald but Bill will tell you the rest of the story. Don't miss it!

One of the important issues to be voted on at this meeting will be proposed By-Laws changes. (See Proposed By-Laws Changes on this page).

The public is welcome to all events of the evening. Light refreshments will be served.

Continuing Directors are Lloyd Davis and Clifford Giffin.

Submitted by Mary Segale, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee.

## PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES

The Board of Directors has met in recent months to review the Society's By-Laws. It is recommending many changes which are detailed on the insert in this Newsletter.

The purpose of the changes is to make the By-Laws reflect the current operations of the Society, to make them more flexible so that change is less frequent, and to include reference to policy statements that may be needed for grant submissions or compliance with current guidelines for non-profit organizations.

Please review them. If you have any questions or would like to see the complete By-Laws document, please email [President@rutlandhistory.com](mailto:President@rutlandhistory.com) or call the Society at (802) 775-2006. An approval vote will take place at the annual meeting.

## NOMINEES

Pres.	Carolynn Ranftle
V.P	Chuck Piotrowski
Sec.	Rosemary Vandenburg
Trea.	Tom Carpenter

Dir. (2 yrs)	George Bradley
Dir. (2 yrs)	Pam Johnson
Dir. (2 yrs)	Bill Powers
Dir. (1 yr)	Fred Remington

## GIFTS

We hope you might consider making an extra donation this year. Although we continue to meet our expenses, we want to ensure the long term financial well-being of the Society, so that we can continue to preserve Rutland's history and heritage for future generations. Also, keep us in mind for wills, memorial gifts, and as a charity of choice at the time of funeral arrangements. Thank you for your continued support.

## “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 # 118 – “Highlights From the History of Rutland Town”** – Ann Glagola and Lloyd Davis, long-time town residents and members of the Rutland Historical Society, are guests for a program highlighting some of the history of the Town of Rutland. The program begins with the early years of the Town until its division in 1886 and 1892. The 20th Century focuses on the town, as the “donut” around Rutland City, changed its economy from agriculture to retail and industry. The program offers numerous pictures and anecdotes by the guests. Jim Davidson moderates the program.

**Episode # 119 – “Rutland in Retrospect On Disc”** – Jim Davidson of the Society describes and demonstrates many of the features to be found on the computer disc re-issue of the long out-of-print “Rutland In Retrospect.” Chuck Piotrowski hosts and manages the many illustrations and features of the disc as described by Jim. The disc re-issue of the pictorial history offers new features including a table of contents, searchable captions and text and an ability to enlarge images to three times the original size. All offered at a bargain price of \$ 20.

## COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIPS FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

The Society is offering Complimentary Memberships to anyone from the Rutland area currently serving on active duty in the military. Please indicate on the membership form if this is your status.

## 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

Rosemary Vandenburg -  
773-9411

#### Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

#### Technology and Telecommunications Committee

#### Website Committee

Doreen McCullough – 776-5232

#### President

Carolynn Ranftle - 855-8219

#### Board Chairperson

Clifford Giffin - 773-3743

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rutland Historical Society continues its mission of preserving and sharing Rutland History. The following summarizes our many efforts and activities for the year.

### **Looking to the Future . . .**

**Behind the scenes** work is being done to ensure that the Society is a sustainable organization that will continue to serve Rutland for many years to come. We have developed a strategic plan, improved our by-laws, and asked for the public's input via website and printed surveys. Additionally, we are looking at the effects of changing demographics, technology's role in today's communication artifacts, and how to save those artifacts that will become tomorrow's history.

**Technology and Digitization** are becoming the underpinning of much of the Society's work. We use technology to catalog and produce Finding Aids. A digital format is required for today's publications, and digitization itself, provides a path to preservation by reducing wear on original material. The Society has developed and is now implementing its Digitization Plan. We have leased a high volume scanner, and a newly purchased computer will serve as the cataloging and digital publication center. Scanning has been completed for the 1868-1893 Village of Rutland Reports, 600 Tidbits From Then and Now, the West Rutland Hose Company Records, the 1888-2001 West Rutland Town Reports, the 1862-1864 Rutland Civil War Draft Lists, the 1904-1906 Rutland baseball team account book, the Recreation Department Scrapbooks, the book Rutland in Retrospect, many Quarterlies, and all Society Newsletters, and will continue with the top 10 priority projects identified by the plan.

### **Keeping Our House in Order . . .**

**As caretaker of the Nickwackett Firehouse** the Society performs repairs and maintenance which this year included a new bathroom counter and chimney repair. In winter, the city plows the parking lot and a Corrections Department team makes sure the walks are cleared. To protect both the building and contents, we've installed an alert system for extreme temperature and water problems.

**In the Collections Management area** the Society processed over 75 incoming donations of historical materials and made significant progress with the backlog from prior years. Reorganization of the basement has improved space utilization and an itemized inventory allows quick access to material. A reorganized 2nd floor has improved traffic flow and increased space. Policies and procedures were developed for processing new materials and removal of non-relevant ones.

### **Continuing to Serve the Community . . .**

**The Society's programs** serve everyone. It held programs or provided support for programs and events for youth: Cub Scouts, Christ the King School, Rutland's Intermediate School, Tapestry, agriculture exhibits tours, and Castleton State College History seminars; for seniors: at Linden Terrace, Loretto Home, and Triad; for local organizations: Rutland Railroad Association, West Rutland Rotary Club, and Rutland Free Library staff; for area and state: Vermont Blind and Visually Impaired, Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society, Chittenden Historical Society, Sons of Union Veteran's Re-enactment, hike to 1957 plane crash and St. Petersburg Times article, Hawk Hill Tours, LDS church program, and UVM Newspaper Digitization Project; and for community events: Sidewalk Sale, the annual blood drive, Halloween and Loyalty Day Parades, and Rutland Town's 250th Anniversary.

**Our Television Presence** has expanded with Moments in History, a 2-3 minute segment of the PEGTV Weekly Access News Show. Coming up on the one year mark, over 40 segments have been aired. Our Historically Speaking series on PEGTV continues with six new episodes - Two Early Rutland Films, Internet Archive, Faces of the Past II, The Rutland Jewish Community, The Rutland Town 250th Anniversary and Rutland in Retrospect on Disc.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

A **highlight of the year** was the filming of an episode of the national PBS investigative series, History Detectives, at the Nickwackett Firehouse and the Vice President's home. The Society provided research and background materials for the program.

**The Society's Publications** continue with its Quarterly (Faces of the Past II Calendar, Rutland Jewish Center, and two Civil War issues), quarterly Newsletters, re-issue of Rutland in Retrospect on CD, and Tidbits From Then and Now. It should be noted that after 12 years of the popular column, Helen Davidson has retired and the effort is now continued by other volunteers.

**At the Firehouse** there is a new exhibit commemorating the start of the Civil War which highlights the effects on Rutland citizens. We continue to open the Society to the public twice a week.

**The website, [www.rutlandhistory.com](http://www.rutlandhistory.com)** is our link to and from the public. There we publish information from and about our collections, recommendations and links for researchers, and information about our programs and what is going on at the Society. We pride ourselves on providing frequent new material. Major content added this year includes Finding Aids by Topic and Person, Village of Rutland Reports 1868-1893, 1862 Civil War List, full content of 6 additional quarterlies, 600 issues of Tidbits From Then and Now, and 20 Quarterly Abstracts.

**Research to answer a question** may take a few minutes or a few hours. Requests come from the website message board, emails, phone calls, and visitors. Over 250 requests were handled.

### **In closing . . .**

We thank the community for its support and ask them to join or continue their membership, to become a volunteer, and to donate historical materials relating to the municipalities that make up the original town of Rutland (Rutland City, Rutland Town, West Rutland, and Proctor).

And a special thanks to all the volunteers who continue to make this possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolynn Ranftle

## GREETINGS FROM RUTLAND, VT

Rutland author and Society member, Debby Dubay, has authored the book, Greetings from Rutland, VT: Heart of the Green Mountains, which according to the description on the back, invites the reader to "discover the charming town of Rutland, Vermont, through 247 antique postcards and contemporary photos." Debby is generously donating her royalties from the book to four Rutland non-profit organizations: the Paramount Theater, Rutland Mental Health, **the Rutland Historical Society** and the Rutland Free Library. In addition she is donating her own profits from the book sales to the Killington Music Festival.

The book can be purchased at the Society at a cost of \$25. Add \$4 for shipping. The book is also available at local book dealers.

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

**MONDAYS 6-9 PM**

**SATURDAYS 1-4 PM**

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. William Notte - Editor

**Changes to be Voted on at 2011 Annual Meeting  
Approved by Board of Directors on 09/13/2011**

**ARTICLE I – Section 2:** “to conserve,” added. ““Collecting, receiving, holding, and preserving” shall not infer an absence of power to conserve, to manage, to set priorities, to trade and sell, and to de-accession.”

**ARTICLE II – Section 5:** “with time limits” added. The Board of Directors may award complimentary memberships with time limits.

**ARTICLE III – Section 3:** “twenty (20)” changed to “ten (10)”. A quorum for the annual and special meetings shall be at least ten (10) members.

**ARTICLE V – Section 1:** “(see ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 10)” removed.

**ARTICLE V – Section 2:** “except as he or she becomes a Director ex-officio” removed.

**ARTICLE V – Section 3:** “by written ballot” removed.

**ARTICLE VI** “and its executive committee” removed from title.

**ARTICLE VI – Section 1:** “and any functions assigned to it” removed and “forwarding” changed to “fulfilling”. “It is charged with carrying out the by-laws and generally fulfilling the purposes of the Society.”

**ARTICLE VI – Section 3:** “If not present, the President appoints one of the other board members to preside, or may preside, himself. The Presiding Officer or Director may vote as long as no conflict of interest exists.” added. “The Chairman, with approval of the Board, may appoint the chairman and members of any task forces or ad-hoc committees he wishes to initiate.” removed. Committee appointments are now covered in Article VIII.

**ARTICLE VI – Section 4:** deleted. The Executive Committee has never met, and if needed can be created by the President or Chairman of the Board.

**ARTICLE VII. “AND CURATOR(S)” added to title.**

**ARTICLE VII. DUTIES OF THE SOCIETY’S OFFICERS AND CURATOR(S)**

**ARTICLE VII – Section 1:** “He shall consult with the Personnel Committee and then promptly appoint, subject to approval by the Board of Directors, all chairmen of standing committees set up in these by-laws and any ad hoc committees he initiates.” removed.

Committee appointments are now covered in Article VIII. “and as ex-officio member of other committees” added. He shall serve ex-officio as the chairman of the Acquisitions/De-accessions Committee and as ex-officio member of other committees.

**ARTICLE VII – Section 5:** “Curator(s). One or more Curators may be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. The responsibilities and duties of the Curator(s) shall be defined and documented by the Board. They shall be reviewed at least annually.” Added.

**ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES** – Specific committees and their details have been removed. This will allow more flexibility and lessen the need for frequent change of the by-laws. As a result the existing sections in ARTICLE VIII will be replaced with the following:

**“Section 1 Committees.** At the beginning of each term the Society’s President shall re-instate those committees currently in force and appoint or re-appoint their chairman with the approval of the Board. During the term, the President or Chairman of the Board may establish additional task forces and/or committees and name their chairmen, with approval of the Board. Chairmen and members of such committees shall serve at the

pleasure of the appointing officer, but not beyond the end of that appointing officer's term of office. Committee Chairmen shall appoint or re-appoint committee members. Committee member appointments do not require Board approval, but the Board retains the right to recommend committee members and/or qualifications for committee membership.

**Section 2 Committee Policies and Procedures.** Each committee, for continuity, effective operation, and membership information, shall maintain on file at the Society a current statement of the policies and procedures that govern its operations. Such policies and procedures shall be approved by the Board of Directors.”

**ARTICLE IX** – “for all meetings” added. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority in cases not otherwise covered in these by-laws for all meetings.

**Articles XI and XII** are added to meet recommendations for non-profit and historical society by-laws. Non-discrimination policies are needed for grant applications and some insurance.

**ARTICLE XI. COMPLIANCE, GOVERNANCE, AND LEGALITY. added.**

Section 1 - The Society shall comply with local, state, and national laws and regulations.

Section 2 - The Society shall document and maintain on file its policies on Non-Discrimination, Ethics, Privacy, Ownership, and Copyright.

**ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION. added.**

**Section 1** - A motion to dissolve the Society and terminate its activities shall be introduced at a general meeting after review by the Board of Directors. At the next general meeting following this introduction, provided that all members are notified in advance, the dissolution motion will be presented for a vote. Dissolution will require that 2/3 of the general members in attendance vote in its favor.

**Section 2** - The Board of Directors shall be responsible for meeting the requirements of federal, state, and local governments regarding non-profit corporation dissolution and meeting all outstanding financial obligations. Financial obligations include the return of Life and pre-paid dues to members in an amount proportionate to the number of years pre-paid and used. For this purpose Life Memberships shall be treated as 20 year memberships. The City of Rutland shall be given sufficient notice that the building lease is being terminated. All regular vendors shall be notified and when necessary, leases or agreements terminated. Non-historical assets may be sold or dispensed with as seen fit by the Board of Directors. Rutland historical assets may be sold only if funds are needed to pay off financial obligations. All remaining assets, historical or otherwise, shall be turned over to similar non-profit organizations.