

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 20 NO. 3

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2013

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Page 1

Annual Meeting

Nominees

Help Wanted

\*

### Page 2

"Historically Speaking" On Channel 15 In Rutland

"Historical Moving Images

Committee Corner

\*

### Page 3

President's Report

\*

### Page 4

President's Report Continued

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 7:00 PM. at the Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center Street. The meeting, with reports and the election of officers and directors, will be followed at about 7:30 PM by brief presentations by (1) John Schaub, Curator of the Rutland Railway Association and (2) Paula Baker, Director of the Rutland Free Library. The topic is the partnerships of the Rutland Historical Society with each group. The public is welcome to all events of the evening. Light refreshments will be served.

## NOMINEES

Pres.	Pam Johnson
V.P.	Carolynn Ranftle
Sec.	Rosemary Bradley
Treas.	Tom Carpenter
Dir. (2 yrs.)	George Bradley
Dir. (2 yrs.)	Ron Hemenway
Dir. (2 yrs.)	Michael Messier
Dir. (1 yr.)	Ben Burdge

Continuing Directors are: Randy Brown and Lloyd Davis.

Submitted by Mary Segale,  
Chairperson of the Nominations  
Sub-committee.

## HELP WANTED

The Society has two events in October for which we need member and community support. No, we're not looking for money (although monetary donations are always gratefully accepted.)

On Saturday October 12 and Sunday October 13 from 10 to 5 each day we are having our Annual Sale of duplicate books and magazines and material that no longer serves our mission. The amount of material that we have for this event has declined. Last year a number of members brought in small furniture, ceramic and glassware, books and magazines and things they no longer use. The result was one of our most productive sales.

With your help this can again be a banner year. Please deliver your "unwanted items" to the Society on Wednesday or Thursday between 1 and 4 PM or Thursday eve between 7 and 9 PM, the week prior to the sale. No clothing please. Unsold items may be retrieved on Monday between 1 and 4 PM. We will dispose of other unsold items. For any questions please call Jim Davidson, Curator, at 773-7525.

On Saturday October 26 we will participate in the Halloween Parade. We are looking for participants to carry a hand mask and wear a sign identifying a person from Rutland's history. We will provide the masks and signs. You need to provide only a simple ghost costume of white material. These "ghosts" will walk in the parade as Nickwackett Nick seeks to capture them. It is fun. It is simple. We would like to have a large number of "ghosts" to show off some of the characters of Rutland's history. Can You Help us? Call Jim Davidson at 773-7525 if you can be a "Ghost." All ages welcome.

## “HISTORICALLY SPEAKING” ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

## COMMITTEE CORNER

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](http://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](http://rutlandhistory.com)), (2) click on “Historically Moving Images,” (3) select “Historically Speaking,” (4) click on the second paragraph which will link you to the Video On Demand Library on the PEG-TV website. (5) 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 # 126** – “Lincoln Iron Works.” Jack Crowther presents this program on the history of the development and demise of the Lincoln Iron Works. This industrial complex was one of three major heavy industries in the heart of Rutland City. Established in 1868, it operated until the 1960s. Numerous businesses occupied the buildings until 2012 when the Vermont Farmers Food Center purchased the complex for a winter farmers market. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

**Episode # 127** - “The Rutland Winter Carnival, 1951 – 1960.” Jim Davidson presents a brief history of the Winter Carnival. Although the winter carnival lasted only ten years, it was a February weekend highlight of the winter tourist season. The selection of a Carnival Queen and her court was a community social event. Community support was great but the weather didn’t always cooperate. There is a brief discussion of why the carnival was ceased. Tom Carpenter hosts the program and joins Jim in a sharing of winter activities of the past.

• • •

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

### President

Carolynn Ranftle –  
855-8219

### Board Chairperson

Pam Johnson –  
345-0603

### Curator

Jim Davidson –  
773-7525

### Membership Secretary

Robert Perkins –  
773-0184

### Society Historian

Mary Segale –  
773-2326

### Chairpersons:

#### Collections Committee

Tom Carpenter –  
773-3626

#### Human Resources Committee

Pam Johnson –  
345-0603

#### Program Committee

Jim Davidson –  
773-7525

#### Publications Committee

Jake Sherman –  
775-2784

#### Research Committee

Rosemary Bradley –  
773-9411

#### Website Committee

Doreen McCullough –  
776-5232

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rutland Historical Society continues its mission to preserve and share Rutland history. The following summarizes our many efforts and activities for the past year.

To ensure that the Society is a sustainable organization, it has refreshed its long term plan, including a focus on its financial health. In addition to the annual grant received from Rutland City, the Society received \$500 from IBM to be used for digitization projects. It also received a bequest of \$5,000 from a deceased member's estate. Income is increased by expanding the annual tag sale and selling Society books and digitized materials. The Membership Committee is focusing on increasing the number of Sponsor members. Cost saving measures such as installing LED light bulbs have also been implemented.

Technology and Digitization continue to be the underpinning of the Society's future. Major accomplishments in this area include the digitization of all Rutland High School yearbooks (see Library Partnership), Rutland Royals scrapbooks, Nickwackett Firehouse record books, additional East Parish Church records, St. Bridget's 1858 census, Edmond Morse Civil War papers, and Rutland References in the Acts & Resolves of Vermont. Digital photos of properties from the 2002 Rutland City appraisals have been obtained and Sam's Good News is now providing us with a digital archive of their past and current issues. More photo collections have been digitized which has enabled the Society to fulfill many requests for photographs by local organizations and businesses, including the Rutland County Agricultural Society. Technology upgrades include a laptop computer, a projector, an external backup drive, and a router.

The Society website, [www.rutlandhistory.com](http://www.rutlandhistory.com), is its link to and from the public and it brings Rutland's history to a global audience 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Major content added this past year includes the remaining City Directories through 1986, 1863 Men Eligible for Civil War Duty, Rutland Royals scrapbooks, additional East Parish Church records, improved links and descriptions, the remaining episodes of *Historically Speaking*, 136 episodes of *Moments in History*, and all nine Notes from the Past programs. The format of all of the Moving Images files (videos) has been upgraded to allow viewing from all internet browsers. Archive.org has become the Society's repository for moving images and large text files. Re-organization of the website continues to enable easier access to the information.

The Society's live programs serve everyone. Programs were held or support provided for school groups—the YES program and Rutland High School; for seniors—TRIAD, the Pines, Eastview Retirement Home in Middlebury, and AARP at Templewood Court; for local organizations—Band Fans, Stamp Club, Rutland Free Library, Grace Church, Railroad Association and Show, Vermont Blind and Visually Impaired, Red Hat Ladies, DAR, and the Italian American Club; for area and state groups—Fair Haven History Day, the West Rutland and Salisbury Historical Societies, the Brandon Town Hall and Congregational Church, and the Hawk Hill Committee; and for community events—the annual blood drive and the Halloween and Loyalty Day Parades. Society members also attended the PEG-TV Annual Meeting and meetings on the disposition of the Marble Museum. The Society provided a speaker and MC for the dedication of the George Schmitt Vermont Historical Marker and a speaker for the dedication of the Center Rutland Depot historical marker.

Television Presence continues with five new episodes of PEG-TV's *Historically Speaking* series – “Who is Julia,” “Faces of the Past IV,” “Who is Frank Eugair,” “Lincoln Iron Works,” and “Rutland Winter Carnival 1951 – 1960” and 45 new segments of *Moments in History*. This series was completed with 136 episodes due to a change in the format of its parent show – PEGTV's *Weekly Access News*. Additionally, the Society provided information to Vermont Public Television and CBS News.

The Society's printed publications continue with its four issues of *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly*—“Faces of the Past Calendar IV,” “Pico and the Rutland Winter Carnival,” “The Lincoln

Iron Works,” and “Rutland in the Civil War Part 4 – Medical Care,” Quarterly Newsletters, and completion of its fourteenth year of weekly “Tidbits From Then and Now” published in Sam’s Good News. In addition, the Society provided photos for a Rutland Magazine article and information for Rutland Reader articles. A volunteer has written for the Brandon-Pittsford Reporter and has submitted a historical paper to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

The Library Partnership which began in 2012 has made considerable progress with its first project: the digitization of Rutland area high school yearbooks. Rutland High School yearbooks from 1930 through 2012 have been digitized by library and Society volunteers and are available from the Society’s website as well as the library and school websites.

In the Collections Management area the Society continued to re-organize numerous prior accessions and processed over 70 new donations of historical materials including a complete set of Nickwackett firehouse record books, a large Girl Scout collection, and the papers of Proctor photographer, Leslie Crane. Finding Aids were updated to include photos. The Society reviewed CVPS archival material at GMP for possible inclusion in its collections. The Society also de-accessioned materials and gifted them to the appropriate organizations including historical societies, colleges, and a library.

As caretaker of the Nickwackett Firehouse, the Society performs repairs and maintenance as needed. This year the furnace was repaired and cleaned and the de-humidifier replaced. Fire, security, air conditioning, and ADA compliance inspections are conducted on a regular basis. In winter, the city plows the parking lot and a Corrections Department team makes sure the walks are cleared. In the summer a volunteer maintains the small flower garden in front of the building and the Parks department provides lawn mowing services. For additional building related efforts see the Disaster Recovery Plan section.

To address Disaster Recovery Planning the Society formed a committee which has made considerable progress. Major focus is on personal safety, building security, protection of valuable assets, preservation of at risk materials, and Information Technology backup and recovery. Accomplishments are: installation of carbon monoxide alarms, documenting and posting of emergency exit procedures with fire department review, testing of extreme heat and water alarms with replacement of the heat monitor, identification and documentation of building systems, replacement of the fire control panel, documenting of the information technology physical environment, and cloth dust covers for military and other uniforms. Work will continue on the project with expected completion in 2014.

The Society is open to the public Monday evening and Saturday afternoon. These sessions are hosted by volunteers. Formal and informal tours of the facility are also given.

Requests for historical information come in through the website message board, emails, phone calls, letters, and visitors. Many of these require a significant amount of research. An estimated 200 requests are handled annually.

In closing, the Society thanks the community for its support and asks 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).

A special thanks to the volunteers, authors, directors, officers, and the curator, all who share their talents and freely give of their time to continue to make the Rutland Historical Society a successful organization.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carolynn Ranftle