

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 21 NO. 1

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

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Music!

YOU CAN HELP

Membership in the Society, as in many non-profit organizations, has declined during the past five years. Some of this is due to the difficult financial times that many have faced. In addition, older members have passed away and their place has not been taken by younger people.

You can aid the Society by helping to recruit new members. If each member would recruit one new member, the Society could double its membership. Our publication costs for servicing such an increase would be minimal, but the net gain in our budget would be significant.

Although not everyone can meet this challenge, perhaps some could add two or more new members.

Who could you ask to be a member? How about family, young and old? How about friends and neighbors? Could you ask business and social associates? Dues for seniors and students are only eight dollars per year. Regular memberships are only ten dollars per year.

What does the membership provide? Members receive four issues of the Quarterly that carries an article on a topic of Rutland's history. Membership also helps to support the Society website which continually offers access to more and more Rutland history. Both the publications and the website material are the result of the hours contributed by Society volunteers.

The Quarterly issues, the digital publications, and the free website make the Society a one-stop shop for knowledge about the history of Rutland.

WEBSITE REPORT

The Society has added "Historically Speaking" episodes #123 to #130 to the growing list of programs available. These new episodes include the riveting mystery of "Who is Julia?" and a walk down memory lane in "The Rutland Historical Society Through the Years". A full description of each episode, as well as a link to the show, is available under the "Historical Moving Images" section of the website.

The collaborative efforts between the Society and the Rutland Free Library have blossomed into a substantial number of local high school yearbooks uploaded for viewing. As of this newsletter, all of the Rutland High School yearbooks from 1930 to 2012 are available. Mount St. Joseph Academy yearbooks from 1939 to 1993 are available and soon all years will be available. The yearbook collection also includes the College of St. Joseph (Cairn) yearbooks. The Society hopes to digitize West Rutland and Proctor High School yearbooks in the near future.

The Web Committee hopes that you enjoy the many digitized resources that are provided free on our website. Check out the Rutland Directories, Town Reports, Rutland Tidbits, the digitized newspapers, and much more.

If there are resources that you would like to see or that you feel are missing, please contact us. We are always open to your suggestions. Your financial support will help us to continue to provide this free portal to Rutland's past.

“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 # 130 – “The Rutland Historical Society Through the Years.” Jim Davidson presents a visual history of some of the major events in the history of the Rutland Historical Society. The program includes significant people, places, and events in the Society’s history from its founding in 1969 to the present. Tom Carpenter hosts the program.

Episode # 131 – “Did You Know That...?” This program describes the Society’s national and global identity. It also comments on the Society’s publications program and its free website, all of which has been accomplished by volunteers. Tom Carpenter talks about some of the financial help that these volunteers need. The program is co-hosted by Curator Jim Davidson and Treasurer Tom Carpenter.

Episode # 132 – “The Vermont Digital Newspaper Project.” Three members of the project talk about its nature, its source, and its funding. Samples of the use of the material, which is available from the Library of Congress through the Rutland Historical Society website, are demonstrated. The topic of the investigation was Viro Small, an African-American wrestler from Vermont, also known as “Black Sam,” and his subsequent travels in the U.S.

COMMITTEE CORNER

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Pam Johnson – 775-7074

Board Chairperson

Randy Brown – 775-7316

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 – 775-7074

Program Committee

Jim Davidson – 773-7525

Publications Committee

Jake Sherman – 775-2784

Research Committee

Rosemary Bradley –
773-9411

Website Committee

Doreen McCullough –
776-5232

FUND DRIVE REPORT

The fund drive continues until the end of June, which is the end of the Society’s fiscal year. To date over one hundred donors have made contributions. Any amount that you can donate for this special drive will be gratefully received. Perhaps you can help during the next two and a half months. Thank you for your strong support of our hard-working volunteers.

SPONSORS AND DONORS OVER \$50 FOR 2013

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NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Lori A. Barrett
 Pamela S. Johnson
 Ed Larson
 Ned Pike
 Thomas Shortle

SOCIETY OUTREACH

In December the Society provided music for the Christmas cookie program at The Pines. On February 6 Jim Davidson presented a program on "The 1786 Insurrection in Rutland" for Rotary South at their Rutland Country Club breakfast meeting.

On Tuesday March 11 the Rutland Free Library and the Rutland Historical Society offered digital samples from their partnered high school yearbooks project at the Rutland Chamber of Commerce Trade Show at the Holiday Inn from 4:00 to 7:30 PM.

On April 2 the Society introduced their new digital walking tour for the seniors at the Annual TRIAD meeting at the Godnick Center.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday May 4 – Loyalty Day Parade – 2:00 PM.
- Vermont Covered Bridge Society Annual Meeting at the Rutland Historical Society on Saturday morning May 10 – 9:00 AM to noon.
- National Train Day at the Rutland Amtrak Station on Saturday May 10 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Rutland Historical Society will demonstrate its website and present digital historical images from the history of the Rutland Railroad.

MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!

Everyone loves music, but we all have preferences from jazz to big bands to rock and roll to Latin rhythms. What you may not know is that most of your musical tastes can be found at “archive.org”. This is a free website where folks can access books, music, and film. These items have been digitized and uploaded to the archive where they can be preserved forever and freely accessed by the public. The archive includes millions of pieces of music.

The sounds of musical history have been recorded since the beginning of the 20th Century. Technology now allows recorded music to be digitized and the distracting noises from old records can be removed, so the listener can hear the music as it was originally played. Copyright limitations prevent some music from being on the archive, but what is available is fantastic and most older music is beyond copyright.

How can you get to hear some of this music? Go to “archive.org” in your browser. Select “audio” and then put the name of a band, vocalist, or group into the “search box” and hit “enter.” The result will give you a list. The artist may have ten songs or more. Click on this group. The ten songs will appear in the upper right. To play the music, click on the song of your choice.

You may also download songs to your computer’s music section and even create folders for artists. To download, simply right click your mouse on the MP3 file next to the song you want in the list, in the middle of the page. Select “save target as.” This will bring that song into a single line. If correct, choose “save” under this. It takes only a few seconds to download a complete song. It is that easy. Then you can play that item from your music collection anytime you want by simply double clicking on the song. Of course you can always go back to archive.org to find and play the song.

If you can’t remember names of artists, put “Phil Binstead” in the “search box.” He offers samples from the 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, and 70s. From there you can find names of performers. Some favorites from the 20s are: Jelly Roll Morton, Red Nichols, and McKinney’s Cotton Pickers. From the 30s and 40s try: Fletcher Henderson, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Guy Lombardo, Benny Goodman, and, of course, Glenn Miller. For the 50s and 60s there are numerous artists such as Carl Perkins, Bobby Darin, the Coasters, and Rock and Roll stars. If you like the Latin rhythms check out Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass. You can find polkas by Frankie Yankovic and Johnny Pecon.

British big bands of the 30s and 40s have some great orchestration and rhythm. Try Harry Roy and Burt Ambrose.

Yes. There is music galore here to explore. Enjoy. – Jim Davidson

**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

