

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 21 NO. 2

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014

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## FUND DRIVE REPORT

The Society Fund Drive ended on June 30, 2014, the end of our fiscal year. It has been very successful thanks to all of you who made a contribution regardless of the amount.

We received \$10,103 from 162 members and non-members. These gifts have ranged from two dollars to \$760. This averages out to over \$60 a gift. This money will help your Society in its time of need for much required capital improvements and other one-time expenses.

In the months ahead we will be putting these donations to work on the improvements we listed in our needs letter. We have already spent over \$1,200 on some of those improvements and are in the process of doing more.

As always, there will be future needs and additional donations for these needs will be greatly appreciated. However your all-volunteer Officers and Board of Directors are not planning on doing another of these drives for years to come. Instead we will be relying on key members and people like you for donations as you are able. Please give the Society an annual thought as your circumstances allow.

As a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, your contributions are deductible for Income Tax purposes as allowed by law. Tax time is always a good time to remember the Rutland Historical Society.

Tom Carpenter  
Treasurer  
Rutland Historical Society

## THE FARM MUSEUM AT THE RUTLAND FAIR

The Rutland Historical Society provides members who help to clean and organize the Farm Museum in mid to late August. Perhaps you can help. Contact Morris Tucker at 773-7356 for information.

On Thursday of fair week, over a thousand students come to visit the Farm Museum. Perhaps you would like to help at that time.

## RAILROAD SHOW

On Saturday, September 27th, the Rutland Railway Association will present their third annual show. Last year over 1,000 visitors came to the Franklin Conference Center for the one day event. The Association had to turn away exhibitors, so this year they will be moving to the Holiday Inn for more space.

The Rutland Historical Society will again have a table at the show. The Society has had success in the past in presenting our website and selling our digital discs. Attendance this year is anticipated to be more than last year.

## SOCIETY OUTREACH

On April 8th Bill Powers provided a program for the West Rutland Historical Society about Patrick Colligan, West Rutland's Forgotten Civil War Veteran.

Rain washed out the participation of the Society in the Loyalty Day parade. On May 10th the Society hosted the Vermont Covered Bridge Society Annual Meeting at the Society. On the same day Doreen McCullough and Jim Davidson participated in the National Train Day at the Amtrak station in Rutland.

## “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](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 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 # 133 – “Presidential Visits”.** Mary Fregosi of the Proctor Historical Society talks with host, Jim Davidson, about her recent Quarterly entitled “Three Presidential Visits To Proctor and Rutland in 1891-1902.” The program includes some images and stories not found in the publication.

## THE VIRTUAL WALKING TOUR

The Rutland Historical Society proudly presents a new 50 minute virtual walking tour of Rutland produced by Rutland Historical Society Board member Ben Burdge. This is an audio-visual tour of the Rutland Courthouse Historic District and the Rutland Downtown Historic District. The tour begins at the historic Main Street Park and moves along Center Street to Downtown Rutland. It then goes along Merchants Row, up Washington Street, and back to Main Street Park. This completes a rectangular tour of the two Rutland historic districts. Photographs, past and present, are carried along in a vibrant flow led by a fast-paced narration. This is a slice of Rutland’s history as you have never seen it before.

The virtual walking tour is available on the Society website at [rutlandhistory.com](http://rutlandhistory.com). Currently, there is a link to the walking tour in the “What’s New” box on the website home page. It can also be found on the Historical Moving Images page.

## COMMITTEE CORNER

### President

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

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## WEBSITE AND DIGITIZING COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Digitizing Committee scans items both for preservation and for uploading to the Society website. Not all digitized items are placed on the website but many are. Since last April the digitizing volunteers have been very productive and much of their work has been uploaded to the website. Thus this newsletter is presenting a combined report.

The remaining MSJ yearbooks have been digitized and uploaded to the web. You can presently view MSJ Yearbooks from 1939-2013. Our dedicated volunteers have also digitized more Rutland City Reports, adding the years from 1976 – 2012. These reports have been uploaded to Internet Archive for easier viewing and searching capability. With these current City Reports, you have access to all of the city reports from when Rutland was incorporated as a City to the present day (1893 –2012). In conjunction with the city's annual reports, we have scanned each of the Quadrennial Appraisals of the Real Estate of the City of Rutland, from when it was the Town of Rutland in 1891 to 1950. For historical background, appraisals used to take place every four years.

We continue to preserve our Quarterly Publications by scanning and adding them to the Quarterlies section of our website. It is the policy of the society to have a two year waiting period before a Quarterly is digitized and uploaded. Our latest addition is Quarterly Vol.42, No.1 - 2012. This issue is entitled "The Vermont Marble Company Strike of 1966," and was written by Mary Fregosi, a retired educator and Rutland Historical Society member. It focuses on the 56 day strike by employees in the marble division of the Vermont Marble Company and the strife that occurred.

Some important new additions have been made to the Historical Moving Images section. Historically Speaking episode No.131 and 132 have been uploaded to Internet Archive. Episode 131 "Did You Know That...?" describes the Society's national and global identity. It expounds upon the society's publications and the wide range of information that can be found on our website. Episode 132 "The Vermont Digital Newspaper Project" involves three project members discussing the Library of Congress's "Chronicling America" series of digitized Vermont and national newspapers.

Although not a new feature of the website, the Society website provides a portal to the Vermont digitized newspapers. If you haven't used it yet, go to "Historical Resources" and then "Rutland Newspapers" where you will find a portal to not only the Vermont newspapers but others throughout the nation.

The Website Committee is in the process of building a Vermont and Rutland Library Shelf which will provide links to free digitized books that are out of print. This shelf will be developed as an on-going project that will eventually provide access to hundreds of books.

The Digitizing Committee is in the process of scanning playbills from the Playhouse (predecessor to the Paramount) from 1914 to 1929. The List of Rutland Men Liable to Military Duty for 1864 is also in process. 1862 and 1863 were previously scanned and uploaded. The Digitizing Committee has also started a project to scan the West Rutland High School yearbooks.

The Digitizing Committee is constantly scanning photos. One member is regularly scanning a large collection of family negatives to produce positive images.

## VOLUNTEER WORK HOURS

The Society holds volunteer work sessions on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 PM throughout the year. An evening session had been meeting on Thursday from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, but has now moved to Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Since the Monday night public hours could range from no visitors to six, moving allows the committee to do its work upstairs as usual. When visitor traffic randomly increases, the committee can provide the back up support needed. If visitor traffic is slow or non-existent the host volunteer might be able to give the Collection volunteers some support with their projects. This merging of the hosting function with the collections function should consolidate the number of volunteers required for this one evening. The Thursday afternoon work session will continue as scheduled.

Many may not know what goes on inside the Society walls during the Wednesday and Thursday afternoon work sessions. Activities include computer data entry for the catalog, scanning of and enhancing of photos, preparing and storing of historical materials, special digital scanning projects, research and preparation of materials for publication projects, storage of objects and space organization and response to public requests for information and assistance. Up to seven volunteers may be working on a given day on these tasks. In addition there are special tasks that require attention such as parade and other presentation preparations, and arrangements for building repairs and an emergency plan development.

The evening volunteers have a variety of tasks processing collections material. This summer they will be involved in reviewing and organizing our library book collection.

In addition to these volunteers who regularly work at the Society, there are the members of the Research Committee who do most of their work outside the walls of the Society.

Given the activities taking place and the days and times, perhaps some Society members might consider joining one of the projects in one of these volunteer work groups.

In addition, the Society always looks for folks who are interested in serving as officers or directors on the Society's Board of Directors which meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. The Research Committee, the Website Committee, and the Digital Scanning Committee also offer volunteer opportunities for those with an interest or skills in these areas.

Feel free to drop by the Society Monday evening, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday afternoon, or Saturday afternoon to investigate where you might fit in comfortably as a volunteer. There are many new activities the Society would like to consider IF there are volunteers to do the work. Talk with us about new possibilities for the Society.

**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

Keep our little squirrels happy by keeping your dues up to date. Please check your label for your current status.

