

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 11 NO. 4 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2004

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SOCIETY PREPARED TO UNVEIL ITS NEW WEB SITE IN FEBRUARY

The committee working on the development of the Society's web site is about ready to unveil the results of many weeks of work designing the look and content of the site. By February it is anticipated that a click on www.rutlandhistory.com will lead to a home page that offers a multitude of button choices to other pages.

The home page will offer a selection about the Society and its activities, a section describing the collections of the Society and another describing the various community services offered by the Society. There will be a message board where web site users may leave queries and other users may respond. There will be a section on the history of Rutland, a historical miscellany button for access to a wide range of historical information, a mystery photo page and selections from the *Tidbits From Then And Now* newspaper series. There will be buttons to access listings of Society publications that are available for purchase and a listing of programs from the Society's television series, *Historically Speaking*, with instructions for ordering these items. A section will keep users posted on the live programs at the Society and another will carry highlights from the printed newsletter. A section, complete with application blank, will describe membership levels and the importance of membership. A button will offer a page on donations of historical material and financial contributions in support of the Society's activities. Last, but not least, there will be a page on serving

as a volunteer and the myriad of ways one can do this. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this Society and much work can be done at home.

The web site's "What's New" section will allow users to keep posted on the latest Society news and activities. The message board for historical and genealogical queries will allow everyone to help by sharing their knowledge of Rutland people and Rutland history. It is anticipated that this feature will become a very busy clearinghouse and most valuable to the users of the web site. There will also be a page with a multitude of useful links to other sites.

Please take a look at the Society's web site beginning in February. You will find that you will return again and again as this will be a dynamic site with constantly added new information. Let the committee know what you like and don't like.

ELECTION RESULTS

At the Annual Business Meeting of the Society on 15 OCT 2003, the following officers and directors were elected by the membership:

Pres. Dorothy Whitford
V.P. Michael Dwyer
Sec. Jacob Sherman
Treas. Thomas Carpenter
Dir. (2 yrs.) Mary Fregosi
Dir. (2 yrs.) Carmine Pacca
Dir. (2 yrs.) Patty Pickett (Brogren)

Continuing Directors are: Robert Cassidy, Helen Davidson and Robert Perkins.

"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society produces "Historically Speaking" on cable Channel 15. A new program is produced each month. The series includes interviews and historical pictorial material in a rather flexible TV magazine format. The programs can be seen every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and Friday at 7:30 p.m. Videotapes of the following episodes can be obtained from Channel 15, Rutland Region Community Television, P.O. Box 500, Rutland VT 05702-0500. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to the above. You must provide a self-addressed padded bag with postage. Channel 15 provides the tape. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

Episode # 58 - Michael Dwyer hosts Dr. Kevin Thornton, teacher of history at the University of Vermont, in a program on "Political Messages in Ordinary Objects". Dr. Thornton explains the subtle messages contained in a number of 19th century objects from the collections of the Shelburne Museum and how they fit into the political climate of the early 19th Century.

Episode # 59 - Dorothy Whitford hosts Jim Davidson in a discussion of the history of the Rutland Courts and their court records. Jim and Dorothy have been involved in the organization of the recently acquired Rutland Municipal Court records and have a number of stories to share from their perusal of these records. The program includes pictures of the various Rutland court buildings.

Episode #60 - Jim Davidson hosts Michael Dwyer in a program exploring the information that can be gleaned from a photo of the late 19th or the early 20th Century. Photos, both posed and unposed, can offer great amounts of information about ordinary life at the turn of the 19th to the 20th Century if one knows how to go about it. This program helps to fill this gap in our knowledge.

SOCIETY HONORS HELEN DAVIDSON

For over five years Helen Davidson has been researching and writing a weekly column entitled "Tidbits From Then and Now" for *Sam's Good News*, a local free weekly paper. At this year's annual meeting, the Society honored Helen's contribution. The Society has been fortunate to have members like Helen who exemplify volunteerism at its best.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's annual meeting dinner was attended by over 40 people. Kevin Graffagnino of the Vermont Historical Society made note that the future of Vermont History lies in partnering with other community organizations.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Archives Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Artifacts Committee

Ann Glagola - 775-1302

Building Committee

Morris Tucker - 773-7356

Exhibit Committee

Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Finance Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Historic Preservation Committee

Library Committee

Ann Glagola - 775-1302

Membership Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Personnel Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

Publications Committee

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research Committee

Patty Pickett - 438-2759

Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

President

Dorothy Whitford - 776-1018

Board Chairperson

RUTLAND HISTORY DAYS

Rutland City community groups are planning a History Days weekend on 30 April and 1 May 2005.

On Saturday 30 April 2005 the Sons of Union Veterans, Rutland Historical Society, Rutland City Parks and Recreation Department, the Downtown Rutland Partnership and other community groups are partnering to offer Living History encampments and presentations in the three sections of the Rutland City Main Street Park on Route 7. It is planned to focus on (1) The French and Indian War, (2) The American Revolution and (3) The Civil War. The public will be invited free to the encampments and presentations in the park from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Rutland Historical Society, which is just off the Park, will offer a site for small group presentations, videos etc. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In the evening a Revolutionary War band concert is planned for the bandstand in the Main Street Park from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Bad weather location is the Paramount Theater.

Meanwhile downtown merchants will be offering special promotions. The Rutland Farmer's Market will hold forth in the Downtown Park. From 5 to 7 p.m. downtown eateries will be encouraged to offer special meals in connection with History Days.

The Rutland Historical Society will offer frequent walking tours during the day from Main Street Park to Downtown and from Downtown up to the Main Street Park. Each tour will include a brief stop at the Paramount Theater.

On Sunday morning folks will be encouraged to attend local churches. At 2:00 p.m. the traditional Loyalty Day parade will take place. It is hoped that many of Saturday's units may take part in the parade.

FIRST NIGHT

For a number of years now the Society has also provided an historical musical setting at the First Night headquarters in the Asa Bloomer State Office Building on New Year's Eve. Again this year the Society will bring these historic sounds to the community's celebration.

FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR CELEBRATION PLANS

On Saturday 11 September President Dorothy Whitford, Director Helen Davidson and Curator Jim Davidson represented the Society at an informational and preliminary planning session for the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the French and Indian War that was held at Old Fort #4 in Charlestown, New Hampshire. Every town located today along the route of the Crown Point Military Road has an opportunity to build upon the influence that this road had on each town's early settlement. Many unfortunately see this phase of Vermont's history as pre-settlement and thus not pertinent to the town's history. Correcting this misapprehension will be a challenge for those organizing this celebration.

PROGRAMS AT THE SOCIETY

In September the Society held an Open House for visitors from the Vermont Community Foundation Annual Meeting. The Society also offered a demonstration of the ELMO for the Twilight Homemakers Club in September.

In October a Vermont History class from the Community College of Vermont came to the Society for a 90 minute presentation on historical research and research materials. A Mill River High School Design Class took the Society walking tour with an emphasis on the architectural designs of the buildings in Rutland's Historic Districts. Also in October, a small group of home school youngsters enjoyed a visit to the Society with a video presentation and a guided exhibit tour.

In November the 3rd Grade from Christ the King School took the Society walking tour. On 19 November the Society hosted a Vermont History Expo 2005 workshop at the Society.

WORKSHOP

Jim Davidson and Karen Sanborn of the Society attended a workshop on the storage and preservation of audio-visual materials at Canterbury, New Hampshire on Wednesday 12 September.

HOLIDAY GIFTS

The Society has a number of items appropriate as gifts for the holiday season. There are books ranging in price from five to thirty dollars. Back issues of Quarterlies are one dollar each. Select a group of Quarterlies matching the interests of the recipient. The Quarterly calendar for 2005 is two dollars. And how about a gift membership!

SOCIETY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Society has been involved in a variety of outreach activities this fall. The Exhibit Committee put together a small portable exhibit board about the Playhouse for the Paramount Theater's volunteer appreciation night in September. In October, at the request of the Mayor, the Society organized three focus groups for a visiting English magazine writer from Rutland, England, who wanted to write material comparing life in Rutland, England, with that in Rutland, Vermont. The project was much enjoyed by all and left the Vermonters feeling quite proud of Rutland, Vermont and its renaissance. In October Curator Jim Davidson consulted with the Rutland High School librarian on archival storage issues and materials. Currently the Society is working with the Federal Credit Union in selecting pictures for reproduction for their new location on South Main Street. This year the Society brought back its body

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DUES SCHEDULE

Sponsor	\$50.00	Students	\$8.00
Contributing	\$20.00	(18 & under)	
Regular	\$10.00	Senior citizens	\$8.00
		(62 & up)	
Life Membership			\$200.00
(Individuals only)			
Memorial Membership			\$200.00

basket presentation of "Bringing the Past to Life" in the Halloween parade. This presentation has always been popular.

SALE

On Saturday and Sunday, the 9th and 10th of October, the Society held its second biennial sale of duplicate and no longer used items at the Society. The sale was again quite successful in removing unwanted items from the Society's limited storage space and adding over \$1,000 to the Society treasury.

OFF-SITE PROGRAMS

Society members have visited a number of locations to present programs for various groups. Lloyd Davis visited the Vermont Folklore class at the Community College of Vermont in November. Tom Carpenter was the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Pittsford Historical Society. His topic was "Rutland Banks and Banking". In October Jim Davidson made a presentation on "The Green Mountain Boys" to an Elder Hostel group in Forest Dale. He also made a presentation on the holdings of the Rutland Historical Society for the annual meeting of the Vermont Genealogical Society and a slide/lecture on the History of Rutland for The Meadows. In November Jim moderated a program on the John Phair Murder Trial for the Women's Fellowship of Grace Church.

**REMEMBER 2005 DUES
ARE PAYABLE IN
JANUARY. CHECK YOUR
MAILING LABEL FOR
YEAR ALREADY PAID**

**THE FACILITIES OF THE
RUTLAND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY ARE OPEN ON:
MONDAYS 6 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS 1 - 4 PM**