

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 17 NO. 1

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

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"EARLY FAMILIES" RE-ISSUED ON CD

The Rutland Historical Society is pleased to announce the re-issue of *Early Families of Rutland* on CD. This 464-page genealogical volume covers many Rutland families before the Civil War and includes over 170 illustrations of people and homes. The CD sells for \$20 with free shipping and handling.

This original work, which was edited by Dawn D. Hance, is based on the local genealogical work compiled by Marvel G. Swan and Donald P. Swan. It has been out of print for over a year and the Society is certain that its re-issue on CD at a price significantly less than that of the original book will be attractive to many.

The pages on the CD are in PDF format and allow the use of the PDF search function making for a very useful feature in the re-issue. The standard book index is still included on the disk. Photos on the CD can be increased in size while maintaining a high quality image.

The digital edition was produced by President Chuck Piotrowski and published for the Rutland Historical Society with technical assistance from the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation. The PDF was made using Adobe Standard version 8 and scanning the printed edition on a Fujitsu 5750c scanner. Print pages were scanned at 30 dpi black and white. The pages containing images were scanned at 300 dpi in grayscale.

Those wishing to purchase a copy of the CD should send \$20 to the Rutland

Historical Society, 96 Center Street, Rutland VT 05701 Attn: Sales. There is no shipping or handling charge.

LOYALTY DAY PARADE

The Society plans to have *The Talegatorz 1920s Jazz Band* represent the Society in the Loyalty Day Parade again this year. Last year they were a hit in the parade as they continually played toe-tapping music of the 1920s.

INTERNET ARCHIVE

Those of you who have computers with online access may discover that there are some wonderful materials that are beyond copyright that can be downloaded to your computer for free.

The Rutland Free Library offers free Heritage Quest databases to patrons. Many have used the Census records but may not have considered the "Search Books" option. Select "Publications." Then select "Search Publications." For example put the keyword "Rutland" in your search and see the Rutland historical documents that come up which can be read or downloaded.

"Internet Archive" is another great source for similar material. Most of it can also be downloaded more easily than the items in Heritage Quest and they are in a searchable PDF format. Just seek "Internet Archive" and select "texts." Put "Rutland, Vermont" in the search box and hit "Go." You'll be amazed.

“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 episodes of “Historically Speaking” in streaming video on your computer: (1) go to the Society web site (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 web site. 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 # 108 – The Rutland 1884 Map

[NOTE: In the last Newsletter # 108 was identified as the Rutland Cemeteries program. The Program Chairperson apologizes for the error.] Clifford Giffin, Jim Davidson, and Chuck Piotrowski were members of a team that put together the scanned CD version of an 1884 Map of Rutland that is approximately five feet by five feet. The program illustrates some of the equipment used and the steps taken to bring this fascinating map to a CD. Some samples of the CD are shown.

Episode # 109 – The Cemeteries of the Old Town of Rutland

Chris Book and Tom Giffin, Rutland City Cemetery Commissioners, are guests for this program. The program includes images of most of the cemeteries, old and new, of the old Town of Rutland. The program also discusses some of the issues and problems in the proper preservation of cemeteries. The programs for the preservation and care of the graves of military veterans are also discussed. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

Episode # 110 – History of the Rutland Free Library

Jake Sherman provides an overview of the history of libraries in Rutland culminating in the history of the Rutland Free Library. Jim Davidson who hosts the program, shares some insight into life in the library in 1920 as gained from a group of five letters from a former employee.

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 - 747-5447

Finance Committee
Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Membership Committee
Robert Perkins - 773-0184

Personnel Committee
Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee
Jim Davidson - 775-7525

Publications Committee
Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research Committee
Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Society Historian
Mary Segale - 773-2326

**Technology and
Telecommunications
Committee**
Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

President
Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

Board Chairperson
Clifford Griffin - 773-3743

SPONSOR MEMBERS AND DONORS FOR 2009

The following either became SPONSOR members in the year 2009 or renewed their previous sponsorship. Others (*) made gifts of \$50 or more in the year 2009.

Thomas M. Anderson
 Claire W. Austin
 Berkshire Bank
 * John and Maureen Bridgeland
 * Mary Margaret Burke Estate
 John and Kathleen Connell
 John and Judith Crowley
 Dr. Francis J. D'Auria
 Lawrence and Karen Dellveneri
 William and Charlotte Gillam
 Dr. John and Glenda Hinsman
 Initial Ideas, Inc.

* Robert and Donna Irwin
 Lee and Mary Keirstead
 Dr. Thomas and Linda LaPlaca
 Richard and Angie Lavictoire
 Virginia D. Lindholm
 Gus Louras
 Anthony Marro
 Robert and Nancy Noble
 * Donovan and Carol Russell
 Anne P. Walker and (*)
 * Dorothy Whitford
 * Dorothy Winke

The following became new Life Members of the Society in 2009.

Jeb Beebe

Brian Sweeney

SOCIETY ACTIVITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Jim Davidson has visited both the St. Joseph-Kervick Center and the Loretto Home where he discussed old time radio programs and on subsequent visits played samples of old time radio programs.

Elaine Purdy and Jim Davidson visited a group of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at Christ the King elementary school who were working on a cultural history project on what education was like in the early 20th Century. Elaine shared pictures and stories from her mother's school experience.

Helen and Jim Davidson visited a Castleton State College Senior History Seminar to follow-up on "Five Letters from Dottie" which were provided the class in the fall semester. The student task was to find out who "Dottie" was from the letters and other research.

A dozen Boy Scouts from the Grace Church troop visited the Society on a series of Monday evenings to select and work on a historical topic for their History badges. The Scouts came in alternate groups so the Society volunteers could help each Scout. Then on a Saturday morning and a Sunday afternoon small groups of Scouts came to the Society so that each Scout was able to record a report on video using the Society's ELMO and video recording equipment.

On another occasion Jim Davidson provided a walking tour and showed the video "David Sawyer's World" for a group of Cub Scouts and their parents and sponsors.

Bill Powers visited the Interage group and gave a talk on the Irish in the area. Bill has a number of programs scheduled for future delivery for the Society.



DON'T FORGET YOUR 2010 DUES



DUES SCHEDULE

\$8 Student, \$8 Senior (62+), \$10 Regular, \$20 Contributor,
 \$50 Sponsor, \$200 Lifetime (Individuals only)

“BEHIND THE WALLS”

Last year an ad hoc Space Committee discussed what direction the Society should take to meet its oncoming space issues. The Committee decided that (1) increasing the top floor storage space with some new shelving, (2) using the basement level more effectively, including some new shelving, and (3) exploring a greater use of digitization of some materials could meet the Society's need for space for some time. In addition, the reduction of duplicate books and magazines could also help to control future space demands at the Society.

As a result last fall the Society purchased 216 linear shelf feet of commercial steel shelving for the basement and another 144 linear shelf feet of shelving for the top floor. On the top floor half of the shelving was 18 inches deep to allow for storage of some oversize document boxes. Volunteers have been busy coordinating shelf assembly and making the required moves needed to complete the installation. Materials are now being selected for movement to the basement area where a major reorganization that includes an emphasis on maximizing vertical storage is ongoing.

Meanwhile other volunteers have been working regularly and diligently on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1-4 PM at the Society, sorting and organizing six recently acquired large collections: (1) The Rutland City Band Records, (2) The Advent Christian Church Records, (3) The Bardwell House Records from the 1970s, (4) A Collection of materials from Rutland City Hall that are no longer needed there, (5) The Burditt Family Papers, and (6) The Chaffee/Smith Lumber Company records. There is also an evening work crew that meets Wednesday evenings from 7-9 PM. These volunteer work groups average seven people meeting once and often twice a week.

Concurrently, Carolynn Ranftle and Ron Hemenway have been working on the development of the new finding list. Carolynn's computer expertise has generated both manual reference volumes and computerized finding aids. She has completed cataloging files in all document boxes. Artifact and library book cataloging remain to be done. The volume of work completed is a testimony to the dedication of this team.

Committees have also been active. An ad hoc committee has been drafting an updated policy for the Accession Committee and an implementation plan for all volunteers working with collections. The Website Committee has been meeting regularly and has planned some consolidations of website sub-features to make more efficient use of the site space and improve user friendliness. Users still average over 1,000 per day. The web committee has a number of additional materials that are in the process of being added to the site.

Clifford Giffin has just recently completed scanning the scrapbooks of the Rutland City Recreation Department. These represent over 40 years of material.

Sometimes the quiet exterior walls of the Society belie the activity going on within. The heart of this great activity is the enthusiastic contribution of the volunteers. Please note that new volunteers are welcome. Contact Curator Jim Davidson at 773-7525 if interested.

**IF THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL IS
2009 YOUR DUES FOR 2010 ARE
NOW DUE**

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

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