

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 17 NO. 3 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2010

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society will be held on Thursday October 28, 2010 at 96 Center Street at 7:00 PM. The meeting, with reports and the election of officers and directors, will be followed by an Open House program that includes small group tours of the facilities of the Society at approximately 7:30 PM. The public is welcome to all the events of the evening. Light refreshments will be served.

OPEN HOUSE AND FACILITIES TOURS

A number of physical changes have taken place within the walls of the Society. An ad hoc space committee developed a long range space plan that avoided expensive construction. The plan involved different and better use of the existing space at the Society. Most of this physical change has been put in place and these small group tours are an opportunity for our membership and the public to view and get brief explanations of the what and why of these changes.

The Society would also like the opportunity to show some of the changes that the website committee has made on the website.

New scanning equipment will be demonstrated and recently scanned projects will also be shown.

Advances in the Past Perfect computer cataloging process will be demonstrated as well as the new paper and computer finding list.

Questions are welcomed to help our members and the public understand

the complexity of what goes on "behind the walls."

NOMINATIONS

Pres.	Carolynn Ranftle
V.P.	Chuck Piotrowski
Sec.	Helen Davidson
Trea.	Tom Carpenter
Dir. (2 yrs)	Lloyd Davis
Dir. (2 yrs)	Clifford Giffin
Dir. (2 yrs)	Francis (Mickey) Kelly

Continuing Directors are Ron Hemenway, William Powers, and Dorothy Whitford.

Submitted by Mary Segale, Chairperson of Nominations Committee

SALE

On Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10 the Society will hold a sale at the Nickwackett Firehouse at 96 Center Street from 10 AM to 5 PM each day.

Periodically the Society acquires duplicate books, magazines, and papers as well as items not appropriate for its collections. There will also be furniture no longer needed, a telephone system, some media equipment, some picture frames and who knows what else. Back issues of Quarterlies will be on sale at 50 cents each.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

Rutland's Halloween Parade will be held on Saturday October 30. The Society will again be a participant as it has for many years. The program committee is working on the plan for this year but has not yet finalized the details.

“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 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 # 114 – “Two Early Rutland Films”

Jim Davidson and Chuck Piotrowski co-host the showing of a 1914 movie film of events at the Rutland Carnival in downtown Rutland and at the 1914 Rutland Fair. This 10-minute film is the oldest Rutland film in the Society’s collections. The second film is a 9-minute 1919 film taken at the Rutland Fairgrounds on the occasion of an honor day for the Rutland County veterans of World War I. The films are silent films with brief textual commentaries.

“MOMENTS IN HISTORY”

The Society has been invited by PEG-TV to produce a weekly 2-3 minute “Moment in History” for PEG-TV’s “Access,” a new weekly news magazine. Watch for it.

“NOTES FROM THE PAST”

PEG-TV’s Channel 21 plans to rerun the 9 episodes of “Notes From the Past” late this fall. These episodes focus on the history behind a series of local issues. If you missed any of the first run, catch the rerun.



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 - 773-7525

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rutland Historical Society is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that serves the community by collecting, preserving, and sharing the history of our area. Over the past year we started our fifth decade of promoting the history of Rutland in our community and throughout the world. Here is a summary of the Society's activities over the past year.

In the Community:

The Society's commitment to the community continued unabated. Society members gave presentations to various groups in the area, including, but not limited to, Godnick Center Triad Program, PEG-TV, St. Joseph-Kervick Center, Loretto Home, Boy Scouts, Rutland South Rotary, Bardwell House, The Pines, and the Rutland County Association for the Blind. For the second year in a row the Society teamed up with Lake Sunapee Bank to present an interactive exhibit at Friday Night Live. While we participated in the Loyalty Day Parade, I regret to report to you the Society made a very difficult decision and chose not to march in the Halloween Parade due to inclement weather. Of special note this year was the Society's participation in helping the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club celebrate the club's centennial.

In the Schools:

The Society endeavored to encourage Rutland youth to learn more about their past. The Society's research library was used by students of all ages. Classes visited the Society and Society members visited the many area classrooms, from elementary school to Castleton State College. Outside of the classroom the members led numerous historical tours for students.

In Vermont:

The Society continued its statewide leadership among local historical societies. The Society received an award from the Vermont Local History Societies/Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance for its digital reproduction of the 1884 J.L. Beers Map of Rutland. The Society also participated in the Vermont History Exposition by creating a multimedia display called "Rutland: The Harvest Home." This display explored the history of Rutland through the lens of its, often overlooked, agricultural heritage.

In Print and on Disc:

News from Nickwackett, the Society's Newsletter, and the *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly*, the Society's award-winning publication, were published regularly throughout the year. The Quarterly featured histories written by volunteer authors. Society members continued to write the weekly column, "Tidbits from Then and Now" which is published in Sam's Good News. The Society expanded its digital publishing by digitizing its popular out-of-print publication, *The Early Families of Rutland*, an essential book for any historian of Rutland.

On Television:

The Society continued to produce its award-winning "Historically Speaking" program on PEG-TV. As of this report, 113 episodes of this half-hour television program have been recorded. PEG-TV broadcasts the current and most recent episodes on their website for a world-wide public.

On the Web:

The Society web page now averages 60,000 hits per month and has been viewed nearly 2 million
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SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

From 5 to 8 PM on Friday July 23 the Society offered the public an interesting program called "What's It?" as part of the Friday Night Live activities. Eight items were placed on a small table for the public to identify and explain how they might have been used. They provided lots of challenge and lots of fun. Certainly, this was one of the most successful programs the Society has offered.

On Friday and Saturday July 30 and 31 the Society had a tent browsing display of Quarterlies at the Rutland Sidewalk Sales and Ethnic Festival in downtown Rutland. The weather was great and the Society hosts were able to chat with hundreds of folks, many of who took advantage of the Quarterly sale prices.

On August 12 Bill Powers of the Society offered a program on the 1957 Airplane Crash in Chittenden for the Chittenden Historical Society.

Website activity in July and August averaged 60,000 visits per month and moved the Society closer to its second million visitors.

The videotapes of all the back copies of the Society's "Historically Speaking" programs have been converted to DVD digital discs thanks to Karen Sanborn and her team at the Castleton State College Media Center.

Within the Society building a "water bug" has been installed in the basement with an automatic phone dialer that sends a message to a select group of four key holders whenever there is a water issue in the basement. A "low temperature" warning was also added to the system. Hopefully, neither of these warnings will occur but better safe than sorry.

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

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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times (www.rutlandhistory.com). The website continues to add free content for the community and the world to enjoy, including out of print issues of the Society's Quarterly. The website's free message board continues to be used by researchers from all over the world. The Society entered the social media world in 2010 by adding a Facebook page to keep the community abreast of events and issues relating to local history. It also put the Society President's address at the last annual meeting on YouTube.

In the Movies:

Images and films from the Society's collection were used for the film documentary "The Blood In This Town." This movie chronicles Rutland's record-setting blood drive of 2009 as well as the milieu of contemporary Rutland. The Society's Nickwackett firehouse and its collection space were used as backgrounds for various interviews.

In the Society:

The Society's twelve committees maintained a high level of activity and progress throughout the year. We undertook very significant projects to process recent accessions, maximize our storage efficiency, improve our accession practices, and revitalize and digitize our finding aids. The Society continues to conduct valuable preservation scanning projects to save endangered collections.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Rutland for their unwavering support and our volunteers for their ceaseless efforts to improve the Society. We encourage all to visit us online and to visit our beautiful firehouse.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Piotrowski

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