

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 17 NO. 4

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

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THREE-YEAR PLANNING COMMITTEE

November 16th was an exciting and perhaps pivotal evening for the Rutland Historical Society. After weeks of accepting recommendations from board members, the Society was ready to officially begin its three-year planning effort.

Following opening remarks by President Carolynn Ranftle and Chairman Cliff Giffin, Director Bill Powers presented a compilation of the recommendations that had been submitted. Participants then had the opportunity to provide additional comments.

The group identified several high-level goal areas with specific ideas to go along with each. It decided that the initial focus should be on identifying and meeting the needs of our consumers and supporters, sharing and preserving collections through digitization, and expanding our volunteer and membership base. These initiatives were assigned to existing and ad-hoc committees, which will develop measurable objectives with specific tasks, including volunteer effort, cost, and time frame. In addition, all committees will determine their technology and financial requirements, which will serve as the basis for the Technology and Finance Committee plans. To be addressed later are disaster-recovery planning, building

January. Look for updates in your next newsletter.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society was held on Thursday October 28, 2010 at the Society. After various reports and the election of officers and directors, general tours of the Society's facilities were enhanced by demonstrations of (1) scanning equipment and recently scanned projects by Clifford Giffin, (2) website features and recently added material by Doreen McCullough, and (3) advances in the Past Perfect computer cataloging process and the new paper and computer finding list by Carolynn Ranftle.

Presenters were happy to answer questions. The program was concluded with light refreshments

ELECTED

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.

“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 # 115 – “Internet Archive”

Jim Davidson presents a program on the Internet Archive that offers computer users a wonderful free access to text, music and film that is now in the public domain.

This program focuses on the books that can be read online or downloaded in a few minutes at no cost. These items are in a searchable PDF format.

Jim suggests some ways to search for titles to consider for reading or downloading in order to gather an astounding collection of Vermont and Rutland history publications for a personal library on your computer.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

The Halloween Parade this year was held on Oct. 30, 2010 and the weather was very cooperative. The Society presentation included Erin Piotrowski as the energetic corpse in the body basket, accompanied by Tom Carpenter, Tom Giffin, Robert Perkins, and Chuck Piotrowski. Banner bearers were Ron Hemenway and Doreen McCullough.

The parade theme of “Bringing The Past To Life” seemed very appropriate to the mission of the Society.

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 Giffin - 773-3743

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

I have been a volunteer at the Society for 3 years now, with the last two being a Director. One of the first things I noticed when I started was how committed the volunteers are and how hard they work.

Over the past 41 years, the Rutland Historical Society has accumulated a wealth of archival documents, photos, records, books, artifacts, and everything else. It has done a great job of making these treasures available to the public by opening its doors to visitors, by diligently handling research requests, by creating interesting and informative publications, by presenting regular television and custom in-person programs, and in recent years, through its website www.rutlandhistory.com. All of this was accomplished by volunteers.

Let us not forget the infrastructure needed to support these activities—the building care, the dues collecting, the bill paying, the minutes taking, the performing of curator duties, and the endless organizing and cataloging, again, all volunteer. And finally, we must note the financial support received year after year from

members, patrons, and the community—not all volunteer, but resulting from volunteers' efforts to provide service worthy of support.

To ensure this continuous flow of collecting, sharing, replenishing membership, replenishing financial coffers, and reinforcing volunteers' numbers, we must reach out to future supporters in a way that will elicit their interest and response. Whether shopping for clothes or looking for historical information about Rutland, the casual consumer and potential patron expects to find it on an electronic device of choice, and in an interesting and lively format, or they will go on to something else. Even serious researchers expect to discover considerable content electronically. This means that preserving and maintaining our own archives and sharing with the outside world requires it to be in a digital format. Of course, not all of our material needs to be digitized; nevertheless, it is an imposing task. Yet, when we consider that the National Archives has a Virtual Library and its own YouTube Channel, we can assume this is the right path.

I look forward to being part of the effort to meet this challenge.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Is it time to renew?



Please check the date above your name on the mailing label.

• If the date on your label is 2009 or earlier your grace period has expired and this is the last Quarterly you will receive unless you renew by February 28, 2011

• If the date on your label is 2010, your dues for 2011 are now due. Please use the membership form on this page.

• If the date on your label is 2011 or later, your dues are up to date. Thank you.



Rutland Historical Society – Membership Form
 96 Center Street, Rutland, VT 05701-4023
 Phone: 802-775-2006

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street Address or Post Office Box _____

City or Town _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Phone (optional) _____ Email Address (optional) _____

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

Second Person at same address (if any). No additional fee
 (Not available for Student or Lifetime memberships.)

SOCIETY OUTREACH

On Sept. 19, 2010 Bill Powers gave a historical guided tour of Hawk Hill in Brandon as part of Vermont Archaeology Month at the request of the Crown Point Road Association.

Jim Davidson again visited the Castleton State College Senior History Seminar on Sept. 23, 2010. He offered some suggestions to seminar members on materials at the Rutland Historical Society that might be used for Seminar papers. He also introduced the Seminar members to the internet archive.

On Sept. 28, 2010 Jim Davidson presented a program on "The Underground Railroad in Vermont" at the Loretto Home. On Oct. 20, 2010 Jim showed the Historically Speaking program "David Sawyer's World" at the Society for the third grade classes from Christ the King School. On Oct. 26, 2010 the same program was shown at Engel Hall for the Christ the King Cub Scouts.

On Nov. 9, 2010 Jim Davidson offered a program on "Mining in Vermont and Rutland County" for the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired at the Pittsford Congregational Church. On Nov. 16, 2010 he showed the Historically Speaking program on the "1914 and 1919 Early Films of Rutland" at Linden Terrace for the residents.

On Dec. 1, 2010 Jim Davidson provided Christmas music at "The Pines" for the "Cookie Party" held by two Rutland church groups. On Dec. 7, 2010 he made a presentation on "Immigration in Rutland" and answered questions for 6th Grade students at the Rutland Intermediate School.

JEWISH COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

On Nov. 14, 2010 a number of Society members visited the open house of the Jewish Community Center where they enjoyed refreshments, historical exhibits, and good fellowship.

THE INTERNET ARCHIVE

The Internet Archive (archive.org) is a free website with huge amounts of viewable and downloadable film, audio, and text material that is out of copyright. The text material is contained in searchable PDF files of publications from major libraries.

If you select "Texts" on the extreme right of the home page you can then search by author, title, or subject.

Once you have selected an item you have the choice to read it online or download it to your computer. Selecting "Rutland, Vermont" will give all texts related to Rutland. "History of Rutland, Vermont" will give a nice list of history books related to Rutland and Rutland County.

Forty volumes of the New Hampshire State Papers plus an online-only index can be found at <http://www.sos.nh.gov>. Volume four of the "Documentary History of New York" is filled with the complaints of people about the activities of the Green Mountain Boys.

Rare family genealogical books can be found. "The Bibliography of Vermont" lists publications relating to Vermont up to the late 19th century.

Space will not allow more suggestions, but just exploring the resources available will be an exciting adventure.

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**THE FACILITIES OF THE
RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ARE OPEN ON:**

MONDAYS 6-9 PM

SATURDAYS 1-4 PM

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