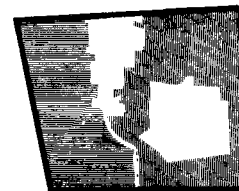


RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Serving the original Town of Rutland chartered in 1761 and now composed of Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town and West Rutland.



VOL. 2 NO. 2

101 CENTER ST., RUTLAND, VT 05701

SUMMER 1985

RUTLAND HISTORY BOOK PLANNED

The Society has laid the groundwork and is now ready to forge ahead with an exciting, exacting, and exhausting (probably) project. There is a great need for a comprehensive history of Rutland and we propose to publish one in time for the centennial of Rutland becoming a city in 1992, only 7 years away.

In 1976 the bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence and other important dates of that period sparked numerous historic reenactments and town histories including the pictorial "Rutland in Retrospect". 1987 marks the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, 1991 is the 200th anniversary of the entry of Vermont into the Union. Plans are already being developed for celebrations, Rutland should be making its plans, too, for 1992.

The last history of Rutland, which included the whole county, was published in 1889. There have been numerous small promotional booklets since on particular aspects of the city. Schools, the media, industry, planners and many others would welcome a comprehensive Rutland history.

The history we are planning will appeal to the popular taste. As outlined at present there will be four volumes of about 300 pages of text each plus pictures. The first volume will cover the early years, the second economic history, the third social history and the fourth genealogy and demographics. This format is not necessarily set in concrete, suggestions are welcome.

The core group which has planned it so far includes James Davidson, Thomas Egan, Eleanor Elwert, Dawn Hance, Sanborn Partridge and Jean Ross. Several others are interested in researching certain topics. Early history has already been done to some extent. An outline of the topics is available to any one interested in helping us. Call Mrs. Elwert (773-3417) for a copy. This is an immense undertaking but a city the size of Rutland surely must contain the talent and expertise necessary to see this to completion.

Many, many people should be involved, English teachers, history and social studies teachers, newspaper writers are obvious possibilities. History buffs, people who like to do research, and if you don't know how to do research we'll teach you. Not yet chosen but an eventual necessity will be an editor. Think about what you might be able to contribute.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

In our previous Newsletter of February 1985 two photos were printed that we hoped would be indentified. Almost immediately we learned that the picture of the four nurses was made December 1897 and is believed to be of the first graduating class from Rutland Hospital nursing program.

This information comes from Miss Dorothy V. Mason of New Providence, N.J. whose mother was Mary Mellow Mason. Mrs. Mason's brother was Frank Mellow father of Barbara Mellow of Crescent St. who had immediately recognized her aunt. She got in touch with her cousin in New Jersey and viola! The ladies are: seated - Annie Buswell and Agnes Carmody, standing - Mrs. Mason, then Mellow, and Kate Grandy.

July 24 we had another picture identifying session at the Senior Citizens Center which is ideal for this purpose. Many more individuals were identified and we were very happy to be able to provide copies of three photos to Mrs. Mary McMahon of Brandon, formerly of Summer St. All of Mrs. McMahon's family pictures had been lost in a fire. We are very grateful to the local people who came to help us.

To make life a bit easier for future historians please don't forget to mark dates, names and places on labels on the back of photos with felt tip pen with permanent ink, not a ball point pen. While we are at it some other tips to help us: 1. never use scotch tape, magic tape is O.K., 2. use plastic not metal paper clips, 3. if making scrapbooks, use the best paper you can afford, acid free if at all possible, 4. dates should include the year. (We have dozens of posters with the month and day but not the year. This means hours of research to find out.)

YET ANOTHER AWARD

At the April 27th meeting in Montpelier of the League of Local Historical Societies, Rutland Historical Society received a Certificate of Commendation for our series of Quarterlies entitled "A Heritage Recalled". These issues have been very well received. The most recent one on the Carpatho-Rusyn Community, which was not included in those submitted for the award, was also sent to the Carpatho-Rusyn Research Institute in Princeton which bought 600 extra copies.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

The Society has been the fortunate beneficiary of many gifts over the years which have made our museum possible. While we understand that the earlier gifts were properly acknowledged, we would like to recognize those individuals who have helped to build up our collection since 1980. We will try to list them as space permits, we hope no one will be forgotten.

50 items of mostly women's clothing from Louise Adams
All of our nice collection of clothing was thoroughly checked over in 1983.

Several clothing items from Mrs. Arthur Morehouse.

Rutland RR pin gift of Henry Carris

Books, photos, other small items from Ruth Miller & Carroll T. Jones.

Railroad and Marble Co. photos taken by Ruth Hale's father.

Rutland High School items gift of M/M Howard V. Smith
Ephemera from Calvin P. Otto

Rutland RR items gift of Dick Davies

Train wreck photos from Ralph & Grace Bean

Copies of deeds relating to Geo. McConnell family

Hubbardton battle flag from Malcolm Vail

Rutland views from Leonard Clark

Souvenir book from Christine Wright

Rotary items from Rotary Club

14 items, mostly of Rutland High school given by Beverly Seward

Grade school photos, all identified from Frank W. Kingsley

Artifacts of Sons of Union Veterans from W.A. Squier

Surveyors equipment & paper items by Harold Lundin

"Dawn & Destiny" posters by Dexter Davison

Family history update from John A. Russell

19 items, mostly photos, by R.E. West

7 Rutland school items from Mrs. Richard Thomas

Items from Bardwell, gift of then owner

YMCA team photo from F.A. Field, Jr.

City Fire team photo by James Boss

2 framed photos by Howard Bank

Scrapbook by Mary Lyman

Mail train sign by Margaret Thomas

17 Maple Grove Farm items by Ruth Miller & Carroll Jones

10 Rutland Community Club items by Vera Perkins

Photo from Bertha & Ernestine St. Arnold

Photo & Book by Jim Shaughnessy

9 copies of class papers from Middlebury College students in Prof D. Cockrell's class

46th Infantry roster by Ken Crosby

History of James Mead from Marjorie Erickson

Masonic photo from Molly King

Tray & sheet music from Bob Branchaud

Clock from Rutland RR office from Hope Hubbard

Periwinkle by JCRD gift of Robert Myers

3 scrapbooks of Rutland Historical Society doings compiled by Louise Adams

Sign, photo & bank money bag by Robert West

Rutland RR photo from Mrs. Ed Keith

" " time table from Fred Zimmer

7 items given by Mrs. Alice M.E. Smith

19 items gift of Alfred H. Catozzi

Warranty deed from Flora Weeks

Photos of Center St Alley construction from Guy Paradee

Bank money bag by Umberto Trinci

Collection of family pictures by Mrs. E.F. Kellaway

Chamber of Commerce collection of photos

A duster & 2 other items by Sanborn Partridge

The above list with many more items either purchased or from unknown donors brings the acquisitions from 1980 through 1982. We are most grateful to you who keep our needs in mind. In connection with our history book Mrs. Dawn Hance is anxious to know of family histories, diaries, deeds, photos up to 1890.



We know who HE is, who, when, where are the others?

PATCH SISTERS PATCHWORK QUILTS

Patchwork quilts made by Iona and Doris Patch have been displayed in Paula's Fabrics show windows. The creative use of the brightly colored fabrics showed the homes each of the sisters and their families lived in over the years. The quilts are hand quilted and took two years to make during winters spent in Florida.

Because of the structural condition of the city owned museum building we are not having exhibits there. Finding suitable exhibit space around town is quite a problem.

ORAL HISTORY

We are planning to have an Oral History Workshop in September with Dr. Holman Jordan of Castleton College. This is an important aspect of modern historical practice. There must be members of the Society who would find this more appealing perhaps than other activities.

The Society owns two tape recorders, we have how-to books on the subject and a list of people who should be interviewed before it is too late. Additions to the interviewee list are welcome. This project would add significantly to our historical record.



Do you know these people? The photo was taken at Charles Moore's Studio, 21½ Center St., which was there in 1897 or earlier.

THEATER QUESTIONNAIRE

Recently we received a request for detailed information about the extant theaters in Rutland that were built before 1915 and thus intended for live performances. At present only one is likely to return to such use, the Paramount, originally the Playhouse. The Opera House, Colonial, Strand and the Grand or Movieland are still standing with only the Opera House recognizable as a theater. The Grand, now in the process of being restored on the outside to its 1930 appearance, will contain office space.

The request for this information came from two mid-western professors who are preparing a directory of historic American theaters to be published in 1987. The two page questionnaire asked for detailed information on physical measurements and for who, what and when in regard to performances.

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"Digging Up the Past" by Prudence Doherty will be the summer issue. It is about the "dig" at the Wright-Roberts site in West Rutland. Ms. Doherty, now living in Maine, was in the consulting archeology program at the University of Vermont.



Who is she? Photo taken at the Lumberjack Roundup, Aug. 24, 1966. Perry Merrill was also in the original photo.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In the winter issue of this Newsletter we listed 48 Life Members. New members in that category are:

Edward M. Gartner
Robert C. Kinney
Janet B. Merrill
R. Virginia Gregory

Former Life Members (now deceased)

Hannibal Hodges
John E. Rogers
Richard M. Ryan
Helen R. Sheldon
Beth R. Smith
Carleton Wilson
Christine B. Wright

Memorial Memberships in the Names of:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Berenice Tuttle | given 23 June 1981 |
| George J. Covalt | " 5 Jan. 1985 |
| Herman K. Sherburne | " 5 Jan. 1985 |
| Donald Ross | " 10 June 1985 |

Sponsor Memberships as of August 1, 1985

Helvi H. Abatiell
Wm. Samuel Bunge
Donald F. Cecere
Leonard R. Clark
Robert B. Eastman
Thomas K. Egan
Gregory H. Ellis
Eleanor J. Elwert
Joseph A. Giancola
Ann L. Glagola
Jean Ollice Harvey
Rosemary Thompson Heffernan
Marion S. Loveland
Edward N. Mann
Thomas George McConnell
J.F. O'Shea
Victor J. Pisanelli, Sr.
Rutland Fire Clay Co.
Anne R. Sarcka
Ethel P. Sevigny

#1 WEATHER HISTORIAN

David M. Ludlum, America's foremost weather historian, will be the speaker at our August meeting at the Senior Citizens Center on Deer St. August 12 at 7:30 P.M., refreshments after. All are welcome and the Center is handicapped accessible. If you just cannot come the 12th Dr. Ludlum will be speaking in Castleton at the Free Library at 7:30 P.M., August 8. He will speak in Wallingford, August 27, 8 P.M. at the Town Hall. Don't miss his program.

Gordon B. Smith
Charles Fyfe Stewart
Charles E. Tuttle
Elizabeth K. Wild
Leonard F. Wing, Jr.

The dues categories follow:

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Sustaining..... | \$100 |
| Sponsor..... | 25 |
| Contributing..... | 15 |
| Single..... | 5 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Life membership..... | \$125 |
| Memorial " | 150 |

All are fully tax deductible. Any interested person may join by sending a check payable to the Rutland Historical Society to:

Sanborn Partridge, Treasurer
62 Ormsbee Av., Proctor, VT

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 8 - David Ludlum in Castleton
August 12 David Ludlum in Rutland
August 27 David Ludlum in Wallingford
August 8,9,10 "Wizard of Oz" in Rutland
August 15,16,17 " " " "
Fair Week - Farm Museum open
Mid September - Oral History workshop
October 16 - RHS Annual Meeting

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

101 Center Street
Rutland, Vermont 05701

FORWARDING AND

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