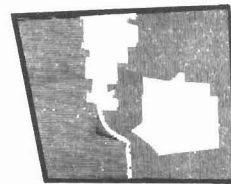


# RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

## Newsletter



VOL. 3 NO. 1

101 CENTER ST., RUTLAND, VT 05701

SUMMER 1986

### Collections Survey Project

Rutland Historical Society was one of eleven institutions selected to participate in the first round of the Statewide Collections Survey Project which is sponsored by the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance in collaboration with the Vermont Council on the Arts and the Williamstown Regional Art Conservation Laboratory and Bennington Museum.

Funded by \$12,000 from several foundations in addition to a \$5,000 challenge RHS had to provide only \$250 as its part of the project. Our costume collection, our decorative arts and the Farm Museum were studied by three experts who later wrote detailed reports on the value and uniqueness of our collections, on how to care for them and, especially, excellent suggestions on future operations.

Nancy Rexford of the Northampton Historical Society, an expert on period clothing, was very helpful in dating our costumes, identifying materials and explaining how some of the garments were used. In addition she made many valuable suggestions on our operation as a historical society.

Following her suggestions Ann Glagola and Eleanor Elwert completely redid the collection. All garments were photographed, put back into boxes that were lined with acid free paper and had acid free tissue paper between the folds. All of Mrs. Rexford's comments were tape recorded and have been typed by John Glagola who had difficulty with terms like Watteau trains and fichus and other unfamiliar words. We are very grateful to him for all this detailed work.

William Hosley, a member of the staff of the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford reviewed our small decorative arts collection and had many very helpful observations and suggestions.

Scott Hastings, Jr. who was involved with setting up the Billings Farm Museum in Woodstock, visited our Farm Museum buildings at the fairgrounds. Establishing who actually owned the items, weeding out duplicates, cataloguing everything, making new display arrangements and filling in some gaps in household objects were among the improvements he proposed.

Since the Farm Museum is the only exhibit we can open to the public and the public is indeed interested in it we will have to devise some way to put Mr. Hastings suggestions to work. Any ideas dear readers?

### Gravestone in Clarendon

Just a short distance south of Rutland in the town of North Clarendon, is the Phil Pinkowski farm. Formerly owned by "Tip" Howley, it is located on the corner of the Alfreacha and so-called Middle Roads. In a field behind the farm lies Lt. Colonel Joseph Wait, supposedly the first Revolutionary soldier to be buried in Vermont. He fought in the French and Indian Wars as well as the American Revolution.

As a Lieutenant Colonel in the Continental Army, he was ordered with the Green Mountain Boys to frontier duty on Lake Champlain and Canada. In a severe skirmish he was wounded in the head. His men attempted to carry him to his home in Claremont, N.H., but he died on the way in Clarendon.

Though the war was still on, his "Brethern in Arms" took the time to erect a quaint marble monument with a beautifully carved soldier in his tricorne hat, Continental coat, and tight breeches, and the legend below stating:

"Our Common Country  
Claims Our Aid:  
Living or Dying  
I Will Defend It."

The inscription on the back of the stone states:

"To Perpetuate the Memory of  
Lt. Col. Joseph Wait  
An Officer in the American Revolutionary  
War who died on his return  
from an Expedition into Canada  
Sept. 1776.  
This stone is erected in Testimony  
of Respect by his Brethern  
in Arms."

Condensed by Barbara Hood from an article in "Vermont Life" by Inez Waite Seaver.

The Rutland Air Fair, held June 14-15 was an extremely popular event organized by the Chamber of Commerce particularly to celebrate the new terminal building and many other improvements to the Rutland airport. Fred Elwert, a former president of the RHS was asked to put together an exhibit showing the early days of flight in this area. Fitting right in with the theme was the last Quarterly of 1985, the story of George Schmitt, a pioneer aviator from Rutland.

# Tidbits

Several donations and inquiries from out of state this summer have revealed some interesting tidbits of information about Rutland that we were completely unaware of.

John Prendergast of Indianapolis is researching the life of Andrew J. Morrison who worked as a mail route agent on the Delaware and Hudson RR between Rutland and Troy for 35 years. Morrison was an accomplished wood carver who made stamps from wood which he used in canceling the mail.

Mr. Prendergast turned to us to find out where Mr. Morrison lived since the P.O. Dept., the National Archives, government military and pension records and New York and local archives could not turn up a clue. Knowing the approximate date we found the answer in the second copy of the city directory that we consulted. He boarded at the Bardwell.

Mr. Morrison was born in Argyle, N.Y. in 1831. In 1861 he raised a regiment of cavalry and spent two years fighting numerous battles in the Civil War as colonel of his regiment and later as colonel of the 3rd N.J. Cavalry.

Another surprise came by way of a phone call to the Rutland Free Library from an 86 year old lady in Louisville, KY. She was offering a Civil War uniform belonging to Capt. Edward A. Morse to the local historical society. Capt. Morse at one time lived in the Moses Strong mansion at 61 South Main St.

When the items arrived the uniform turned out to be a child's replica of a Civil War uniform coat and cap. She also sent many documents attesting to Capt. Morse's service in the Civil War primarily as Ass't Quartermaster of Volunteers in New Orleans.

In addition there was a charming photo of a young girl in bridal attire and a young boy in a similar uniform. With our curiosity aroused we decided to phone the lady to find out what connection she had to Rutland. Her name is Mrs. Howland Wentworth and her sister was married to descendant of Capt. Morse. Mrs. Wentworth, who is moving to a retirement home, remembered many well known family names from her visits here in the 40's.

Among the papers was a copy of the New Orleans paper "The Era" of Aug. 14, 1863 which tells in detail of the reopening of the Opelousas RR. The RR was of "immense importance to the succesful operation of the Union forces against the rebels in the Teche country...."



RESIDENCE OF WAYNE BAILEY.

This house was owned by Wayne Bailey who was register of Probate and President of the Rutland Savings Bank. Built in late 1890's.

Where were these two houses each other? Notice the mark aid in alighting from a car kept the yard on the left

"We will now attempt to give an idea of the perfectly herculean labor Capt. Morse performed since the road has been under his charge....Capt. Morse was appointed Superintendent (July 25).... with indomitable energy and that greatest of all smoothers of obstacles, system, Capt. Morse went to work, and in thirteen days the labor was ended and the entire track in excellent condition from end to end.

"...Capt. Morse has already systematized the working of the different departments of the road, and under his government will soon prove a source of revenue - and no small one either - to the U.S., aside from the immense saving in labor and money in the way of transportation.

Success to Capt. Morse."

Rev. William Wolkovich of Norwood, MA is doing a study of the first 50 years of the Poles in West Rutland. He wanted to know if three men who were involved in the marble strikes in 1935 and 1936 were pardoned. In our "Heritage Recalled" series there was very little on the Polish people so this may well fill the gap.

Another military item arrived early in August, a ceremonial sword that belonged to Major John Conline who was born in Rutland and graduated from Rutland High School. It was not, of course, the high school as we know it today. Conline was on his own at this early age.

Conline served as a private of Vermont Volunteers May-August 1861 and March 1862-September 1863 being engaged in various battles and operations of the Army of the Potomac in Virginia, Peninsular, Maryland, Rappahannock and Pennsylvania campaigns. He was a cadet at West Point from September 9, 1863 to June 15, 1870. In fact he had to appeal directly to the President to be able to stay at West Point far beyond the usual course time. His military service was mostly in the far west. This information was found and sent to us by John Conwell Stolz, M.D. of Fleetwood, PA who is also active in his local historical society.

- We hope to be able to make arrangements with
- the city soon in regard to the use of Nickwackett
- Fire House by the Society instead of 101 Center St. ■



RESIDENCE OF W. D. HULETT.

s which were next door to  
le stepping stone as an  
raige. Note how well  
s.

This house was owned by W.D. Hulett. During the 1950's it was owned by Donald and Martha DePoy. Did you guess where it was? See back page for answer.

## Dates to Remember

Oct. 15 Rutland Historical Society Annual Meeting at the Senior Citizens Center off Deer St. and Woodstock Ave. at 7:30 P.M. Cider and doughnuts for refreshments. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

"Horns and Harmony - Music in Vermont Communities in the 19th Century" is the title of the talk by Michael Sherman, Director of the Vermont Historical Society. New to Vermont but with 15 months on the job as the Director it is a pleasure to welcome Mr. Sherman to the Rutland community.

Oct. 17 West Rutland Centennial Celebration. There  
Oct. 18 will be some interesting events to celebrate the anniversary. All are welcome to attend. Watch the Herald for details.

Nov. 15 "Out of Our Hands: Technology and Change in Vermont Decorative Arts, 1760-1920" Speaker is Philip Elwert, Deputy Director and Curator of the Vermont Historical Society. This talk is an out-growth of the Vermont Interiors Project coordinated by VHS which, it is hoped, will become a major contribution to Vermont's Bicentennial celebration in 1991. This program will be at 2 P.M. at the Nella Grimm Fox Room at the Library. Refreshments will be served.

4th Thursday of the Month - Rutland History Book Meetings, places to be announced. If you are interested in helping with the research and writing of our planned 4 volume history of Rutland to be published in time for the city's centennial in November 1992 please give your name to Dawn Hance, 62 Killington Ave. or Eleanor Elwert, 19 Crescent St.

LATE FLASH! LATE FLASH! Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7:30 PM PROCTOR will mark the Centennial of its existence as a municipality. Watch Herald for details.

The Sing-along, Aug. 1st was rained into the Christ the King school hall but was fun anyway.

## First Center Rutland School

In 1892 Rutland became a chartered city and as the School Directors of the Town of Rutland assumed control of the schools in March of 1893, arrangements had to be made for educating its students.

The division of the town left Center Rutland without a school building and so arrangements had to be made for students to attend the District 11 Schoolhouse (now the Rutland Town Municipal Building and formerly Center Rutland School). The Town of Rutland paid the City of Rutland \$300 for tuition for that term.

On September 4, 1893 a contract was signed in which the Town of Rutland agreed to pay "such portion of the expenses of the school as the total attendance of the town scholars bears to the total attendance of all scholars".

The 1894 legislature voted back to the Town of Rutland a portion of land which included the Center Rutland School and under that act the school became the property of the Town of Rutland. The school budget for the Town of Rutland School District for the year ending February 10, 1905 was \$3,675.90. Salary for Anna R. Maughan for 12 weeks teaching was \$96.

Leonard Johnson

## YET ANOTHER AWARD

The Society submitted our Quarterly on "George Schmitt, Pioneer Aviator" in the Publications category of the Vermont Historical Society's Local Society Awards Program last April. Quite frankly we were pleasantly surprised to be given the Award of Merit which is for an original scholarly work that adds to the knowledge of the locale. Thomas B. McDevitt was the author and Jean Ross was the Managing Editor.

That issue was reviewed in the state and national philatelic journals and was ordered by a number of people throughout the country.

- The houses were No. 31 and No. 33 North Main St. and in March 1958 gave way to the A & P store which has since given way to CVS pharmacy.

## RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

101 Center Street  
Rutland, Vermont 05701

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