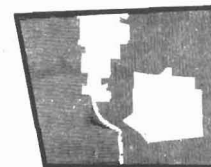


RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Newsletter



VOL. 4 NO. 1

101 CENTER ST., RUTLAND, VT 05701

WINTER 1987

Recent Gift Books

- "Twentieth Century Brass Instruments in the United States" by Richard J. Dundas, 1986. This book was donated by the author, a former president of Castleton State College. Copies may be obtained from Dr. Dundas who lives in Rutland.

"This is a fascinating book by the Rutland author, well known for his interest in and knowledge of brass instruments. Readers will be amazed at the number and varieties of trumpets, French horns and other brass instruments. There are numerous illustrations to accompany Dr. Dundas' well-written text. The book is attractively printed on good quality, heavy paper.

The introduction traces the development of brass instruments beginning with the crude natural horns. Instruments of thirty-one manufacturers and distributors are described (some are foreign manufacturers with American distributors), with a brief history of each company and their founders, noting the special contribution of each toward the development and improvement of various instruments. The book makes note of instruments appropriate for students as well as professionals.

Although a relatively small book, the amount of information based on careful research is quite extraordinary. It should be of interest to all music lovers, and will certainly be of special value to players and collectors of brass instruments."

by Alan Walker, Minister of Music, Grace Congregational Church, Rutland.

- "More on Morrison" by John M. Prendergast, Jr. In last summer's RHS Newsletter we mentioned, among the "Tidbits", an inquiry from Mr. Prendergast who was trying to complete his research on Andrew J. Morrison. The monograph is finished and we received a complimentary copy which gives evidence of all the research Mr. Prendergast did, especially on Morrison's career as a soldier of fortune.

Morrison saw service in the war with Mexico, in Cuba, in Nicaragua, in Italy under Garibaldi and then with cavalry regiments in the Civil War. It is a fascinating account of some famous battles and Morrison's survival almost intact.

After the war in 1869 he became a railway mail agent until he retired in 1904 at 76 years. Morrison is of interest to the stamp collecting fraternity because he "was a genius with a pocket knife as well as artistic in his creation of wood block postal daters and stamp killers".

He is of interest to the RHS because his mail route was between Rutland and Troy and he spent his layover time at the Bardwell House. We are very grateful to Mr. Prendergast and the other donors for adding to our book collection.

- "Papers of the Continental Congress 1774-1789" from Senator Robert T. Stafford.

Totalling 5922 pages, this is a listing of all the papers generated in the work of the Congress. It is fascinating to thumb through this, though there is only a very small number of papers relating to Rutland.



Julia Caroline Ripley Dorr c. 1860

Moon Pictures

A slender crescent in the opal west,
Low-hung above a mountain's darkening crest-
A silent dream above a world at rest.

The bending curve of the horizon bar-
A silver boat moored high in depths afar,
Cradling in tender arms one lone bright star.

An orchard close where wandering moonbeams strayed,
Weaving weird tapestries of light and shade,
And fairy paths for fairy footsteps made.

A great white harvest moon, divinely fair,
Slow sailing through resplendent seas of air,
Over dark pine-trees, and a garden rare.

A broad street flooded with the silver flow
Of the white moonbeams on new-fallen snow,
While, overhead, cloud shapes swept to and fro;

A curtained window and a casement low,
And a fair woman in the radiant glow
On whom the king smiled, passing, long ago!

cont'd p. 2

- "Black Apostle in Yankeeeland" by Paul Douglass, Esq. of Poultney. Donated by the author, this small volume is about the Rev. Lemuel Haynes, pastor of the Congregational Church in the West Parish, 1788-1818. Haynes has been a major interest of the RHS since it was founded in 1969.

NOTE: The Society is anxious to have review copies of books by Rutland authors; not to mention books by Rutland authors of years gone by. For example, we have almost all the books by Julia C.R. Dorr, (1825-1913), easily one of Vermont's best known authors. However, we do not have the first two books she wrote under a pseudonym. In browsing through old books at library or other book sales keep in mind the following by Caroline Thomas, "Farmingdale" 1854, and "Lanmere" 1856.

JULIA CAROLINE RIPLEY DORR

"Neither feminist, naturalist, nor genius, Julia Dorr nonetheless achieves a certain stature within her proper context, which is literary....Her sonnets are her most impressive achievement....Dorr anticipated not only Santayana but, in her most interesting poem, the major poetic revolution of the twentieth century.

The six triplets of "Moon Pictures" (Last Poems, 1913) are variations not on a single theme, but a single image, six attempts to fix and render a scene. To a contemporary reader of poetry, raised on the possibility of looking at a blackbird in thirteen different ways, there is nothing particularly remarkable about Dorr's pictures of the moon. But they were written before Imagism was a word, much less a common poetic practice.

Dorr's poem is remarkable not so much for the freshness of its images as for their operation. Unlike her earlier poems, unlike the poems of her fellow American Romantics, "Moon Pictures" employs images not as ornamentation, but as what Pound was later to call speech. The thing perceived is the thing understood; to see the scene is to say what it means, and to say it over and over again is to say different things about what it is....

At the same time that Hulme and Pound were formulating the Imagist creed, but remote from them in her Rutland, Vermont home, Julia Dorr wrote an Imagist poem. Thus, once, she escaped her defining context and created her own. For this poem, if for no other she wrote, Julia Dorr demands recognition."

by Ellen Cronan Rose, Ass't Professor of English, Dartmouth

The above quote is condensed from the RHS Quarterly Vol IV No 3 Summer 1974, the Julia Dorr issue. Copies of this issue are still available for \$3.00 plus .75 postage & handling.

OLD TORRENT

The cry "fire" was a dreaded and often heard call in the village of Rutland. Lack of water and a suitable means to convey it to the scene left many structures to the mercy of the flames. As the town grew so did the danger of losing several buildings to one conflagration.

In 1829 the legislature passed an act incorporating the Rutland Fire Society, which organized at once, adopted by-laws and acquired a "crank" engine. This society was not very effective until its reorganization in 1845. The engine had sat idle in a nearby stable. Early in 1844 the society purchased a new engine dubbed the "Torrent" which was stored in a building near the grade school. This brick school was located south of the present fire station.

A disastrous fire struck the village in July 1845. All the buildings between the present Lindholm Sport Center and the Grand Union were levelled. Gone were the landmarks of a past era - Samuel Mattocks' house, Dr. Thomas Hooker's store and Issacher Reed's Tavern. Evidently, the enginemen were criticized for their lack of firefighting skills. One member complained that the company had only had their engine for 18 months and had not trained as often as the law required.

As a result of this loss the fire company was reorganized the very same month. A reservoir was called for, to be erected behind the North Church (the Congregational Church at the corner of N. Main St. and Aiken Place). Pump logs, with a three inch bore, carried the water from the reservoir along Main St. and part way down West St. No doubt old Torrent was housed in more suitable quarters for Scott's 1954 map shows an engine house near the present Grand Union.

by Dawn Hance



NICKWACKETT FIRE HOUSE

We have high hopes of being able to move to this building but a number of pieces must fall into place first. Happily, the building has been rescued from a downward spiral of neglect with the awarding of a \$2,500 grant from the Vermont Division of Historic Sites which, added to \$5,000 voted by the Board of Aldermen, made possible exterior cosmetic improvements.

The state contribution was voted by the legislature to enable non-profit organizations or municipalities to rehabilitate historic buildings or sites with the view toward presenting an attractive appearance in time for the state's bicentennial celebrations in 1991.

The following fireman's song was written for Torrent Engine Company No. 1 of East Rutland by one of its members, and sung to the tune of Lutzow's "Wild Hunt". It was printed in the June 18, 1846 issue of the Rutland Herald.

We're boys who are fearless, and watchful and strong,
Our duty we've never neglected,
We'll put out your fires, or we'll sing you a song,
But won't leave our Engine, for here we belong -
We care not by whom we're directed.
Hark! hear ye the sound of the fast speaking bells
Hearken!

Hasten! Hasten! of some fire that ringing tells
Then out with our "Torrent" (a truth telling name)
We'll quickly be where we are wanted;
We heed not the weather, we fear not the flame,
And midnight and mid-day are with us the same
At all times you'll find us undaunted;
But give us of water a plenteous supply.

Water!

Water! Water! we ask and the fire shall die.
Our Captain is cool and our Hosemen are brave,
Our men show no symptoms of failing,
While that is our master that should be our slave -
While aught is at stake, while a thing is to save -
But look ye! before us 't is quailing,
At last we have conquered, the danger is o'er

Hurrah!

Hurrah! Hurrah! Homeward we'll hasten once more!

In 1859 Frederick Chaffee, Henry G. Westcott and Rockwood Barrett were named a committee to obtain a new engine for Company No. 1. The decision was made to purchase the "Nickwackett" and the company was reorganized under the name Nickwackett Engine Company No. 1. In 1860 the trustees were urged to construct a new engine house. The building, which was not to exceed a cost of \$1200, was erected at the corner of Nickwackett and Center Streets. Still standing today, it is an attractive example of the Italianate style of architecture.

by Dawn Hance

5 ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSES REMAIN

"The 5 Remaining One-Room School Houses in Vermont" On January 31 at the Nella Grimm Fox Room at the Library the audience was treated to a most interesting review of educational methods and philosophy as exemplified in one room K-8 grades schools. It was a video program with commentary by Professor Leonard Johnson, chairman of the Department of Education at Castleton State College and Ronald Savage, Ph.D. also a member of the department.

The authors are still following the schools and trying to determine the effect on the pupils when they enter high school. This preliminary presentation will likely be refined and, if the audience on Jan. 31 is any indication, it will continue to be an intriguing look at educational methods and of special interest to educators and parents.

REPUBLIC OF VERMONT LICENSE PLATE

For some time now Pete Louras has made it possible for the public to buy Republic of Vermont license plates at his West St store. These plates, designed by Tom Egan, celebrate Vermont's 14 year existence as a Republic from 1777-1791. Only the Vermont Motor Vehicle Dept. and historical societies have the right to sell them. They are a fine fund-raiser for our society and we are grateful to Mr. Louras for his excellent cooperation. \$5 is the cost of the license plate.

A booth at the Mall at Christmas also helped our treasury through the sale of Quarterlies, "Rutland in Retrospect" and the license plates. If you have relatives who might appreciate a copy of our picture history "R in R", don't put off buying a copy. We will likely be sold out within a year.

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

MEMBERSHIP DUES for 1987 are now due and payable. If the number next to your name on the address label is "86" your dues are in arrears. If there is a question about your status please get in touch with the Treasurer, Sanborn Partridge.

It would be immensely helpful to the society if members would upgrade the level of their support to at least the next higher category. Our dues are really ridiculously low for what you receive - 4 Quarterlies, an occasional Newsletter and at least 6 Membership meetings plus the Sing-Along on the first Friday in August.

You won't want to miss the first 1987 Quarterly now at the printers. It is about the sculptor, Aristide J. Piccini.

-----detach-----

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY Mail to:
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES 1987

Treasurer
62 Ormsbee Ave.
Proctor, VT 05765

____ Sustaining ---- \$100 or more
____ Sponsor ---- 25
____ Contributing ---- 15
____ Regular ---- 5
____ Life ---- \$125 - special one payment ____ Memorial \$150

(42)

Enrolled the 1st October, 1791.

I, Mathw. Irwin, esquire, master of rolls for the state of Pennsylvania, do certify, the preceding writing to be a true copy [or exemplification] of a law enrolled in my office in law book No. 4, page 214, &c. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office the 12th day of October, A. D. 1791.

(L. S.)

MATHW IRWIN, M. R.

VERMONT.

An ACT ratifying certain articles proposed by Congress as amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

WHEREAS the Congress of the United States, begun and held at the city of New-York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine; Resolved, that certain articles, to the number of twelve, be proposed to the legislatures of the several states, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, which articles, when ratified by three-fourths of the said legislatures, should be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the said Constitution; Therefore,

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, that all, and every of said articles so proposed as aforesaid, be, and the same are hereby ratified and confirmed by the legislature of this state.

State of Vermont, Secretary of State's Office, &c.

I hereby certify that the within is a true copy of an act, passed by the legislature of this state, the third day of November, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, and deposited in this office according to law.

Attest,

Rosl. HOPKINS, Sec'y.

VIRGINIA.

General Assembly, begun and held at the capitol in the city of Richmond, on Monday the seventeenth day

A page from document printed by William Fay of Rutland in 1798 listing the states in order of their ratification of the Bill of Rights. Virginia was the last one.

-----detach-----

PLEASE PRINT

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if RFD please include Route # and Box #

Dates to Remember

Scheduled Membership Meetings - always open to the public, free

March 14 -- Irish Folk Songs - to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Robert Carter, Ph.D. of Castleton State College.

May 2 ----- "The Vermont Housewife's Kitchen; an Evolutionary Perspective" with Lilian Baker Carlisle, author of "Vermont Clock and Watch Makers, Silversmiths and Jewelers, 1778-1878". Mrs. Carlisle was one of the first guest speakers at a membership meeting.

May 23 ---- "The Rutland Railroad during the Steam Age" with Tom McDevitt whose slide programs have always been very popular.

ALL the above programs will be in the Nella Grimm Fox Room-2 PM

April 25--- League of Local Historical Societies - Annual Meeting sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society in Weston. Focus will be on education. Speakers and workshops to help local societies recognize what they have to offer and to develop ways to make their resources available. Registration fee for all day meet. Teachers particularly welcome, call editor for up-to-date information, 773-3417.

August 7 -- Sing-Along - Center St Alley

October 21- RHS Annual Meeting - speaker to be announced

Correction - in Summer 1986 Newsletter - The house pictured on p. 3 was rented by Donald and Martha DePoy and owned by James Marro during the 1950's.

Celebrations

Community Council of Rutland was formed to organize patriotic observances during the period 1987-1992. Mayor John J. Daley appointed Thomas K. Egan, a RHS board member, to chair committee representing every strata of the community. The inaugural meeting was January 15 in City Council Chambers with 24 individuals attending.

September 17, 1987 will be the 200th anniversary of the approval of the draft of the U.S. Constitution. As an historical society we have a special opportunity and obligation to offer our best efforts to commemorate the occasion. Ideas for activities are welcome.

Following this year's celebration there is the bicentennial of Vermont's admission into the Union as the 14th state in 1791. Then Rutland itself will celebrate it's centennial as a city in November 1992. This is the impetus for the society's plan to publish a much needed history of the city and the original members of the Town of Rutland.

RUTLAND HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

The main part of the fourth volume on the genealogy of the early Rutland families is complete and by the time you read this the typist will have finished her work.

The first volume about Rutland's early history is "in the works". Both of these volumes are the work of Dawn Hance with research help by Donald Swan and Marvel Swan in genealogy.

While a number of people have indicated interest in various topics to be included in the history there doesn't seem to be much down on paper yet. The book committee will resume meeting the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM, place to be announced. If you would like an outline of the topics to be covered in the history please call the Editor, 773-3417.



Penmanship examples by Wm. F. Barnes, Jr.
West Rutland, Feb. 6, 1859, age 19 years.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
101 Center Street
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