

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 6 NO. 3 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 1999

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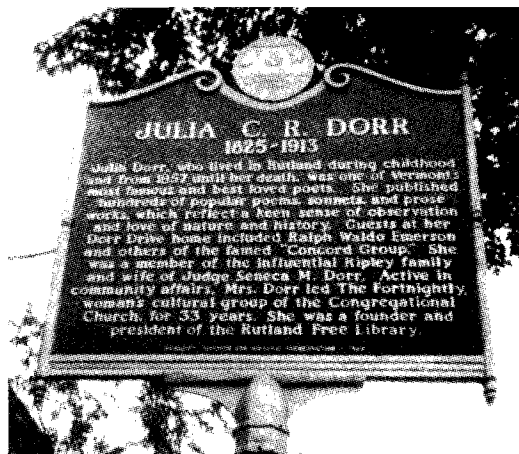
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Walking Tour

THE 30TH YEAR CELEBRATION

The sky was overcast with a threat of rain but it did not dampen the spirits of the many Society members and others who gathered to celebrate the Society's first 30 years on Sunday 8 August 1999.

At 1:00 p.m. the dedication of a Vermont Historic Site marker for Julia C.R. Dorr was held on the Court Street lawn between the Grace Congregational Church and the Rutland Free Library.



At 2:00 p.m. a concert of historic American music was held in the Fellowship Hall of the Grace Church. The audience was thoroughly pleased by an outstanding presentation by the First Republic Brass.

At 3:00 p.m. the celebration adjourned to the Society at 96 Center Street to honor in particular the contributions of the many authors and editors of the Society's publications. During the first 30 years much of the Society's success can be attributed to its

publications. That success is directly a result of the work of volunteer authors and editors. The social hour and open house were very successful with the refreshment table providing a constant refueling for good fellowship and conversation.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society will be held on Thursday 21 October 1999 at the Fox Room of the Rutland Free Library. The business meeting, which includes reports and the election of officers and directors, will start at 7:30 p.m. At approximately 8:00 p.m. Thomas Carpenter will present a slide lecture on "Rutland Banks, Banking and Money". Tom is the long-time Treasurer of the Society and a collector of coinage and financial paper. The public is invited to attend the business meeting and /or the program.

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS NOMINATED

Pres. Elaine Purdy
V.P. Helen Davidson
Sec. Jacob Sherman
Treas. Thomas Carpenter

Dir. (2 yrs.) Alex Alexander
Dir. (2 yrs.) Michael Dwyer
Dir. (2 yrs.) Angela Hinchey

Continuing Directors are: Patricia McCormack, Alan Shelvey and Dorothy Whitford.

Submitted by Mary Segale
Chairperson of Nominations Committee

"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" NOW ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

In June "Historically Speaking" began on Rutland's cable access Channel 15. The Committee began with a new show every other week but has now adapted that schedule to a new show every third week. The series includes interviews and historical pictorial material in a rather flexible TV magazine format. The programs can be seen every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Videotapes of the following episodes can be obtained from: Rutland Regional Community Television, P.O. Box 500, Rutland VT 05702-0500. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to the above. You must provide a self-addressed padded bag with postage. Channel 15 provides the tape. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

Episode # 1 - Elaine Purdy, President of the Society, and Jake Sherman, Chairman of the Board of Directors, discuss the range of Society activities. The program includes some pictorial material of Society activities.

Episode # 2 - James Cassarino, leader of the First Republic Brass discusses the history of the organization. The program includes a number of video clips from First Republic Brass concerts. There is a discussion of Rutland's musical history and some pictures and commentary on the Society's summer dance program.

Episode # 3 - This program, entitled "A Climb To the Star," features still photos of the interior of the Congregational Church tower from the entrance of the church to the top of the tower. The program ends with a series of beautiful panoramic views of Rutland from the tower. Architectural features of the church, in and out, and some historic photos are included.

Episode # 4 - Pat McCormack, Program Chairperson, and Jim Davidson discuss the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Society. The program includes a brief biography of Julia Dorr and a reading of two of her poems with illustrations by Zulma DeLacy Steele, Julia's daughter.

Episode # 5 - Jim Davidson narrates a video that was created from a single glass plate panorama of Rutland which was taken from the tower of the Congregational Church in 1890. The first half of the program prepares the viewer for the tour by a study of the 1890 maps of the Rutland stores and businesses.

Episode # 6 - Morris Tucker narrates a series of still photos which sample the items and activities that can be found at the Farm Museum at the Vermont State Fair in Rutland.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Archives Committee
Alan Shelvey - 775-4168

Artifacts Committee
Eleanor Elwert - 773-3417

Building Committee
Morris Tucker - 773-7356

Exhibit Committee
Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Finance Committee
Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Historic Preservation Committee
Ann Singiser - 773-8172

Library Committee
Ann Glagola - 775-1302

Membership Committee
Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Personnel Committee
Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee
Pat McCormack - 747-0243

Public Relations
Kendall Wild - 773-8687

Publications
Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research
Dorothy Whitford - 773-3219

President
Elaine Purdy - 773-6819

Society Historian
Mary Segale - 773-2326

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year 1999 marked the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Rutland Historical Society. Members celebrated with several projects and programs aimed at increasing public awareness of the Society's service to the community. A drive to increase membership was successful and included enrollment of some 40 new sponsors. Membership now stands at approximately 600.

The Library and Archives committees were able to reconfigure and improve storage on the second floor thanks to the purchase of steel shelving made possible by a generous gift. The Society continued to present programs at the Fox Room of the Rutland Free Library. Fall programs included: Dr. Joanna Gillespie on oral history; Len Lumsden on the battlefield site at Hubbardton, and Heaton Bullock on the last days of the Rutland Railroad. Donald Wickman presented a review of his book "Letters to Vermont From Her Civil War Correspondents to the Home Press" at the annual meeting.

At that time Bernard Donahue was recognized for his years of service to the Society. "Bernie" has worked on membership, program and exhibit committees. He shares his knowledge of Rutland City with visitors as museum host and tour guide and is always on hand when help is needed.

Spring programs were presented by Carol Curry on restoration of wedding gowns; Michael Dwyer on genealogy and computers; Charles Fish and Sherwin Williams on the Williams Farm and Holman Jordan on Lake Bomoseen.

Exhibits at Nickwackett Fire House headquarters included: Co. A Vermont National Guard in camp during the Spanish American War, 1898; Rutland Chamber of Commerce in the Fabulous Fifties and the life and Native American collection of Ella Bean Livingston. These three exhibits coincided with the publication of Quarterlies on the same subject. Don Wickman wrote about "Henry Ripley Dorr in the Splendid Little War of 1898" Angela Hinchey edited Mrs. Livingston's "1919 Diary of a Trip to the Gila National Forest" and the Quarterly editors compiled the history of the Chamber. Paul Crossman wrote on the "Development of Rocky Pond" for the fourth Quarterly. In an effort to control expenses, the Quarterly and the Newsletter are now being mailed together.

Temporary exhibits were set up at the City Water Filtration Plant open house May 1 and at the opening of the Jeffords Welcome Center at the new Rutland Train Depot on March 1. The railroad exhibit was returned for display at the Society.

The Friday night dance programs were held at the Senior Center throughout the summer and school groups and others continued to take advantage of museum and walking tours. A new undertaking for the Society was the inauguration of "Historically Speaking", a half-hour television program on Channel 15. The show, which is designed to be both entertaining and educational, will change every few weeks. Another new venture is an informal weekly column written by Vice President Helen Davidson for a local weekly publication.

The Society is grateful for its many faithful, hard-working volunteers and is continually seeking the enthusiasm and input of newcomers.

Elaine Purdy
President

FALL PROGRAMS

WED 15 SEP 99 "The Marble Quarries of West Rutland" - A Panel Discussion. West Rutland Selectmen's Room, 7:00 p.m.

WED 29 SEP 99 "A War of the People: Vermont Civil War Letters" - Jeffrey D. Marshall. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 7:00 p.m.

WED 13 OCT 99 "A Photo Scanning Workshop" - Karen Sanborn. Rutland Historical Society, 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Limit of 12 at each session. Pre-registration with phone number required.

THUR 21 OCT 99 "Rutland Banks, Banking and Money" - Tom Carpenter. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 8:00 p.m.

WED 3 NOV 99 "The Search for Solomon Jewett, Rutland's Vanishing Spiritualist" - Joe Citro. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 7:00 p.m.

WED 17 NOV 99 "The Farms of Rutland Town: A History Project" - Richard DelBianco, Moderator. Center Rutland Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITS

This summer the Society added an exhibit, "Julia Dorr (1825-1913) - A Rutland Author". In late September the "Dakota Sioux, 1916-1918" portion of the Livingston Collection will be changed to a Southwest tribe.

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Publications Committee of the Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701-4023. Tel. (802) 775-2006. Jim Davidson - *Editor*

DUES SCHEDULE

Sponsor	\$50.00	Students	\$8.00
Contributing	\$20.00	(18 & under)	
Regular	\$10.00	Senior citizens	\$8.00
		(62 & up)	
Life Membership			\$200.00
Memorial Membership			\$200.00

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

M/M Donald Adams
 Factory Point National Bank
 M/M William F. Gillam Jr.
 Russell Irvine
 Owner Services, Inc.
 M/M Dan Swett

SUMMER DANCES

The "Big Band" dance series was again a success. Although most of the Friday nights were quite hot and humid, there was an average attendance of over 33 persons per night. Some attended every night but many came only a few times. Many were visitors from out-of-town. All gave evidence that they had had a wonderful time. The large numbers on the dance floor throughout the evenings gave support to the belief that people would dance to the music of the big bands. Although asked to continue our program in the Fall, we will defer to the Rutland Ballroom Dance Club which plans to offer dances on both the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Godnick Center where the Society has had such a pleasant experience working with the Rutland Recreation Department.

WALKING TOUR

This summer Carmine Pacca provided a walking tour for a group of 35 participants from the summer camp program of the Recreation Department. The main focus of the tour was the movement of the center of community activity down toward the railroad center that came to Rutland in 1850. A walk up Washington Street highlighted some of the prominent people and their homes with a reverse chronology which reinforced that presented in the walk down Center Street.

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