

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 7 NO. 1 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2000

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SPRING PROGRAMS

Michael Dwyer, Chairman of the Program Committee, has announced the following programs in the Society's Spring series:

TUES 21 MAR 2000 "Hands-on History: Exploring the Past Around You" - Greg Sharrow. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 7:00 p.m.

SUN 2 APR 2000 A video screening of three programs from the Society's "Historically Speaking" series. The programs selected are:

3 "A Climb To the Star" which features the interior of the Grace Congregational Church tower and a wonderful series of city panoramas from the tower. This program is narrated by Morris Tucker.

5 "A Tour of Downtown Rutland from an 1890 Glass Plate" which is narrated by Jim Davidson. The program includes a map study of the area.

9 "Rutland Banks, Banking and Money" which is narrated by Tom Carpenter. This program provides an amply illustrated discussion of early Vermont coinage and paper money. It also traces the history of Rutland banks, including photos of most of them.

This special video screening will be held at the Society at 96 Center Street beginning at 2:00 p.m. Program principals will be present to answer questions. The public is welcome.

TUES 18 APR 2000 "A Time Most Forgotten: Mt. Independence During

the American Revolution, 1776-1777" - Don Wickman. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 7:00 p.m.

TUES 9 MAY 2000 "Friends of Freedom: Vermont's Underground Railroad" - Ray Zirblis. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 7:00 p.m.

The Society particularly appreciates the support of its programs by the Speakers Bureau of the Vermont Council On the Humanities.

VISITS AND VISITORS

Jim Davidson has presented slide programs on Rutland's history to the residents at The Meadows and to the Trinity Church women's group. The Rutland Singles Club was invited to visit the Society for an evening of browsing through old newspapers. In spite of inclement weather a number made the trek.

CIVIL WAR BANQUET AND SPEAKER

Civil War historian A. Wilson Greene will be the speaker at the Fourth Annual Full Duty Award Banquet on Saturday, 15 April 2000 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. The event, which is sponsored by the Vermont Civil War Council, will begin at 6:00 p.m. Banquet tickets are \$25 and may be purchased from Dr. David Cross at (802) 425-5188.

DID YOU PAY YOUR YEAR 2000 DUES?

"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society continues to produce "Historically Speaking" on Channel 15. A new program is produced each month. 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 Channel 15. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

Episode # 10 - Jim Davidson hosts this program which features Dorothy Whitford, Society Research Committee Chairperson, in an interesting conversation about how Dorothy got involved in genealogical research. Dot tells a number of research stories both humorous and intriguing.

Episode # 11 - Jim Davidson hosts a video program developed and narrated by Angela Hinchey of the Society on the art and life of the Sioux Indians of the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota at the end of the 19th Century and the beginning of the 20th Century. The Society's Ella Bean Livingston Collection of Native American materials provided most of the elements for this program. Angela has been working on an educational kit of the Livingston Collection for loan to the schools and this video will be one part of that kit.

Episode # 12 - Dot Whitford hosts Carole Curry in a fascinating program on "The Restoration of Antique Wedding Gowns" and the reuse of other antique fabrics. Mrs. Curry is a professional restorer of antique clothing and offers numerous ideas on the reuse of pieces of antique fabric. Young and old, men and women, will be delighted with the great ideas shared by Mrs. Curry.

LOYALTY DAY PARADE

This year the Rutland Historical Society will again participate in the 37th Annual Loyalty Day Parade sponsored by the VFW Post #648 on Sunday, May 7th. The parade will begin at 2:00 p.m. Again the First Republic Brass will entertain with their stirring brass music played from the comfort of the John W. Cramton replica horse-drawn trolley which is mounted on a large flatbed truck. Mark your calendars now and don't miss your Society's float and presentation. Rutland's Loyalty Day Parade is the largest parade in the state. Rutland's love affair with parades has long been a rich part of its heritage.

PROCTOR MEETING

The Proctor Historical Society will meet Wednesday 15 March 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the Proctor Free Library to share reminiscences of the town's pre-1940 family-owned grocery stores and other local businesses. The public is invited to attend and participate in the discussion.

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

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

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

DECORATING HOME OR BUSINESS WITH ENLARGED PHOTOS OR PHOTOCOPIES FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

For some time the Rutland Historical Society has been offering a free service to the community. Individuals or groups who desire to decorate with photos or prints from Rutland's history should contact Jim Davidson at the Society. The individuals or organizations seeking to use Society material are responsible for all reproduction and framing costs. The Society will assist in the selection of materials and will bring the materials to the appropriate photographic or photocopying service. Materials do not leave the control of the Society. This policy is to protect the often fragile nature of the material and to prevent inadvertant loss. In return the Society only asks that a credit for use of the pictures be noted in an appropriate place.

A number of organizations have made use of this community service. The Holiday Inn on South Main Street had a number of historic photos reproduced to decorate its restaurant and lounge. The theme for this selection was early 20th Century items. They also are planning to use early photos in the restaurant and lounge menu holders. The result has given guests at the facility a wonderful slice of Rutland's past.

The Community College of Vermont recently occupied a new facility on Evelyn Street. Representatives of the College decided to use a neighborhood theme in which all of the photos selected for reproduction were photos from the history of either the street on which the College is located or an adjoining street. Some pictures were buildings of the past and some were of historic events.

Applebee's restaurant on Woodstock Avenue selected a number of photos which it framed and displays with numerous other historic artifacts which includes signs, prints and objects. The Applebee's theme used a wide-range of significant photos without a geographic theme.

Sweet Tomatoes, a downtown Rutland restaurant in the Asa Bloomer State Building, purchased the installation of a collage of neighborhood places and events from the beginning of the 20th Century. This is located in the lobby of the Asa Bloomer Building, just outside the restaurant.

Individuals have selected as few as a half dozen pictures which were enlarged to decorate an office. Often the theme is one related to the personal interests of the office occupant or related to the type of business.

Reproduction systems vary from photographic blowups to enlarged color photocopies. The method to be used is a choice of the client and his/her budget. Framing varies from the traditional matted photographic print to photocopies mounted on board and covered by acrylic or some other clear finish.

Why does the Society spend significant time and energy on such projects that do not remain under its roof? (1) Very simply, the Society sees the whole community as a potential exhibit space and thus the Society encourages those who are willing to financially support such ventures. (2) Every duplication of an historic photo or print reduces the chances that somehow, in the future, a single item might be damaged, destroyed or lost. There is safety in numbers. (3) Finally, the Society finds that surrounding the community with multiple evidences of its past helps to remind us all, young and old, that the past is really a part of our lives. With sufficient reminders, we can each begin to build a sense of the past and the reality that pictures and prints so effectively evoke.

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO 2000

A statewide festival, "Vermont History Expo 2000", will be held Saturday and Sunday, 17 and 18 June 2000, at the Tunbridge Fair-grounds. Regional information sessions were held in January. The Rutland Historical Society offered its Nickwackett headquarters for the 18 January meeting which was attended by representatives of area historical societies. Hosts were Tom Carpenter and Elaine Purdy. Vermont has more than 190 historical societies and most, including your Society, are expected to take part in this first of its kind statewide exhibition.

BASEBALL EXHIBIT

The Vermont Historical Society will mount an exhibition "Baseball In Vermont: An Enduring Love of the Game" early in April 2000. The VHS is interested in locating objects such as equipment and uniforms from the Rutland area for the exhibit. If any member would care to loan such an item, please call Elaine Purdy at the Rutland Historical Society (775-2006).

COLLEGE VOLUNTEER AT THE SOCIETY

Marissa Johnson, a senior history major at Castleton State College, is a volunteer at the Society this semester. Marissa, from Chester, spends five hours a week at the Society.

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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

EXHIBIT CHANGES

This month a number of exhibit changes were made at the Society. The Dakota Sioux portion of the Livingston Collection of Native American material was replaced by the "Pueblo Peoples, 1918-1921" portion of the collection. This segment of the collection is rich with pottery and woven baskets such that the Exhibit Committee saw fit to use four cases for the artifacts and two panels to exhibit only a sample of the wonderful photographic record of the Pueblo people, their homes, schools, churches and way of life against a backdrop of their environment and heritage. Visitors will indeed find this to be an especially rich collection.

The exhibit panel of Mrs. Livingston's life remains in a new location as part of the background of this continuing exhibit.

A member of the Society has generously underwritten the cost of a enlarged reproduction of a sketch of Rutland as it was in 1885. This is one of those items that the viewer can spend hours examining the details of houses and businesses from another time.

The "Julia Dorr" and "Down at the Depot" exhibits have been withdrawn to make room for the above new items. The Nickwackett Building exhibit and the 1890 Sanborn Insurance maps of Rutland remain on exhibit.

MEMBERSHIP ALERT

'Tis the season for red circles. Not in the atmosphere, but on address labels! If you have a red circle on yours, your dues are awaited for the year 2000. Check your envelope now so that you won't miss any of the publications.

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