

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 22 NO. 1

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015

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WEBSITE COMMITTEE REPORT

The website committee and the scanning committee have been quite busy since their last report in the July 2014 Newsletter. New items on the website that can be found in the Historical Resources section include Under Diaries and Letters: The Journal of Thomas and Louisa McConnell; The Letters of Thomas and Louisa McConnell and some supporting material. Under the Vermont and Rutland Digital Bookshelf: There are 18 additional books and nine additional serials collections which brings the bookshelf to a total of 80 items with more to come. Under Rutland High School Publications: Rutland High School Notes from 1889 to 1893; Issues of the Oread from 1912 to 1917; Issues of the Red and White Magazine from 1922 to 1929. Under Town Reports: Town of Proctor Reports from 1888 to 1965. Under Yearbooks: The West Rutland Yearbook Collection has been digitized and is now online.

In the Image Gallery there are three new collections of photos: The Early Rutland Fair; Early Transportation, Roads and Bridges; and Popular Vacation Spots for Rutlanders.

The Message Board has been temporarily locked down due to a hacking problem. Meanwhile it is recommended that patrons use the email to the President for queries. These will be directed to the Research Committee. Another option is to use the Society Facebook page for queries.

WEBSITE FEATURE FOCUS

In February 2005 the Rutland Historical Society inaugurated its website (rutlandhistory.com). Now, ten years later, it has developed numerous features that may be overlooked or not well-known by the many users of the website.

Although the Newsletter periodically provides updates as new content is added, there are some features that could benefit the user through some techniques and/or strategies that might not be apparent.

Today's focus is on the digitized newspaper feature. The Society provides a link to this Chronicling America feature of the Library of Congress. Here there are digitized newspapers from 1836 to 1922 from over 35 states including Vermont.

First, how can you get to this feature? Select "Historical Resources," then select "Rutland Newspapers." Then go to the "Chronicling America" choice.

Second, how can you access the material in the newspapers? At the top of the page above the Vermont papers is a search box. It may be best if you use a single appropriate name or term to begin your search. You may need to explore additional search term possibilities. At the left there is a list of states. You may wish to limit the search to Vermont papers. A successful search for a Rutland item may occur in a Burlington or Bennington paper.

Third, a successful search brings up a number of pages with your search terms highlighted in red. To read these pages click multiple times on the page to enlarge it to a comfortable reading size.

“HISTORICALLY SPEAKING” ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society produces a new program each month. The series includes interviews and historical pictorial material in a rather flexible TV magazine format. The programs can be seen Wednesdays at 4:00 PM, Thursdays at 1:30 PM, and Fridays at 7:30 PM. DVDs of past episodes can be obtained from Rutland Regional Community Television, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 108, Rutland, VT 05701-4460. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to RRCT. Include \$2.50 for shipping and handling. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information. Consult the Society website (rutlandhistory.com) for a complete listing of past shows.

To watch the current or previous episode of “Historically Speaking” in streaming video on your computer: (1) go to the Society website (rutlandhistory.com), (2) click on “Historically Speaking,” and (3) click on the second paragraph which will link you to the Video On Demand Library on the PEG-TV website. In the search box at the top of the video player, type in “Historically Speaking” then click on the magnifying glass button to the right. You should get a choice of the two most recent programs.

Episode # 138 – “The 1931 Rutland Fair.” This program centers on a brief silent film of the 1931 Rutland fair. The original was located in a dump, and was salvaged and digitized by David Knipes, an historian of Rutland Fair carnivals. David is the guest on the show and provides a ten minute introduction and background of the Fair as it was in 1931. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

Episode # 139 – “A History of Women in Rutland.” Carolynn Ranftle, Society Vice-President, is the host and narrator of a series of slides showcasing women and their many roles throughout the history of Rutland. Carolynn has amassed a large and wonderful collection of names and images of women as a contribution to Women’s History Month. Many individual slides can also be seen on the Society Facebook page.

VERMONT NEWSPAPER DIGITIZATION PROJECT

Phase three of the Vermont Newspaper Digitization Project will include the issues of the Rutland Weekly Herald from 1861 to 1873. The Weekly Herald from 1836 to 1855 is already digitized and available online. (See Rutlandhistory.com/Historical Resources/Rutland Newspapers/Chronicling America for the listing of Vermont Newspapers already digitized and available online.) The Rutland Daily and Weekly Globe from 1873 to 1877 are both already digitized and available online.

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

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INSERT NOTE

The insert in your Newsletter is a listing of the many folks who made the Society Fund Drive such a success. Many gifts were small and many were very generous. But all were important and appreciated. Thank you.

LOYALTY DAY PARADE

The Society will participate with a single vehicle with representatives in the Loyalty Day Parade on Sunday May 3, 2015.

COMPLIMENTS TO THE SOCIETY AND ITS MEMBERS

The Society Curator Jim Davidson was the cover story of a recent article in the Rutland Reader. Subsequently he was the subject of a Vermont House Concurrent Resolution. (The Rutland Reader article and the House Resolution can be read on the Society website). As Jim put it, "the Society is a team effort and the notice received by one is a reflection of the team." Bill Powers also received notice when the Pittsford Historical Society asked him to serve as its president. Perhaps the testimonial of Paul Carnahan, Vermont Historical Society Librarian, in a Vermont Public Radio interview, sums it all up. "The Rutland Historical Society really is way out ahead of other organizations in getting content digitized and online." (This item also is on the VPR website and the Rutland Historical Society website.)

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YOUR MEMBERSHIP
STATUS. IT IS TIME FOR
THE 2015 MEMBERSHIPS**

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