

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 22 NO. 2

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2015

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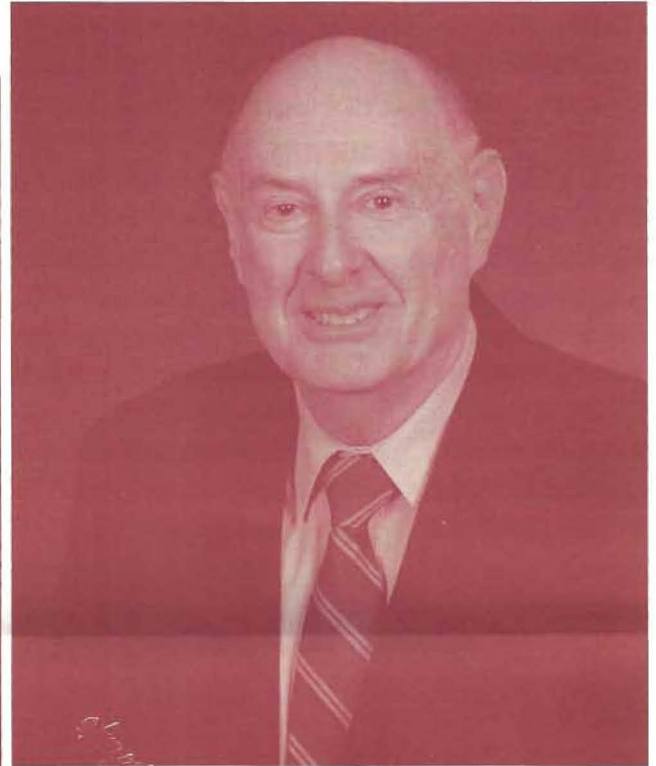
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## Leadership in History AWARDS

NASHVILLE, TN—June 2015—The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces the winners of the 70th annual Leadership in History Awards, the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. This year, AASLH is proud to confer sixty national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, books, and organizations.

"The Leadership in History Awards is AASLH's highest distinction and the winners represent the best in the field," said Trina Nelson Thomas, AASLH Awards Chair and Director, Stark Art & History Venue, Stark Foundation. "This year, we are pleased to distinguish each recipient's commitment and innovation to the interpretation of history, as well as their leadership for the future of state and local history."

The Leadership in History Awards Program was initiated in 1945 to build standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout America. Each nomination is peer-reviewed by AASLH's state captains. Final awards are decided by the Awards Committee,



comprised of AASLH's fourteen regional representatives and the National Awards Chair.

The awards include:

- The **Award of Merit** which is presented for excellence in history programs, projects, and people when compared with similar activities nationwide.

#### **Vermont**

**Name:** James Sanborn Davidson

**Nomination:** for his lifelong dedication to preserving and interpreting the history of Rutland, Vermont

**About the American Association for State and Local History:** Since 1940, AASLH has provided leadership and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history to make the past more meaningful. AASLH is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve  
(Continued on page 3)



## **“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](http://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](http://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 # 140 - “Rutland Barbers Union”.** Bill Mazzariello, a Rutland barber who has been researching the history of Rutland barbers, is the guest on this episode which revolves around the discovery of an early Rutland Barbers Union record book at the Vermont Historical Society. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

## **MICHAEL J. VALENTINE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM PEG-TV**

Michael Valentine, the Executive Director of PEG-TV for over 20 years, recently resigned for health reasons. The Society began its “Historically Speaking” series during this time and Mike was a great supporter of the venture. The Society received prestigious time slots right after the Chamber of Commerce. When PEG-TV became available online many Society members in other states were able to view the shows on demand at any time. Mike graciously supported the archiving of all of the old episodes onto the Society’s website where they can be viewed forever.

With the advent of the weekly “Access” news program, the Society was invited to do a brief weekly “Moments in History” segment. The Society was also invited to do a nine-part series called “Notes from the Past” on Channel 21. This series focused on the historical background of local political and economic issues of the day.

In 2002 the Society received the prestigious Romeo award for “Historically Speaking,” which was also a popular viewer’s choice.

It is appropriate to note the debt of gratitude owed Mike for making the Society’s presence on PEG-TV the success that it has been and hopefully will continue to be.

## **COMMITTEE CORNER**

### **President**

Pam Johnson – 775-7074

### **Board Chairperson**

Tom Carpenter – 773-3626

### **Curator**

Jim Davidson – 773-7525

### **Membership Secretary**

Robert Perkins – 773-0184

### **Society Historian**

Mary Segale – 773-2326

### **Chairpersons:**

#### **Collections Committee**

Ron Hemenway – 775-6581

#### **Human Resources Committee**

Pam Johnson – 775-7074

#### **Program Committee**

Jim Davidson – 773-7525

#### **Publications Committee**

Jake Sherman – 775-2784

#### **Research Committee**

Rosemary Bradley –  
773-9411

#### **Website Committee**

Doreen McCullough –  
776-5232



## LEADERSHIP IN HISTORY AWARDS

*(Continued from page 1)*

*and promote history. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH works to advance knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of local history in America. AASLH publishes books, technical publications, a quarterly magazine, a monthly newsletter, and maintains numerous affinity groups and committees serving a broad range of constituents across the historical community. The association also sponsors regional and national training workshops and an annual meeting. For more information, visit [www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org).*

**Contact:** 1717 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203 | Phone: 615-320-3203

Jim Davidson was an obvious choice to be recipient of a Leadership in History Award of Merit. Of the 60 awards only four, including Jim, were given to individuals for their dedicated long term efforts. This attests to the scope and quality of his life's work in furthering the cause of Rutland's history. Jim is recognized as a history scholar within the state and has been key to the success of the Rutland Historical Society since its inception, but his greatest legacy is bringing history to the community through written word – Bi-centennial Perspectives and Back Then newspaper series, live programs to all segments of the community, participation in community events, three PEG-TV television series with a total of 285 episodes to date, and the Historical Society's website. Jim will be presented his award on September 18 at a special banquet during the 2015 AASLH Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

Let us all congratulate Jim on his award and his contribution to Rutland!

## LOYALTY DAY PARADE

On Sunday afternoon May 3rd the Society joined the Loyalty Day parade with a trailer donated by member Gerry Coursey. His vehicle provided power to the trailer for Jim Davidson's CD player which played a range of popular music including jazz of the 1920s, big band music from the 1930s and 1940s, rock 'n' roll from the 1950s, polkas and Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass from the 1960s. President Pam Johnson and her mother Maggie Johnson carried the Society banner in front of the vehicle. Six Society members sat in the trailer, which was made most comfortable by Mr. Coursey.

The response from the crowds along the parade route was apparent as folks danced or clapped or showed their recognition and enjoyment of the music. This was the first parade in which the Society has been able to play recorded music. Thanks go to Gerry Coursey who made it all possible.

## WEBSITE FEATURE FOCUS

This issue the focus is on Rutland Herald clippings assembled and copied by Morris Tucker. They were given to the Society in six large volumes. These have been scanned in six files and placed on the Society website. To find them go to "Historical Resources," then to "Rutland Newspapers" and then to "Rutland Herald Snippets." Each of the six volumes is a separate file that can be searched by topic.

Each book or file has a general description of its contents in the first few pages of the file with associated page numbers. You may then page along using the arrows at the bottom right of the page or do a search in the upper right search box. Select "Go" and search result bubbles will appear at the bottom of the page. You may touch a bubble with your cursor to get a summary view of the search or click on the bubble(s) to get the full page view. Images may be increased in size by clicking on the "plus" sign at the bottom right.



## WEBSITE REPORT

The Website Committee has dealt with a number of problems with our Message Board. Chief among these are those who attempt to use the Message Board for offering commercial sales for baskets, handbags, athletic shoes etc. Much as the committee has tried to prevent this, more often than not the Message Board becomes filled with commercial garbage. The Board is cleaned only to find it cluttered again with the same junk.

The committee has used a number of procedures to prevent this but the abusers always seem to find a way to circumvent the security measures.

Then there are those who registered a few years ago, now attempt to register again, but are unable to because they already are registered. Apparently they have forgotten their password.

The Message Board had some neat features that allowed persons using the Message Board to create threads from a single query. We had one lady respond that the individual someone was seeking was also her great grandfather.

However, usage of the Message Board was not high. As the Society provided more and more information on the website many seemed to be able to answer their own queries.

Upon reflection the Website Committee has somewhat reluctantly shut down the Message Board and has removed it from the website. In place it suggests that persons seeking help direct their requests to "President" at the Rutland Historical Society. Queries will be then directed to the Research Committee. Questions can also be placed on the Society Facebook page.

Not all news is bad news. The Website Committee has become aware that four volumes of the Vermont Historical Gazetteer which was assembled and issued by Abby M. Hemenway have been scanned and are on Internet Archive. The Website Committee will place links to these on the website in both the "Genealogy & Research" section and on the "Vermont and Rutland Digital Bookshelf" in the "Historical Resources" section. There is also an index to all volumes, which has been scanned and will be placed at the head of the individual volumes.

Unfortunately there is no complete scan of Volume Five. However the Website Committee will provide a link to the Rootsweb.com website where there is a typescript copy of the complete Volume Five. This typescript also offers its files in a town by town format, which seems to be convenient.

The website is always growing and developing. Two missing West Rutland yearbooks have been found, scanned, and will soon be online.

The 1876-1877 Rutland Directory was listed as "never published." However a patron of the website has found that it was published and is on the Ancestry.com website. The Website Committee had relied on the accuracy of the volume number on a later volume in the series. Every attempt will be made to find a copy of this early directory. A later directory for 1882-1883 was listed as not available. Perhaps it is the one that was never published.

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



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