

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 22 NO. 3

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1

Annual Meeting

Nominees

Annual Sale

Halloween
Parade

*

Page 2

"Historically
Speaking" on
Channel 15 in
Rutland

Veterans
History Project

Committee
Corner

*

Page 3

President's
Annual Report

*

Page 4

President's
Report
continued

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center Street. The meeting, with reports and the election of officers and directors, will be followed at about 7:30 PM by a program on Rutland during and after the Civil War by Robert Ranftle.

The public is welcome to all events of the evening. Light refreshments will be served.

NOMINEES

Pres.	Pam Johnson
V.P.	Carolynn Ranftle
Sec.	Yvonne Crossman
Treas.	Randy Brown

Dir. (2 yrs.)	Barbara Giffin
Dir. (2 yrs.)	Ron Hemenway
Dir. (2 yrs.)	Doreen McCullough

Continuing Directors are: Ben Burdge, Tom Carpenter and Ray Mooney.

Submitted by Mary Segale,
Chairperson of the Nominations Sub-
committee.

ANNUAL SALE

On Saturday and Sunday, October 10th and 11th the Society will hold its annual sale from 10 AM to 5 PM each day.

The sale began as an opportunity to sell duplicate materials and things no longer needed by the Society. Over the years there has been less of this material.

Last year members and others brought in small furniture, ceramic and glassware

and things that they no longer wanted.

Again, WE NEED YOUR "UNWANTED" ITEMS for the sale. Please deliver your items during the week before the sale. Personnel will be available on Monday evening between 6 and 9 pm, and on Wednesday and Thursday between 1 and 4 PM. No clothing, please.

Unsold items may be retrieved on Monday between 1 and 4 PM. The Society will dispose of unsold items if necessary.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

The 2015 Halloween Parade will be held on Saturday, October 31st. The Society will participate unless it rains. "Nickwackett Nick," the Society's squirrel mascot, will march to music along with "Ghosts of the Past." The Society provides hand-held masks and signs for "Ghosts." Only a white sheet or other Halloween costume is needed. There is always a need for marchers. Contact Helen Davidson at 773-7525 if interested. This year we can accommodate five or six riders in addition to marchers.

**REMEMBER YOUR
DUES FOR 2015.
PLEASE
CHECK YOUR
MAILING LABEL.**

“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 # 141 – “MIDWAY DINER”

Tom Tresch, original diner owner, and David Zsido of the Rutland Historical Society and author of “One Last Coffee at the Midway Diner,” are guests for this episode of Historically Speaking. Power Point images of the diner’s history are included. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

The purpose of the Veterans History Project is to collect and preserve the first hand remembrances of U.S. wartime veterans so that future generations may hear directly from those who served and better understand the realities of war.

The recorded interviews are sent along with original letters, diaries, photos, memoirs, and historic documents to the Library of Congress. It serves as a resource for scholars, historians, and students. It holds more than 65,000 collections and is the largest oral history program of its kind.

Sit down with one of the RCVSS (Research Center for Veteran Support Services) team members and record a videotaped interview about your military service. You are encouraged to bring along any memorabilia you would like displayed during the interview. The RCVSS covers all costs and you will receive a copy of the interview on DVD. To schedule your interview email Allison L. Newton at anewton@jsu.edu or call (256) 782-5108.

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

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Rutland Historical Society continues its mission to preserve and share Rutland history through digitization, community outreach, and other activities. The Society has furthered its mission goals through the following activities.

The Society continues to review and update its long term plan, particularly its financial health, to ensure that we continue to be a sustainable organization. The Society's funding is largely achieved through the annual grant from Rutland City and by memberships and donations from its dedicated members. To insure its financial health, it conducted a Society "Building" Fund Drive. The Fund Drive was very successful, raising much needed funds from 162 donors. This money will help the Society in its time of need with capital improvements and other one-time expenses. In the coming months the Society will be utilizing these donations towards cost savings improvements and repairs and maintenance.

Technology and Digitization continue to be the heart of the Society's future. The Society purchased two tablets for mobile use. Both tablets have been loaded with the Society's webpage and many RHS files. Major accomplishments in this area include the digitization of the West Rutland High School yearbooks. Rutland High School publications added to the website include: Rutland School Notes from 1889 to 1893; the Oread from 1912 to 1917; and the Red and White Magazine from 1922 to 1929. Proctor Town Reports from 1888 to 1965 have been uploaded to the website. The 1850 Journal of Thomas and Louisa McConnell along with some supporting letters and materials have been added. In the Image Gallery section there are three new photo collections: The Early Rutland Fair; Early Transportation, Roads and Bridges; and Popular Vacation Spots for Rutlanders. The scanning of all available historical photos and items is ongoing as artifacts become available.

The Society website www.rutlandhistory.com continues to be the vital link to and from the public and provides global access 24/7. The Website Committee is continuing the process of building a Rutland Library which will provide links to free digitized books that are out of print. The goal of this on-going project will be to eventually provide access to hundreds of books. The "bookshelf" now contains a total of 80 items. The website continues to provide access to quarterly publications, Rutland Tidbits, digitized newspapers, and *Historically Speaking* episodes (through episode number 139). Archive.org remains the Society's repository for moving images and large text files. "Life in Rutland County" is a new video produced by Peregrine Productions and the Johnson State College's Vermont History and Government Class. Thanks to the producers of the video, the Historical Society has been able to include it on the Society website. The program runs 33 minutes and shares the stories of 10 local residents who grew up in Rutland County. These engaging stories provide a unique perspective on Vermont History. A link to the Roosevelt program on TV's *History Detectives* has also been added to the website along with a link to the Society's Facebook page.

The Society's live programs serve everyone. Programs held or where support was provided include: school groups, programs for seniors, the Railroad Railway Association Train Show, and the Loyalty Day Parade. In October the Society held a most successful annual "Columbus Weekend Sale" that brought out many visitors. Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase preservation materials.

Television presence continues with seven new episodes of PEG-TV's *Historically Speaking* series. Printed quarterly publications continue with the 2014-2015 issues. Quarterly newsletters also are published. The weekly "Tidbits from Then and Now" which is published in Sam's Good News completed its sixteenth year of publication. The Society has also provided photos and/or information to other venues for their use, including *Rutland Magazine*; *The Rutland Reader*; and the Rutland Railroad Historical Society publications.

(Continued on Page 4.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

The Library Partnership (which began in 2012) is continuing its mission of digitizing area high school yearbooks. The Partnership is planning to digitize the Mill River Union High yearbooks. In the fall Proctor High School students will begin scanning the Proctor yearbooks.

The Society's Collections Management personnel have continued to re-organize, review, and upgrade preservation procedures. Progress was made on the long-term plan of creating a "secure" room for preserving special artifacts through restricted access. The Society also accepted a number of new acquisitions: a large box of railroad (including Rutland Railroad) materials from Swanton; a nice print of the old wooden Proctor covered bridge, which was the predecessor to the current marble bridge; many CVPS items from GMP after the company switchover was completed; nice photographs of both the Grand Theatre employees and the Bardwell Hotel cooks; another collection of Rutland Railroad artifacts from Alton, NH; three scrapbooks from former Rutland Mayor Henry Carpenter's family; and a nice collection of World War II records, photos, and a nurse's uniform received from WWII veteran Patricia Welch.

As caretaker of the Nickwackett Firehouse, the Society performs and oversees the needed repairs and maintenance: repairs to the basement hatchway door; replacement of the furnace aqua stat; and roof damage repairs due to the hail storm. Rutland City arranged for repairs to the chimney. Fire, security, air conditioning, and ADA compliance inspections continue to be conducted on a regular basis. The city continues to plow the parking lot every winter and Society volunteers ensure the walks are cleared of snow. During the summer, the Parks Department provides mowing services and a Society volunteer maintains the small flower garden in front of the building.

The Disaster Recovery Planning Committee has made significant progress in the completion of their project focusing on personal safety, building security, and asset protection and preservation. All volunteers were trained for emergencies and the IT (Information Technology)

Disaster Recovery Plan was completed. New exit lights and motion detector lights have been installed.

The Society is open to the public Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons. These sessions are hosted by volunteers. Formal and informal facility tours are given and special arrangements are made when necessary.

Requests for historical information come from emails, phone calls, letters, and visitors. Many of these requests require significant research and volunteer manpower. Annually the Society handles requests numbering in the hundreds.

In closing, the Society thanks the community for its support and asks everyone to join or continue their membership, to become a volunteer, and to donate historical materials relating to the original town of Rutland (Rutland City, Rutland Town, West Rutland, and Proctor).

Special thanks to all the volunteers, authors, directors, officers and the curator. These individuals share their talents and tirelessly give their free time to make the Rutland Historical Society the wonderful, successful organization it is.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Johnson

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

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. William Notte - Editor