

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 22 NO. 4

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society was held on Thursday, October 29, 2015, at 7PM at the Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center Street. Various reports were followed by the election of officers and directors.

Nominees elected were:

Pres.	Pam Johnson
V.P.	Carolynn Ranftle
Sec.	Audrey Allaire
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.

As the Secretary previously nominated had to withdraw for personal reasons, it was necessary to use the procedure outlined in the Constitution to elect a Secretary. Audrey Allaire was willing to step in to serve as Secretary and was elected.

Mickey Kelly and Fred Remington were honored with an award of merit for their joint efforts in producing the weekly column *Tidbits from Then and Now*. They have brought Helen Davidson's initial over 600 items to over 800 weekly items.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM and a program on Rutland during and after the Civil War was presented by Robert Ranftle.

At the November Board meeting Tom Carpenter was re-elected as Board Chairperson.

ANNUAL SALE

On Saturday and Sunday October 10th and 11th the Society held its annual sale

from 10AM to 5PM each day. The sale provided the Society with over \$1,200.

The original 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.

The donation by members and others of things that they no longer needed was very important to the Society's successful sale.

Many members and shoppers also found the sale beneficial to them as they found nice items at very attractive prices.

Thank you to the donors and consumers that made the sale so successful. The few unpurchased items were donated to BROCC.

TRAIN SHOW

On Saturday September 26th the Society made a series of video presentations at the Rutland Railway Association Train Show. Doreen McCullough demonstrated the Society website, Jim Davidson showed the *Rutland In Retrospect* digital disc and Carolynn Ranftle presented the *Rutland Newsliner* digital disc. The discs were available for purchase at the show. Access to the Society website is always free to the public.

**PLEASE REMEMBER
YOUR
DUES FOR 2016.**

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 4PM, Thursdays at 1:30PM, and Fridays at 7:30PM. 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 # 142 – Rutland Railway Association Train Show – Paul Rondinone of the Rutland Railway Association is the guest on this episode and provides an overview of the RRA's location and facilities and some background to their fourth annual train show held on September 26, 2015. The show also previews some highlights from the presentation of the Rutland Historical Society at the train show. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

Episode # 143 – Nickwackett Nick – Jim Davidson interviews Nickwackett Nick, the Rutland Historical Society squirrel mascot. The program explains why the squirrel was selected as the Society mascot—"Nickwackett" means "place of the squirrel." The program includes images from the 2006 Loyalty Day Parade and the 2006 Halloween Parade. There was also a recruiting appeal for "ghosts" to be in the parade.

Episode # 144 – Rutland Civil War Recap – Robert Ranftle of the Rutland Historical Society presents an overview of local Rutland life during and shortly after the Civil War. This is an adaptation of his presentation to the Rutland Historical Society at its annual business meeting in October 2015. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

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

HALLOWEEN PARADE

On October 31st the Rutland Historical Society participated in the Rutland Halloween Parade. Fine weather brought a huge crowd which lined the parade route five or six rows deep on each side. The parade may have drawn nearly 20,000 viewers plus those viewing the live coverage on cable television via PEG-TV.

Thanks to member Gerry Coursey the Society was able to have a trailer with the ability to provide music appropriate to Halloween. The trailer also gave opportunity for some ghosts to ride. Riding ghosts included Helen and Jim Davidson and Mal Jensen. Martin Davidson "rode shotgun" with driver Gerry Coursey. Walking ghosts of the past included: Barbara Giffin, Ron Hemenway, Doreen McCullough, and Ray Mooney. Nick, the Society squirrel mascot, kept all the ghosts in line. Maggie and Pam Johnson carried the Society banner in front of the group.

The commentary by the PEG-TV announcer during the parade was informative and very complimentary to the Society.

The Halloween Parade is one of the Society's major public appearances and it would be nice to have many more ghosts marching. Mark the date of the next Halloween Parade on your calendar and consider volunteering to join the Society's participation in the parade.

FACILITIES REPAIRS

The City has had the woodwork near the roof repaired and painted. The Society has had the front doors finished and sealed. New carpet tiles for the first floor have been received and will be installed shortly. The stairwell carpet is also being replaced. Internet and phone services are being consolidated with Comcast Business services. The Society's phone service will move from VOIP to Comcast, but the long-time phone number of 775-2006 will be maintained.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Is it time to renew?

Please check the date above your name on the mailing label.

If the date on your label is 2014 or earlier, your grace period has expired and this is the last *Quarterly* you will receive unless you renew by January 31, 2016.

If the date on your label is 2015, your dues for 2016 are now due. Please use the membership form on this page.

If the date on your label is 2016 or later, your dues are up to date. Thank you.

Please note the spot on the form for a donation beyond the dues. Any donation would be appreciated.

Rutland Historical Society Membership Form

96 Center Street, Rutland VT 05701-4023

Phone: 802-775-2006

First Name Last Name

Street Address or Post Office Box

City or Town State ZIP Code

Phone (optional) Email address (optional)

\$8 Student \$8 Senior (62+)

\$10 Regular \$20 Contributor

\$50 Sponsor

\$20 Life (individual only)

_____ If making an additional donation, please check here and enter the donation amount.

Second Person at same address (if any). No additional fee. (Not available for Student or Lifetime memberships)

OUTREACH

The 18th Annual Banjo Gathering was held at the Baltimore Waterfront Marriott in Baltimore, Maryland from October 30 to November 1, 2015. On the October 31st Bill Powers gave a presentation to the gathering entitled *Fred & Cassie Bacon, Their Forest Dale, Vermont Years*.

Fred and his wife, Cassie, were noted banjo players who lived in Forest Dale from 1907 to 1915. Fred was noted for manufacturing, teaching, and performing the banjo. He was also a composer. Fred once played in Carnegie Hall and was heralded as the world's greatest banjo player.

Cassie, in her own right, played a number of stringed instruments and accompanied her husband on many occasions.

The banjo gathering attendees were mainly from the eastern United States.

A number of presentations covered various aspects of the history and manufacture of banjos. Many in the audience were banjo collectors.

On Wednesday December 2, 2015 Helen and Jim Davidson provided Christmas music at the Pines for their annual "cookie day" for the residents.

GIFT FROM SONS OF UNION VETERANS

Ripley Camp #4 of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War presented the Rutland Historical Society with the old Rutland Camp charter. The earlier camp was chartered as Green Mountain Camp #1 in 1953. The Sons are a descendant organization of the Grand Army of the Republic. Ripley Camp #4 was chartered in 1995, and is named to honor the Ripley brothers who were high ranking officers of the Vermont Regiments.

Camp commander, Mathew Foley, and camp treasurer, Dennis Devereux, presented the original framed charter to the Society on November 9th. It was accepted by Society President Pam Johnson and Curator Jim Davidson.

WEBSITE REPORT

New material is constantly being scanned and uploaded to the Society website. Since the last newsletter the following items have been added:

- Mill River Union High School yearbooks
- Proctor Town Reports
- Extracts from the *Rutland Herald* and its predecessors (1792 – 1835)
- Volume 5 of *Hemenway's Vermont Historical Gazetteer*.

New material in process includes:

- Proctor Village Reports
- Proctor High School yearbooks.

Volume 5 of the *Hemenway's Vermont Historical Gazetteer* needed a proper scan. Webmaster Doreen McCullough scanned the 1,200 pages, which were then uploaded.

FURNACE PROBLEM

For over two weeks the Society was closed for lack of heat. A vent pipe for the gas furnace needed replacing. The problem has been fixed and regular Society activity has resumed.

**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