

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 23 NO. 2

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2016

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PROGRAM AT THE FOX ROOM OF THE RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY

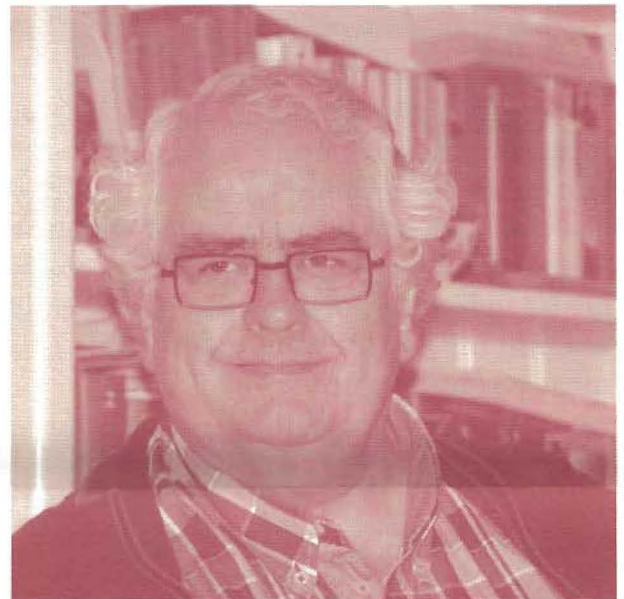
On Wednesday August 17 the Rutland Historical Society will be sponsoring a program from 7 to 8:30PM by Gejus van Diggele, who is coming to Rutland from the Netherlands. He is an avid collector and scholar of secondary used playing cards.

In the 1800s backs of playing cards were not printed, to save costs, and left over cards from incomplete decks were reused for about anything one can do with paper. People used them for writing, additional printing, constructing, drawing, painting, cutting, folding etc.

His collection includes over 5000 single cards from several countries, the earliest dating from the 15th century. He has found over 350 forms of secondary use. As true historical documents the cards reflect daily life in the past. The program will include images of many cards from his collection.

In New England around 1800 ball invitations were made on thin paper board but also on playing cards, in manuscript (for small groups of invitees) and additional letter press (for balls on a larger scale). It was very common to use playing cards for personal ball invitations but because they had to be left at the door of the ball venue, as an entrance ticket, very few have been found. In the archive of the American Antiquarian Society there are only ten.

Over the years Mr. van Diggele has



been able to obtain 50 ball invitations on playing cards, mainly from New England. They record names of the invitees but also the managers organizing the ball, and the venue, date, and place. Other North American examples of reused playing cards are visiting cards, invitations for social gatherings, commercial/business cards, and replacement currency in French Canada.

If you know of the use of playing cards for other purposes Mr. van Diggele would be very interested in that information.

Traveling New England in 2006 and 2007 most historical societies he visited did not know about ball invitations on playing cards.

(See pages 3 and 4 for sample images.)

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.

Historically Speaking # 148 – "Doshisha University."

Host Jim Davidson presents the story of how an 1874 meeting at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland provided Joseph Hardy Neesima seed money to establish a private Christian College in Japan, now known as Doshisha University. Recently a group of Doshisha students visited the sacred historic site where the dream of Doshisha began. The students also visited Castleton University where President David Wolk hosted them at a luncheon. Guest Patrick Liu, Director of International Enrollment at Castleton, briefly describes some of Castleton's international programs.

EVENTS

- This year the Loyalty Day Parade had to be cancelled due to rain.
- The Society will again participate at the 2016 Rutland Train Show, which this year will be held on Saturday October 1 at the College of St. Joseph Athletic Center.
- The Columbus Day weekend sale will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 8 and 9 from 10AM to 5PM each day. Again, WE NEED YOUR "UNWANTED ITEMS" for the sale. Please deliver your items the week before the sale. Personnel will be available on Monday evening between 6 and 9PM and on Wednesday and Thursday between 1 and 4PM. No clothing please.

COMMITTEE CORNER

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Jim Davidson – 773-7525

Membership Secretary

Robert Perkins – 773-0184

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Jim Davidson – 773-7525

Publications Committee

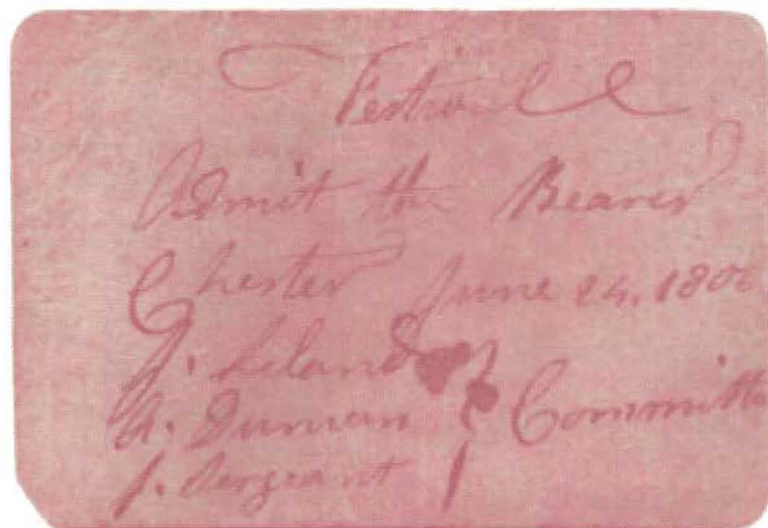
Jake Sherman – 775-2784

Research Committee

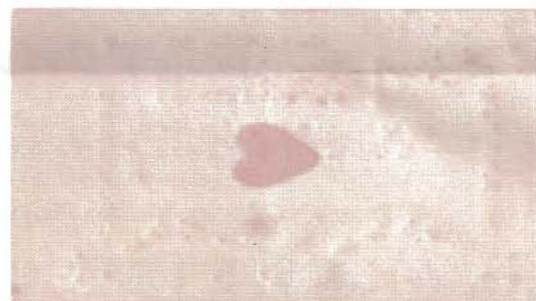
Rosemary Bradley –
773-9411

Website Committee

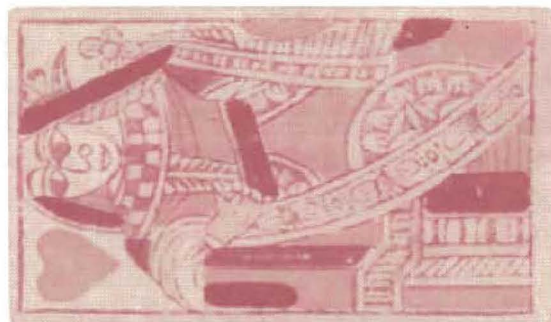
Doreen McCullough –
776-5232



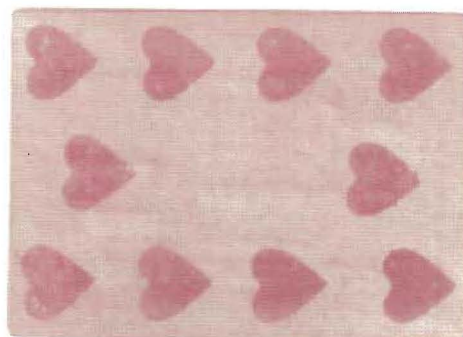
Chester VT, June 24, 1806. Playing card maker unknown. © GvD



Huntington VT, May 24, 1805. Playing card maker unknown. © GvD



Montpelier VT, June 14, 1815. Playing card maker unknown. © GvD



Barre VT, December 7, 1810. Playing card maker unknown. © GvD



Burlington VT, August 21, 1805. Playing card maker unknown. © GvD

WEBSITE REPORT

The Image Gallery has added the following photograph collections:

- CVPS (Central Vermont Public Service) 1947 Flood
- David Sawyer Photos
- Francis Hinchey Fairground Photos
- World of Mirth photos

The "Smoke & Blazes" collection and three additional years of the MSJ yearbook have been added to "Historic Texts."

The Website Committee has been busy making some changes that it is hoped will make the website easier to use. Brief explanatory sentences or paragraphs are being added to file titles. "Historically Moving Images" has been changed to "Historical Videos" and "Historical Resources" has been changed to "Historical Texts."

THE FACILITIES OF THE
RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ARE OPEN ON:

MONDAYS 6-9 PM •
SATURDAYS 1-4 PM

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