

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 23 NO. 3

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society will be held on Thursday, October 27th at 7:00 PM at 96 Center Street. The meeting, with reports and the election of officers and directors, will be followed at about 7:30 PM by a "Volunteer Appreciation" program.

Volunteers who have made contributions since last year's Annual Meeting will be invited to attend a program whose purpose is to socially give notice and thanks to the many and varied volunteers of the Society. It seems important to let volunteers know who other volunteers are and what they give of themselves. In addition it is important to publically thank these volunteers.

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

NOMINEES

Pres. - Jake Sherman

V.P. - Pam Johnson

Sec. - Audrey Allaire

Treas. - Helen Davidson

Dir. (2 yrs) - Alvin B. Figiel

Dir. (2 yrs) - Richard J. Guyette

Dir. (2 yrs) - Dr. Andrew P. Zak

Continuing Directors are:

Barbara Giffin

Ron Hemenway

Doreen McCullough

ANNUAL SALE

On Saturday and Sunday, October 8th and 9th the Society will hold its annual sale at the Society from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day.

Recently, members and others have contributed small furniture, ceramics, glassware and other things they no longer wanted. The result has been very successful sales for the Society.

AGAIN, WE NEED YOUR "UNWANTED" ITEMS for the sale. NO CLOTHING, PLEASE. Please deliver your items during the week before the sale. Personnel will be available on Monday evening between 6:00 and 9:00 PM, and Wednesday and Thursday afternoons between 1:00 and 4:00 PM. If you need pickup assistance, please call 773-7525.

Unsold items may be retrieved on Monday between 1:00 and 4:00 PM. The Society will make appropriate disposal of other unsold items.

NEW ON WEBSITE

The digital Rutland Weekly Herald (1861-1876) is now available online. Go to Rutlandhistory.com; and then to Historical texts; then Rutland Newspapers; then Chronicling America; and finally Rutland Weekly Herald. Items here are searchable as indicated in the search instructions at the top of the list of newspapers.

Other Rutland newspapers are available from this list as are newspapers from over 40 states.

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 #149 - "August Events" - This show, hosted by Jim Davidson, focuses on two events occurring the same week in August 2016. First, is the visit by Gejus van Diggele who collects ball announcements printed or written on the backs of early playing cards. Mr. van Diggele is from the Netherlands. The second event is the new week for the Rutland Fair and provides numerous images from the Farm Museum.

Episode # 150 - "Memories of 1947 Rutland" - Jim Davidson hosts a program taking viewers down memory lane in post-World War II 1947 Rutland. The program includes music from the hit songs of the era and reminders of the hit movies seen at the local theaters. Bus, air, and auto transportation is noted. Businesses, industries, banks and social clubs are included, as is a brief segment on the Flood of 1947.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEAGUE OF LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES & MUSEUMS

The Rutland Historical Society is co-presenting this meeting on Saturday, October 15th at Castleton University. The registration form and complete program are available on the Vermont Historical Society website. "What's New" on rutlandhistory.com has an easy click on to access this.

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

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

The Society continues to re-evaluate and update its long term plan, particularly focusing on its financial health, to ensure that the Society continues to be a sustainable organization. The bulk of the Society's funding comes from memberships and donations from its dedicated members and from the annual Rutland City grant. A small amount of income is derived through the sale of books, CDs, and other history-related items throughout the year.

Technology and Digitization continue to be the heart of the Society's future. Microsoft Office 2016 has been installed on both Society tablets, which will make use of these tablets much easier for everyone. The Society also replaced the old photocopier/scanner with a leased model that is newer and more cost efficient. Accomplishments in the digitization area include the digitization of the Mill River and Proctor yearbooks along with the Proctorian newsletters from 1938-2015, making all these resources available alongside previously digitized yearbooks and newsletters. Hemenway's Gazetteer Vol 5 has been scanned and uploaded to the website to join Vols 1-4. Other items digitized and added to the Society's website include: Bicentennial Perspectives; extracts from Rutland Papers 1792-1835, and World War II newspaper extracts; remaining Proctor Town Reports from 1965 on and Village of Proctor Reports; Smoke and Blazes Newsletters; Rutland High School Register Jan-June 1895; and Rutland Playhouse Programs from 1914-1929. The scanning of any available historical photos and items is ongoing as they 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 Society's "Message Board" has been removed from the website due to repeated misuse. All correspondence will now go through the Society President via email at President@rutlandhistory.com. The Web Committee is continuing to brainstorm ways to make the website more user-friendly. Several suggestions have been submitted and are being reviewed. The website has benefitted from numerous additions over the past year: new photo collections added to the Image Gallery page include Downtown 1980's Businesses; CVPS 1947 Flood; David Sawyer photos; World of Mirth; and Francis Hinchey's pictures of the Rutland Fairground (VT State Fair) prior to 1939. Three scrapbooks have been added to the Historical Resources page: Mooney Scrapbook of Rutland Fires 1919-1968; Remington George Schmitt Scrapbook; and West Rutland World War II Veterans. As is customary, the website continues to provide access to Quarterly Publications, Rutland Tidbits, digitized newspapers, and Historically Speaking episodes (through episode #148). Archive.org remains the Society's repository for moving images and large text files.

The Society's live programs serve everyone. Programs held or support provided include: for school groups; for seniors; and for local organizations. Other Programs the Society was involved in include: Author Bruce Venter's "Battle of Hubbardton" at the Nellie Fox Room in Aug. 2015; the Sept. 2015 Train Show at the Holiday Inn; Halloween Parade "Ghosts of the Past" before a huge crowd; Bill Power's Oct. 2015 "MT Independence" Program; Vermont's Irish Rebel: Captain John Lonergan by the Fenian Historical Society on May 20, 2016 at the Society; Mendon Senior's Rutland Fair Program for 14 seniors in June 2016; and the VT History Expo "Rutland Floods" Program—a look back at the floods of 1927 and 1947 during the weekend of June 18-19, 2016. In October 2015 the Society held another successful annual "Columbus Day Sale." What began as an opportunity to sell duplicate materials has grown into an anticipated community event. Over the last couple of years members and visitors have donated small furniture, ceramics, kitchenware, kid's items, books, and other items no longer needed. The funds raised from these donated items have been used to purchase preservation materials to help maintain the Society's various collections. So please remember the Historical Society this fall with your "unwanted" items.

Television presence continues with eight new episodes of PEG TV's Historically Speaking series: "Rutland Barbers Union" with Bill Mazzariello (Ep# 140); "Midway Diner" with David Zsido and Tom Tresch (Ep# 141); "Rutland Railway Association Train Show" with Paul Rondinone (Ep# 142); "Nickwackett Nick" with the Society's squirrel mascot (Ep# 143); "Rutland Civil War Recap" with Robert Ranftle (Ep# 144); "The Rutland Newsliner" with Jake Sherman (Ep# 145); "Rutland Area Vermont State Historic Markers" with Tom Carpenter (Ep# 146); "Rutland Women in History 2016" with Carolyn Ranftle (Ep # 147); and "Doshisha University" with Patrick Liu (Ep # 148).

Printed Quarterly Publications continue with the 2015-2016 years issues: "Rutland in the Civil War - The Final Chapter" by Robert Ranftle (Fall 2015); a calendar "The RUTLAND As A Way Of Life" edited by Jake Sherman (Winter 2015); and "Searching For Lt. David Hunter: Proctor MIA" by Matthew Kennedy (Spring 2016) along with Quarterly Newsletters. The weekly "Tidbits from Then and Now" which is published in Sam's Good News completed its seventeenth year of
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT continued

publication. Additionally, the Society has continued to provide photos and information when requested to other venues for their use.

The Society's Collections Management Committee continues to organize, review and/or upgrade preservation procedures. The Society accepted a number of new acquisitions: an old "Water's" butter table that was manufactured in Rutland and George Robert "Bob" Kenney's WWII Purple Heart which was returned to the Rutland area by Purple Hearts Re-united in a presentation held at the Society. Zachariah Fike presented the Purple Heart to the Kenney God-Children, Jody/Brad/Margo Hart, who then donated it to the Society. Other items acquired include: books and materials from descendants of Julia Ripley Dorr and Margaret Waddington; Flora Weeks materials; and the original framed charter from the Green Mountain Camp #1. Camp #1 was originally chartered in 1953 and later became known as Ripley Camp #4 of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War and was presented to the Society on November 9, 2015 by Camp Commander Matthew Foley and Treasurer Dennis Devereux. Other Collections activities include the repair of the Society's old Nichols-Goddard Grandfather Clock by Society member Brian Justin who graciously donated his time and expertise. The Society benefitted from an agreement with BROCO who has graciously provided off-site storage space.

As caretaker of the Nickwackett Firehouse, the Society performs and oversees the needed repairs and maintenance: the refinishing/resealing of the front doors (November 2015); the December 2015 replacement of the vent pipe for the gas furnace, which resulted in several days of no heat while waiting for the part; the purchase of a new "Open" flag to replace the old, worn one; and the installation of new carpet throughout the Society in January 2016. Funds for the carpet came from last years' Building Fund Drive. Many thanks again to everyone who donated and made this possible! Also a big Thank You to the City of Rutland who had the woodwork near the roof of the building repaired and painted! 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 implementation of its new Disaster Recovery Plan. The Society's Volunteer List was reviewed and updated; the heat and water alarms were repaired; and the backup of the Society's website files and computer files were reviewed and updated to include being kept offsite as part of the Disaster Recovery Plan. The Society continues its progress on implementing the security features of the Secure Room.

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 Nottle - Editor