

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 24 NO. 2

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017

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COLLECTIONS WORK

Chairman Ron Hemenway is currently working on organizing and cataloguing the newspapers in large and extra large document boxes. Jim Davidson, Tom Carpenter, and Michelle Kaufman are working on computerizing catalog entries for the Marvel Swan and other genealogical material. Carolyn Ranfle and Angela Hinchey are currently going through our textile collection checking conditions, photographing items, and repacking items. All of this is in addition to keeping up with the frequent new accessions.

One group of members works on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 to 4 PM on a fairly regular schedule. Another group works on most Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 3 PM.

The society gets an average of 70 individual donations a year. This is your society, so come in and check out what new and exciting items we have. Perhaps you may have time to help on one of these afternoons.

RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY

Starting in July the Rutland Free Library will close at 7:00 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Opening hours remain at 10:00 AM. Closing hours on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturday also remain the same. The library is closed on Sunday.

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Vermont Historical Society has recently reviewed its programming. Six changes have been highlighted in a recent letter to the Rutland Historical Society:

- The Vermont History Expo will be immediately suspended.
- VHS will be coming to you bringing hands-on activities, fun trivia, and the cooler side of history around the state.
- Every six months VHS will work with a new historical society or cultural organization to showcase their unique history at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier.
- Vermont history is headed to the future as we build a web portal to share both our own and other organizations' library, museum and archive collections, and exhibitions digitally.
- The VHS is partnering with the Vermont Humanities Council to record "Before Your Time" podcasts that will be available through the internet for download.
- VHS will partner with the State's Vermont Days programs. They intend to expand this successful annual event with additional Expo-like exhibits and activities state-wide.

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 # 155 – "Loyalty Day Parade 2017"

Jim Davidson of the Rutland Historical Society hosts Ron Fairbanks, Parade Director, and Gerry Garrow, Parade Committee, in a conversation about the 2017 Loyalty Day Parade. The program includes highlights from past parades and information about the joint presentation of the Vermont Farmers Food Center and the Rutland Historical Society. The presentation honors Vermont farmers as home front heroes.

Historically Speaking # 156 – "What's It?"

In this episode of *Historically Speaking* Jim Davidson of the Rutland Historical Society reaches into a grab bag of historical objects to see if he can stump the viewer and PEGTV staff members Amber Dumas and Eva Clark. Challenge yourself.

COMMITTEE CORNER

President

Jake Sherman – 770-0927

Board Chairperson

Barbara Giffin – 779-1669

Curator

Jim Davidson – 773-7525

Membership Secretary

Robert Perkins – 773-0184

Society Historian

Mary Segale – 773-2326

Chairpersons:

Collections Committee

Ron Hemenway – 775-6581

Program Committee

Jim Davidson – 773-7525

Publications Committee

Jake Sherman – 770-0927

Research Committee

Rosemary Bradley –
773-9411

Website Committee

Doreen McCullough –
776-5232

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● VISIT THE FARM MUSEUM AT ●
● THE VERMONT STATE FAIR ●
● AUGUST 15-19, 2017 ●
● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

RUTLAND HERALD

As most of you know, the Rutland Herald Corporation has new owners. The Mitchell Family continues to own the current building but all the assets are now the property of the new owners. The potential of a move of the Rutland Herald from the building or the sale of the building could result in the disposal of some of the Rutland Herald assets.

The Rutland Historical Society reached out to one of the owners to express the possible interest of the Society in some of these assets. We were well received by the owner we contacted. He indicated that he felt that community resources no longer needed for the operation of the paper should appropriately go to the local historical society.

Based on this positive response to our expressed interest, the Society formed a committee of persons felt to best represent the Society's interests. A letter briefly describing four types of assets in which the Society might have an interest was sent to the owner.

Shortly after the owner called and said that we should make an appointment with the editor to view the Herald assets. The committee made a visit. The largest and most challenging asset is the back copies of the paper.

The ultimate goal of preserving the papers on microfilm or in a digital form is huge. Tom McMurdo who is the State Librarian for Collections and Digital Initiatives, came to Rutland to share thoughts about this collection. The committee will be meeting with the Herald's owners shortly.

HUMAN RESOURCES

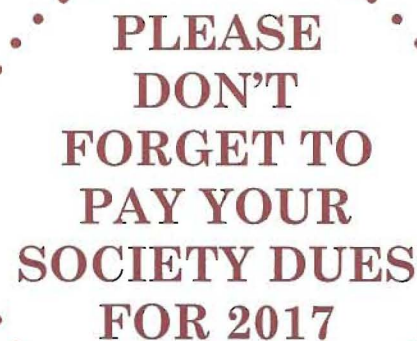
The Society has a Human Resources Committee. The committee has a Nominations subcommittee whose sole purpose is to recruit persons for the slots of officers and directors of the Society.

But the human resources needs of the Society go well beyond officers and directors.

The Society is well aware that older volunteers will ultimately need to be replaced as age makes its demands. Volunteers are often newer retirees.

Here are some of the volunteer needs:

- Building and grounds maintenance for projects as needed. Lawns are mowed by City Parks Department and the parking lot is plowed by City Parks Department. Walk shoveling is needed
- Saturday afternoon and Monday night hosts. Schedule is three hours about once a month.
- Volunteers willing to help with document and photo scanning. Training is available.
- Chairperson for Human Resources Committee. This would be someone interested in recruiting new and younger volunteers.
- Treasurer to train
- Curator to train
- Volunteer work hours are currently 1 to 4 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Some work multiple days; some work one day.



**PLEASE
DON'T
FORGET TO
PAY YOUR
SOCIETY DUES
FOR 2017**

CORRECTION

The SPONSORS FOR 2016 listing in the last issue of the Newsletter inadvertently omitted "Robert and Nancy Noble Jr." as SPONSORS FOR 2016. We apologize to them and our readers. Robert and Nancy are regular SPONSOR members and we particularly regret this error.

WEBSITE REPORT

In Historical Texts, go to the Town Reports section. There the Rutland Town Reports (1857-2016) are now available for viewing. The 1862 report is not available and may not have been published. Reports for the following eight years: 1896, 1901, 1902, 1904, 1906, 1907, 1911, and 1970 are missing. Any copies of these years that the Society could borrow to scan would be greatly appreciated.

The three part half-hour sections of "Ray Mooney's Memories: Rutland and Pop Culture" are now available in the Historical Videos section.

Also there is "Our Rutland" which is a silent color film produced by the Rutland Lions Club and on the Society website by courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society. The film was done in 1941 to be sent to Camp Blanding in Florida where a number of Rutland boys were in training. The film was to produce some home front images for soldier morale. People and places in 1941 Rutland highlight the color film.

There are cars and people walking in downtown Rutland. Perhaps you can identify some of the men and women in the film.

MYSTERY PAINTING

Go to What's New on the Society website to get to see the mystery woman in this 1857 painting by Alvah Bradish. We are hoping to identify her as a Rutland area resident. Here are some of the facts that indicate a possible Rutland connection: 1. The painting was originally acquired in the 1960s at a Rutland area auction. It graced the home of the buyer for many years and then the home of her sister. They are from a well-known Rutland family, but are not related to the woman in the painting.

2. The artist's uncle, Aaron Bradish, settled in Clarendon. His daughter, Jerusha, married a Hinckley and the family was in Mendon in the 1870 census.

3. The artist's father, Samuel Bradish, settled in New York State and the artist's hometown was Fredonia, NY. The uncle of the artist's wife, Daniel Douglass, married Helen Watkins from an early Rutland family and they lived in Fredonia, NY well as other places.

4. In 1857 (the year of the painting), the artist and his wife purchased and moved into the home of (Rutland's) Helen Watkins and her husband, Daniel Douglass, in Fredonia.

5. Helen Watkins' sister, Louisa, remained in Vermont, married William Liscomb, and settled in West Rutland.

Can you help?

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

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