

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 25 NO. 2

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

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Pencil Sketch by
Jason Smiley

ANNUAL MEETING

This year the Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society will be held on Thursday, October 18th, at 7PM at Tuttle Hall on the campus of the College of St. Joseph in Rutland. The brief business meeting will be followed at 7:30PM by a PowerPoint presentation by Jason Smiley. (See details of the program on this page). The program and annual meeting are open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

There will be a public invitation to the community to attend this program. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join us for this special program. Mark your calendar now.

NOMINEES

Pres. – Jake Sherman

V.P. – Lloyd Davis

Sec. – Audrey Allaire

Treas. - OPEN

Dir. (2 yrs) – Alvin M. Figiel

Dir. (2 yrs) – Richard J. Guyette

Dir. (2 yrs) – Dr. Andrew P. Zak

Continuing Directors: Barbara Giffin,
Corey Kennedy, and Doreen McCullough.

Submitted by Mary Segale, Chairperson
of the Nominations Committee.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Jason Smiley's program is entitled "The Devil's Cabinet: The Story of the Eddy Family of Spirit Mediums." During the mid to late 1800s the Eddy Family became world-renowned as spirit mediums with the alleged ability of generating full-bodied manifestations or "materializations" of the departed. People traveled from all over the world to Chittenden,

Vermont to witness these phenomena for themselves. Some came with the hope of seeing and speaking to their own departed family members. Others came as skeptics, hoping to debunk the family's alleged powers as "humbug." By 1874, the family was so well-known that Chittenden started being referred to as "Spirit Vale." To this day, there are many who believe that the family had genuine supernatural abilities. The family and the story has ties to P.T. Barnum, Mark Twain, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Harry Houdini, Queen Victoria, and President Lincoln.

Jason has been researching the Eddy Family for more than a decade and is currently working on a screenplay called "The Devil's Cabinet" based on the story. In addition, Jason plans to publish a book containing his research about the family, tentatively titled "The Devil's Workshop."

He has requested that there be no video or audio recording during the show.

ANNUAL SALE

On Saturday and Sunday, October 6th and 7th, the Society will hold its annual sale at the Society from 10 to 5 each day. 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 and 9PM, and Wednesday and Thursday afternoons between 1 and 4PM. If you need pickup assistance, please call 773-7525.

Unsold items may be retrieved on the 8th of October between 1 and 4PM.

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.

Episode # 160 "Daughters of The American Revolution."

Guest Barbara Giffin, regent of the Ann Story Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presents a powerpoint program on DAR. The program includes a history of the DAR and a description of its many current activities. The program includes a discussion of how a woman may become a member of DAR.

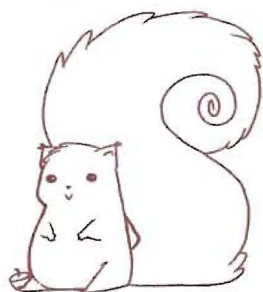
RUTLAND RAILWAY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL RAILROAD SHOW

The Rutland Railway Association will present its 7th Annual Train Show on Saturday, September 29th at the Holiday Inn at 476 Holiday Drive on Route 7 South, Rutland, Vermont, from 10AM to 3:30PM.

The show will feature model railroad displays and swap and sales opportunities. The Rutland Historical Society will set up a computer monitor to demonstrate the Society's website and its resources available to modelers and railroad history buffs. Another computer and monitor will demonstrate the original Rutland Newsliner disc that contains a complete collection of the Rutland Railroad Company magazine that was issued from 1952 to 1960. Copies of the disc will be available for purchase at \$10 each.

SAM'S GOOD NEWS

Sam's Good News is a free Rutland area weekly newspaper. The Society provides a brief article each week and a separate historic picture for each edition. Check them out.



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

Human Resource Committee

Jim Davidson – 773-7525

Program Committee

Jim Davidson – 773-7525

Publications Committee

Jake Sherman – 770-0927

Research Committee

Rosemary Bradley –
773-9411

Website Committee

Doreen McCullough –
776-5232

WEBSITE HAS NEW LOOK

The Rutland Historical Society website (rutlandhistory.com) was first opened in February 2005. After 12 years of growth and great success it was time for an update.

First, the computer program that was used for the website warned that they would no longer support that program.

Second, the growth of the number of files on the website needed some structural reorganization as it became more difficult to find what was sought.

Third, the design of the front page needed a new look.

Fourth, There was a need for redesigning to meet the needs of hand-held devices.

Word Press was selected as the new platform for the website. Many of its features will allow easy development and future change.

The website committee spent many, many hours learning about Word Press and testing ideas. After over a year of regular meetings and discussions the committee has been able to pull all the pieces together and opened the new look of the website in July 2018. Content from the old website was not lost but locations have changed. Check it out.

RUTLAND STREET PARTY

On August 4th the Society was invited to set up a presentation in Downtown Rutland for the one-day event. The Society was able to acquire use of the old Clay Clothing Store location thanks to Mark Foley Jr.

Many hands made possible a storewide presentation that included:

- A Quarterly browsing rack.
- A What's It station.
- Computer demonstrations of the Society's four computer discs for sale.
- Demonstrations of the Society website.
- Civil War Sharpshooters Exhibit and the Civil War sharpshooters computer target game.
- Popular music from the past.
- A visitor's rest area with free lemonade.

- An exhibit by DAR.
- A special Rutland Herald exhibit focusing on astronaut Cooper's descent in the Pacific Ocean. Member Ron Grover was there aboard ship and shared snapshots of the pickup and first-hand commentary on the event.
- Duplicate A.J. Marro prints were available.
- Signup sheet for Genealogy Club interest.
- A raffle.
- Nickwackett Nick, the Society mascot was present.
- A "selfies" picture opportunity to be a Rutland historical personage was available.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

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
\$200 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.)



Pencil sketch by Jason Smiley in the "Spirit" of his program. (See page 1.)

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**