

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 25 NO. 3

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2018

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In Collections:

- Digital Bookshelf has documentary collections, individual histories and stand-alone books as well as some serial publications. There are a total of 87 here. All are searchable.

- Directories of the Rutland area cover the years 1871-1872 to 1986. This is a complete collection of all that were published. The directories are alphabetical but also searchable. They include numerous advertisements. Later directories also have street by street listings which are very valuable for placing people with their neighbors.

- Genealogy provides a connection to Hemmenway's Gazzetter. The index to these volumes is a very useful tool. Early church records of both the East Parish and the West Parish Congregational Churches provide many vital records. Finally, there are numerous links to many other genealogical sites.

- Municipal records include town, city, and village records from Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town, and West Rutland. In addition there are some Real Estate Appraisals.

- The Newspaper category includes access to the Chronically of America digital newspaper collections from all states. A chart shows the Vermont newspapers that have been digitized. The extracts from Rutland newspapers (1792 - 1835) have both people and events and is a must for a search as the digital file is searchable. The seven volumes of the Tucker Clippings have a content listing in the front of each volume. There are also collections of World War II clippings. The Tidbits Collection is a series of weekly newspaper items published in Sam's Good News from 1999 to 2010 by Helen Davidson. During the Bicentennial Era Jim Davidson produced 139 weekly items from May 1975 to December 1977. This variety of subjects was published in the Rutland Herald.

- Special Collections has a series of smaller items on specific topics. These topics need to be checked for the nuggets of information in each.

- The Yearbooks collection includes digital copies of yearbooks from Rutland High School, Mt. St. Joseph Academy, Proctor High School, West Rutland High School, and Mill River High School. There are also some yearbooks from the College of St. Joseph.

In Videos:

- Rutland Historical Society Productions:
Historically Speaking (160 half-hour programs)
Moments in History (136 three-minute items)

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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.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW WEBSITE

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In Videos:

- Notes From the Past (9 half-hour topics)
- Our Rutland 1941 is an early movie with recently added music and narration.
- The Virtual Walking Tour is a 50 minute production with historic images and musical elements. It covers the Rutland Historic Courthouse District and the Rutland Historic Downtown District.
- Raymond Mooney's Memories: Rutland and Pop Culture (Three Parts) where each part is approximately 35 minutes. Each part is a great local memory of growing up in Rutland. No matter where you grew up there are gems of memories of living during this era.
- Rutland Halloween Parade History is a great compilation of video material from a landmark of Rutland History.

Other Productions:

- All Aboard Rutland is a film of the project entries of artistic small engines and their producers.
- Ancient Vermont is documentary film based on a conference on ancient Vermont evidences that was held at then Castleton State College.
- Black Sam is a film based on an African American man who went from Rutland to become an outstanding boxer/wrestler in two eastern cities.
- History Detectives is a national company that came to Rutland to film a story on the presentation of a "big stick" to presidential candidate Teddy Roosevelt in 1912. This story which was filmed at the Rutland Historical Society is sandwiched between two other History Detectives programs.
- Life in Rutland County is a filmed collection of historical interviews of Rutland County Residents.
- Rutland Loyalty Parade of 2010



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2017-2018

The Rutland Historical Society is pleased to report that 2017-2018 has been another in a string of busy and productive years. It marked the satisfactory completion of one major project and the beginning of several others.

Responding to the sale of the Rutland Herald during the past year and its move to smaller quarters, the Society offered to acquire and house the bound volumes of newspapers in the Herald's archives. The offer was accepted and through the efforts of many volunteers have been transferred to and housed in secure and climate-controlled quarters. Our holdings of the Herald now cover with minor gaps much of the 19th and practically all of the 20th century.

Meanwhile, also donated by the Herald was the Albert J. Marro Photo Collection, consisting of thousands of images taken by A.J. over his distinguished decades-long career as a Herald photographer. Society volunteers over the past several months have been reviewing the collection with an eye to preserving for our archives those photos relevant to the Rutland area.

In its ongoing efforts to bring Rutland history to a wider public, the Society last fall participated in the Rutland Railway Association's 6th Annual Train Show at the College of St. Joseph. Carolyn Ranftle and Jim Davidson demonstrated the Society's website and sold copies of our Rutland Newsliner CD. More recently, during August's Downtown Sidewalk Sale Days, we were fortunate, courtesy of Mark Foley Jr., to secure access to a large first-floor space in the Opera House for displays, computer inquiries, and sale of our publications. We were also pleased to be able to show Part Two of the film "Ray Mooney's Memories" as part of the Triad program for seniors at the Godnick Center. The film's co-producers, Ray Mooney and Ben Burdge, were on hand to provide the audience with more detail about their nostalgic look at Rutland during the World War II years.

In other new developments, the Website Committee under Doreen McCullough and Corey

Kennedy has made major improvements to the site in terms of ease of access and addition of new material. The site now contains digital newspapers, yearbooks from all area high schools, historical videos including 150 30-minute episodes of the Society's PEG-TV program, "Historically Speaking," a virtual walking tour, and much else. Links from the site provide connections to a variety of genealogical sites such as "Family Search," "Find A Grave," the Social Security Death Index (1935-2014), and U.S. Federal Census Records, 1790-1940. In line with the latter, the Society is in the process of forming a Genealogy Club for those interested in pursuing their family history.

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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 member-
ships.)

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2017-2018

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Turning to last fall, the Society's annual Columbus Day "Yard Sale" was successful with over \$800 being raised and unsold material being donated to the Mission. This year's sale should prove even better as it will offer a number of volumes being weeded from the Society's library collection.

Thanks in part to ideal weather, the Halloween parade on October 28 drew a crowd described as "six to seven deep" which was probably the largest ever. The Society's entry featured the usual banner carriers, candy distributors, and "Nickwackett Nick" in a brand-new costume. Meanwhile, Society member Ben Burdge has produced a 35-minute video history of the Halloween Parade which can be viewed on the Society's website at rutlandhistory.com in the video section.

In other news, the Society was finally successful in finding a suitable home for the Chaffee-Smith Lumber Records. Donated to the Society years ago, the records languished in the basement getting virtually no use and taking up a large amount of valuable space. We are pleased that the records have now been moved to the University of Vermont Library's Special Collections Division where they will be accessible to professors and graduate students for further research. In another area that will result in more space, efforts have begun to evaluate, "weed," and catalog the Society's research library, which over the years has accumulated many fascinating tomes not all of which are relevant to our mission. The Society endeavors to restrict its holdings to those having at least some bearing on its area of coverage including the city, Rutland Town, West Rutland, and Proctor.

Once again, appreciation is extended to Jim Davidson for his leadership and innumerable contributions. Our TV show, "Historically Speaking," which was launched by Jim nearly two decades ago, continues strongly and is currently showing its 159th episode featuring a photographic look at Rutland's "House of Correction" from 1909. Appreciation is also extended to Helen Davidson for her service as treasurer, to her assistant Mike Messier, and to membership chairman Bob Perkins. A debt of gratitude is also owed to officers, committee heads, and the many dedicated volunteers who perform all sorts of tasks and without whom the Society would be unable to function.

As always, we thank the City of Rutland for its ongoing financial support of the Society's activities and its attention to the major needs of the building. This year we would particularly like to thank the city's Parks and Recreation Department for its attention to our grounds, mowing during the hot summer season and plowing during a long and challenging winter.

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