

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT



VOL. 16 NO. 4

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

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## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society was held on Thursday 29 October at the Nickwackett Firehouse at 96 Center Street, Rutland at 7:00 PM. The business reports were submitted and approved. Board Chairperson Lloyd Davis commented on the outstanding and cooperative work of the Board of Directors, Officers, and Committee Chairpersons as well as the many volunteers during the past year. The Nominations Committee's proposed slate of officers and directors was approved.

A three-part program celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Society was presented upon adjournment. As President Chuck Piotrowski was unable to attend, Vice-President Jim Davidson chaired the meeting.

Jim, a member of the Society since its inception in 1969, presented the first part of the anniversary program that covered the lack of a historical society for nearly 100 years since the town's first 100-year celebration in 1870, the founding of the Society in 1969, its growth, and some of its activities in the last 40 years.

Part two of the program consisted of brief reports by committee chairpersons on important accomplishments in their areas of responsibility during the current year. The reports of the activities of the many volunteers were impressive as committee after committee reported on their accomplishments. It was obviously a very good year and highly appropriate for the 40th Anniversary.

President Chuck Piotrowski was unable to attend the meeting in person

as his professional employment took him to Florida to receive both a corporate and a personal award from an international organization. The Society is especially proud of Chuck's performance outside the Society as well as inside. With his usual resourcefulness, Chuck recorded an eight-minute videotaped vision of the Society's future. He noted that scanning materials into a digital format will allow the Society to both preserve materials and at the same time save storage space. Although this is a massive undertaking for the Society, the past year's exploration with the technology on some individual projects gives evidence that the Society volunteers can do this. Chuck reminded all that this is not to replace the valuable human interaction of the members of the Society with each other and with the public. Books, papers, and photos will not disappear in the wake of technological advancement.

Attendees shared a 40th Anniversary cake with a tasty punch. There was a great deal of conversation as folks enjoyed both the refreshments and a refreshing program. Many said it was the best program ever.

## ELECTED

Pres. Chuck Piotrowski

V.P. Lloyd Davis

Sec. Helen Davidson

Treas. Tom Carpenter

Dir. (2 yrs) Ron Hemenway

Dir. (2 yrs) William Powers

Dir. (2 yrs) Dorothy Whitford

Continuing Directors are Clifford Giffin,

Francis (Mickey) Kelly, and Carolynn

Ranftle. Clifford Giffin was elected

Board Chairperson.

## “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 4:00 PM, Thursdays at 1:30 PM, and Fridays at 7:30 PM. 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 website at [rutlandhistory.com](http://rutlandhistory.com) for a complete listing of shows.

### Episode # 108 – The Cemeteries of the Old Town of Rutland

Chris Book and Tom Giffin, Rutland City Cemetery Commissioners, are guests for this program. The program includes images of most of the cemeteries, new and old, of the old Town of Rutland. The program also discusses some of the issues and problems in the proper preservation of cemeteries. The programs for the preservation and care of the graves of military veterans are also discussed. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

## ON DEMAND AT PEG-TV.COM

To watch episodes of “Historically Speaking” or “Notes From the Past” in streaming video on your computer please: (1) go to the Society web site ([rutlandhistory.com](http://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 web site. Scroll down to the show you wish and click on it. If you need the free Quicktime Player, you can easily download it at this site.

## HALLOWEEN PARADE

A dozen “ghosts of the past” and Nick the Nickwackett Squirrel gathered at the Society on Saturday 31 October for the Halloween Parade as a steady rain settled in. Unfortunately the masks and signs of the Society participants were very susceptible to destruction in the wet and the participants would also be exposed to a thorough cold and soaking rain. As a result President Chuck Piotrowski made the difficult decision that the Society should not participate this year. Parade weather always seems problematic.

## COMMITTEE CORNER

### Chairpersons

#### Building Committee

Mickey Kelly - 773-9402

#### Cemetery Committee

Chris Book - 773-6252

#### Collections Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

#### Exhibit Committee

Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

#### Finance Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

#### Membership Committee

Robert Perkins - 773-0184

#### Personnel Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

#### Program Committee

Jim Davidson - 775-7525

#### Publications Committee

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

#### Research Committee

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

#### Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

#### Technology and Telecommunications Committee

Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

#### President

Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

#### Board Chairperson

Clifford Giffin - 773-3743

# WEBSITE COMMITTEE REPORT

The number of visits to the website still averages about 1,000 per day. Doreen McCullough scanned the out-of-print quarterlies that are now on the web site. They are in searchable PDFs and can be read or downloaded for free. She has also scanned the complete collection of all Society Newsletters and these will also be placed on the website. Currently Doreen is scanning the Town of Rutland Reports for 1857 (the first published report) through 1894.

The Web Committee is reviewing the structure of the website and may be consolidating some sections to make them more user friendly.

The Web Committee will also be adding the Society Collections Finding List to the web site.

## 1884 MAP VERSION

The 1884 map project has moved to a much more usable version 2 disk. Anyone with a version 1 disk can request an exchange at no cost. Most replacements have already been made. The map project received an Award of Merit from the Vermont Historical Society on 6 November at the St. Albans meeting of the League of

Local Historical Societies. Clifford Giffin and Jim Davidson worked on the scanning. Clifford spent hours knitting the pieces together. Chuck Piotrowski put the map sections into PDFs and onto a computer disk with high quality images that are easily and quickly accessible. The map disk is available for \$10 with free postage.

## FINDING LIST REVISION

Carolynn Ranftle and Ron Hemenway have patiently worked for nearly a year on a complete revision of the Collections Committee Finding List. Carolynn has entered all files into the Past Perfect cataloging program—a huge undertaking. She then designed a report that organizes the materials into a three-level hierarchy. The third level files have the file name, document box number, and the location of the material.

In addition, Carolynn has provided a small search program for the finding list on the Society's computers. In the near future some elements of the Finding List will be placed on the website.

# FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

*Is it time to renew?*



Please check the date above your name on the mailing label.

• If the date on your label is 2008 or earlier your grace period has expired and this is the last Quarterly you will receive unless you renew by 28 February 2010

• If the date on your label is 2009, your dues for 2010 are now due. Please use the membership form on this page.

• If the date on your label is 2010 or later, your dues are up to date. Thank you.



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**Rutland Historical Society – Membership Form**  
 96 Center Street, Rutland, VT 05701-4023  
 Phone: 802-775-2006

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First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Street Address or Post Office Box \_\_\_\_\_

---

City or Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

\$8 Student     \$8 Senior (62+)    \$10 Regular  
 \$20 Contributor     \$50 Sponsor     \$200 Lifetime

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Second Person at same address (if any). No additional fee  
 (Not available for Student or Lifetime memberships.)

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**SOCIETY ACTIVITIES**

The activity of the Society during the last quarter of 2009 was particularly symbolic of the steady growth of the Society during its 40-year history.

Helen Davidson, Chairperson of the Research Committee, continues to produce "Tidbits from Then and Now" for *Sam's Good News* with occasional help from other members of the Society. This popular item has now exceeded 540 issues.

The Society sale on 10 and 11 October was a two-fold success. It earned over \$450 and eliminated much unneeded material from the basement. Bob Ranftle and Clifford Giffin of the Space Committee did an extensive inventory of the basement that was a great help in identifying "stuff" to go.

Jim Davidson has been doing monthly "Music of the Past" programs at "The Pines" for over 12 years. The fall programs included the music of "Bada Bing Bada Boom" from the 90s, Glenn Miller from the 40s, "Jukebox Nights" from the 50s, and holiday music for a Christmas party.

In a more traditional mode, Jim visits Loretto Home and the Kervick Center on alternate months to share a "Memory Day" topic.

On 19 October Jim Davidson led a walking tour for a group of Bardwell residents.

On 10 November Lloyd Davis, accompanied by Jim Davidson, presented a program on the "Flood of

1947" at a meeting of the Rutland County Association for the Blind.

On 19 November Jim Davidson presented a program on "Rutlanders in the American Revolution" for the Daughters of the American Revolution at their luncheon meeting.

Although the Society got rained out for the Halloween Parade this year, it did loan material to the Chaffee Art Center for their exhibit for the 50th Anniversary of the Rutland Halloween Parade.

Fred Pond, Vermont Historical Society volunteer, visited the Society to inventory the Society movie film holdings. He is doing an inventory of the movie film holdings of the VHS and local societies. He has found some Rutland film in the VHS collections. Some film needs treatment to prevent further deterioration and some needs to be preserved by digitizing it.

**RUTLAND COUNTY CEMETERY BOOKS**

Margaret Jenks of Granville, NY has produced cemetery books for all of the cemeteries in Rutland County. These are organized by towns and each includes a name index. The Society has had the books for the old Town of Rutland for some time but often the Research Committee and visitors doing genealogical research could use the books for other Rutland County towns.

Recently Dorothy Whitford, board member, decided that her personal coin jar might help the Society to do some project that was useful but was not budgeted. The coin jar covered nearly the complete cost of the completion of the Rutland County volumes. Other members quickly met the small balance of the purchase. The Society has added a valuable collection to its research library thanks to generous volunteer members.

**SOCIETY PRESIDENT ON YOUTUBE**

For those who would like to see President Chuck Piotrowski's address on the future of the Society, it may be viewed on YouTube. The eight minute program can be found at:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkxAKKGOaho>

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**THE FACILITIES OF THE  
RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ARE OPEN ON:**

**MONDAYS 6-9 PM**

**SATURDAYS 1-4 PM**

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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

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