



Serving the original Town of Rutland chartered in 1761 and now composed of Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town and West Rutland.

VOL.2 NO.1

101 Center St., Rutland VT 05701

WINTER 1985

ANOTHER NATIONAL AWARD

For the second year in a row the Society has been awarded the Certificate of Commendation by the American Association for State and Local History. The award recognizes Tom Egan for his sustained and imaginative leadership in a continuing series of historical appreciation projects by a local association with regional and national significance.

Remember the high school students and the cannon being pulled to Fort Ticonderoga, the LOVE '76 and LOVE '77 school projects, the radio broadcast on the surrender at Yorktown, the Vermont Republic commemorative license plate? All of these and more are Tom's brain-children.

Rutland Historical Society has been a member of AASLH, which includes the U.S. and Canada, for some years. It was in 1982 that three members of RHS attended the New England Regional meeting and discovered the awards competition. The Award of Merit and Certificate of Commendation are given to individuals and agencies demonstrating excellence in programs or achievements in the field of state and local history. It is open to professionals as well as amateurs.

We felt sure our Quarterlies and *Rutland in Retrospect* would qualify and they did. We received the Certificate at the awards banquet in Providence in November 1983. Receiving an Awards of Merit that year was the Bennington Museum for its superb map exhibit and book on *The Shaping of Vermont*. Another Vermont Award of Merit winner that year was Ernestine Dunaway Pannes for her book on the history of Weston. RHS was the only Vermont winner in 1984.

At the moment we are considering entries for the Vermont Historical Society competition.

A COMPLIMENT FOR OUR OPERATION

Dawn Andrews, local historical societies liaison for the Vermont Historical Society visited us for a short while one stormy winter day. Our purpose was to have an outsiders' viewpoint and opinion on the general operation of the museum.

Ms. Andrews received an award in November from the Preservation Trust of Vermont for her work at the Morristown Historical Museum. She is now director of the UVM program in Historic Preservation, once supervised by Chester Liebs.

She observed that we were far ahead of most local societies which often suffer from dreadful space limitations. We are also very well
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ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS, OCT. 20, 1984

The slate as elected at the Annual Meeting at the Fox Room at the Library includes:

President - Eleanor Elwert
Vice President - Jane Kosmider
Secretary - Helen Davidson
Treasurer - Sanborn Partridge

Directors for 2 years:
James Davidson, Donal Swan, Claire Savage

Directors for 1 year:
Thomas Egan, Mary O'Brien, Leonard Clark

The program by Tom McDevitt featured slides of Rutland scenes with a number of newly discovered pictures of the early days.



"Annie Buswell and her sister nurses"
Do you know who the others are and when this charming picture was taken? Annie is on the left.

Program Chairman needed. Have you missed having an interesting program at the Fox Room each month? We need someone who is acquainted with the local experts, in various fields appropriate to a historical society, to schedule a talk, slide show, exhibit of a collection etc. Saturday afternoons have been popular with the members. Or maybe you just know of someone who could present a good program. Call Eleanor Elwert, 773-3417, if you can help a little or a lot.

Exhibit Chairman At present we are not planning to have an exhibit at the museum next summer. Instead we would like to have small displays in various spaces around town. Do you have the interest or ability to do some creative designs according to standard museum techniques? Choosing the subject, arranging the display, making signs (an important part of museum work) and finding a secure space?

Our very helpful volunteers will be busy at the museum next summer trying to complete the cataloguing of books, pictures, artifacts. The work will be done on a regular schedule and a good typist would be a godsend. We will also be redoing the Farm Museum signs and perhaps rearranging some of those exhibits. The Farm Museum is a valuable part of the Rutland Historical Society and of the Vermont State Fair in Rutland.

Newsletter Editor Just about the best way to keep in touch with the membership of the society is with a newsletter. Next best is having regular meetings or special projects like the Sing-a-long. The president is the editor for present but anyone with the interest and some ability in putting together a newsletter is welcome to step forward. After many years of doing two other newsletters, learning by doing, I can help you get started, if you will try to stick with it. You should be able to compose, type and do layout, and have some time to do all that. Get in touch if you are a doer.

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organized in our filing and storage systems. She offered some valuable suggestions on storing framed pictures. All in all we felt our activities on behalf of saving Rutland area history are on the right track.

Our society has memberships in a number of organizations which enable us, especially the Board of Directors, to keep abreast of developments, programs, research in the field.

In addition to AASLH we belong to the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance, the Vermont Geological Society, the Old Cemetery Association and the Vermont Genealogy Society.

We have many books at the museum on the various aspects of museum operation, members may borrow them.

One thing we do not have is genealogy research material in the formal sense. We do have numerous requests which we turn over to professional researchers.

Our dues income represents almost 40% of our current budget. Though the income is high at the start of the membership year (Jan. 1) it is now tapering off.

From present indications we may be able to do better than budget, for there are already 19 sponsor members, 64 contributing members. However, 119 regular members, 19 contributing and 2 sponsor members have not yet been heard from in 1985. (See back page for dues structure) Hopefully, they will soon want to become current...or they will miss out on an upcoming Quarterly.

Expenditures by check this fiscal year, which began July 1st, already total over \$4000, to which add the discharge of \$2000 of debt in connection with reprinting *Rutland in Retrospect* and a special \$800 purchase that was fully covered by related special donations.

For the moment, expenditures are well under budget but some large ticket items will soon come along (e.g. insurance premiums and Newsletter and Quarterly printing costs). So, we are on an even financial keel and in a position to move forward.

Probably only a few of you know that we have a Building Fund. Modest indeed at just over \$1200, but perhaps some of you will help it to grow!

Sanborn Partridge
Treasurer

BUILDING FUND

As mentioned above we do have a very small fund which will not offset our very large need for more space. Most of you know that our museum building needs expensive shoring up & the city, which owns it is not able to do it.

We do need larger quarters, at least a part of which could be used year round to do research and to keep up with accessioning, cataloguing and other necessary tasks. In addition to the museum we have the use of the upper floor of the Nickwackett firehouse to store bulky items, display cabinets, dress forms, etc.

We feel sure there is much printed material and artifacts pertaining to this area that should be in our care but the owners are perhaps holding back awaiting our obtaining larger quarters

Some factors to keep in mind when considering existing structures are accessibility, visibility, fire codes, security and parking. Any suggestions?

The Sing-a-long is scheduled for Friday evening August 2 in the Center St. Alley. You won't want to miss it so mark your calendar.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The members of this committee include Mrs. Jean Ross, chair and managing editor of the Quarterly, Michael Austin, editor of the Quarterly, James Davidson and Thomas K. Egan.

The ongoing responsibility of the committee is the Quarterly. Started in 1970 under the editorship of Fred Elwert, it continues to publish topical research and personal recollections of historical interest centering around the original town of Rutland as chartered by Benning Wentworth in 1761.

Of the 130 local historical societies in Vermont ours is the only one publishing a Quarterly. It has received three awards from the Vermont Historical Society and a Certificate of Commendation from the AASLH.

University libraries in Texas, California and Wisconsin subscribe to the Quarterly as well as about one hundred individuals living outside Vermont.

Locally, a copy of each issue goes to the library of each grade school and high school in the four towns. Several high schools have purchased copies of the ethnic series for students in social studies classes. Aldermen and selectmen are also on the mailing list.

The committee is interested in replacing two members who resigned last year. The primary purpose of the committee is to choose subject matter for each yearly volume. An immediate need is for a good proof reader to be available as each Quarterly is being readied for the printer.

This is a great opportunity to plunge in and start learning about Rutland history if you have some background in writing and in history. Call Mrs. Ross (773-7301) or the president, Eleanor Elwert (773-3417).

Rutland in Retrospect, the pictorial history of Rutland, is still available from the Society or Book King in the Opera House.

Of great interest to the Publications Committee is finding a person who will write a history of the Greek population in the area. The Quarterly has covered the advent of the Irish, the French-Canadians, the Swedes, the Czechs, the Poles and the Italians, but, so far, the Greek story remains untold. Surely, there is someone with pride in his or her ancestry who will document the impact of this important ethnic group in our community.

Jean Ross

As you can see by the two pictures in this issue, identifying pictures is an ongoing task. We have many from the 1890's on that are unidentified. Which leads us to urge you to do the "who, when and where" on your family photos. Never write on the back of the photo, instead use permanent ink and permanent press on labels. Your descendants and the local historical society will bless you.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

This past month the research committee was called upon to furnish information on the former Davidson house in Center Rutland which is being renovated to house a restaurant.

Ezekiel Bailey, a carpenter and grandson of the illustrious Gen. Jacob Bailey of Newbury, is said to have built the home as his residence, probably soon after 1816.

Painstaking detective work is the hallmark of historical research and it is a case of "Eureka" when the pieces of the puzzle come together, though not yet in the story below.

When Gershom Cheney settled in Rutland in 1793 he started a diary and kept it for thirty years. The diary, which was quoted in the "History of Rutland County" in the 1880's, was then in the possession of Lyman Cheney. After his death his effects went to his sister-in-law Ellen Vaughn (Mrs. Fayette Vaughn of Rutland). She died in Granville in 1929.

Recently we have been in contact with her granddaughter who has no knowledge of the diary although she does have some spoons marked Cheney. Perhaps the diary has been destroyed, but we hope not.

Gershom Cheney built some of Rutland's early homes, ran a tavern and was an officer in the militia so his accounts of daily life would be of great value. The search continues.

Dawn Hance
Chm. Research Comm.



Sign seems to read "Headquarters for PO..." poultry maybe? Who, When, Where is it?

LIFE MEMBERS as of December 1, 1984

Louise Newton Adams (Mrs. Percy W.)
Carolyn Lee Allen
Stanley Apfelbaum
Bennett Dubois Bell
Miriam P. Bell Mrs. Bennett)
Charles L. Billings
Robert E. Bossardt
Gardner A. Caverly
Edward Congdon
Helen S. Crockett
Rita F. Crowley (Mrs. R.J.)
Helen K. Davidson (Mrs. James S.)
James Sanborn Davidson
Martha Marro Dwyer (Mrs. Philip D.)
Lloyd P. Davis
Marguerite A. Egan (Mrs. Thomas K.)
Vera V. Egelston
Marjorie Mead Erickson (Mrs. Ernest L.)
O. Andrews Ferguson
Gilbert G. Godnick
Ruth C. Hale
Patricia Wiman Hewett (Mrs. William A.)
Mrs. P.J. Howard
Gilbert Bush Howland
Jeffrey E. Hunter
Arthur J. Kavanaugh
Gladys S. Kenney (Mrs. John)
Sibyl Kirby
William Hale Kirby
Dorothy A.W. Kirk (Mrs. George L.)
Kenneth A. LaPlant
Mary F. Lyman
Dr. Charles A. Lynn
George R. McConnell, DDS
Louise H. McCoy (Mrs. Byron O.)
Lois S. Moore
Sanborn Partridge
Shirley G. Perkins (Mrs. Cleon A.)

Robert Perkins
Berenice C. Powell
Marjorie Mitchell Rose (Mrs. Richard C.)
Richard C. Rose
Harriet Mead Ross (Mrs. Donald)
Anna Marie Ryan (Mrs. Richard M.)
Helen R. Sheldon
Ann F. Spencer (two)
Jean Brehmer Swain (Mrs. Howard T.)
Merritt L. Thomas
Christine Bigelow Wright (Mrs. Earl S.)

Memorial Membership: Berenice Tuttle

Deceased Life Members:

Hannibal Hodges
John E. Rogers
Richard M. Ryan
Beth R. Smith (Mrs. Earl B.)
Carleton Wilson

We are happy to acknowledge the valuable support of all our members. Other categories will be listed in the next Newsletter.

The dues categories follow:

Sustaining.....\$100
Sponsor......25
Contributing.....15
Single.....5

Life Membership \$125) one
Memorial " 150) payment

All are fully tax deductible. Any interested person may join by sending a check payable to the Rutland Historical Society to:
Sanborn Partridge, Treasurer
62 Ormsbee Av., Proctor, VT

MEMORIAL ROCK—EVERGREEN CEMETERY.

The year moves on; the seasons come and go;
Day follows day, and pale stars rise and set.
Oh, in yon radiant heaven do ye know
The land ye died for never can forget?

It does not swerve; it keeps its onward way
Unfaltering still, from farthest sea to sea;
Yet shall it pause above your graves to pray,
Nobler and stronger grown, remembering ye!

J. C. R. D.

J.C.R.D. Julia Caroline Ripley Dorr
from the 1899 calendar.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Rutland, Vermont 05701

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