

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

VOL. I No. 2

JANUARY 1971



RUTLAND — 1878. In March the snow on Center St. may have been deeper than in 1971 but the prices for goods in the stores were lower. The view (above) is looking west on Center St. from the Berwick Hotel. Nelson's was a "five and ten cent" store.

**REV. PATRICK T. HANNON WILL SPEAK ON
"RUTLAND AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES"
ON THURSDAY JANUARY 28th AT THE
CENTRAL VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING
CORNER OF GROVE AND MAPLE STREETS
AT 7:30 P.M.**

NO ADMISSION

PUBLIC INVITED

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Rutland Historical Society has located a suitable building for a Society home and museum on Center Street. The building is a few doors east of the Rutland Free Library and opposite the new Rutland Fire Station. This location is especially desirable as the property bounds on the rear of Main Street Park and can be seen from the Chamber of Commerce Information Booth.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church presently occupies the building but has broken ground for a new church building. Prior to its occupancy as a church, this building was the home of the old Rutland Savings Bank.

The Rutland Historical Society has made a formal request of the Board of Aldermen for the City to purchase this building for the use of the Society as a public museum. Presently the request is in the hands of the Aldermanic Building Committee which has recommended that the Society obtain an option on the property. A Building Committee under the chairmanship of Fred Elwert is presently representing the Society in this matter.

JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Briefs

Fred Elwert, new Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Rutland Historical Society, addressed the West Rutland Rotary Club on Monday, December 21, 1970. His topic was "The Rutland Historical Society." West Rutland people were invited to join the Rutland Historical Society which serves the historical interests of "old Rutland" which includes Rutland City, Rutland Town, West Rutland and portions of Proctor.

A highly successful meeting of the Society was held November 19, 1970, when Lilian Baker Carlisle spoke on "Rutland Silversmiths and Clockmakers." Her talk included slides of Rutland and Rutland silver and clocks. Numerous pieces of Rutland silver were exhibited for nearly 70 people, some of whom traveled 40 miles for the meeting. An autographed copy of the speaker's new book, *Vermont Clock And Watchmakers, Silversmiths and Jewelers: 1778-1878* was given as a door prize.

The Graphic Microfilm Company of Waltham, Massachusetts, has set up equipment at City Hall this month to continue micro-filming city records. The project at this time includes all Land Records up to 1963, Street and Sewer Books, World War II Service Discharges, Aldermanic Records to 1963 and a few miscellaneous items. A new 3M Reader-Printer is now in the City Clerk's Office for use in reading the microfilmed records and making the necessary copies.

WHO'S WHO *Mrs. Barbara Chiolino* of 64 North Main St. is the owner of Windy Ledge Antiques. She has particular interests in Rutland silver and Rutland portraits. She is also the proud possessor of a Lord and Goddard clock. Slides of some of her silver were shown at a recent meeting of the Rutland Historical Society. She has provided the Editor of the *Newsletter* with a number of pictorial items for reproduction in the *Newsletter*.

Charles Conner of 7 Temple St. is the editor of a popular weekly column in the *Saturday Rutland Herald* entitled "100 Years Ago." This column was inaugurated by the late John Clement nearly ten years ago. Mr. Conner also edits a column entitled "25 Years Ago" for the Kinney, Pike, Bell and Conner Insurance Company's weekly newspaper advertisement.

What's Where The Rutland Free Library now has available *Plans of Public Buildings in the course of construction for the United States of America under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury: Courthouse and Post Office at Rutland, Vermont, 1856*. These plans were designed by Ammi B. Young, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department. They were originally found in a top floor room at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, by Noel Potter, Jr., then a student. The contents of the room were to be thrown out and the janitor gave students permission to take what they wanted. About twenty sets of plans for public buildings were there. Since Mr. Potter was from Rutland, he salvaged the Rutland plans which he later gave to the Rutland Free Library, which now occupies the building that was the 1856 Courthouse and Post Office. This item can be found in the Vermont Room of the Library.

WHO KNOWS (1) — the location of the manuscript diary of Gershom Cheney of Rutland? Cheney was a builder and well-known Rutland citizen who kept a diary from 1793 to 1838. The diary was well-known in the 19th Century but has apparently strayed from sight in the 20th Century. Any leads to its location or information regarding its last owners would be greatly appreciated.

(2) — the location of any information about James Hope or any of his works? Hope was an artist in the mid-19th Century. In 1850 he was a school teacher in Rutland.

ATTENTION -- RAILROAD BUFFS

The Rutland Historical Society is planning a meeting devoted to the Rutland railroads for Thursday, April 22 or 29, 1971. Tentative plans call for a panel discussion and/or short talks by those who have pursued interests connected with the history of the Rutland railroads. All types of historical records, photographs, letters, diaries of people associated with the railroads etc. would be exhibited at the meeting. The Rutland Historical Society Program Committee needs the aid of interested people willing to participate in the program in any way. Please call Mrs. Bennett D. Bell, Chairman of the Program Committee or James S. Davidson, Editor of the *Newsletter*, if you can participate or provide materials.

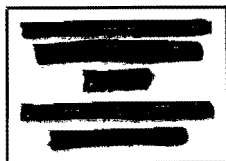
EDITOR'S NOTE: The group of young men pictured on page three of Vol. I, No. 1 of the *Newsletter* were members of a Rutland, Vermont, bicycle club (circa 1880).

Picture Credits:

CENTER ST. PHOTOGRAPH, Mrs. Barbara B. Chiolino.

MAP, Special Collections, Bailey Library, University of Vermont.

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