

# Rutland Historical Society

R U T L A N D , M A S S A C H U S E T T S

## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Boston Cane
- Curatorial
- 2017 Events!

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Dear Members,

It is an honor and pleasure to be the president of the Rutland Historical Society! I am looking forward to working with all of you as we begin to plan new programs as well as continue with the amazing annual events our society has provided to the Rutland community and communities beyond.

As president, one of the most important goals I have is to continue building our membership by coordinating and presenting new educational programs for children and their families. As a third grade Social Studies and History teacher at Glenwood Elementary School, I recognize the importance of our younger generations being exposed to and learning about their local history and in preserving the past.

Since taking office in April our society has presented various events and activities with your help. These events are highlighted below.

On June 3rd we hosted a “Making an Enchanted Garden Plant and Bake Sale”. Despite the chilly weather

that day, this event was well received. The society made \$374.00! Many local children enjoyed the activities we had to offer! I wish to thank all of the members who graciously donated varieties of perennials and house plants and Howe’s of Holden who contributed gorgeous hanging baskets and annuals. I’d also like to thank the many members and Devereux School bakers who prepared delicious baked goods for the bake sale.

On June 16th Glenwood’s third graders spent the morning visiting the Wood House to learn about Rutland’s history. Many students commented that this was one of the best field trips they had experienced.

On July 2nd the society hosted an “Open House Lemonade Social” at the Wood House as part of the town’s 4th of July festivities. Over 40 visitors stopped by and enjoyed viewing the displays and artifacts our society has to

offer.

The society entered a “Winter Carnival Queens” float in this year’s 4th of July parade. This was the brainstorm and result from the discussions that occurred the night of the program “Memories of the Winter Carnivals” in March. Queens that participated in the parade were Nancy Martelli-Blair, Jean Scales-Bigelow, Bonnie Bigelow-Besse, Marcia Follansbee-Hammond, Donna Blair-Dunwoody, Robin Burnett-Congdon, Cindy LaBoffa-Purcell, Robin Helle-Arnoldy and myself. Rebecca Barthelmes portrayed the queens’ servant and helped design the float and painted the beautiful garden door. Preparing the float for the parade proved to be a wonderful team building project! Our float won 1st place for “the most historical” award! A good time was had by all!

During the week of July 24 – July 28, third grade teacher Kristine Thayer and I presented another “Making History Alive” summer program for children ages 7-13 at the Wood House. We had

## LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CONT.



11 participants this year who experienced creating many of the forgotten arts from the past such as embroidery, copper crafts, cake decorating, hand sewing patchwork pillows, and a painting on canvas class presented by Rutland local artist Diann Hale. I'd like to thank Diann for generously donating her time, expertise and art materials! Paintings were created in the Wood Art Studio. Wouldn't Franklin Wood be proud!

Members of the society were busy cleaning and organizing the garage at the Wood House in plans for a new Tool Room display. Local resident Jeffrey Kennedy has volunteered to build and lead us through this project. We appreciate Jeffrey's woodworking talents and enthusiasm with this new endeavor!

In closing, I appreciate your support and dedication to the Rutland Historical Society. I would like to invite members to join us during our monthly Board Meetings. Board Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at the Wood House. Your input and ideas are always welcomed and appreciated! I am looking forward to an exciting year!

Sincerely,  
Sheila Judkins

### OFFICERS

**President**  
Sheila Judkins

**Vice-President**  
Carolyn Semon

**Secretary**  
Pat LaChance

**Treasurer**  
Sandra Morse

**Membership**  
Susan Root

**Curator**  
Helen Viner

**Assistant Curator**  
Anne Davis

**Historian**  
Janet Barakian

**Scholarship**  
Judith Butterfield

**Website**  
Kerry Metcalf

**Newsletter**  
Kerry Metcalf

**Immediate Past President**  
Anne Davis

### WHAT'S COMING UP AT RHS?

#### ***The History and Making of the Quabbin Reservoir***

October 5 7:00 pm Rutland Public Library

*Jim Lafley, educational coordinator of the Division of Watershed Management will present a slide presentation of the history and making of the Quabbin Reservoir. The Quabbin's waters run through Rutland to Boston. Come learn about this extraordinary event! Refreshments will follow after the presentation.*

#### ***The Forgotten Arts Festival and Farmers' Market***

October 28 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Town Common

*This is one of the Rutland Historical Society's most popular events! Come take a step back in time and see how local artisans and crafters continue the traditions of the forgotten arts from long ago. Vendors will demonstrate their talents for you! We also have planned various children's activities to enjoy. There will be a Farmer's Market and food booth as well!*

#### ***Jack-O-Lantern Lighting Festival***

October 28 6pm – 7:30 pm Wood House

*Come bring your carved Jack-O-Lantern to display for this spooky and enchanting evening! Jack-O-Lanterns can be dropped off at the Wood House during the day or between 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Candles will be provided for you! Hope to see you at this first ever event!*

#### ***Merrimack Valley Ringers and Festival of Trees***

December 1st The First Congregational Church at 7:30

December 2nd and 3rd Rutland Public Library

Saturday 4-8 and Sunday 1-4

*Consider entering a tree, gingerbread creation, wreath or other holiday decoration!!*

# THE BOSTON POST CANE BY: H. B. ROOT



*Vivian G. Root age 99 presented the Boston Post cane by Town Clerk Anita K. Carlson on Thursday September 21, 2017.*

In what started as a publicity event created by Boston Post publisher Edwin A. Grozier in 1909 the cane is a symbolic gesture to honor the oldest resident in each of the estimated 700 New England towns which received the originals.

Meant to only be given to the oldest male the tradition was changed in 1930 to include women. For reasons unknown the cane ceremony in Rutland ceased in the 80s and it took the efforts of the Rutland Historical Society to petition the Select Board to reinstate the program.

After several years of on and off negotiations the beautifully crafted canes produced by students at Bay Path Regional

Vocational Technical School were ready.

Mrs. Root was approached by then RHS president Anne Davis last year to accept the cane but due to advanced age and health the prospect of a ceremony was not appealing. Recently Mrs. Root decided that the cane would be a meaningful memento of her life in town and her son, Howard, approached Town Clerk Anita K. Carlson to see if a simple presentation at home would be doable.

Thanks to the efforts of Ms Carlson and Town Administrator Margaret Nartowicz this was done on the 21st of September.

Born and raised in a small town in South Carolina Vivian, one of nine children, pursued a degree in education and started her career as a teacher in several towns in her home state.

She met and married a Yankee who brought her back to Massachusetts to start her life anew.

Vivian eventually returned to teaching after having settled in Worcester and taught for many years in the Grafton Elementary School System.

One of her many proud accomplishments was enrolling at Worcester State Teachers College in the early 60s to obtain her Masters Degree of Education. This while teaching full time and balancing the obligations to her family.

Some years after retirement an injury and a short period in a nursing facility convinced Vivian to move in with her son, daughter in law and grandson here in Rutland.

Now 12 years later she has attained the status of oldest resident at 99 + years and is honored to have received the Boston Post Cane. She was excited to share the news with her twin sister.

## FROM THE CURATOR

We received some unique donations to our collection this past summer.

Among them: a license plate "Naquag", a photo of the train station on Miles Rd. with a metal "Rutland" sign from the station, a photo of Main

St. looking from Pound Hill to the center, and a 1932 cookbook from the Congregational Church's Women's Union.

Very cool and much appreciated.  
Helen Viner, Curator

RUTLAND HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



Find us on Facebook!

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The Wood House, home to the Rutland Historical Society is a treasure trove of Rutland History. Rutland, the geographical center of Massachusetts was home to the Prison Camps and State Sanatorium, later becoming home to a TB Hospital and the Muschopauge House, a 100 room hotel with a thriving business in the horse and buggy years. Visit our Wood House and learn more about Rutland—the town, the land and its settlers.

**New members are always welcome!**

Rutland Historical Society  
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If you find your zip code highlighted on your address label we believe you owe dues for this year. We do offer membership cards which makes it a little easier to remember. Thank you for your support of Rutland Historical Society.