

# RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TOWN MUSEUM

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## Good Reading From the Rye Town Museum

While we are waiting out this crisis there is a lot of good reading on Rye History. Digital Resources include:

- [Rye Beach Walking Tour](#)
- [Access Rye History](#) (dozens of fascinating primary sources 1850-1920)
- [Image Catalog](#) (hundreds of historic photos arranged by topics A - Z)
- [400 Years of Rye History](#) (short excerpts on topics from four centuries - we welcome additions to this section)
- [YouTube](#) (NEW!!)

In addition, I have completed the 2nd draft of a new history of Rye and I am glad to share any decade or event(s) with you. i.e. The greatest grassroots citizen action decade in Rye's history may be the 1970s. Just send your request to RHS - [info@ryenhistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhistoricalociety.org).

Part of my research for the book included reading all the town reports from 1863 to the present. I recently looked at the years 1918, 1919 and 1920, the years of the last influenza pandemic. Schools were closed for several weeks in the fall in 1918 and 1919 and the school superintendent's report was gravely concerned about loss of education. There did not appear to be a spike in deaths as there were 27 deaths in 1917 and roughly the same number 1918 - 1920, although I do know of a few people in Rye who died from that virus. Today we are used to the narratives of town department and board chairs in the annual Town Report, but that has only been the norm since the mid-20th century. Prior to that the town school superintendent was the first to write such a report starting in the late 1860's and they are both entertaining and enlightening. Bad dental hygiene was a constant theme before WWII and in his first report in 1868, he lambasted the town for their unwillingness to repair the falling down East School and warned that soon there will be a graveyard there because the teacher and the students will all freeze to death! It makes one long for the days when we were not such a litigious society and the truth could be reported so bluntly. By the early 1870's, the school had been repaired. The next narrative report to appear was that of the library trustees and the librarian starting in 1911 when the library opened. We do not see any other such reports until after WWII.

Part of this new Rye history includes documenting the town's-built environment including its older houses as well housing developments. Also, to help tell the story of our most recent decade, over thirty challenges and political developments have been identified. Separate documents have been created

for both of these topics and will be sent to you on request.

Alex Herlihy

Click the video below to watch "Rye on the Rocks"



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## Seeking Participation From Rye Residents on Wallis Sands 20th Century Book Project

I am Deb Cross, a former long term Rye resident and author of the 2011 book entitled "***Remember When We... Wallis Sands Beach Revisited.***" (Editor's note: You can now [view this on YouTube!](#)) In light of the "times we are all living in," I've decided it's time for me to do a sequel to "Remember When We" by using ONLY the photos that I acquired from the 45 families who shared their stories with me. I hope to convey to the readers how it "felt" to live during the times when the nuclear family spent quality time with each other; spent time out in nature; a time when a hand shake could seal a business deal; a time when folks were taking good care of their friends and neighbors. There will be a long intro at the beginning to give the reader a sense of what it was like growing up in the early 1930's to the 1980's.

I am reaching out to Rye residents who might be interested in assisting me in trying to cover the "feeling of those times" which may rekindle fond memories of their childhood. My hope is that these values, beliefs and sense of community will be conveyed to their children, grand children and great grandchildren. If this has peaked your interest to assist me please feel free to contact me @ 603-674-9687 or [celebrateyourlifestudio@gmail.com](mailto:celebrateyourlifestudio@gmail.com). I am excited about this new undertaking and look forward to hearing from like minded people.

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## 2020 Programs

**Rye Historical Society** invites the public to attend all their programs which are held in the Rye Public Library Community Room at 6:30P.M.

**April 30 TBD Glenn Knoblock** - *New Hampshire on High: Historic and Unusual Weathervanes of the Granite State*

**July 16 Thomas Hubka** - *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn*

**November 10 Neil Novello** - *No Mutiny This Time*

**Rye 1623**, the committee formed to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rye's settlement, will also have two programs:

**May 26 Craig Musselman** *Historic Mills of Rye*

**October 22 Ed Bullock** (Eyes That Shine) *Native Storytelling, Song and Dance: Teaching of the Drum and Flute*



## Rye Trolley Tours

Take a narrated ride through scenic Rye and learn about our rich history. 10:30-noon \$25

**5/25 Memorial Day**

**7/4 Independence Day**

**9/7 Labor Day**

[Purchase tickets](#)



## Cemetery Tour - Epitaphs, Founding Families

**Sunday, May 17th 1 pm**

Park in town lot south of church to view the oldest part of the cemetery in back of the church. You will have the option to then walk or drive down to the beginning of the 1893 section. Tour lasts one hour. **FREE**

## Help RHS Document Rye's Older Houses

RHS has been working on this project started back in the 1970's by Louise Tallman. It represents the heart and soul of the town. When it is finished and digitized it will be an invaluable resource for so many people. Many museum visitors are seeking information on their house or others for research, but the current project needs more volunteers to make this material more accessible.

Please write to RHS if you are interested in helping out. [info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org)

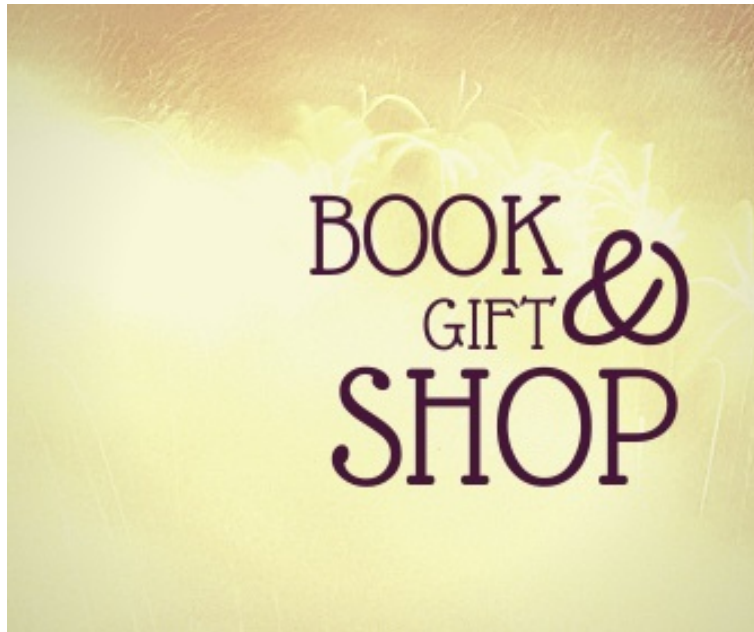
## Sharing Stories of Rye

Do you have a story to tell? Rye Historical Society has established a community on StoryCorps to help our members share stories. You are invited to join the Rye NH History community on [archive.storycorps.org](http://archive.storycorps.org). Please follow this link to create a

StoryCorps Archive account and join our community. Next, download the StoryCorps App to record and share your story with us.

If you'd prefer to share your story with a video please let us know and we will add it to our [YouTube playlist](#).

Stories of Rye



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**izi**.TRAVEL  
the storytelling platform



Audio tour

Rye Beach Block

★★★★★ 4 reviews | [Rye](#) | Free

Did you know there is a guided walking tour in Rye Beach? [Download the IziTRAVEL app and get started!](#)

Don't want to walk? You can take this tour from the comfort of your easy chair!

Share Your Talents and Skills with the RHS

## Volunteers Needed For:

- Old House documentation
- Coordinator between RHS resources and Rye schools
- Archival work and genealogical research
- Exhibit updates and creation
- Textile organization and display
- Computer technology and website maintenance
- Administrative work
- Building care and maintenance

If any of these interest you, [please email](#) or phone us. We would love for you to be part of the RHS!

### Share The History of Your Home with a Historic House Plaque

Many Rye homes, business and public buildings are adorned with these handsome plaques. The cost of a plaque is \$85.

If you would like one for your home to add to the heritage of the town, house plaque applications may be picked up at the Rye library on the coffee table (behind the RHS brochures).

Check and application may be mailed to PO Box 583, Rye, NH 03870 or left in our mailbox by the front door of the museum.



### RHS is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization

Rye Historical Society

603-997-6742

[info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org)

10 Olde Parish Road, Rye, NH 03870

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