

# RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TOWN MUSEUM

*The Rye Town Museum is open to visitors on Saturday mornings from 10 to 12, and at almost all other times by appointment.*

**Make your appointment online**, email us at [info@ryenhistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhistoricalociety.org), or call 603-436-9278

Schedule Museum Visit

AUGUST 2022

## NEW EXHIBIT OPENING RECEPTION

On July 2nd we officially opened our new exhibit titled, "Rye Family Connections: How the threads of life connect us through home, economics & community." Thank you to our exhibit committee, which is made up of board and community members, and thank you to everyone who showed up to celebrate with us! The exhibit can be viewed any Saturday 10 - 12 through October.

Scenes from the opening:







*L-R Lew Karabatsos, Steven Roy, Ginna Macdonald*

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## **RESTORED RYE VIOLIN SINGS AGAIN!**



Thanks to the financial contributions of our community to restore the Rye violin, it was returned to playing condition and sang its heart out with the help of violin maker Steven Roy.

Watch the [video](#) of Steve's presentation.



Steve Roy talks about the process of restoring our Rye violin

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

**August 14th ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING** 3 - 4:30 p.m. Vote for board members and hear from board member Andy Stecher about the Manchester Colony community in Rye.

**November 3rd QUILTS OF THE CIVIL WAR.** Presentation by Pamela Weeks, 7 p.m. at the Rye Congregational Church

Link for more information: [Events at Rye Historical Society](#)

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## Read the Diaries of Supply Foss Trefethen Online

Transcribed, edited and annotated by Larry B. Keech, the diaries of Rye resident Supply Foss Trefethen are now [online at the Portsmouth Atheneum website.](#)

Trefethen, who worked at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, began his diary entries in 1856 and continued off and on until 1907.

The Atheneum's web page for the diaries includes lists of the many people Trefethen mentioned and the many topics he discussed. Scroll down to the very bottom of the page for links to the [diaries](#) and a [timeline](#) of events

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**RYE 400**



Left to right: Kerry Cronin, Linda Gordius, Jean Briggs Badger, Cathy Hodson, Andy Stecher, Ginna Macdonald, Jan Olmstead, Debbi Toohey, Alex Herlihy

Have you heard the buzz? Preparations are underway for a 2023 filled with fun and educational community gatherings to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Rye's first settlement at Odiorne Point. The Rye 400 committee is led by Andy Stecher and is meeting regularly for planning sessions. If you want to find out more or get involved, visit [www.Ryeh400.org](http://www.Ryeh400.org).

*Ginna Macdonald*

## BATHING IN RYE IN 1865

"Rye Beach, though but a mile in length, is preeminently the finest of all we are acquainted with." So declared a correspondent for The New York Times, in a tourism feature published August 25, 1865. "Others are longer and graced with a handsomer background, but nothing can exceed the hard sand of this, in which the wheel makes no indentation on its even and gentle inclination, far out into the waves, with hardly a rock to mar it."



The Times writer sketched a typical day at the beach:

**About 10 o'clock bathing begins, and the beach from the bordering bath houses beyond the furthest breakers is a scene of life and frolic. The hotel attendants ring the bathing-bell, parties from the private houses cross the pastures knapsacked with robes d'eau. It is curious to observe the multitude in their oceanic uniform enjoying the flow of spirits which the waves impart. Different parties dot the beach throughout its length. In the**

serf [sic] they take hold of hands, and the electrical circle receives the shock from the breaking, foaming, blood-prompting wave. When out fishing we have heard the shouting further than the voices of the waves.

In the afternoon the bathing clothes line the fences and railing; walking and studying the ocean air is in order. The place is eminently fitted for recuperating the jaded system and fitting it for the wear and tear of city work. Truly, the contrast is agreeable between sitting on the piazza here and enjoying the murmur of the waves, and working in the counting-room with the unceasing clatter of the street dinning the ear. We do not wonder that the place is increasing in its fame and number of visitors each year. It is agreeable to add to this a still greater falling off in the number of mosquitoes, so that now one is a curiosity.

*See nineteenth-century bathing dresses and vintage beach photos in our museum exhibit.*

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ANSWER TO

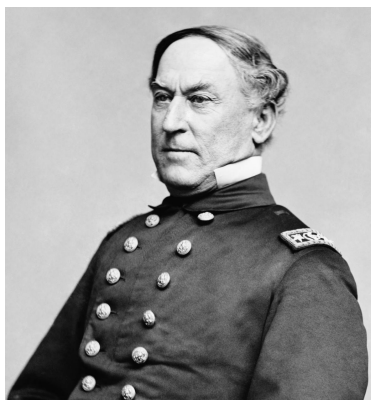
## WHAT IS THIS?

David Caswell was the first of several readers to correctly identify this device as a [Loom Shuttle](#).



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## THIS MONTH IN RYE HISTORY



# ADMIRAL FARRAGUT'S WORKING VACATION

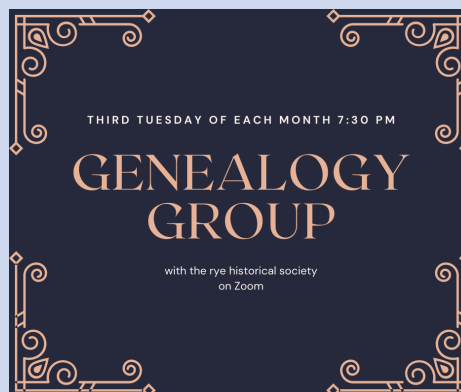
The August, 1865 Times article praising Rye Beach, excerpted above, included an impressive social note. David Farragut, the Hero of Mobile Bay, was summering in Rye!

Admiral FARRAGUT has been staying for three weeks at the Atlantic House. The visitors at this and the Ocean House have tendered him two receptions, which were the gayest affairs of the season. The Admiral is extensively engaged in correspondence connected with the department at Washington. Probably statements respecting those who had previously been connected with the United States Navy, but afterward joined the rebellion, and in furtherance of President JOHNSON'S Amnesty mechanism. The Admiral rarely bathes. It probably is a matter of surprise to the conscientious every-day bathers that the Admiral, old sea-dog as he is, does not find it necessary to dip in the Atlantic once in twenty-four hours. May-be he thinks that hearty, fresh ocean air is a good enough "sea-weed tonic" for sailor or landsman.

## Ongoing Free Programs



Free Self-Guided  
Rye Beach Block Tour [izi](#).TRAVEL



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## Get Involved

Rye Historical Society & Museum



400 Years

New Hampshire  
1623



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THE RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS AN INDEPENDENT, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO COLLECTING AND PRESERVING THE RICH HISTORY OF RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE BY ENGAGING RESIDENTS AND VISITORS THROUGH OUR MUSEUM AND PROGRAMS

Rye Historical Society, 10 Olde Parish Road, Rye NH 03870 • 603 436-9278

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