

RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TOWN MUSEUM

Covid-19 Statement

Until further notice, the museum will be open by appointment only, limited to 2 visitors per appointment. Masks are required inside, as is hand sanitizing upon entering the building. Appointments may be made by email: info@ryenhistoricalociety.org , or by calling: 603-997-6742

Museum Open All Year



Consider a House Plaque!

- Celebrate your home's history
- Commemorate NEW construction/additions
- Includes 1 yr. membership to Rye Historical Society

[Click here](#) to order one and if it is a gift we will mail you a gift certificate and plaque application! [Applications can be viewed here.](#)

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.



Support Rye Historical Society by doing your shopping on Amazon Smile!

A History of the Parsonage Property: 1810 to the Present



In the life of every community, public and private buildings disappear due to fire, removal to another location, disassembly or demolition. Rye center has been no stranger to such changes. The Third Congregational Church burned in 1959, The barn in Parsons field was disassembled and moved in the 1960's, the historic Walker house was moved to Central Road to make way for the building of the fire/police station early in this century. With the passing of the 1810 Parsonage apartment buildings, it is important to acknowledge their history and the new use the property will now have.

In 1810 the Second Parsonage for the Congregational Church was built to replace the cape style first parsonage which remained on the property until the early 20th century. But the building lasted as a parsonage for only twenty years and by 1830 the Rand family had purchased it for a private home. In 1910 Mary Tuck Rand donated the lot just to the south of her house plus \$7500 for the new Rye library built in 1911.

By the 1930's the Wilson family owned the property and used the building for the Parsonage Inn. In 1930 Mildred Wilson built an antique shop in back, close to the library where the first parsonage had been. By the 1950's the building had been converted to apartments. By the 1970's the Ricci family owned the property and the former antique shop, plus a big addition off the rear of that building, was part of apartment complex along with the small, cement block carriage house. Ownership of the property then passed to Fred Cook who sold it to the town in 1995. The purpose of the purchase was for library expansion

and other town uses.

In 1997, after razing the addition from the rear, the library moved the former antique shop to its current location to be renovated as a town museum and then the library expansion began. In 1999 the town signed a twenty year lease with the Housing Partnership to manage the apartments, but there was some deferred maintenance on the building. In 2019 the town did not renew the lease with Housing Partnership because the latter wanted a 100 year lease and to enlarge the apartment complex.

In March 2020, voters approved an exchange of the parsonage property for the former bank property owned by Dan Philbrick, for purposes of solving town employee space needs and creating a needed large meeting space on 2nd floor of the town hall. In November, after long negotiations and discussions among all the parties, the town (Select Board) exercised its right to manage and dispose of town properties. The two apartment buildings were demolished on November 25, 2020 paving the way for the exchange that was approved in March.

The southern part of the lot near the library will remain open and a new structure will be built on the northern section. The town clerk/tax collector and some other employees will move to the former bank building and the auditorium on the second floor of town hall will be restored allowing upwards of 200 people to use it for all town gatherings.

In its time, the 1810 building served several purposes for the town and it will be remembered in an exhibit at the town museum.

~Alex Herlihy

Where is this?

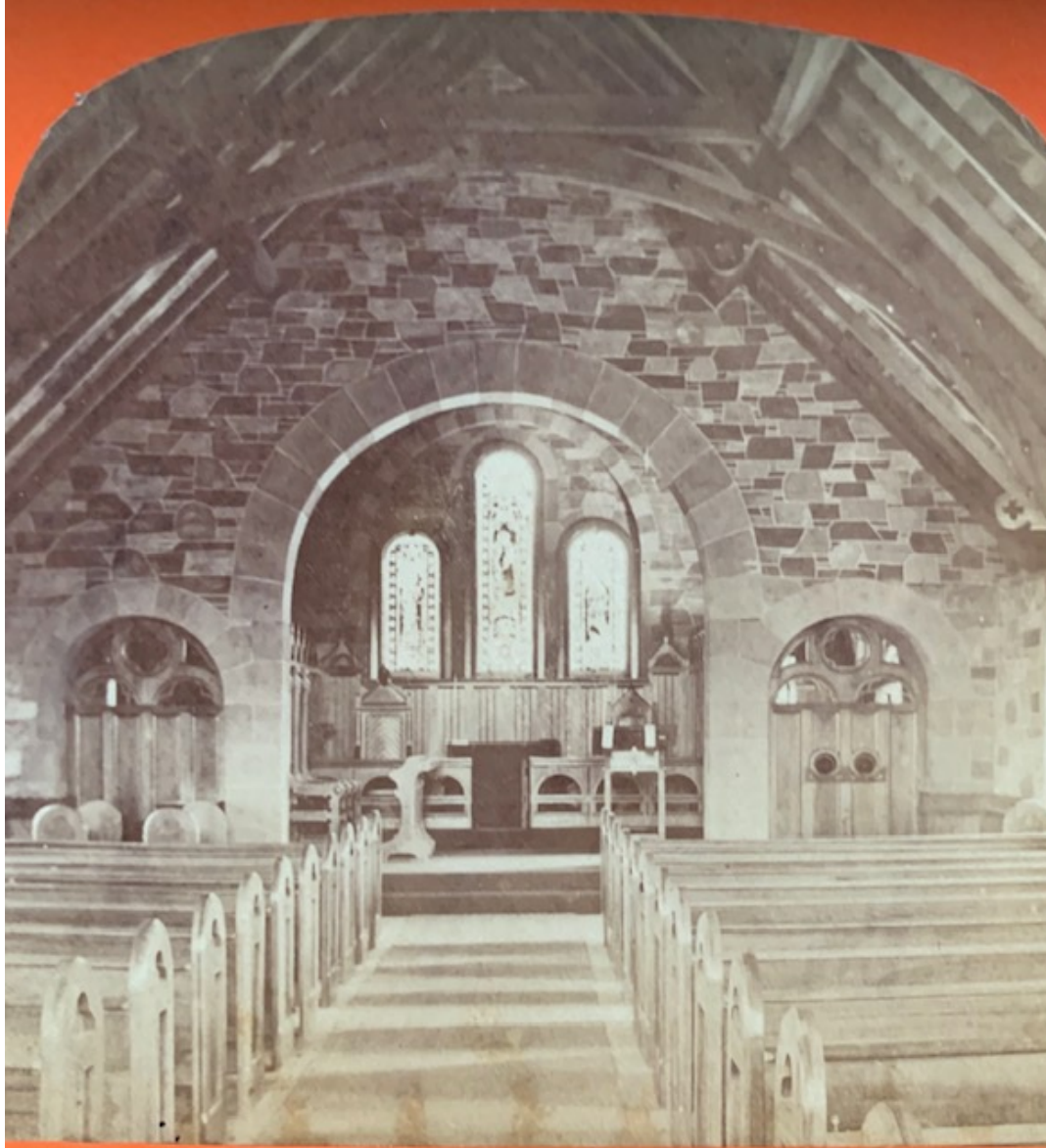
Click on the picture if you know! Answer will be in next month's newsletter.



First person to reply correctly will be mentioned in next month's newsletter.

Last Month's Winner

While several people submitted the correct answer, the first to do so was **Anne Arnold**. This shot was taken inside **St. Andrew's Church in 1874!**



This Month's question:

What year did a citizens initiative lead to the creation of the office space on the first floor of town hall?

- a. 1975
- b. 1970
- c. 1980

Last Month's question was:

What year did the town of Rye come into possession of Parsons Park (field and woods)?

- a. 1976
- b. 1983
- c. 1979



Spiced Pecans

20 Servings

- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/4 cup sesame seeds

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 cups pecans (or whole blanched almonds)

1. Mix the salt, cumin, ginger, red pepper flakes and sesame seeds together with 1/4 cup sugar in a large bowl
2. Heat the oil in a heavy-bottomed saute pan over medium heat. Add the nuts and stir continuously until they start to smell fragrant, taking care not to burn them, about 2 minutes. Sprinkle in 1/2 cup sugar and shake the pan occasionally to keep the nuts from burning. Stir only when the sugar starts to melt and caramelize. Remove the saute pan from the heat when the nuts are a dark golden brown and smoking slightly.
3. Add the nuts to the spice mixture and toss them quickly to coat well. Spread them out on a nonstick baking sheet. Using two forks, separate the nuts from one another while still hot. When cool enough to handle, finish separating them by hand. This must be done quickly; once the nuts become cool and the caramel sets they are difficult to separate.
4. When they are cool, store in an airtight container. They will keep for two to three weeks.

-From **Hors d'Ouvres** (contributed by *Debbi Toohey*)

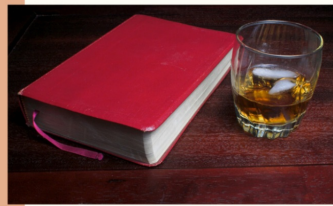
What Happened in Rye 25 Years Ago?

- a. 2nd floor of town hall taken over for office space
- b. WWII names added to war monument in Rye center
- c. town purchases parsonage apartments property

History Happy Hour FaceBook Live Sundays at 5 pm

The dredging of Rye Harbor has begun, and what better way to highlight our little harbor than to read the book *Just Rye Harbor - An Appreciation and History* by Thomas C. Clarie and Rosemary F. Clarie, edited by Peter E. Randall.

View our trailer below!



History Happy Hour

[Sundays FaceBook Live 5 pm](#)

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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!



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

Rye Historical Society

603-997-6742

info@ryenhistoricalociety.org

10 Olde Parish Road, Rye, NH 03870

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