

RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TOWN MUSEUM

Covid-19 Statement

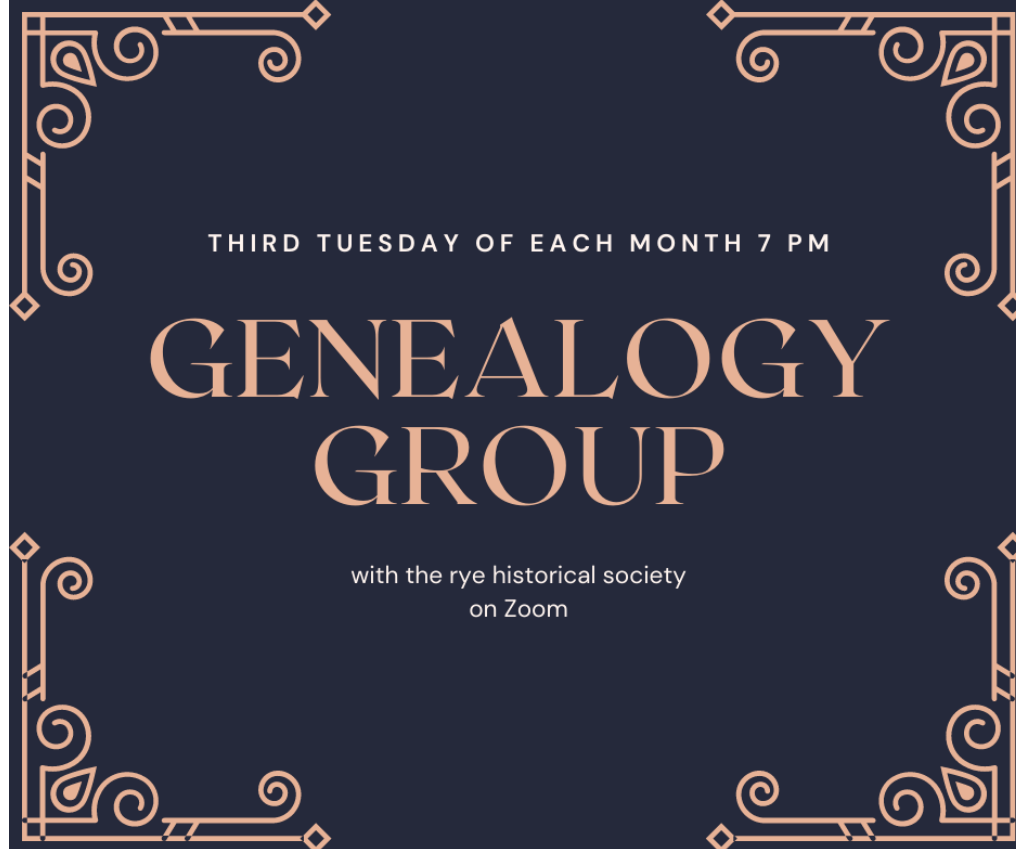
Until further notice, the museum will be open by appointment only, limited to 2 visitors per appointment. Masks are required inside, as is hand sanitizing upon entering the building. Appointments may be made by email: info@ryenhistoricalociety.org, or by calling: 603-436-9278



Norman Rockwell, Family Tree (detail)

Explore Rye's Family Trees

Some Rye family trees have deep roots, and many evoke stories that even nonrelatives find fascinating. This month the Rye Historical Society's new **Genealogy Group** holds its first meeting. Join the discussion on Zoom: **Tuesday, February 16 at 7 P.M.**



RYE FOUNDING FAMILY FOCUS

William Berry

In 1629 King James I issued Captain John Mason and others right of settlement in in the area now known as New England. Mason focused his initial efforts on the territory between the Merrimack River (now Salisbury, MA) and the Kennebec River (now Popham Beach, ME). William Berry, born in Newcastle in northeast England in 1610 and who was then in service as a constable to Mason in England, was selected to be among the group which traveled to the shores of what is now New Hampshire to permanently establish the territory.



He is known to have been at Strawberry Banke (later Portsmouth) as early as 1631 and ultimately would serve as Selectman for the town in 1646. In 1636, Berry married Jane Locke Hermins and the two had 7 children. In January, 1648/49, at a town meeting held at Strawberry Bank, "Granted that William Berry shall have a lot upon the neck of land upon the South side of the Little River at Sandy Beach". This was later to become part of Rye when it was set apart from Hampton.

Parson's History of the Town of Rye holds that William was the first to settle in Rye. However, he would have been in his 50s, and given his stature would not have been likely to make such a move. Thus, although William appears to be the first to get a grant in Rye, his son John is known to have settled on this grant and was probably the first settler to actually live there and set down permanent roots.

William Berry died in June of 1654 of unknown causes in Portsmouth NH. His widow Jane remarried to Nathaniel Drake. His children and the generations of

Berrys which followed would establish many homesteads in and around Rye. A Berry Family Cemetery can be found on Breakfast Hill Road in Rye approximately .3 miles from Route 1.

[Click here to leave a comment](#)

BERRY FAMILY CEMETERY



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 **Ned Tate**. This is a picture of **Sea View House and its tennis courts**, now the site of St. Teresa's Church.

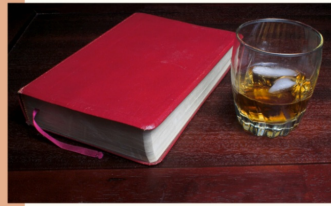


History Happy Hour FaceBook Live Sundays at 5 pm

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

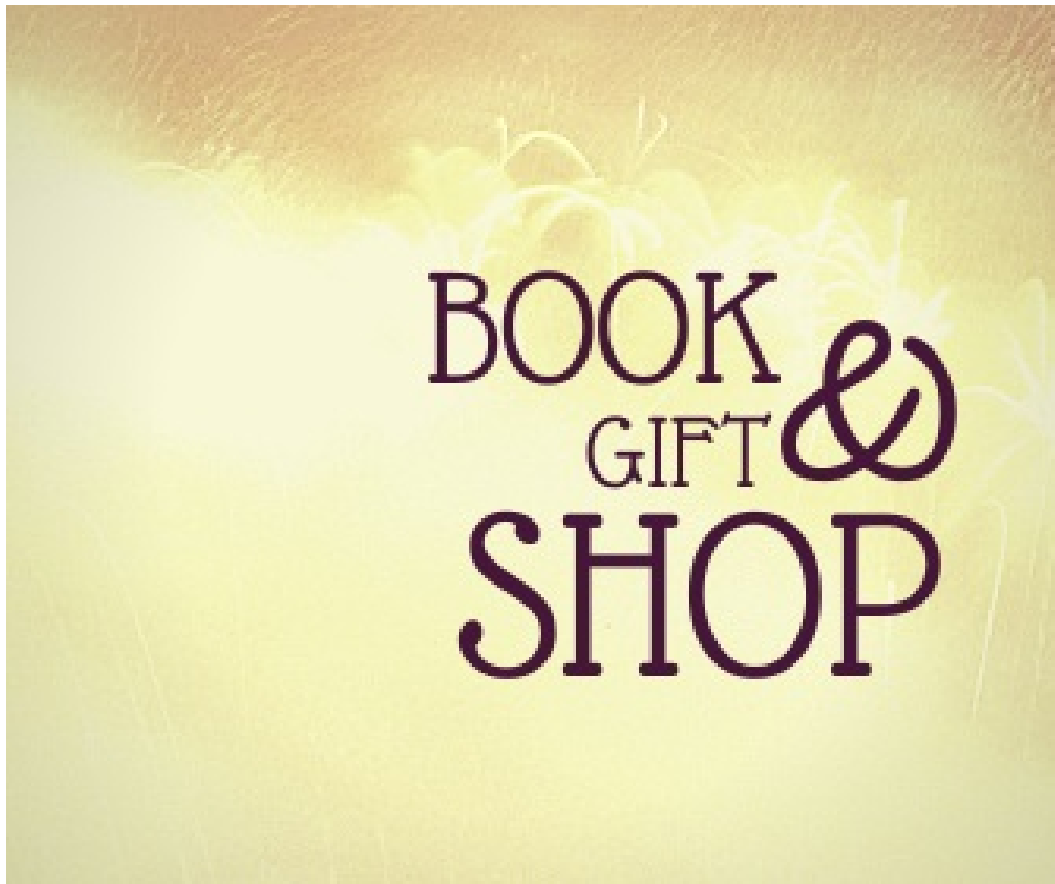
[Sundays FaceBook Live 5 pm](#)

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.



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

Rye Historical Society

603-436-9278

info@ryenhistoricalociety.org

10 Olde Parish Road, Rye, NH 03870

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