

RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TOWN MUSEUM

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

Make your appointment online, email us at info@ryenhistoricalociety.org, or call 603-436-9278

Schedule Museum Visit

February 2023

RHS YEAR IN REVIEW



2022 was a busy year, and this year will be even busier with Rye's 400th celebrations under way.

If you are not a member, would you consider becoming one to help us reach our goal of 400 members by the end of 2023?

400 for the 400th

JOIN US!

Meet our Consulting Archivist

One of the Rye Historical Society's greatest assets is its collection of Rye

artifacts, manuscripts, photographs and textiles, donated by the community, starting in 1976 and continuing to this day. “It’s an important part of our mission,” says Society President, Ginna Macdonald. “We take seriously our responsibility to maintain, conserve and protect all aspects of our history for the future.”

As part of that responsibility, the Society board has, over the years, hired and/or used volunteers to document the collection and make it available to the public. More recently, in 2022, the board prioritized the need to focus on its holdings by approving and funding a consultant to evaluate and better organize all aspects of the collection.

Meet Jane Ward, the Society’s consulting archivist. With a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Vassar College and a Master’s degree in Library Science (with a concentration in Archives) from Simmons University, she has had a successful and respected career with nonprofits. She has served as Librarian for the American Textile History Museum; Curator of Manuscripts for the Peabody Essex Museum; and Archivist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and the Forbes House Museum. She has also been a consultant for historical societies/commissions in Swampscott (MA), Lowell (MA) and Norwood (MA) as well the Athol (MA) Public Library.



Her 2022 work for the Rye Historical Society was extensive. She reviewed more than 200 donation forms and updated the Society’s software PastPerfect database; cataloged 275 records into PastPerfect, primarily photographs; and upgraded 675 existing records.

The board has reengaged Jane for 2023, funded in part from monies raised as a result of a “Giving Tuesday” campaign. “We believe this investment is critical to the preservation of our town’s history and our ability to share what we have with the wider community,” said Macdonald. This year, Jane will not only continue to review and process current holdings, but also focus on assisting in the upgrading of the Past Perfect software from its current stand-alone platform to a web-based one, not only allowing for more collection efficiencies, but also taking advantage of the software’s capabilities for the greater administrative needs of the organization.

Join us in welcoming Jane and thanking her for working with us on this important contribution to Rye and its history.

Lew Karabatsos

Rye in the Snow!

Although we haven’t had much of it this winter, Rye in 1920 had its share of the white stuff. The picture below of Rye Center in February of that year is from the

Society's collection and is the cover photo for the New England Archivists' (NEA) January 2023 e-newsletter. Jane Ward, an NEA member and the consulting archivist for the Rye Historical Society, submitted the photo for consideration and, lucky for us, it was chosen! So now, after seeing the photo, what do you think? Anyone want to go back to those good ol' days and shovel out a trolley?

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NEA

NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS



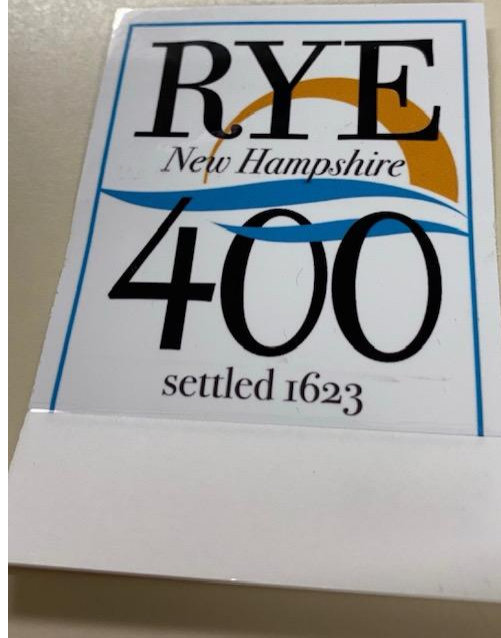
COVER—On February 26, 1920, townspeople helped to shovel out the electric trolley that provided transportation in the town of Rye, New Hampshire. The electric trolley system was introduced to Rye Center on September 3, 1898, and served the community's transportation needs until buses replaced it in 1925. *Courtesy of the Rye Historical Society.*

INSIDE—Stephanie Gold reflects on her first year as an archivist at Chase Rosemary Hall (page 6); President Caitlin Birch's Inside NEA column (page 6); News and Notes from around the area (page 7); Deborah Kloiber reviews NDEAA's DigiPres Conference (page 10); Kerri Provost and Andrea Slater tell us about working with the Connecticut Cultural Heritage Arts Program (page 12); interviews with members of NEA's Inclusion and Diversity Committee (page 16); session reports from the Joint Symposium of NEA and Simmons University, as well as the Preservation Roundtable (page 19); a Spotlight on a board member (page 22); and a note from the editors reflecting on the fifty-year anniversary of NEA (page 7).

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

Sticker Time

This year's town parking-permit stickers will celebrate Rye400! They are available for purchase starting February 15, 2023, but not required until May, 2023.



Read the Book? See the Movie!

On Monday, February 6 the Rye Public Library is showing the Disney-produced movie, "Tuck Everlasting," the film version of its "Rye Reads" book selection. There will be two showings: the first at 1:00 pm and the second at 3:00 pm for a younger, after-school audience. Contact the Rye Public Library for more information.



New Donors

Since the last newsletter, the following individuals have generously made donations to support the Rye400 2023 celebration activities. The Rye400 Committee gratefully recognizes that support and is pleased to announce more than \$120,000 has been raised toward its \$150,000 goal!

Founders — \$400+

Constance Abell & Steven Cash: \$400

Judy & Craig Krespach: \$400

Locke Family: \$400

Jay Wederstrom: \$400

Other

Becky Marden

Art Show Deadline

The deadline for artists and photographers to submit up to three pieces of their work is February 18. The selected works will be shown on March 25 as part of Rye400's "People, Places and Things: Images of Rye" exhibition at the Rye Congregational Church. Full details may be found on the [Rye400](#)

[website.](#)



Sawyers Beach, July 4, 2022
by Garritt Toohey

THIS MONTH IN RYE HISTORY

February, 1623: David Thomson at Sea

Sailing across the Atlantic from Plymouth, England to New England took six weeks or more. Our first settler almost certainly had made the voyage before.

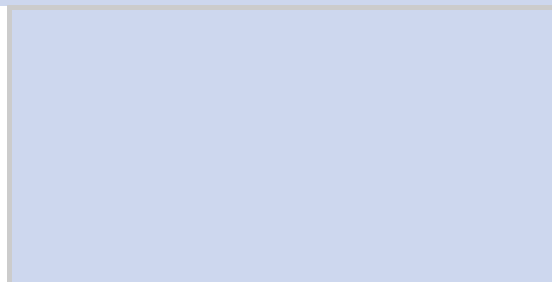
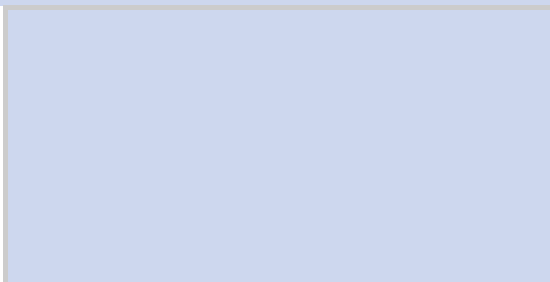
As a teenager David Thomson may have been among the settlers who established the Popham Colony in Maine, where they built a ship but returned home after enduring a Little Ice Age winter. He most likely made later voyages to scout locations and do groundwork for his fishing venture.



Prior experience wouldn't have made this voyage less trying. The ship *Jonathan* was smaller than the *Mayflower*. Conditions below deck were cramped and smelly, and winter weather made it risky to step on deck for a breath of sea air.

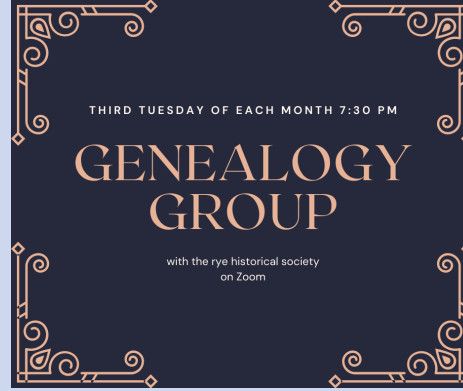
Once the ship's fresh food ran out, rations consisted of brined beef, hardtack and beer. When soaked in beer, hardtack biscuits became almost edible.

Ongoing Free Programs





Free Self-Guided
Rye Beach Block Tour **izi.TRAVEL**



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



Get Involved

Rye Historical Society Membership Challenge

WE ARE THE COLLECTOR & PROTECTOR OF RYE HISTORY
& FISCAL SPONSOR OF THE RYE 400TH CELEBRATION

WON'T YOU HELP US REACH
400 MEMBERSHIPS IN OUR 400TH YEAR?



Make A Donation



Volunteer



Visit Ye Olde Gift Shoppe



Vision: To preserve and share Rye history by understanding the past, informing the

present, and influencing the future.

Mission: To engage and educate a diverse population in Rye, New Hampshire's rich history through our programs, collections, and outreach, to encourage them to make a personal connection with their community.

Rye Historical Society, 10 Olde Parish Road, P.O. Box 583, Rye NH 03870 • 603 436-9278

Are you on Instagram? Facebook? Twitter? YouTube? RHS is!

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Click the Icons below



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!

Rye Historical Society | 10 Olde Parish Road , P.O. Box 583, Rye, NH 03870

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