



# Historical Society *and* Museum

*The Rye Town Museum is open to visitors on Saturday mornings from 10 to 12 May through October, 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  
Visit



## House at 237 Locke Road Offered for Free Can be moved for a reasonable cost

An historic, early 1800s house at 237 Locke Road in Rye is available at no charge from owner Kurt Jackson to be moved to another site. Probably the

most reasonable option is to dismantle it, move the frame and all historic interior parts to another lot and store them. Later it can be reassembled on a new foundation. One estimate from Preservation Timber Framers in Berwick for the first part of the project is \$150 - 200k. If interested in moving the house in one piece, contact a building mover.

The house belonged to Capt. Gardiner T. Locke in 1851, according to a map in the town museum. The interior of the house contains many of the original features of flooring, raised paneling, doors, molding and a boxed winder staircase. Later additions off the rear and side include a modern kitchen with wood heating stove and a large sun room.





The Demo Review Committee held a public hearing on January 25 and voted to urge cooperation between the town and the applicant to allow the historic house to remain while a new one is constructed behind it, thereby maximizing the chances of finding a preservation solution.


If interested in moving in one piece or dismantling and storing the house to be reassembled later, please contact Alex Herlihy, Rye Advocates for Historic Preservation [alexherlihy@comcast.net](mailto:alexherlihy@comcast.net) 603.997.6742

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## The Genealogy Group is Now Called **Rye Roots!**

Join our online community the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm, where enthusiasts gather to explore the fascinating realms of genealogy, old houses, and family histories. Connect with like-minded individuals,

share insights into tracing your roots, unravel the stories behind vintage homes, and embark on a journey of discovering and preserving Rye's rich history together. [Join Zoom](#)

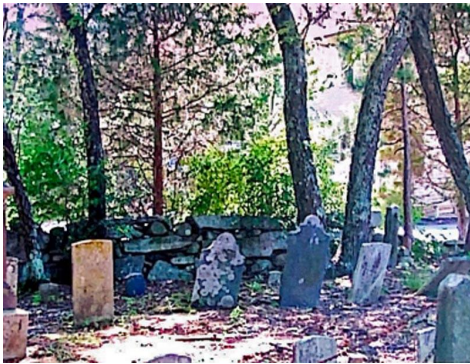


**RYE**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Historical  
Society and  
Museum

THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH 7:30 PM

# RYE ROOTS

with the rye historical society  
on Zoom



Dow

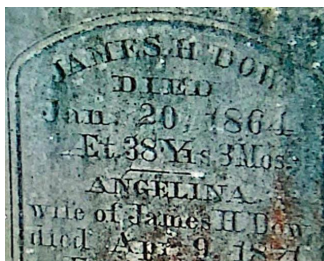


Brown

## Dow and Brown Burial Grounds

This month we are highlighting the Dow (opposite 1159 Washington Road) and Brown (opposite 333 West Road) burial grounds, which are being maintained by Kevin Gordius. You can read more about these graveyards [here](#).

**How long have you been taking care of the Dow and Brown graveyards?** Roughly a little over a year. The Brown Cemetery is now being cared for by the neighbors next to it (thank you neighbors). This should free me up to tackle another.



**What interested you in taking this on?** I have always felt that death is important religiously and we, the alive, owe it to the dead to always respect them. It is one of those things we will all face, no exceptions. Cemeteries are our last symbol of who we are/we were.

**What is the most rewarding aspect of it for you?** Taking care of the sites. These people lived and should be remembered. A clean, respectable grave is the last

recognition of our existence. It is not hard to take care of these sites and sometimes it bothers me that we let them go unattended. I wish more people would help...there will be a day when they are on the other side and hope someone takes care of "them."

**Are they accessible to the public?** The two I take care of are accessible.

*GINNA MACDONALD*



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## Friends Sought for Historic Graveyards

**The Rye Heritage Commission is launching a Friends Group to continue documenting and caring for our old family graveyards.**

In the 1970s Rye historian Louise Tallman and other Rye Historical Society members documented and cared for some of the sixty plus historic graveyards. RHS created a guide to a dozen of the more prominent road side graveyards that are available on request from RHC.

Some are clearly visible along the road and some are off road. Family members were always buried on their farmstead until the public cemetery opened in 1893, but over sixty families refused to disinter and rebury their ancestors. Over the years descendants or neighbors kept up some of these graveyards, but most remain uncared for.

In 2012 a new state law was enacted which protects historic graveyards and the Rye Select Board charged the Heritage Commission (RHC) with their management and documentation. RHC does not have the capacity to do justice to upgrading the documentation of the sites nor has it had too much success finding caretakers who will keep them clean of brush and alert the commission if there are any issues. Descendants have the right of first refusal on being caretakers, but if no one appears, then anyone can adopt the graveyard.

The best solution is the creation of an ongoing Friends committee of RHC, similar to the historic signage committee that is continuing its work this year. The two tasks above are not a burden and it is possible that some members of this Friends group would become caretakers.

Information on the graveyards may be seen on the Rye Heritage Commission web site. Tabs on the left provide details of the 2012 law, a list of the graveyards and current caretakers. The most recent active caretakers who have reported to RHC are the Sanderson and McCune families at the Brackett and Parsons Road sites.

It is common practice for town government boards to request the formation of such subcommittees that are focused on a specific task. If you have questions or are interested in joining this new Friends group, please contact RHC chair Alex Herlihy ([alexherlihy@comcast.net](mailto:alexherlihy@comcast.net) 603 997 6742).

*Alex Herlihy, Rye Heritage Commission*

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February, 1904

## Snow Strands Rye Trolley Riders

From the Diary of Supply Foss Trefethen:

**Feb 15**—A regular northeast snow storm all day and into the night and a foot of snow came so we now have 3 feet on a level. The [trolley] cars were running all day with difficulty. The snow plow made two trips to Hampton. I had to hug the stove.

**Feb 16**—Fair with a high west wind and snow flying furiously and filling the roads. The cars ran in the morning until 11 o'clock then stopped for the day and those in town had to stay there. The shovelers were working on the railroad all day. This is the worst night of the year, zero.

**Feb 17**—Fair with a high northwest wind and snow blowing in the roads all day. No cars were running today and many had to stay in Portsmouth, Mr. Seavey among them. It was a rough time.

Not until February 21st, after the wind swung to the south and the temperature rose, did Trefethen report, "The cars run most of the time."

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## Ongoing Free Programs



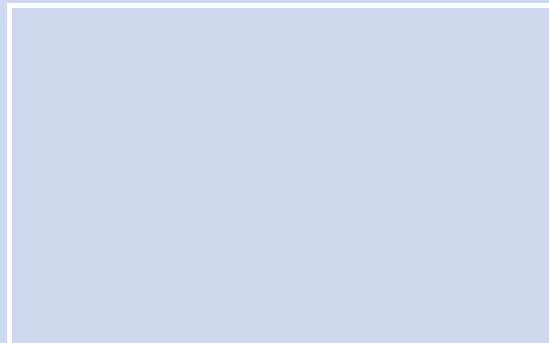
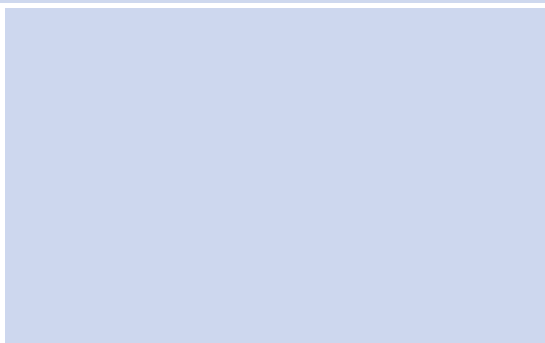
Free Self-Guided  
**Rye Beach Block Tour** **izi**.TRAVEL

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## Get Involved





**Become a Member**



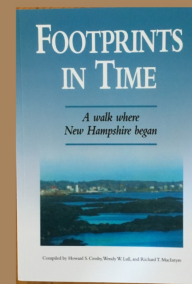
**Make A Donation**



## 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.

603 436-9278

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

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