

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.

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

[Schedule Museum Visit](#)

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



Old Books as a Source for Genealogy

In pursuing genealogy, most of us have become accustomed to looking up vital records in online databases like Ancestry and FamilySearch. These are so useful and accessible that they have become second nature – it is hard to remember that online genealogy just did not exist 25 years ago.

But even now, the databases have their limits. Systematic recording of births, marriages, and deaths really only started in the late 19th century. Those of us researching New Hampshire are lucky as most towns at least made an attempt to keep records since their founding. Nonetheless, at some point you go back far enough that the records stop.

One potential way to fill the gap is through town histories and published genealogies, particularly in the 1880-1920 period, the golden age for these tomes. The former often include extensive genealogies of residents, especially prominent ones. As always, you should carefully evaluate your sources, but most are reasonably reliable for the first 2-3 generations -- and often there is no alternate source.

Most town histories are available online through the Internet Archive. Here are links to town histories in the immediate vicinity of Rye, starting of course with our favorite, Parsons' *History of the Town of Rye* The Internet Archive provides easy-to-use search tools both to find other titles and to search within a book.

Rye - [History of the Town of Rye](#)- Parsons (1905)
Hampton – History of the Town of Hampton [vol 1](#) [vol 2](#) (1893)
Exeter – [History of the Town of Exeter](#) (1888)
Hampton Falls – [History of Hampton Falls vol 1](#) (1900) [vol 2](#) (1918)
New Castle – [New Castle, Historic and Picturesque](#) (1884)
Seabrook – [A Unit on the Town of Seabrook](#) (1962)
Amesbury – [The Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury](#) (1897)
[History of Rockingham County](#) (1915)

Geoff Smith

Volunteer Needed for Museum Staining Job

RHS seeks a volunteer who would stain the railing section of our handicapped ramp. All materials will be provided and the work will be much appreciated.



If interested, please e-mail - info@ryenhistoricalociety.org or call (603)997-6742.

Where is This?

[Click here or 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

Eileen McCue was the first to correctly identify East School -- also named the Parsons School after Professor James Parsons who contributed funds toward its construction. Located on Brackett Road, the building is now a private residence but without the cupola.



THIS MONTH IN RYE HISTORY

June 13, 1871

Destruction of the Sagamore House at Frost Point by Fire.

About 15 minutes after 10 o'clock, our citizens were startled by the appearance of Mr. Bart Holland, who dashed about Market Square, hatless, his hair streaming in the wind, shouting "Fire" with all the strength of his lungs. He had ridden from the Sagamore House, where the fire was discovered. The bells were rung and the firemen quickly responded; Mr. R.H. Beacham at once hitched a pair of horses to steamer No. 3, which was immediately turned back by orders of the Chief Engineer on the grounds that persons on the roofs of the highest buildings in town declared that the Sagamore House had burned to the ground.

(Portsmouth Chronicle)

Sagamore House was never rebuilt. Frost Point is now part of Odiorne Point State Park.

Join the the Genealogy Group's meeting on Zoom
Tuesday, June 15, at 7 P.M

THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH 7 PM

GENEALOGY GROUP

with the rye historical society
on Zoom



Audio tour

Rye Beach Block

★★★★★ [4 reviews](#) | [Rye](#) | Free

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organization**

Rye Historical Society

603-436-9278

info@ryenhistoricalociety.org

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