



# Historical Society *and* 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@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org), or call 603-436-9278

Schedule Visit

## Flagging the Collection



One of our main priorities as an historical society is the preservation of our collection. Recently, we identified a 14-star flag in our possession that needed to be evaluated for authenticity and relevance to our purpose. Here's what we knew or thought we knew about the flag:

- it is linen and hand-stitched
- there is no information on who gave it to us or how we got it
- we believe it may be an 18th century flag — 14 stars would represent the State of Vermont's admission to statehood in 1791
- we are able distinguish some letters of a faded signature but not enough to give us a full name

The board, understanding the need to learn more, approved \$300 to evaluate the piece. The monies were allocated from our annual budget, which is derived, in large part, from membership dues — this is an example of **YOUR**

## membership dues at work!



We engaged Museum Textile Services in Andover, MA to conduct the evaluation. Based on an examination over several weeks by professional conservators, we learned the following:

- this is an American flag, hand stitched of wool bunting with 14, double-appliqued cotton stars
- the hoist binding is linen with a hemp rope passing through it
- written on the hoist binding is a name that appears (via ultra violet light) to be “Arthur Locke”
- the materials and stitching techniques (a key indicator) used to make this flag suggest that it is 19th century rather than 18th century
- it may likely date to the 1891 Vermont centennial celebrations
- it is in fair condition overall and the tattered fly end indicates that the flag was flown — on a flag pole or mast — for a significant amount of time

We also learned that both 18th and 19th century flags, such as ours, are rare according to the professional examiners. Because of its size and fragility, the cost to restore/conservate and/ or frame the flag ranges from \$10,000 to more than \$20,000.

Although the restoration costs are prohibitive at this time, we now have a clue that the flag may have come from someone in or related to the Locke family. Based on that, we are reaching out to the family to try and learn more about Arthur Locke and his relationship to the flag.

As part of the Rye400, we are displaying the flag temporarily — due to its fragility — at the Town Museum up to and including July 4th. After that, it will be boxed and stored appropriately.

Since the evaluation, we have also reached out to flag historian and appraiser, David Martucci for his input. Based in Maine and the past president of the North American Vexillological Association, Mr. Martucci is taking the MTS report to the next level. He, for example, has indicated the flag may be from an earlier and more likely Vermont “centennial” celebration in 1877! He’s asked for additional information — stay tuned!

**THANK YOU, MEMBERS** for your generous support of RHS! It is because of your interest and contributions that we are able not only to care for and preserve our collection, but also to help solve historical mysteries like the one surrounding our 14-star flag!



## Name our Town Crier!

From June 1st until July 31st, we invite you to help us name our Town Crier!

We are looking for a first and middle name. The first name will be chosen by anyone 18+ and the middle name will be chosen by those up to 18 years.

Click the button below to suggest a name! And look for our Town Crier around town during Rye 400 celebrations!

NAME OUR TOWN CRIER

## From Past to Perfect!

The Society uses a museum software called Past Perfect (PP) to manage our collection, and to log and track our membership and fundraising. We originally acquired the software close to two decades ago and thought we had what we wanted — and we did, for a long while. Then, as we got more active and expanded our reach and programs, it became evident that what we had was limiting in terms of access and administrative capabilities. We decided to bring ourselves into the 2020s!

Over the past five months, we undertook a somewhat complex (for us) process to upgrade our system from a standalone system for one user to PP's web-based, multi-user platform. We completed that migration on May 1. This allows us two major upgrades: 1) broader administrative capabilities to better log, track and communicate with our members and our fundraising; and 2) greater flexibility and efficiency in defining and logging our collections and artifact donations, using best practices, such as classifications defined by the Library of Congress.



This is an important step in the Society's evolution as a community-based organization, created to honor and preserve our town's contribution to the

The historical society will be raising funds during NH Gives next week to keep this important work moving forward, enabling our collections to be researched across the globe. We hope you will join us!



**NH  
GIVES**

**GIVE  
BACK!**

**JOIN YOUR  
COMMUNITY  
JUNE 6-7, 2023**

**NHGIVES.ORG #NHGIVES**

## In the Mail

We all love to get surprises in the mail, right? Well, the Society got one recently from Dorothy and Larry Dack of Albany, NY! Dorothy has been coming to Rye since the 1930s and, while spring cleaning recently, found some things she thought belonged with us — an early 1950s child's t-shirt, a business card from the Myrica Inn, a blank receipt from Carberry's Variety Store and a black-and-white coastline photo. There was also a bucket hat with signatures of Dorothy's friends in the 1960s.

These are great additions to our collection. Thank you Dorothy and Larry for thinking of us!



*Lew Karabatsos*  
*Chair, Collections Committee*

# CASWELL FAMILY REUNION

On August 12 and 13 the Caswell cousins will hold their second annual family meet and greet/mini-reunion and Star Island day trip. Much of the Caswell clan in the seacoast area started its life in the new world on the Isles of Shoals in the 17th century. Join fellow Caswell cousins during Rye's 400th Anniversary celebration.



**Book your own passage** to Star Island for Saturday, August 12, on the Uncle Oscar out of Rye Harbor or the Thomas Lighton out of Portsmouth Harbor. For more information contact Paul F Caswell at [PFCaswell@gmail.com](mailto:PFCaswell@gmail.com).

Photo: Caswell cousins on Star Island last summer



## SUMMER CELEBRATIONS!

Mark your calendars now and let's see you at these upcoming, community-wide Rye400 programs and events. Be sure to check the Rye400 website — [www.ryenh400.org](http://www.ryenh400.org) — for the latest details!

- **June 11 - New event!** St. Andrew's by the Sea Open House and History Tour, 3:00-4:30pm, St. Andrew's by the Sea Episcopal Summer Chapel
- **June 15** - Rye Century Walk: 1726 First Parish Rights, 5:00-6:30pm, Rye Congregational Church
- **June 21** - Poet Elaine Sexton, 2:00-3:00pm, Rye Public Library
- **June 21** - Max Sullivan Band Concert, 3:00-4:00pm, Rye Public Library Common
- **June 24** - Beach and Brew Festival, 1:00-4:00pm, Odiorne State Park
- **June 30** - Fourth of July Celebration — music, food trucks, fireworks! — 6:30-10:00pm, Parsons Field



**THIS MONTH IN RYE HISTORY**

**JUNE 13, 1933:** James Roosevelt and his family moved into their summer rental at Rye Beach. The very next day . . .

## **FIRE WRECKS HOME OF PRESIDENT'S SON**

**\$5,000 Damage at Rye Beach  
(N. H.) Summer Place of  
James Roosevelt.**

**FAMILY AWAY AT TIME**

**Had Just Moved In and Were  
Expecting Visit From Execu-  
tive Next Sunday.**

*By The Associated Press.*

**RYE BEACH, N. H., June 14.—**The Summer home of James Roosevelt, son of the President, was badly damaged by fire and water late today. Mrs. Roosevelt and her daughter, Sarah Delano, 1 year old, were not in the home when the fire started.

The Roosevelts had moved into the house yesterday, after leasing it for the Summer, and were in the process of settling in expectation of a visit from President Roosevelt next Sunday.

Mrs. Roosevelt was away at a luncheon when a caretaker discovered smoke issuing from the roof. He warned servants in the fifteen-room home and summoned firemen.

Firemen from Portsmouth, Rye Beach and North Hampton responded, and with the servants managed to carry out part of the furnishings of the first floor.

The blaze had gained considerable headway in the upper story, and the water used to bring it under control thoroughly soaked the lower floors of the two and one-half story building. The damage to the house and furniture was estimated at \$5,000.

Mr. Roosevelt arrived from

**The New York Times**

Published: June 15, 1933

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# St. Andrew's—by—the—Sea

## An Episcopal Summer Chapel

### History Tour and Open House

Sunday, June 11th 3-4:30pm

30 Church Road, Rye Beach



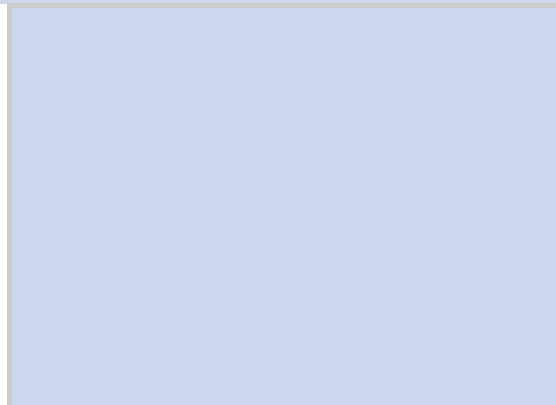
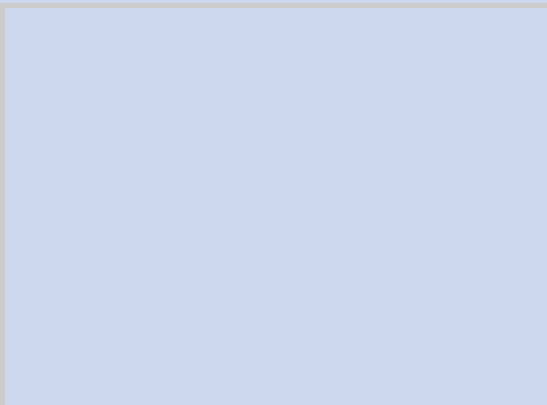
Join chapel historian Greg Kann for an informative tour of the chapel.

- Learn the origin of the Chapel and its exterior features including the carriage blocks, lychgate and bell tower.
- Visit the cemetery and talk about the folks buried at the Chapel.
- Break for refreshments,
- Discuss the many features of the interior of the chapel including interior wood-working, lanterns, organ and the stained-glass windows by Tiffany, LaFarge and Connick.

If you wish you may be able to ring the Chapel bell. The tour is free, however donations for our window restoration project are gladly accepted.

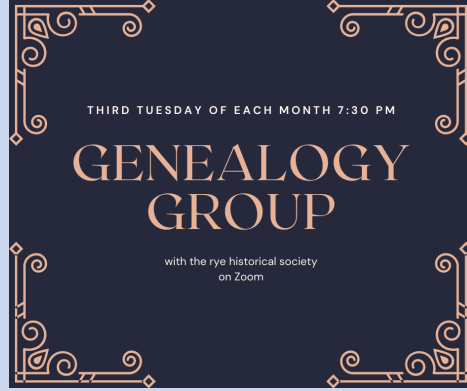
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## Ongoing Free Programs





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



## Get Involved



**Become a Member**



**Make A Donation**



## Volunteer



**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  
[info@ryenhistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhistoricalociety.org)

## Follow RHS on Social Media

Click the Icons below



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