

# 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](mailto:info@ryenhistoricalociety.org), or call 603-436-9278

Schedule Museum Visit

MAY 2023

## STEP RIGHT IN!



Huge THANK YOUS to our community. The Rye Department of Public Works repaired our front steps so members and visitors can enter and exit the building safely. Thanks also to GSC Pest Management for helping us keep the creepy crawlies out of the museum.

The Museum is now open Saturday mornings from 10 to noon – and by

appointment almost any time.

Not yet a Rye Historical Society Member? [Celebrate Rye's 400th anniversary by becoming one!](#)

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## TOURS GALORE!

Three EXPANDED Trolley Tours and two UNIQUE Boat Tours are being offered this year to help celebrate Rye's 400th.

**Expanded Trolley Tours** will take you from the resort section of Rye Beach all the way to Odiorne Point, highlighting new historical markers recently placed by the Heritage Commission. Tours are 9:45 a.m. - noon May 29 (Memorial Day), July 3 (Independence Day), and September 4 (Labor Day).



Trolley Tour



**Two rare opportunities to explore BOTH Appledore and Star Islands in one day!** Leave Rye Harbor on the Shining Star at 9 a.m. and return at 4 p.m. July 6 and August 3.

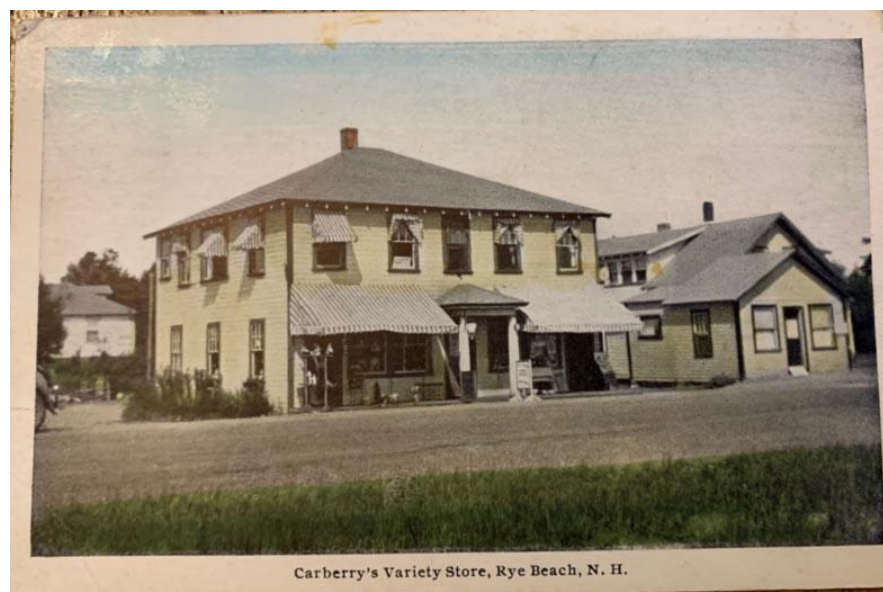
**SOLD OUT!**

Shoals Tour

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## RECENT DONATIONS TO RHS

Mary Ann O'Dowd added these two postcards to our collection.



Catherine Kuzminski of Hampton found these three cabinet cards — Farragut Hotel and two ocean views — and decided the Society is the best place for them. Although they are not marked, based on similar pieces they could be taken by Rye photographers A.R.H. Foss or Clarence Trefry, or maybe the Davis Brothers of Portsmouth.







Thank you Mary Ann and Catherine for thinking of us!

*Lew Karabatsos*  
*Chair, Collections Committee*

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## RYE'S OTHER FIRST SETTLER

David Thomson is regarded as New Hampshire's first European settler. He didn't come alone.

Ralph Thomson wrote in *David Thomson, First Yankee* that David's wife, Amias, was in the thick of things regarding New England. He hoped someone would "write an imaginative story of her life."



Amias Cole was baptized on October 3, 1597, in Plymouth, England. She was the daughter of shipwright Thomas Cole and his wife Agnes. Like David Thomson, Amias was well-educated for those times. They married in the summer of 1613; Amias was not yet 16; David was 20. When Amias became pregnant, her father gave them the house next to his own. She bore four children in Plymouth. Only two, a daughter, Priscilla, and a son, John, survived infancy.

When John Rolphe and his bride passed through Plymouth, Amias may have visited with Pocahontas. In 1620 she and David mingled with the Pilgrims during their layover before crossing the Atlantic.

In 1623 David and Amias moved to what's now Odiorne Point in Rye, bringing their young son with them. Priscilla remained with her grandparents in Plymouth.

Amias and her servants faced the challenge of turning a newly-built fortified house into a home suitable for genteel company. Among the first visitors to Pannaway was early settler Phineas Pratt. Miles Standish came that summer, seeking help for the starving Pilgrims. Late in the year, explorer Christopher Levett arrived and stayed a month.

David Thomson had picked out a Boston Harbor island for his second trading post. In 1626 the family moved there. During fishing seasons David presumably returned to Pannaway to supervise.

Sometime in the winter or spring of 1628, David vanished. Drowned? No one

knows. Amias was left on their island with her son. She escaped her dire circumstances by marrying the nearest eligible bachelor, David's young friend Samuel Maverick.

Samuel and Amias lived in his fortified house in Chelsea, then moved to Noodles Island, now Logan Airport. Her son John Thomson went to sea at age 13 and became a notable mariner. With Samuel, Amias bore three more children. In 1633, when a smallpox plague struck nearby Native Americans. Samuel, Amias and their servants worked tirelessly, ministering to the sick, burying the dead and "bringing home the children."

In the eyes of the strait-laced Puritans of Massachusetts Bay Colony, the royalist Mavericks were reprehensible neighbors. Boisterous house parties seemed to trigger the fiercest rage. Samuel repeatedly returned to England to plead for relief from Puritan harassment.

The Mavericks' situation didn't improve until Charles II was restored to the throne. In 1664 Samuel and three other New Englanders received royal commissions, authorizing them to settle disputes and restore order among the Puritans, and also among the restless Dutch settlers in what had just become New York. The commissioners got nowhere with the Puritans but did better with the New Yorkers. Samuel Maverick did so well he was given a house on Broad Way as a reward.

In 1666 Amias was living with her Maverick daughter's family in Maine. We don't know that she and Samuel spent their last years together in New York, but the author of *David Thomson, First Yankee* believed that was how an imaginative telling of her life story should end.

Could Amias Cole, New Hampshire's first woman settler, finally have made it to Broadway?

*Jim Macdonald*

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## RYE 400 DONATIONS

Since the last newsletter, the Rye400 Committee has received and acknowledged the following new donors who have contributed to the Rye400 celebration!

THANK YOU to:

**Founders — \$400+**

James and Lizabeth McCauley — \$400

**Pioneers - \$40+**

Marilyn & Michael Miller - \$100

Nancy Marston - \$40



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## UPCOMING RYE 400 EVENTS



ODIORNE STATE PARK

The Rye400 Committee invites you to join them at the following events in May:

- **May 20:** Rye History Walk at Odiorne State Park, focusing on the 1623 First Settlement at Odiorne Point, 1:00-2:30pm.
- **May 24:** Lecture by Skip Lockwood on Rye Sports, History and Update at the Rye Public Library, 6:30-7:30pm.
- **May 29:** Rye History Trolley Tour, starting at the Rye Town Museum, 10:00am-12:00pm. Sponsored by the Madden Group | Re/Max Rising Tide.

[Click here to visit the RyeNH400 website](#) to see all that is happening in this year-long celebration.

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## THIS MONTH IN RYE HISTORY

### RYE'S FIRST SAWMILL

**MAY 3, 1695.** Francis Jenness and three others signed a contract to build what may have been Rye's first sawmill.

*John Badson of New Castle, Millwright, agrees with Francis Jenness, Joseph Philbrook, James Stanyan, and Thomas Jenness to build for them a dam and Saw Mill to go with one saw on Cedar Swamp run, commonly so called, near said Francis Jenness' house, for which he is to receive twenty shillings a week, in good lawful money of New England....*

*[T]he above company to furnish material for building, also sufficient meat, drink, lodging, and hands during the building, and pasturing for his horse while he is there at work.*

Rebuilt over the generations, the Jenness mill was still operating at the start of the 20th century.





## Ongoing Free Programs



Free Self-Guided  
**Rye Beach Block Tour** [izi.TRAVEL](#)



## 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!

Follow RHS on Social Media  
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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