



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@ryenhistoricalociety.org, or call 603-436-9278

Schedule
Visit

Family Graveyards



Graveyards by the side of the road - who is buried there? This month we will look at the Foss Family Graveyard, which is being maintained by Bob

Blanchard.

How long have you been taking care of the Foss Graveyard? Since June 2021.

What interested you in taking this on? Dawn's friend, Pattie Dubois, lived across Washington Road from the grave yard and took a keen interest in keeping it maintained. On one of Dawn and my walks, we bumped into Patty just leaving the graveyard. While chatting with Pattie we learned she was battling cancer and could no longer maintain the graveyard so Dawn volunteered me to take over. Having recently retired, I was all in. I sent a letter to the Rye Heritage Commission and formally "adopted" the graveyard.

What is the most rewarding aspect of it for you? I enjoy making it look pleasing and trimmed up. It's just a small "give back" to the Town of Rye and it's long history.

Pattie is remembered with a memorial stone put there by her family.

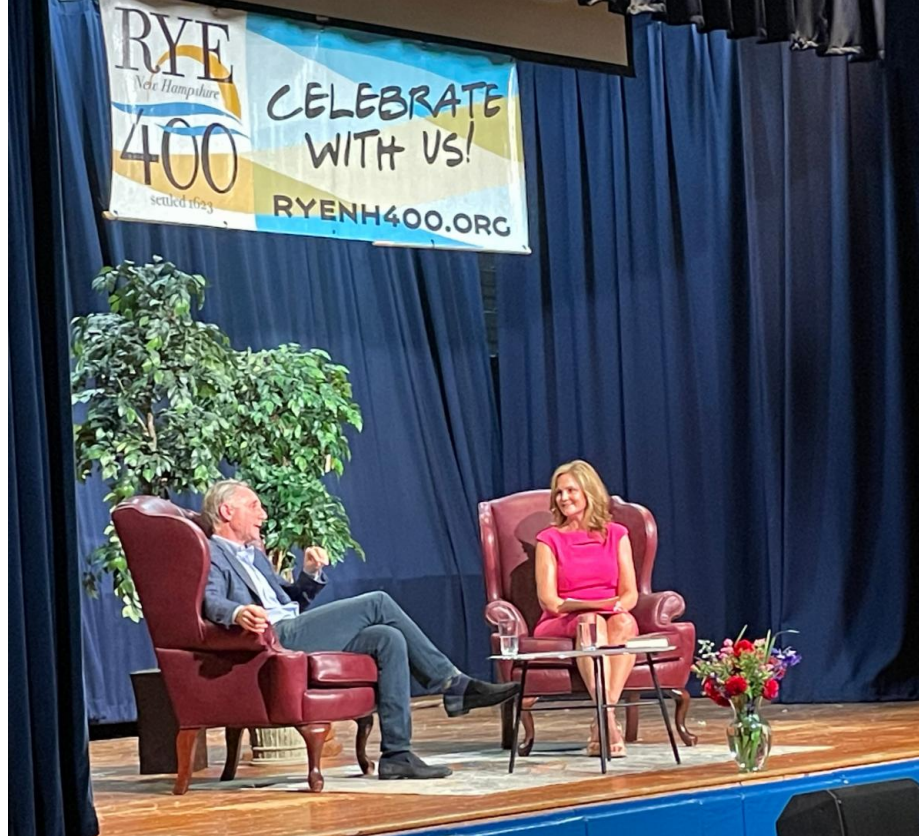
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There are 59 family graveyards scattered throughout Rye, many of which can be visited without entering onto private property. For a comprehensive history of Rye's graveyards, the development of the Central Cemetery, and contact information about adopting one of these sites, please visit the [Rye Heritage Commission's website](#). Each month we will highlight another family graveyard.



Ginna Macdonald

A Full-House Evening with Dan Brown!



Rye 400 scored another success when world-renowned author and Rye resident Dan Brown sat down for a chat with WMUR-TV's Erin Fehlau at the Rye Junior High School. The September event not only raised \$3,500 to support field trips to the Seacoast Science Center for Rye Elementary and Junior High students, but also got some play on the WMUR evening and morning news!

Thanks to Society board members Jean Badger, Mike Berry, Dave Caswell, Lew Karabatsos, Ginna Macdonald, Andy Stecher and Debbi Toohey for their roles in making the evening the success that it truly was. And, as an added benefit, Society President Ginna playfully challenged Dan Brown to come up with a clue for our October 14th Scavenger Hunt By Car. (Details at www.ryenh400.org.)



Picture This

The Society received three images this month to add to its collection. They come from Cheryl Caswell and include two of Washington Road and one of a lifesaving(?) boat in the water, clearly dated 1905.

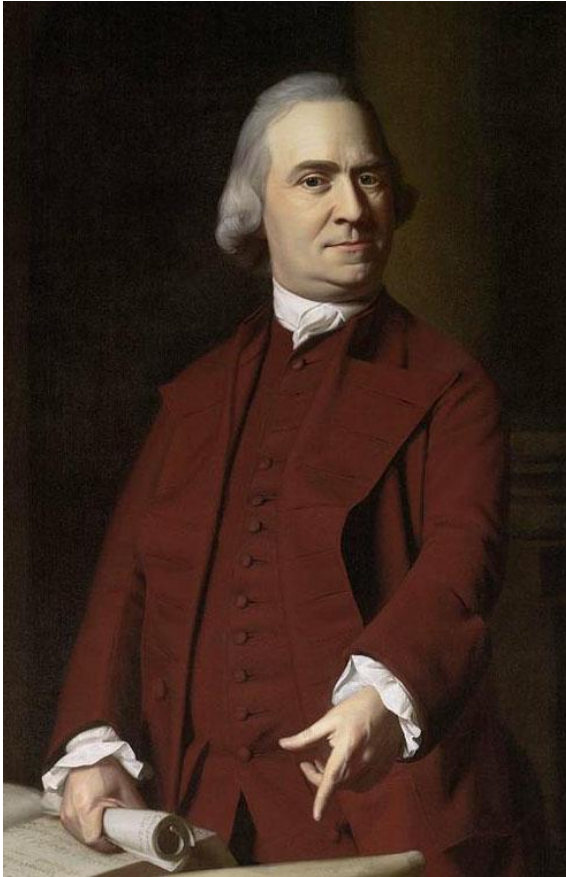


Two are marked as A.R.H. Foss photos and the third, unmarked, is presumed his.

Thank you, Cheryl, for thinking of us and sharing images of Rye's past!

Lew Karabatsos
Chair, Collections Committee

Sam Adams Had a Cousin in Rye



Last summer's Founding Families Day prompted Ed Parsons to further investigate the relationship between Mary Adams Jones, who married the second pastor of Rye Parish, and Samuel Adams, Jr. Ed discovered his great-grandfather had got it wrong:

LBP's "History of Rye" famously states that Mary (Adams) Jones' grandfather was an uncle of Samuel Adams Jr., the great American statesman. Mary married Rev. Samuel Parsons in 1739. I did some research to understand the connection to Adams. It appears that, in fact, Mary (Adams) Jones and Samuel Adams Jr. were first cousins.

Mary and Sam shared the same grandfather. A chart Ed compiled shows that both Mary's mother, also named Mary Jones, and the father of Sam

Adams Jr., Deacon Samuel Adams, were the children of Captain John Adams (1661-1702).

Besides being a first cousin of Sam Adams, Mary was a second cousin of President John Adams!

John Singleton Copley: Portrait of Samuel Adams (detail)



A Surfing History From Rye Junior High

John Dinger, 7th grade math teacher at Rye Junior High School, worked with students to create this documentary on the history of the NH seacoast surf scene.

[Surfing on the Seacoast](#)

Rye400 Playground Fundraising Party

A limited number of tickets (200) are available for Rye400's Playground Fundraising Party, to be held at the Atlantic Grill on Thursday evening, October 19th, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. The goal is to help raise funds for the new, \$200,000 playground for the PreK-to-2nd-Grade students at Rye Elementary School. The cocktails-and-hors-d'oeuvres evening will include both live and silent auction items from local-area, community-minded donors and businesses. Come bid on everything from a unique overnight stay at the historic Wood Island Lifesaving Station, a golf foursome at Abenaki Country Club or a softball game and picnic at Rye's "Fenway Park" to beautiful jewelry, artwork and gift certificates to area businesses. Please help us provide fun, enjoyment and laughter in a state-of-art-playground for our youngest students! Tickets are \$50.00/person and available via [Eventbrite](#).



Rye400 Donors

The following have made donations to Rye400 since the last newsletter. THANK YOU to:

Founders — \$400

Eileen & Bob Eberhart: \$400

Pioneers — \$40+
Ilyse Sirmaian —\$50

Other
Kerri Macon



DEC. 2, 2023
from 1-4PM

VISIT
4 HOMES
& 1 BARN
DECORATED
FOR THE
HOLIDAYS!

Enjoy **TEA** at the Rye
Congregational
Church and do some
HOLIDAY SHOPPING
at the Rye Town
Museum.

TICKETS 
AVAILABLE
ON EVENTBRITE
STARTING Oct 15, 2023
Visit our website or SCAN THE QR
WWW.RYENH400.ORG



Tickets (only 200) at \$25 each for this special holiday event go on sale Sunday, October 15, via [Eventbrite](#) or [Rye400](#), They are expected to go fast, so mark your calendar!

October Rye400 Events

Please join us for these upcoming Rye400 events:

Oct 4: Blessing of the Animals, St. Andrew's by the Sea Church, 4:00pm

Oct 8: Valerie Fagin presents, "African American Presence in Rye," Rye Congregational Church, 1:00pm
Register at [Eventbrite](#)



Oct 11: Three Rye-based fishing captains will offer "Fishing on Our Coast: A Celebration of Rye's Maritime History," at the Rye Public Library.

Oct 14: Rye Scavenger Hunt by Car. Meet at Rye Town Museum, 1:00pm-4:00pm. Registration required via [Eventbrite](#).

Oct 14: Arts En Plein Air, 10:00 - 4:00 pm. Observe artists painting around town; Wet Paint Sale: 4:30-6:00pm on Library Common. Also, students work on display.

Oct 15: Tickets go on sale via Eventbrite for December 2 Historic Home Tour. Visit www.ryenh400.org.

Oct 19: Rye400 Playground Fundraising Party, Atlantic Grill, 5:30-8:00pm. Reservations required via [Eventbrite](#)

Oct 24: An Evening with Roger Philbrick, "Memories and Stories of Rye," Rye Congregational Church, 7:00pm.

THIS MONTH IN RYE HISTORY

October 9, 1804

The Horrifying Hurricane that Snowed

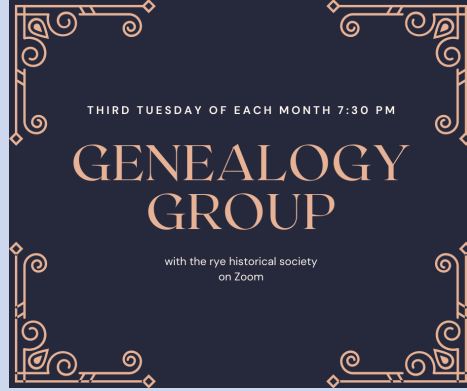
The great October storm of 1804 was the first tropical cyclone ever known to have produced snowfall. Sweeping through New England, the hurricane felled trees, ruined orchards and crops, killed cattle and toppled the steeples from churches, including Boston's Old North Church.

The unprecedented storm blanketed New Hampshire towns in snow – two feet deep in Concord! In Rye the winds drove two ships ashore, and the body of a woman, still holding an infant in her arms, washed up on the beach. It was, wrote L. B. Parsons in his town history, "the most dreadful storm that was ever known in Rye."

Ongoing Free Programs



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



Get Involved



Become a Member



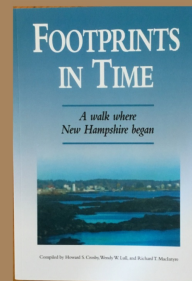
Make A Donation



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.

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

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Click the Icons below



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