

Native peoples of the Abnaki Nation settled what is now Rye for thousands of years

Fishermen and others used and then settled Star Island, etc. in 1500'S; estab. Town of Gosport

David Thomson and a small band of ten men settled Odiorne Pt. in 1623

William Berry and others settled Sandy Beach (now Foss Beach) in 1635

1644 path & wagon path along shore; old Indian trails inland become wagon paths

Ridge at Rye Center settled by MID-1600'S on Sandy Beach Rd. (Wash. Rd.); Central Rd. 1727

John Locke, Brackett family and others caught up in King Philips Indian wars – LATE 1600'S

Late 1600's Sandy Beach now Rye pop. 150; it was part of New Castle, location of parish

Rye given status of separate parish in 1726 and erected first church on the hill

2nd Congregational Church 1755; Old Ferry Rd to ferry over Sag. Cr.? ; bridge to N. C. in 1759

1773 – pop. 842, 19 slaves; 1774 – Rye militia raid Ft Wm./ Mary, N.C., 1st overt act of Rev.

Rev. war – dozens of Rye men serve – 37 killed; NH Leg. grants Rye town status in 1785

Rye harbor dredged 1790's; help from Goss farm; harbor was active - fishing/farming produce

During War of 1812, Battle of Rye Harbor sees local militia drive off Brit supply barge in 1814

Early town reports from 1830's detail concern over excess drinking; Caldwell's rum flows freely

1837-39: 3rd Cong., Methodist and Christian churches all built in center during recession

4 neighborhood schools built in 1800's; many mills running from 1700's; active ice harvesting

1840's – beg. of resort area; Atlantic House first hotel; houses convert to boarding houses.

1840's two Greenland RR depots serve Rye resorts; 1850 first bridge built over Sagamore Creek

86 men serve in the Civil War; two reported killed; Rye and the nation changed forever

1873 Methodist church morphs to Town Hall; center of politics, entertainment, recreation

1874 – 1st trans-Atlantic Cable station No. Jenness Beach; 9 Inter. teleg. operators until 1922

1879: 16 fishermen, 9 blacksmiths, 6 masons, 5 teamstrs, 7 teachers, 6 shoemakers, 200 farmers

1880's battle over the Sleeper Legacy to build a library; people didn't vote; the library lost

1899-1927 – trolley from Portsmouth serves Rye; 1901 – Rye Beach Village District/precinct

1903 – Abenaqui Golf Club; '02-'04 – Ocean Boulevard built; 1911 Rand bequest builds library

War monument erected w/ hundreds who served in WWI; 244 more served in WWII

1920 Pagoda Dance Hall built end of Cable Rd; Jenness Beach Improv. Assn. established

1920's – rum runners active, leave Ralph Brown case of booze, gift for “renting” his boathouse

1920's: lead by Charlie Green, Rye B'ball team plays other towns in wild games at town hall

1932 Wedgwood Center school burns; 1933 new Rye Consolidated school built (welcome jobs)

1937 Blake Rand elected for 50th consecutive year as town clerk – national record

Many Rye people work at Navy Yard; submarine “Squalus” sunk off coast of Rye in 1939

1939 - Jetties built at Rye Harbor from granite quarried at Cape Ann

1940 summer houses razed at Odiome Point; Ft Deraborn erected with bunkers and huge guns

Rye's Alma Locke sings for troops in USO shows; Annie Drake, Army Air Corps “coast watchers”

Richie Goss killed in 1945; only Rye loss of war; LC Haynes 24 bombing missions over Germany

Rye Players organize after war and entertain at town hall into 1960's (“Harvey” “Our Town” etc)

Rye semi pro hockey team “Seahawks” formed after war; great competitors; play into 60's

1950's – The Farragut, the Drake House and the Ocean Wave hotels still in operation

1957 – Elem school; 1964 – Hist. Dist. estab.; 1966 – Jr High Gym; '68 – Civic League founded

'73-'74 – oil refinery battle; Guy Chichester, Jessie Herlihy et. al. fight Onassis Great Bay plan

'75 - Citizens initiative – got town to vote to use federal funds to build office space at town hall

'75 Farragut, Rye's last hotel, is razed; shell of “replacement” sits until its razed in new century

Great 3 day Bicentennial celebration; Bi Cent Com. inspires estab. of Rye Historical Society

Late 70's - 151 families (Parsons Park Corp) save 50 acres (field/forest) for the town

'79 –Charlie Green dies: keeper of town tales, character, selectmen, farmer, great friend, etc.

80's – Parsons arch / town bldg. in Parsons Wds.- defeated; police sta. in Cem. lost by one vote

1985 – RHS 2 day town hall celeb. town's Bicent.; '86 RHS open museum space in great hall

90's – Friary razed; Jr High addition; huge Library addition/parking lot; Seacoast Science Center

2002 – Rye Town Museum opened to public in former antique shop built in 1930

2010 – Rye purchases Goss barn, Harbor Rd., and 12 acres as community farm and rec area

Recent years-struggles over Rye Hbr. and Wallis Sands develop; Rehab and use of Town Hall.