

RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TOWN MUSEUM

Due to COVID-19, the museum will be closed to visitors until further notice. We are following NH and town of Rye guidelines.

***As of July 1, 2020, 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. Appointments may be made by email: info@ryenhistoricalociety.org , or by calling: 603-997-6742



Seeking 20th c. Stories for New Rye History

I have been working on a new history of Rye for several years, but recently a third draft was completed. I have used some

material from previously published books on Rye, but from the mid-1800s to the present I have used new information that was not consulted in those books. Town reports, newspaper articles, primary sources in the town museum and my own and other people's 20th century documentation of events and memories have done much to enrich Rye's more modern history. The last century plus will be the most significant part of this new history to carry on the story left off by Langdon Parsons' History of Rye, NH, 1905.

What is missing are more contributions from 20th century people, especially women, who are still with us and can further enrich this history. This can be in the form of family stories, information on family and daily life, events, anecdotes about people and places, farm life, the hotel resort era, transportation, storms, hot town issues, town government and employees, humorous stories, town characters, buildings, schools, scandals, church, work, play, outside influences, etc. Your contribution can be: long hand, typed, on tape, set up an interview with me, film, copies of photos and printed material, etc. All will be much appreciated. Contributions from all are still welcome, regardless of how small.

As much as possible, I want the 20th century part of this history to be documented through the people who lived it. Any contributions that are included in the book will be done so with your prior approval and will appear with your name attached. Any material that does not make it into the book will be saved in a chronological Word document that will be available to readers on request. In this way a much fuller history of Rye may be told.

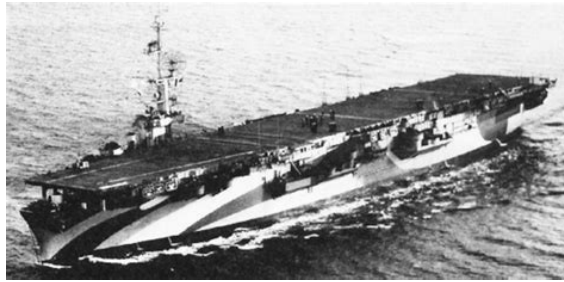
This project emerged from a 100-page timeline of Rye I created a decade ago, that started as a two-page time line given to 4th graders for their Rye History Trolley tour in 2011. The success of that tour inspired the public tours that are still going strong. We look forward to resuming them and all other RHS activities as soon as possible.

There are other tasks relating to the publication of this new history that need volunteers such as deciding which photos to include.

Thank you for helping to preserve Rye's history and bring it to life.

Alex Herlihy
Rye Historical Society

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Philip Drake (1925-2007)

THE WAR YEARS

Narrative by Kendra Gemmett from remembrances of his service in World War II as told to Barbara and Paul Caswell, Rye Beach NH 2003.

Tom Brokaw did not know Philip Drake, but if he had, he surely would have included his story in his book The Greatest Generation, as Phil was surely a member in good standing. As with many of his generation, he served his country and returned to his hometown and continued to contribute to the life he knew there.

Philip Drake, raised in the bucolic and gently leaf-arched roads of Rye Beach, NH, attended Portsmouth High School, but for only a short time. At grade 10 he entered [continue reading...](#)

2020-2021 Board of Directors

as voted in at August's Annual Membership Meeting

The BOD wishes to thank Debbi Toohey for her exemplary board leadership as president for the past two years. This year's board of directors will be led by Janet Davis. Below is the list of current board members:

Janet Davis-*President*
Ginna Macdonald-*Vice President*
Kelly Lewis-*Secretary*
Steve Cash-*Treasurer*
Alex Herlihy - *Museum Director*

Lew Karabatsos

Linda Lemelin
Becky Marden
James Tegeger
Debbi Toohey



New Board Member Spotlight

Lew Karabatsos, a part-time resident of Rye for close to 40 years, is retired from a successful career in corporate philanthropy and community relations. Early on in his career, he was director of the Lowell Museum, a community-based, nonprofit, cultural organization that focused on textile, women's and immigration history.

Over the years, he has served a variety of local and statewide organizations, including as an Overseer of the Boston Museum of Science, a board member of EarthShare New England, past president of the Whistler House Museum/Lowell (MA) Art Association, a member of Lowell (MA) Historic Board and a past board member of the Pollard Memorial Library Foundation (Lowell, MA). He is currently the Treasurer (and past president) of the Lowell (MA) Historical Society and a Trustee of the historic Lowell (MA) Cemetery.

He has published articles and books on Lowell (MA) history as well as the 2004 Rye and Rye Beach Postcard Book by Arcadia Publishing.

Lew holds an M.S. degree in Communications from Boston University and a B.A. degree in Secondary Education from the University of Massachusetts. He currently teaches a graduate-level, *Individual Fundraising* course at Boston University.

The Quilt Project

***Update ***

64 Squares on FaceBook over 64 days
September 2nd will be the end of this craze.
So many old names of Rye people departed
Seemed a daunting task when first I started.
As we come to the end, it's really a beginning
The quilt lives in perpetuity in the world wide webbing
"Don't spoil the ship for a ha'porth of tar"
Go to [our website](#), type name in search bar,
If your relative is there, leave a comment or a story.
It's a living, breathing repository.
Til September 8th it's at [Partners Bank](#)
Stop in to view and give them a thank

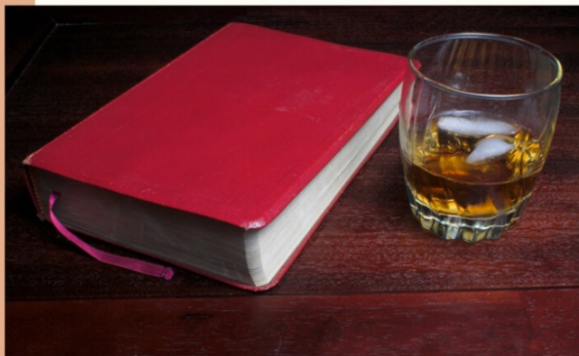
For their support of the Rye Historical Society



WE REMEMBER

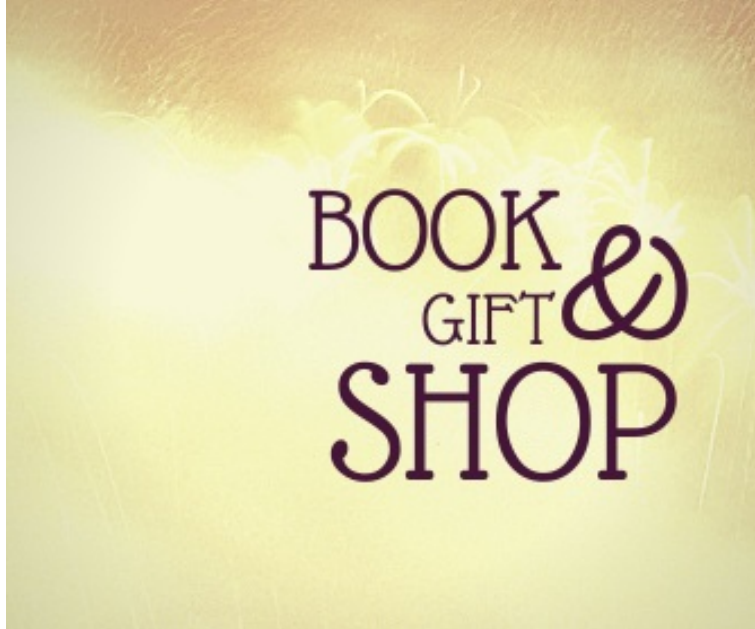
The Rye Historical Society is working on updating the names on our War Veterans Memorial Monument in the center of town. If you know Rye residents who served in a war since WWII, please fill out the survey in this post. Thank you for helping us!

[Take Survey](#)



History Happy Hour

[Sundays FaceBook Live 5.pm](#)



Shop Now

Support Rye Historical Society by doing your shopping on Amazon Smile!



izi.TRAVEL
the storytelling platform



Audio tour

Rye Beach Block

★★★★★ 4 reviews | [Rye](#) | Free

Did you know there is a guided walking tour in Rye Beach? [Download the IziTRAVEL app and get started!](#)

Don't want to walk? You can take this tour from the comfort of your easy chair!

Share The History of Your Home with a Historic House Plaque

Many Rye homes, business and public buildings are adorned with these handsome plaques. The cost of a plaque is \$85.

If you would like one for your home to add to the heritage of the town, house plaque applications may be picked up at the Rye library on the coffee table (behind the RHS brochures).

Check and application may be mailed to PO Box 583, Rye, NH 03870 or left in our mailbox by the front door of the museum.





RHS is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization

Rye Historical Society

603-997-6742

info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org

10 Olde Parish Road, Rye, NH 03870

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RHS is!**

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