

RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TOWN MUSEUM

The Rye Town Museum is open to visitors on Saturday mornings from 10 to 12, and at almost all other times by appointment.

Make your appointment online, email us at info@ryenhistoricalociety.org, or call 603-436-9278

Schedule Museum Visit

SEPTEMBER 2022

BOARD NEWS



At the Annual Meeting in August, we sang a hearty "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" to Alex Herlihy as he steps off of the board. The board of directors of RHS presented Alex with an award in grateful appreciation of his service. David Caswell was welcomed and membership voted him onto the board and approved the slate of

officers. This year's board of directors is:

President: Ginna Macdonald

Vice Present: Jan Olmstead

Treasurer: Steve Cash

Secretary: Lew Karabatsos

Members at Large are:

Becky Marden

Debbi Toohey

Jean Briggs Badger

Andy Stecher

David Caswell

Assistant Treasurer Pro tem (400th): Cathy Hodson



Left to right: Becky Marden, Debbi Toohey, Andy Stecher, David Caswell, Jan Olmstead, Lew Karabatos, Jean Briggs Badger, Ginna Macdonald. Missing: Steve Cash

Looking Back on Forty-Six Years with the Rye Historical Society

Alex Herlihy, August 2022

Over the years many people have shown a strong interest in the history of Rye. We know intuitively that early settlers, and those who came later, were well aware that the pieces of material culture they left behind were telling the tale of their town. Long before Langdon Parson's wrote his *History of Rye, NH*, 1905, people were collecting artifacts and discussing earlier times, saving them for later generations.

Bill Varrell knew this so well, growing up in the 1940s and 50s and working at

the Ocean Wave Hotel and the Salty breeze Snack Bar at Foss Beach. He collected and lived Rye history and his 1962 book, *Rye on the Rocks: The Tale of a Town That Resorted to Resorting*, is living testament to his love and passion for Rye's past, as are his later two books and his three illustrated Rye history talks for RHS 25 years ago.

By the 1970s, the "Every Other Tuesday Club" had already sponsored house tours and started old house documentation. They were all steeped in Parsons and Varrell, so by the time planning for the Bi-Centennial began in 1975, club members Jessie Herlihy, Louise Tallman and others were primed to start a historical society which was established in February 1976. Becky Marden, Ralph Morang III and I are three charter members of RHS. Bonnie Goodwin was also there in the beginning and played a huge role in the society throughout her life. The nation celebrated its 200th birthday on July 4th, but all over the country it was also a celebration of each community's heritage. Rye staged a great three-day event including a memorable pageant marking the 250th anniversary of the parish of Rye in 1726.

From the beginning [MORE](#)

Last Call for Labor Day Trolley Tour!

Sponsored by Partners Bank. 90-minute tour explores the rich history of Rye Beach north to Rye Harbor, with stops along the way. Leaves Rye Town Museum (next to library) September 5th at 10:30 am.



TICKETS

WOOD ISLAND LIFE SAVING STATION

What do you do when you see a dying breed on your shores and want to keep the history alive? You form a nonprofit and rally the community and Armed Forces to help you do it! This past May, Samuel Reid did a program for us called,...



It was excellent and if you missed it, it's available [on our website](#).

On a beautiful Sunday morning, Samuel Reid hosted an informative tour of the Wood Island Life Saving station for the Rye Historical Society board & their guests. Visit their website to see all they are doing at <https://woodislandlifesaving.org>

Upcoming Programs and Events

September 5th - LABOR DAY TROLLEY TOUR

September 29th - SURFMEN OF RYE. Presentation by D. Allen Kerr, 7 p.m. at the Rye Congregational Church

November 3rd - QUILTS OF THE CIVIL WAR. Presentation by Pamela Weeks, 7 p.m. at the Rye Congregational Church

Link for more information: [Events at Rye Historical Society | Rye, NH](#)



Rye 400

Rye 400 (www.ryenh400.org) has launched its townwide general sponsorship drive. **The Rye400 committee is seeking to raise \$150,000** to stage a number of events throughout next year 2023.

The biggest event will be Rye Day on July 1 on Parsons Field. Check out the website often for many other inspiring and intriguing events all year 2023.

The most prominent item within the donation drive is a limited release coin featuring the Rye400 logo and the Rye Town Insignia. This coin, for which only 50 will be released and each edition is individually numbered and presented in a beautiful case, can be attained for a donation of \$1623. Together with the coin the donor will receive a unique wrought iron Rye400 yard flag and a Rye400 pin. The Rye400 committee accepts check or PayPal payments through their website.



Donate through PayPal

STAR ISLAND BOAT TRIPS A SUCCESS



Star Island holds a lot of significance for the Town of Rye, and this year the Historical Society took its first two boat tours on the Uncle Oscar to learn more about life on the island in bygone days.

Look for these tours to resume next Summer!





THIS MONTH IN RYE HISTORY

September, 1726

RYE ORDAINS ITS FIRST MINISTER

When Rye finally succeeded in becoming a separate parish in New Castle, it needed a minister. Nathaniel Morrill was ordained on September 14, 1726. Although Rye's meeting house remained unfinished until 1729, Reverend Morrill's sermons drew parishioners to Sunday meetings.

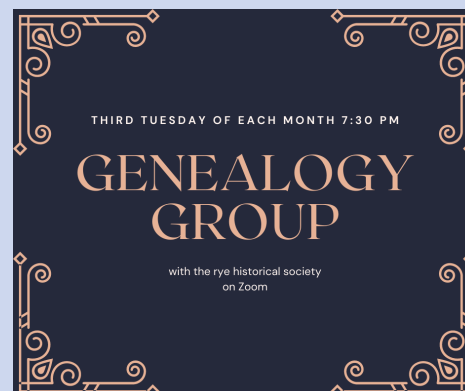
After about seven years, the parish discovered Morrill was having an affair with his house servant and dismissed him. The disgraced pastor took ship to visit England and died on the return voyage.

Determined to choose its next pastor carefully, the parish did not decide to ordain Samuel Parsons until 1736. Reverend Parsons served Rye for almost half a century.

Ongoing Free Programs



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



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

Get Involved



Become a Member



Make A Donation



Volunteer



Visit Ye Olde Gift Shoppe



THE RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS AN INDEPENDENT, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO COLLECTING AND PRESERVING THE RICH HISTORY OF RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE BY ENGAGING RESIDENTS AND VISITORS THROUGH OUR MUSEUM AND PROGRAMS

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

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RHS is!**

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Click the Icons below



Rye Historical Society | 10 Olde Parish Road , P.O. Box 583, Rye, NH 03870

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