



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

Rye Day: History, Music and Fun!



Rye Historical Society's Board and other members were visible and busy staffing a booth and helping in so many ways during the August 19th Rye Day on Parsons Field, sponsored by Rye400 and the Rye Recreation Department.

Pictured here, left to right, first row: Debbi Toohey, Society member; Lew Karabatsos, Board Secretary; Becky Marden, Board member; Jean Badger, Board member. Left to right, second row: Mike Badger, Society member; Steve Cash, Treasurer; Ginna Macdonald, Board President.

Board members missing from the photo: Rye400 Chair Andy Stecher, Jan Olmstead, Mike Berry and Dave Caswell.

Locke Family Association Donation



RHS was the proud recipient of this year's generous \$200 donation from the Locke Family Association at the end of Founding Families Day. We are honored to be host to reunion goers who attended from all across the country.



Ribbon Cutting For New Historical Signage

In April, 2022, the Rye Heritage Commission (RHC) formed a subcommittee of six Rye residents to identify locations and create, for the town's 400th-year celebration, a series of signs commemorating different aspects of Rye's history. Over a period of a year, the committee met, negotiated and ultimately completed the fabrication of seven privately funded historical signs:



1. Brackett Road Burial Site, opposite 605 Brackett Road
2. Family Farms that Shaped Rye's History at 81 West Road
3. Goss Farm, Awcomin Marsh, Rye Harbor, Isles of Shoals at the Goss Farm parking area
4. Historic Hotels at Ocean Boulevard, opposite the former Drake House Hotel, between Sea and South Roads
5. Historic Rye Center at the Rye Public Library Common
6. Pulpit Rock Tower at the end of Neptune Road
7. Trefethen Corner at the Madden Group building

Their efforts were recognized on August 11 with a ribbon-cutting event to commemorate the placement of all seven signs around town. As part of that ceremony, Andy Stecher, Rye400 Chair, read a commendation from NH Governor Chris Sununu, recognizing Rye's milestone anniversary. He presented the official document to Select Board Chair Tom King and members of the Select Board.



Dear Diary

Diaries are an important resource for historians and researchers. They are not only a personal, daily record of one's life, but also a chronicle of society at a particular period of time.

The Rye Historical Society has, in its collection of diaries, those of Supply Foss Trefethen, a Rye resident who was a shipwright at the Portsmouth Navy Yard and a house



carpenter. The challenges of a researcher accessing those items are twofold: 1) they must be in the museum to read them and 2) they may have trouble deciphering the handwriting. But, those challenges have been overcome through a recent donation by a member of Supply's family tree, Larry Keech. He has painstakingly transcribed the diaries, which cover the timeframe between 12 July 1856 (Supply's 23rd birthday) to 13 October 1907 (the day before Supply died at age 74). In them, Supply not only discusses prices for goods and services, wages and work at the Navy Yard, but also the

weather, crops, births, deaths and marriages. In addition, there are entries for local/state/national politics and town/regional/world events. The transcript is more than 1,000 pages and includes images and commentary from Larry for perspective.

The Portsmouth Athenaeum, which also received a digital file of the Trefethen diary, has already posted the full version on its website at <http://ppolinks.com/athenaeum/51284.pdf>

This donation, as others, enriches our ability to better understand our town and the people who made it what it is today. Thank you, Larry, for giving us this publicly accessible glimpse of a Rye resident's life.

Lew Karabatsos
Chair, Collections Committee

An Interview with Local Historian Alex Herlihy

GINNA MACDONALD

I sat down recently with Alex Herlihy to catch up with him.

G: What have you been doing this past year since stepping off the board of directors of the historical society?

A: I have been trying to act like the town historian designation that was given to me by Rye Historical Society. I worked with Anne Gilbert, the Principal of Rye Junior High School, to talk to the students about Rye history, and their questions sparked the idea to create my own website, RyeHistoryRocks.com. The site lists more than 90 short history narratives that developed from my interactions with the students at RJH. The very first thing one class requested was a history of surfing in Rye. What came about from that was they ended up going down to Summer Sessions to interview the owners and make a video to share with the community.



G: You have an updated history of Rye book that is in development as well,

don't you? When will that be published?

A: Yes, I do. In fact, the topics compiled for the students are pulled from my book. The book should be finished in digital form by the end of this year, with publication in 2024. My book will have many 'voices' telling the history – I have 15 contributors right now.

G: What is your favorite topic to talk about regarding Rye history?

A: Old timers, real townies, who knew or know this town deeper than anyone else, like Charlie and Harry Green and my brother David from last century, Herbie Drake, (d. 2011), Roger Philbrick, Jane Holway, Priscilla Jenness.

Debbi Toohey: In Appreciation



Recently, Debbi Toohey stepped down from serving on the Rye Historical Society Board after a successful tenure as a board member and president. We wanted to take a moment to reflect on what she has meant to us.

When Debbi joined the board and became president, the organization was at a crossroads as to where it would go and what it would do. Taking charge, she began a transformation that continues to have impact to this day. She used her organizational and leadership skills to bring structure and continuity of purpose. Her infectious energy and personality gave the Society a new face to the community and opened it up to new audiences and networks to support the organization's programs and activities. When her term

as president was up, she continued her efforts through committee work including chairing Facilities and Exhibits and serving as a valuable member of Membership, Finance and Collections, under which she led a subcommittee to inventory and evaluate the Society's textile archives. In between all that, she spent time in the garden at the museum, watering plants, weeding and planting.

And, if that wasn't enough, she joined the Rye400 Committee as its Vice Chair and has been instrumental in raising more than \$130,000 for the historic, community-wide celebration. Her presence at many, if not most of the 400 events is a testament to her dedication and commitment to getting the job done.

Her voice and thoughtful guidance will be sorely missed at the board level but, in usual Debbi style, she is staying involved in Rye400 to the end and continuing to volunteer on several Historical Society committees.

THANK YOU Debbi for all you have done and continue to do for the Rye Historical Society and for the greater Rye community.

With appreciation,
The Board of Directors, Rye Historical Society

Meet Rye Guy

We asked you to help us name our Town Crier, and at our annual member meeting we put all the contenders on the wall and asked our membership to vote. RYE GUY won! He's a cute little fellow. Look for him at Rye400 events!



Rye400 Donors

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

Founders — \$400+

Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce — \$1,034.65
(Beach n' Brew 2023 event proceeds)



© Dan Courter

A Rye400 Evening with Dan Brown

Join us at the **Rye Junior High School** on **September 21, 2013**, at **6:30pm**, when world-renowned author and Rye resident, Dan Brown, will be interviewed by a WMUR-TV personality about a variety of topics ranging from his books and movies to his love of the seacoast. And, he may take a few questions from the audience! Seating is on a first-come-first-served basis. **Advanced registration, via Eventbrite, is required along with a \$10 donation to benefit Rye student field trips to the Seacoast Science Center.**

Rye400 Events for September

The Rye400 Committee invites you to join in the celebration of our town's milestone anniversary by attending any and all of the following events:

Sept 4: Rye Historic Trolley Tour, Rye Town Museum, 10:00am-12:00pm; Reservations required. www.ryenh400.org

Sept 5: Tickets go on sale via Eventbrite for October 19, 2023, Rye400 Playground Fundraising Party. www.ryenh400.org

Sept 6: Rye Owls — come experience live owls and other educational birds through Tailwinds Raptor Education and Conservation program, Rye Public Library Common, 6:00pm. <https://ryepubliclibrary.org/>

Sept 14: POSTPONED (DATE TBD): Author J. Dennis Robinson presents his new book, "1623 Founding Family," Rye Congregational Church, 7:00pm-8:30pm.

Sept 16: Rye Century Walk, "History of Farming: Brown Lane Farm," 81 West Road, 1:00pm-2:30pm; Registration required. www.ryenh400.org

Sept 17: Wallis Sands Triathlon, Wallis Sands State Beach; 9:00am-1:00pm; Registration required. <https://tri-maine.com/wallis-sands-triathlon/>

Sept 21: Live interview with author Dan Brown, Rye Junior High School, 6:30pm-8:30pm; Registration required. www.ryenh400.org

Sept 26: Student-only program with author Dan Brown, Rye Junior High School.

Sept 27: CANCELLED Former NH Governor and U.S. Senator, Judd Gregg: "An Evening of Reflection and Predictions," Rye Public Library, 6:30pm – 7:30pm.

THIS MONTH IN RYE HISTORY

September, 1899

Trolley Line Reaches Rye Center

On the eve of the 20th century a modern marvel arrived in Rye: an electric Railway! L. B. Parsons described the construction of the trolley line from Portsmouth (townspeople worried about trees being cut down) in his History of Rye.

On the first of April, 1899, a gang of railway construction laborers commenced digging up the ground near the Center, another gang starting at the other end, on Sagamore road at the Portsmouth line. On the 24th of August the first car was run over the line to Lang's corner, the junction of Sagamore and Wallis roads; on the 31st the run was extended to Rand's corner, the junction of Washington and Portsmouth roads; and on the 3d of September the first car to the Center arrived opposite the Congregational church.

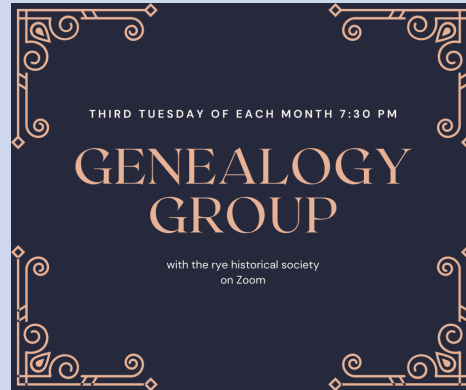
The following year, the second section of the trolley line was built, running

down Central Road. By the end of July, 1900, Rye trolley riders could connect with the Hampton Beach line.

Ongoing Free Programs



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



Get Involved



Become a Member



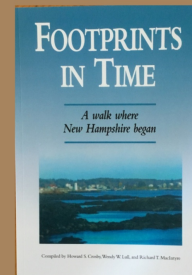
Make A Donation



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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