



Historical Society *and* Museum

The Rye Town Museum is open to visitors on Saturday mornings from 10 to 12 May 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



Historical
Society *and*
Museum

You're invited!

Join us for a Spring party in the garden.

Saturday, May 18
3-5 p.m.

Music by
The Old Hat Duo

This is a special event for
members only.



Join us at the museum on Saturday, May 18 from 3-5 p.m. and hear what we've been up to! Music will be provided by The Old Hat Duo (with Steve Roy, who restored and demonstrated the Rye Violin two years ago). We look forward to seeing you there! Please register below so we know to expect you.

Register Here

Tour the Town on Memorial Day!

Historial Rye Trolley Tour
Monday, May 27, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Our tour, with ongoing historical narration, will leave the museum and proceed up Washington Road to Brown Lane Farm, work its way down to Rye Beach, then head up the coast on Ocean Boulevard to Odiorne Point and back to the museum via Sagamore, Wallis, Brackett and Washington Roads. There are many pullovers including Rye Harbor, the Cable House and Pulpit Rock Tower, as well as opportunities to disembark at the historic St. Andrew's Church, the former Drake House Hotel, and Rye's Goss Farm barn.





Information on Rye Family Reunions Wanted!

Do you have a family group that has members and holds reunions? We are setting up a 'station' at the museum where visitors can learn of these family groups. Please send along information about your group to info@ryenhistoricalociety.org. We'll be happy to print it out and make it available.

Managing History

The Rye Historical Society has been collecting Rye-related photos, manuscripts, artifacts etc. for almost 50 years. We've amassed quite a collection and have had varying degrees of success in accounting for it. Over the past three years, we've made a concerted effort to invest limited but strategic financial resources on engaging a professional archivist to help us methodically and consistently organize and catalog our holdings. The goal is to get everything uploaded onto the website for students, researchers and the general public.

It is a long and laborious process. We are working, for example, on cataloging more than 170 small Parsons family photos (including the Rye trolley image at right) donated by Doug Parsons. Each one has to be assigned an accession number and entered into our database along with a detailed description of the image (with dates). It is then uploaded onto the Society's public website along with a scan of the photo. This is but one project of many and we are making progress!



To accomplish our recent work, the Society has used monies raised through memberships and annual fundraisers such as *Giving Tuesday* and *NH Gives*. We've had limited success with individual donors — until now. It came in the form of an unexpected and unsolicited email. It stated simply, "Please use my donation of \$10,000 to support the work of your archivist. Your trove of historical items gains greatly in practical value as it is organized and made more accessible." The donor, a Rye resident, prefers to remain anonymous.

What a wonderful gesture! We are so grateful that our work is being acknowledged in this way. Based on their generosity, we are able to engage the archivist on a part-time basis, two days a week for about six months.

We thank our anonymous donor for their charitable gift and invite others to join in supporting our work. By doing so, we not only make Rye history more accessible, but also better preserve it for generations to come.

Lew Karabatsos
Chair, Collections Committee

The Traveling Quilt

At the closing ceremony for the Rye400 celebrations, the selectmen of Rye presented Rye Historical Society with a beautiful quilt which highlights some of Rye's most historical moments. This quilt will be making rounds in the community this year and we hope you will stop in and check it out. This month it will be hosted by Carey and Giampa, May 3-17.



THIS MONTH

Thursday, May 23: **Genealogical Gold in Town Books and Reports** - with Zoom option! 6:30 pm. - 7:30 pm. Rye Library

Monday, May 27: **Historical Trolley Tour**, 10:30 am. - 12:30 p.m.
Leaves from museum

RYE ROOTS REQUEST

Hello, my name is Larry Keech and along with David Caswell we have been working with the Rye NH Historical Society to save as much local family history as we can. David and I both grew up in North Rye in the late 50's and 60's. We both have done extensive research on our family histories in Rye and are now trying to acquire as much of the local history of your families as far back as possible before it is lost.

Specifically, we are interested in information you may have prior to 1950. This may include written and/or photographic history of the local people, places, and the landscapes of Rye. Digital please, we don't need your originals.

As most of you may know, Rye through the 1800s and early 1900s was a working-class farming and fishing community, outside of the Rye Beach hotel era. Many of the families were connected by necessity throughout town by marriage and working relationships to keep life in a rural community functioning. The Rye Historical Society has a wealth of information about not only genealogy, but photos of the town from days ago. Much of this can be seen on their [website](#).

If you are interested in this project or have questions, please contact us and help us save your family and local history:

David Caswell (Caswell and Berry family descendent)
drcaswell@yahoo.com

Larry Keech (Trefethen and Varrell family descendant)
Keech7@aol.com

If you wish to send us copies of your digital photos or documents, please email them to Info@ryenhistoricalociety.org and put **Rye Roots** in the subject line.

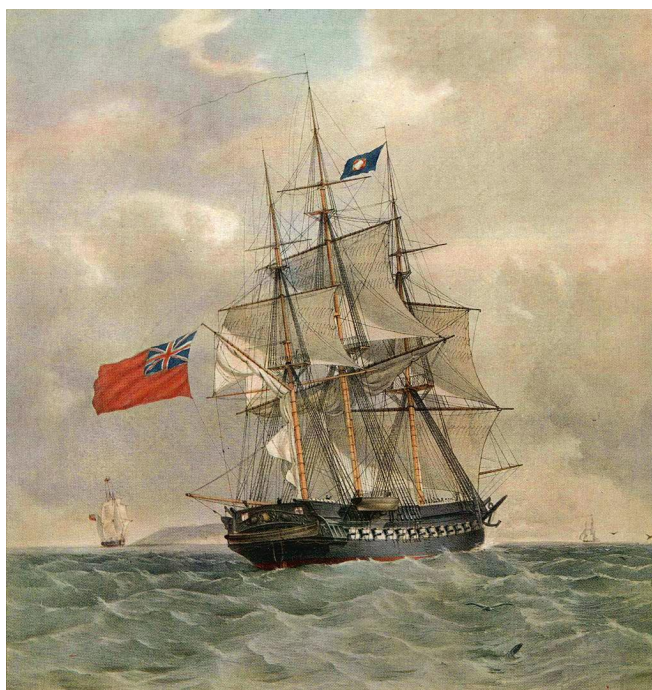
We look forward to hearing from you and encourage you to join us on the **Rye Roots** Zoom call the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM.

THIS MONTH IN RYE HISTORY

May, 1814

“The British are Coming!”

In the spring of 1814, two British naval ships, *HMS Tenedos* and *HMS Junon*, arrived off the New England coast to enforce Britain's shipping embargo. On May 29th the two frigates anchored just outside Rye Harbor. Fearing invasion, Rye prepared for battle.



HMS Tenedos was an exact twin of HMS Pomone, pictured here.

On the morning of May 30th the British, in search of provisions, sent a barge to intercept a passing schooner. Two Rye men fishing nearby signaled the schooner to take refuge in Rye Harbor. The lightly-armed barge followed. As a British officer later acknowledged, that was a mistake.

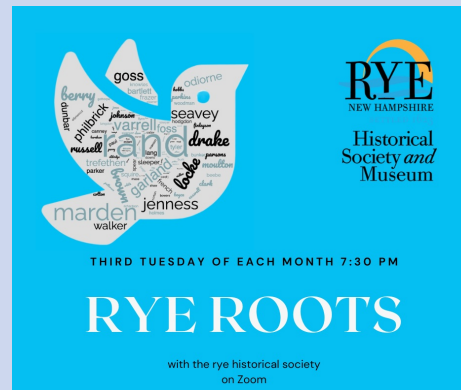
Rye's militia had taken up positions on both Ragged Neck and Little Neck. In the ensuing firefight, at least two British sailors were wounded; Rye's forces suffered no casualties. Outgunned, the barge retreated from the harbor under a continuing shower of musket fire. (A waste of powder and shot, Rye's General Goss complained.) The British ships soon departed.

Hundreds of onlookers flocked to the shore that day. What they witnessed was New Hampshire's one and only "battle" in the War of 1812.

Ongoing Free Programs



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

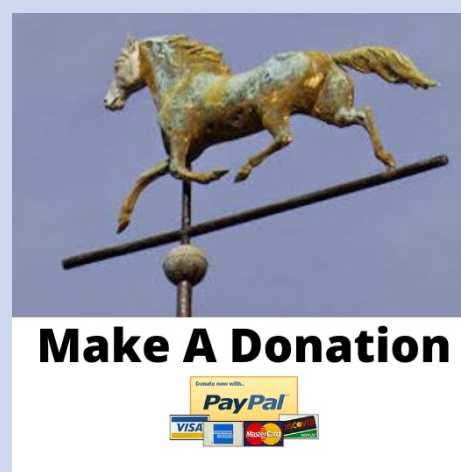


THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH 7:30 PM

RYE ROOTS

with the rye historical society
on Zoom

Get Involved



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.

603 436-9278

info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org

Follow RHS on Social Media

Click the Icons below



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