

Rye Historical Society Newsletter

Summer 2012

RHS to Give 2nd Rye Trolley History Tour Wed. Aug. 22

The Rye Historical Society will offer a narrated trolley tour of historic locations in Rye on Wednesday, August 22, from 1:00pm to 2:30 pm. The tour will proceed down Central Road to Ocean Boulevard, heading north to Odiorne Point. There will be stops **at the Philbrick farm on Central Road; St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea Episcopal chapel; The Drake House, once one of the grand hotels in Rye; Rye Harbor and the statue honoring the fisherman of Rye, and Odiorne Point;** before returning to the parking lot.

The tour is a fund raiser for the Rye Historical Society to support the Town Museum. Trolley fare is \$20 for adults and \$18 for children and seniors. To reserve a place, send your name, telephone number and the number of people in your party to info@ryenhistoricalociety.org. Payment in the form of cash or check (made out to Rye Historical Society) will be collected on the day of the tour. Town Museum Director, Alex Herlihy will be the Tour guide.

Those who sign up will receive a one year free membership to the Rye Historical Society/Museum, a printed tour guide, a copy of "Rye History in a Clam Shell," and a special invitation to visit the museum after the tour for a showing of historic photos.

Participants should meet the trolley in the large parking lot to the left of the Rye Congregational Church, 580 Washington Rd, by 12:45. Parking is free.

RHS and the Friends of the Library Present Abenaki Program in October

On Monday October 22nd at 7 PM at the Rye Library, The RHS will co-sponsor, with the Friends of the Library, a NH Humanities Program entitled: "Digging Into New Hampshire's Native Past." The presenter is Dr Robert Goodby of the Dept of Anthropology, Franklin Pierce University, Ringe, NH. This look at the Abenaki and other native peoples will greatly expand our view of settlement in this area, far beyond the 1623 date of first European settlement. Refreshments will be served.

Remnants of Rye Christian Church found in Massachusetts

Some older resident of Rye will remember the handsome, brown Victorian church with bell tower and rose window (1890) which sat on the corner of what is now Old Parish and Washington roads before it was dismantled and moved to Billerica MA in 1947. Earlier this year Alex Herlihy found the church on Old Boston Road. It was not easy to spot as it had been greatly altered and modernized. Pastor Deborah Ennis gave him a tour and showed him the two round stained glass windows in storage which had adorned the gable ends of the church in Rye. The board of the church has just agreed to donate these two windows (4' diameter) to the town museum and they will be on display later this year.

Third Rye History Trolley Tour in October

Watch for publicity for the third Rye History Trolley tour to be given by Board member, Sue Reynolds. Participants receive a printed tour guide which includes the five stops during the 90 minute excursion down Central, north on Ocean Blvd and back to the center via Brackett and Washington Roads.

Saturday Museum Hours Change

The town museum is now open Saturdays through October from 10 - 1. Most Wednesdays it is open from 2 - 4. Those who want to visit at other times should call the director and request a visit (997-6742). Usually a mutually convenient time can be arranged. What will you find? Layer upon layer of Rye stories, its history, its heritage, its rich maritime past, thousands of historic photos, ten films relating to Rye and a variety of printed material that is a veritable treasure trove for research or simply perusing. The museum has even found space to show the "Hotels and Boarding Houses of Rye" exhibit that was recently on view at the Seacoast Science Center.

Town Museum Resources to Connect to Rye Schools Curriculum

Through updated use of the RHS web site, both Rye schools may soon be able to use and easily access resources of the town museum that are directly related to the curriculum. Students in 4th grade studying NH history, 7th grade heritage studies and other courses will be able to download materials for use in their assignments. Teachers will be able to easily access materials for use in their classes. It is hoped this formalized connection the schools and the museum will be in place later this school year.