

RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TOWN MUSEUM

In writing a new history of Rye, I am including many of our 18th and 19th century homes and the families who built them. Dating old houses is not easy and often architectural historians tend to be the best resources unless there is specific and verifiable written documentation. Most dates that are claimed on house plaques and in written records at the museum definitely are approximate and need a "c." in front of the date. Indeed a few of these dates may be off by a half century or more.



However there are two styles of houses that we can state, as a general rule, were built in the 1600's and 1700's and those are the two and one half story center chimney style about 30'x 40' (see the Simon Jenness home above, 1773) and the one and a half story center chimney, cape style on a slightly smaller footprint. The larger house often started as a half house version or a cape style and was enlarged as families grew. The pitch of the roofs, windows, space between floors, chimneys, etc. all give a clue to the time period in which they were built. Based on written records and a town wide visual inventory, there are approximately forty houses in Rye built before 1800 and the original parts of a few of them date back before 1700.

19th century farmhouses tended to be taller and narrower. More formal houses were in the Georgian, hip roof style, such as the two early 1800's homes facing each other in Rye center on either side of the church. Starting in the 1820's, other new new styles emerged such as Greek revival and later, early Victorian. A future article will address this far larger number of Rye houses.

Alex Herlihy, Museum Director



**Meet
Kelly Lewis -
Our newest RHS Board
Member!**

Kelly Lewis spent 20 years working in healthcare, primary in biotechnology, using her communication skills in roles across strategy consulting, business development, investor relations and innovation. She is currently on sabbatical.

Kelly learned the fundamentals of communication around the Harkness table at Phillips Exeter Academy and went on to study Biomedical Engineering at Yale, and Epidemiology at the University of Cambridge, where she met her husband, Alan.

Kelly started her career as a strategy consultant with the Boston Consulting Group, helping healthcare clients solve their biggest strategic issues. After receiving her Masters degree, Kelly worked in Business Development for a startup in London called Dr Foster, helping the National Health Service and various non-governmental organizations modernize their communications.

After moving back to the United States and settling in Boston, Kelly worked as a part of the Partners Health System for the Center for Medical Simulation, helping train surgical teams in crisis communications. Most recently, Kelly worked as an Executive Recruiter and Leadership Consultant with Russell Reynolds, helping biotech clients find the right executives teams to achieve their corporate missions.

For fun, Kelly enjoys spending time with her two young sons, swimming, gardening, cooking and enjoying wine.

SAVE THE DATES: NOTE THE LOCATIONS!

August 8 (NEW DATE!)

6:30 p.m.

Katie Brodeur

*Past and Present Fauna
of Rye and the Seacoast*

Rye Library



August 22

6:30 p.m.

J. Dennis Robinson

*Treasure from the Isles of Shoals:
How New Archaeology is Changing
Old History*

Rye Congregational Church



August 25

4:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

Featuring a Presentation by

Astrida Schaeffer

*The Story One Dress can Tell:
Social Positioning Through Dress
in 19th c. Seacoast NH*





September 2 FAMILY OPPORTUNITY!

Rye History Trolley Tour
Monday, September 2, 10:30 - 12
\$25 per person
advance reservations required -
Click [HERE](#) for tickets

Are you on Instagram? Facebook? Twitter?

RHS is!

Follow RHS on Social Media
Click the Icons below



Share Your Talents and Skills with the RHS

Volunteers Needed For:

- Coordinator between RHS resources and Rye schools
- Archival work and genealogical research
- Exhibit updates and creation
- Textile organization and display
- Computer technology and website maintenance
- Administrative work
- Building care and maintenance

If any of these interest you, please email or phone us. We would love for you to be part of the RHS!

DID YOU KNOW.....
The Museum is open by request at
(almost) ANY TIME?

We're here for you - please email
info@ryehhistoricalsociety.org to
make an appointment



Intimate Rye History Online - Access Rye History

Have you looked at all the new material recently posted on our web site? Under the tab: "Resources" click on **Access Rye History** and you will see over 1600's pages of a wide and diverse variety of primary source material from Rye 1850 - 1920. From diaries to letters to account books and much more you can open a window into the past and make Rye and American history come alive. Thanks to a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Fund and the work of Robin Silva from the Portsmouth Athenaeum, RHS is now able to share a rich body of the past from our extensive collection.

[Visit our website](#)

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@ryenhistoricalociety.org

10 Olde Parish Road, Rye, NH 03870

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