

# RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TOWN MUSEUM



Spring will be here soon along with some great programs, so mark your calendars! And don't forget to renew your RHS membership today

## Papa Joe's Traveling Storytelling Show

**Saturday April 15th  
10 am - 12 pm  
Rye Public Library**

A fun, family friendly event!  
Papa Joe Gaudet's living folktales have captured family audiences from Cow Head, Newfoundland, to Austin, Texas, from the beaches in Florida to the mountains of Washington State.



## Pretty Halcyon Days, on the Beach with Ogden Nash

**Thursday May 18th  
6:30 pm  
Rye Public Library**

Ogden Nash and his family spent their summers on Little Boar's Head, in North Hampton, NH. Using examples from their original stage work, "Home is Heaven," Pontine Theatre explores the ways in which Nash's life on the New Hampshire seashore influenced his poems, giving the reader insight into the man, his character, and his ideas about family, society, and nature. These themes form a rich portrait of the poet and underscore how the intersection of literature and local history can deepen our understanding and appreciation of everyday events in our own backyard.

## March House of the Month

### Benjamin Scadgel Inn and Tavern Aka John Langdon Seavey House 321 Wallis Road



**The Rye Historical Society has started a new program to highlight historically important homes and roads in Rye and Rye Beach. Called "The House/Road of the Month", a different home or road will be featured in our e newsletter and in Rye Magazine.**

(The Scadgel Inn and Tavern in the 1940's)

The Scadgel Inn and Tavern is a center chimney two story colonial with 8 rooms, reported to have been Rye's first inn and founded in 1702. Benjamin Scadgel is said to have operated the inn and tavern from 1702-1755, when he sold the property to Ebenezer Wallis, who also may have continued to operate the business, though there is conflicting information. It was then purchased by Amos Seavey in 1758. Some accounts say that the property continued to be an inn until the house was supposedly destroyed by fire in 1798 and rebuilt by the Seavey family. The very large center chimney, which has a huge stone foundation and two cooking fireplaces, and is believed to have been installed by Scadgel, still remains strong, whether or not the inn burned in 1798.

The actual date of the construction of the house is unclear. Without exact information as to the date Skadgel had the house built and without verification if the house was completely rebuilt or just repaired after the fire, the house has an ambiguous history. But based on the construction and the style of the house, it most likely predates 1800.

The house stayed in the Seavey family until some time after the death of Joseph's Langdon Seavey III in the late 1800's or early 1900's. It then passed through several owners until being purchased and renovate by the present occupants, the Moriarty family.

Like many others in Rye in the 1700's, back when it was still called "Sandy Beach" and a part of New Castle, Amos Seavey had 4 slaves or freed slaves living on the property. Also, there is anecdotal evidence that the house was a stopover on the Underground Railroad, a haven for runaway slaves and a farm where freed slaves were working and living. A hidden trap door leads to a "hiding spot" in the cellar where they are said to have gone if a slave hunter came around.

There are many distinguishing architectural features including the original Indian shutters, discovered by the present owners during renovations. These are inside the window sill and slide back to be out of the way when not in use. The cellar staircase was made from half trees supposedly salvaged at the beach. Off the kitchen is a so called "boarding room" which was used for wakes, among other uses. A 18th century chair, samplers and other items were found in the home by the present owners.

Having been a working farm for many decades, the property features included chicken coops, now long gone, a four seater outhouse, and a barn that unfortunately burned in the

1920's. Seven old barrels were found in the basement remaining from the tavern days. Now a lovely family home, the Skadgel Inn and Tavern still retains much of the charm and history of its early beginnings.

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## Is Your House or Road Special? Tell Us Why!

We're starting a new program at RHS - the Rye "House/Road of the Month". Each month a different house or road will be **featured on our website as well as in Rye Magazine.**

Is your house or road historic and of special interest to the community?

If so, please contact us to enter this month's competition. Don't know much about your house but you know it's significant?

**We can help you do the research!**

**Email us TODAY at [info@ryenhistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhistoricalociety.org)**

## 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.



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### A big thanks for joining or renewing your membership in the Rye Historical Society for 2017:

Cathy & Lee Hodson

John Fleming

John & Joan Provencher

Susan Anderson

Kendra & Bob Gemmett

Victor Azzi

Anne Richter Arnold

Katy & John Sherman

Pamela Bottomley

Mae Bradshaw & Burt Dibble

Peter Crawford

Dennis Lipman & France

Erlebacher

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**Our 2017 Membership Drive Continues!**  
**Sign up at our membership table at RES**  
**when you VOTE on March 14th**

We need you! For 2017 our goal is to reach a milestone of 100 members who will commit to renewing annually. With this number of members we can sustain the work of the society and the museum, add to our programming, expand our research and database and keep our museum open and vital.



## **Become a RHS member today! Membership Benefits Include:**

- **Invitations to members only appreciation events**
- **Discounts on special events, exhibition previews, and community programs**
- **Participation and voting privileges at annual board meeting**
- **10% discount on items from the [Museum's gift shop](#)**
- **A standing invitation to a personal tour of the museum's collection**

## **Membership Levels:**

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Business	\$25.00
Sponsor	\$100.00
Lifetime	\$200.00

**\*Sponsor and Lifetime members will be acknowledged and thanked at a special spring event**

"In kind" - Volunteer with RHS for 6 hours for membership

Other \$\_\_\_\_\_ **(ALL levels of donations are gladly accepted!)**

**[Click here to join online - it's EASY!](#)**

Payment can be made via Pay Pal on our website or by check made out to "Rye Historical Society" and mailed to PO Box 583, Rye NH 03870, or placed in our new mailbox at the museum. Please include your name, mailing address and e-mail..



### **Winter Hours in Effect for November - April**

The Rye Historical Society's Museum will be open for Winter hours starting November 1, 2016

Wednesdays 3 pm to 5 pm  
By request - please call for an appointment 603-997-6742 or email us

at [info@ryenhistoricalssociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhistoricalssociety.org)

Rye Historical Society | 603-997-6742 | [info@ryenhistoricalssociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhistoricalssociety.org)

10 Olde Parish Road, Rye, NH 03870

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