

## **Harnessing the Brooks of Rye**

Food and shelter, grist and saw mills...  
Brooks of Rye meant survival and a good life  
For early settlers; with mills they knew  
They would be here next year.  
First a saw mill on Cedar Swamp Run  
For Francis Jenness and others in 1695.  
Samuel Langdon, a shingle maker from Portsmouth  
Moved to Rye, married a Jenness woman;  
In 1720's and they lived near this mill on Love Lane  
And there he practice his livelihood .  
Mill is gone but pristine cedars protected forever  
Still grace the untouched land above Browns Pond.  
The next mill, a red one, for grist down stream  
Today called Baileys Brook flowing into Eel Pond.  
More saw and grist mills for the Seavey family  
On the north Rye creek. bearing their name  
Rye pioneers, strength of purpose  
First sawing their boards in a pit  
Then built these early hydro powered mills  
The mills - first real businesses in town,  
Founding families were here to stay.