

Rye Historical Society

Summer Newsletter, 2015

www.ryenhistoricalociety.org

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RHS is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization

P.O. Box 583, Rye, NH 03870, tele. 603-997-6742



Rye History Trolley Tour September 7th

On Saturday, July 6, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, Rye Historical Society will sponsor a Rye history trolley tour that will proceed down Central Road to Ocean Boulevard, to Rye Harbor and back to the museum via Harbor and Locke Roads. There will be four stops along the way including St. Andrews-By-The-Sea Chapel, which has a Tiffany Glass window; The Drake House, once one of the grand hotels in town; Rye Harbor; and Goss Barn, which was restored by the town. The English Style barn was converted into the traditional Yankee Barn in the late 1800s. There will be ongoing narration of history, and the tour will end at The Rye Town Museum to see the new chronological and thematic Rye history exhibits. Proceeds support the Rye Town Museum.

Reservations must be made by e-mailing RHS (info@ryenhistoricalociety.org) with your name, number in your party and telephone number, by July 4. A minimum of 12 people is needed for the tour to be held. Please arrive at the museum by 9:45 AM and pay when you board. The trolley will leave promptly at 10:00 AM. Cost is \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, those under 18, and RHS members. Cash or checks made out to Rye Historical Society, please.

No reservations by telephone, but call for 603.997.6742 further information.

RHS Membership Appeal

Greetings,

The Rye Historical Society and Town Museum need you.

Membership Benefits

- Knowledge that you are supporting RHS budget to keep the museum open with relevant and appealing exhibits and services.
- Quarterly E-newsletter (sent bcc) to keep you in the Rye history loop. Invitation to special events and alerts on issues relating to Rye history.
- Participation and voting on important decisions at April annual meeting
- 10% discount on items from the museum's gift shop (listed on website)
- Special alerts on any issues related to Rye history
- Standing invitation to RHS Board meetings: 2nd Monday of month; contact RHS to confirm time and place
- Discovering that one of your interests or talents matches one of RHS's identified tasks (listed on website under tab: "contact us")
- Standing invitation to a personalized tour of the museum's exhibit and collections, in whole or in part.

Membership and RHS Information

(Annual dues renewed every April are)

Individual	\$ 10.00
Family	\$ 15.00
Business	\$ 25.00
Life	\$ 200.00

*Other contributions amounts are welcome

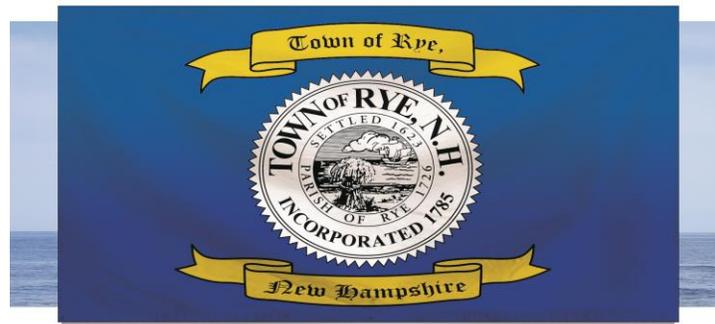
Payment can be made via Pay Pal on our website or by check made out to "Rye Historical Society" and mailed to PO Box 583, Rye, NH 03870. Please include your name, mailing address and e-mail so we can send you our e-newsletter. Thank you for your support.

***Annual Dues Only \$10**

Rye Town Flags Available For Sale at Town Museum

FLY THE OFFICIAL **RYE, NH TOWN FLAG** NOW TAKING ORDERS

The Rye Historical Society is proud to make available to the community the opportunity to purchase the newly established official town of Rye, NH flag for your residence or place of work



The Rye flag is available in three sizes:

2' x 3'	2 1/2' x 4'	3' x 5'
\$63	\$78	\$82

Minimum of 12 orders per size required for each factory order, so ask your neighbors, friends and family to purchase one.

Flags available for purchase through the Rye Historical Society by emailing info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org or stopping by the office located at **10 Olde Parish Road**.

The creation of this flag was one of the last projects of former RHS board member Dr. Michael Mittelman and it will be a lasting legacy of all his volunteer work for the town.

Thank you to William Garrish for his winning design in the Rye town flag contest.

Are You Interested in Helping to Document the Older Homes of Rye?

A visit to the town museum would inevitably result in a discussion of Rye's architectural heritage. There are well over 300 buildings in town that date before WWII and they are in need of documenting. Photos of some of these houses grace our current exhibit on Rye's history. The foundation work has been done with updated photos and some research on the oldest houses, but what is needed is organizing the new research that has been given to the museum, getting all of the addresses and requesting or researching

information on buildings for which we have no information. This is but one of many interesting projects you might find appealing at the museum.

Those who work on museum projects will be considered a “Friend of the Museum” and will receive the newsletter.

RHS and the Town Museum are important assets to Rye your participation can help us reach more people to engage them in telling the story of Rye, past and present. The more participants in history we have the more people will appreciate the town’s heritage and help shape its future.

The Rye Historical Society is active in co-sponsoring programs with the Rye Public Library and Friends of the Library. We work with the Rye Schools to support curriculum, the Rye Heritage Commission and the Historic District Commission. Current projects: writing a new town history, supporting student and public research, preserving old graveyards, documenting older houses and barns, helping individuals with research on families and other topics, etc.

Saving Rye’s Historic Buildings

Although the South School was not able to be saved, it was quite a sight to see the Rand Barn moved across Wallis Road next to the home of Brian Murphy and his family. The town is grateful to the Murphy family for saving the barn and putting it to good use. The Murphy house and the Rand house across the road are of the same era so the barn looks as if it belongs in its new location.

The most prominent historic building now in need of saving is the town hall. A new committee has been established and it is important that town residents weigh in on their opinion as to what should be done with it. It is hard to imagine voters would want it torn down since it is well built, has served as a town hall since 1873 and, with upgrades, can certainly continue that role.

It is important to determine what voters would support in terms of bringing the building up to code and a possible modest extension off the rear.

RHS is grateful for all the homeowners who have preserved Rye’s many 18th and 19th century farmhouses, the centerpiece of the town’s rich architectural and agricultural heritage.

Recent Donations Loans to the Museum

1. Two 19th century muskets found in Wedgwood House, 19 Lang Rd. in 1938 (Herlihy family)
2. WWII Rye town voting lists (Lew Karabatsos)
3. Bell from the South School House (Roy family)
4. Mid-20th century news clippings scrapbook (Betty Moore, Hampton Historical Society)
5. Three historic quilts and a hooked rug (Steven Wright – Locke family)
6. Print/magazine holder (Lee Perrault)

History Guides Needed for Odiorne Point

In discussions with the Colonial Dames and the Seacoast Science Center, RHS has agreed to spearhead an effort to organize and train guides to provide historical tours of Odiorne Point. Most people who visit the park are only aware of the obvious WWII history and all of the rich summer colony, Odiorne family and earlier farming history are lost. There is a wealth of physical evidence, photos and research that could be used by history guides to expand the visitor's view of Odiorne.



There could be a variety of such tours organized, depending on the time and interest of visitors. Those who become history tour guides would be part of the planning and implementation.

If you are interested in becoming a guide please contact RHS.

What Were Rye Residents Reading in the Herald in 1900?

January 1900: There was an attack on Mormonism by Rev. Dr. Dixon which characterized the religion as the “Synagogue of Satan.” This brings to mind what newspapers have always been: a repository of some of the most debased “reporting” as well as often the only place where actual events are documented.

Newspapers are a reflection of the population and the readers are obligated to discern what is fair and responsible reporting. It was also reported that the Alvarado Jenness family lost their eight month old daughter Auburn. The Portsmouth City Bowling League had their inaugural competition. On the 24th the trolley showed its mettle when it rushed Mr. Philbrick of Rye to Market Square in 11 minutes so that a doctor could bind up his serious axe wound. Readers were also regaled with the great panacea that

Hood’s Sasparilla pills could provide, curing everything from dyspepsia to rheumatism caused by impoverished blood. WC Edwards got the contract to construct the building to house the largest battery in the US to power the trolley in Rye Center, on former Jenness land. On the 30th vandals placed a wagon on the track and the trolley plow smashed it to bits. Portsmouth Marshall Entwistle warned the perpetrators will be made to suffer if apprehended.

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Volunteers needed to Staff Booth at Farmer’s Market

The Farmer’s market will allow RHS to set up a table and display from 2:30 -5:30 during the Market season. Volunteers are needed to staff the table. Come join us! It is important to have this presence at the market. If you are interested then please contact RHS with dates you are available. The museum is opened 3-5 on Wednesdays. RHS will assist with setting up and taking down display at each market.

For more information about the Farmer’s Market visit the link below.

http://www.town.rye.nh.us/Pages/RyeNH_BComm/Farmers/index

Museum is Open for the Season!

Hours at the museum on Saturdays 10-12 and most Wednesdays 3-5 from May through October. Most importantly, the museum is always open on request by telephone or e-mail. See contact information atop the newsletter.