

RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TOWN MUSEUM

Join Us for a "Spooktacular" Event!



**Thursday October 28,
6:30 PM
Rye Public Library
"Legends and Lore of
Star Island"
Evidence from Ghost
Hunter group,
Paranormal Reactions**

RHS at Seacoast Science Center's 25th Anniversary

RHS was invited to have a table at the big event on Sept 9th and we handed out a one page Odiorne history time line. We created and a sign up for a much longer one in the works. They are available to anyone who writes us at the museum e-mail.

We also emphasized the importance of fully understanding the display of the Lizzie Carr ship wreck in the SSC. We had images and background information of this shipwreck at the south end of Wallis Sands in 1905 and how part of it was excavated in 2002 by the late marine archaeologist David Switzer of PSU and brought to SSC for display. The shipwreck display represents the perfect intersection of science and history and Odiorne point is rich in both. RHS looks forward to working with SCC in the future to bring more human history to the public's attention.

Stay up to date on RHS Events - Follow RHS on Social Media
Click the Icons below



**Rye Historical Society
House of the Month
"Rose Cottage"
Simon Jeness House
190 South Road**

The charming and lovingly restored Rose Cottage is located at 190 South Road across from the Abenaki Golf Course. Nearly 300 years old and one of the oldest homes in Rye Beach, the interior retains the charm and architectural details of the past with modern conveniences such as central air and state of the art kitchen and bathrooms.

The RHS Old House Project research shows that it is not possible to definitively prove the House dates from 1729, but it is certain that it was built by a member of the Jenness family. Richard Jenness' will of 1785 sows most of the property going to his nephew, John Bean Jenness. His name appears on the 1805 map of Rye as resident or owner of the home.

However, there was a stipulation that one third of the property was to be reserved for the use of his wife (widow) Mary. Executors determined that Mary should occupy the southeast room in the east part of the home.

A note from the probate records gives good assurance that the building is a combination of two parts, as far back as 1785. The two parts were joined with wooden pegs; an interesting and exposed area (see photo) is evident in what was probably the kitchen based on the type of fireplace.

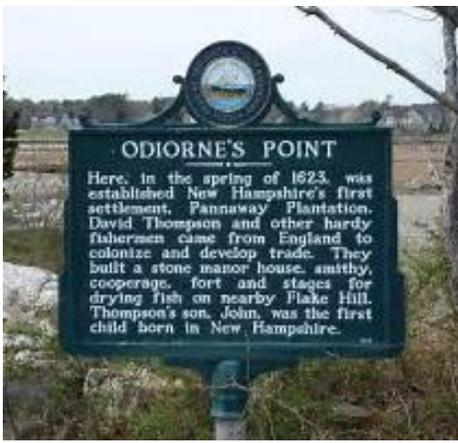
Simon Jenness, whose names is on the historic plaque, was definitely one of the owners of the home but not the first. Records show he was married in 1815 and lived in the home from 1785 to 1840.



RHS and the Town Museum Needs Your Interests and Skills

If any of the items below interest you, please contact us via e-mail, telephone or write to our PO. We would love to hear from you because this is your town museum and it is only as good as the number of volunteers we have working to make it so.

- Custodial tasks - interior and exterior; this is a very public building and it needs you
 - Coordinator between RHS resources and Rye schools - much work has been done, but it lacks coordination
 - Archival work and genealogical research - we receive many inquiries and really need help here
 - Exhibit update - our current Rye history exhibit is four years old and needs refreshing
 - Old house documentation project - a good start has been made, but much remains; we get many inquiries on this topic
 - Textile organization and display - we have an extensive collection that is yearning to escape its closet
 - Computer technology - our two computers and our web site need skilled hands to keep them updated and more accessible to the public
 - Public relations - we have had two years of unparalleled success, but that means more work to stay effective and follow up with so many new members, develop new programs, member services, etc.
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400th Anniversary of first European Settlement is on the Horizon

In recent months RHS has been discussing how in 2023 Rye can recognize the 400th anniversary of the first permanent European settlement in New Hampshire by David Thomson, his wife and a few skilled workers. After they settled in June 1623, they called the point "Rendezvous," but it was changed to Odiorne in the

1700's to honor the family that began farming there in the 1660's. It is quite possible that because the success of the initial settlement drew other settlers, some of them may well have moved up the river later in 1623 and settled what came to be known as StrawberryBanke (changed to Portsmouth in 1651.) Portsmouth will have their recognition as will Rye; Dover also claims the date and obviously New Castle is right in the middle as is Kittery. A regional recognition is certainly in the offing. It is hoped that Rye will work officially with RHS to remember this important anniversary which can be done in the years leading up to 2023 with many events including public programs on the natural and human history of Odiorne. On the 400th itself, it is important to host a gathering of native peoples to honor the first settlers of this region thousands of years ago. Odiorne Point is in Rye and thus it is the is the oldest community in New Hampshire.

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.



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.

Museum October Hours
Most Wednesdays 3pm to 5pm
Saturday 10am - 12pm
The Museum is open by request at
(almost) ANY TIME!
We're here for you - please email us
at
info@ryenhistoricalociety.org



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