

## Early Rye Taverns and Inns

Benjamin Scadgel operated a tavern near the intersection of Sagamore and Wallis Roads from 1702 to 1755. It burned in 1798 and a new house was built on the same foundation - 321 Wallis Rd.

Robinson Treferrin (Trefethen) came to Rye from New Castle. He built his home in Rye Center in 1747 and conducted a tavern there until 1756 when he sold it to Simon, Peter and Benjamin Garland. The Garlands managed the tavern together for three years when Benjamin bought out his brothers and ran the tavern alone until 1799. It was the most well-known tavern in town because of its location, especially as a gathering place to socialize and talk politics after church services. The house still stands at 545 Washington Rd.

John Loverin kept an inn "east of the meeting house, on the road to Portsmouth." (1756-57) He sold the place to Capt. Samuel Leavitt, who conducted it as an inn for a short time.

Paul Randall owned an inn in West Rye on Washington Rd, between Grove and West roads. He sold his property to Joseph Libbee, who continued the house as an inn until his death a year later. At that time, Joseph's brother, Abraham Libbee, ran a tavern there until it burned in 1787.

William Sleeper (born 1775) kept a tavern on the north corner of West and South roads for many years. The house still stands and is very distinctive for its extended, two story front door and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor window.

Aside from providing for travelers, taverns served an essential need for locals as a social gathering place. There were many other undocumented taverns in town. Many people opened their homes for weary travelers and served food and drink, sometimes serving ardent spirits. Sometimes homes were opened only to serve beer and stronger spirits. This became a problem in the 1800's and town reports record the efforts of officials to close down these illegal pubs.