

# Rye Historical Society

## Newsletter

### Fall 2013

[www.ryenhistoricalociety.org](http://www.ryenhistoricalociety.org)

---

#### **“Rye on Film” – September 26 at Library**

On Thursday, September 26, at 7:00 PM there will be a presentation of three films relating to Rye.

This is the first of several programs of films focused on Rye and it will have a coastal theme. There will be a short introduction to each film followed by a brief discussion.

Shown will be:

**“Rye Harbor”** New Hampshire Chronicle film (7 minutes)

**“Gundalow”** New Hampshire Crossroads (NHPTV) film: includes visit to Rye Harbor in 1983 (6 minutes)

**“Salt Marsh Farming in the New Hampshire Seacoast”** by Hampton film maker Josh Silveira (36 minutes).

This event is sponsored by the Rye Historical Society and the Rye Public Library.

Guests are encouraged to bring something to share at the refreshment table.

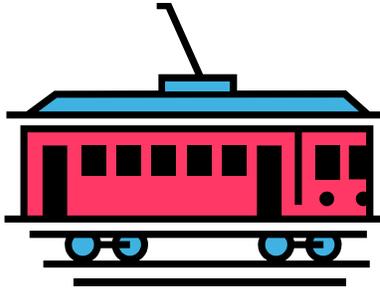
---

## **UNH Professor to Speak About History of Over Fishing in the Atlantic – October 24**

Jeff Bolster, Professor of History at UNH, will give an illustrated talk about his new book: "**The Mortal Sea: Fishing in the Atlantic in the Days of Sail**" on Thursday, October 24, at 7:00 PM in the Rye Public Library. This highly relevant topic will be followed by a question and answer with discussion.

Sponsored by Rye Historical Society and co-sponsored by the Rye Public Library, the talk will include an RHS display about Rye Harbor and its fishing heritage.





## Rye History Trolley Tour, Saturday October 26

The Rye Historical Society will offer a narrated trolley tour of historic locations in Rye on Saturday, October 26th, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. The tour will proceed down Central Road to Ocean Boulevard, heading north to Rye Harbor and back to the center. There will be stops at the Philbrick Farm on Central Road; St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea Episcopal chapel, which has a Tiffany stained glass window; The Drake House, once one of the grand hotels in town; and Rye Harbor and the memorial honoring those who fished out of Rye Harbor.

The tour is a fund raiser for the Rye Historical Society to support the Town Museum. Trolley fare is \$20 for adults and \$18 for children and seniors. Paid members of the Rye Historical Society will receive a 10% discount. To reserve a place, send your name, telephone number and the number of people in your party to [info@ryenhistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhistoricalociety.org). Payment in the form of cash or check (made out to Rye Historical Society) will be collected on the day of the tour.

Participants should meet the trolley in the Rye Public Library parking lot, 10 Olde Parish Rd., by 9:45. Free parking is available at the library lot and across Olde Parish Road by the police station.

The museum will be open after the tour.

---

## Remembering Jane Philbrick

Jane Philbrick grew up on Blue Sky Farm on West Road, and farming was in her blood. A few years ago her family donated a set of precious photos depicting the famous Pagoda Dance Hall on Ocean Boulevard at Cable Road Extension. Jane lived just behind the Pagoda with her husband Rod and their four sons back in the 1950's. These photos are displayed in the museum and will mark a new direction in town museum exhibits – groups of photos which depict certain Rye themes.

Jane was researching the history of farming in Rye and the seacoast when she died recently at age 85. Jane made several visits to the Town Museum for discussion and research and her family will donate her papers to RHS to be used in the new Rye history. The Town Museum opened its doors for the reception after Jane's funeral in August and several copies of Jane's book, "Grandma's Kilburn's Kitchen", were donated to the museum gift shop.

RHS is grateful to Jane's son Rod for his generous donation to the society in his mother's memory as well as the contributions from employees of Philbrick's Fresh Markets.



---

## Join RHS Now by Easy Use of Pay Pal

RHS has opened a Pay Pal account for your convenience. The link is on the bottom of the homepage of the RHS website ([www.ryenhistoricalociety.org](http://www.ryenhistoricalociety.org)). Rye Historical Society and the Town Museum are important assets to the town and your membership can help us do more with the museum and reach more people to engage in telling the story of Rye, past and present.

Annual dues are:

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

Further contributions are welcome. Dues help to support the RHS and museum budget. Checks can be made out to RHS and mailed to RHS, P.O. Box 583, Rye, NH 03870

Membership opens you to the abundant potential of the society and the museum which currently is very under- utilized.

---

## What Can You Do for RHS and the Town Museum?

There are many people in Rye with unique talents and interests. RHS would like to hear from you: What are some skills you possess which might support the society and the museum and at the same time fulfill an interest which you have. There is a list of tasks on the museum web site, but more important is: what interests you? We are glad to hear from you. Write to [info@ryenhistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhistoricalociety.org) or call the society at 603 997 6742. Thank You.

## **Foss Graveyard Upkeep**

Recently the museum had a visit from Beverly Shea of Ashland, Virginia, who is a direct descendant of the Foss family. Alan Bucklin from the Rye Recycling Center had been volunteering to mow this very prominent historic graveyard near the end of Washington Road overlooking the ocean. While Beverly was here she got to meet him and watched him mow it. She then made a contribution for further upkeep. Beverly Shea's visit typifies many of the visitors who come to the museum – someone who has a specific connection to or question about Rye History. These visits are always very interesting and gratifying to RHS staff.

We look forward to getting more visits from townspeople who are not aware of what treasures await them.

## **Rye History Revealed An Excerpt From The Forthcoming Book**

So much of history must be imagined and we only have fragments of what the early explorers of our shores saw.

We do have an account of Champlain's second visit in 1606 where he and his colleague Poutrincourt describe an encounter with a large native settlement around what they named "Beauport" (Rye Harbor). They observed extensive farming, shelters and maybe 200 Indians. We know that these were a settled people who also ate from fruits of the forest and the sea. The explorers had come face to face with North American civilization and it must have left a deep impression, regardless of any bias the explorers may have had toward such unknown people.

As they were traveling down to Beauport they must have been in awe of the great conifers growing along the coast, the rocky headlands and the sheer wonder of it all.

To get a sense of how they might have felt, here is how F. Scott Fitzgerald imagined the scene from the last page of the “The Great Gatsby.”

“And as the moon rose higher the inessential houses began to melt away until gradually I became aware of the old island here that flowered once for Dutch sailor’s eyes – a fresh, green breast of the new world. Its vanished trees, the trees that made way for Gatsby’s house, had once pandered in whispers to the last and greatest of all human dreams; for a transitory moment enchanted man must have held his breath in the presence of this continent, compelled into an aesthetic contemplation he neither understood nor desired, face to face for the last time in history with something commensurate to his capacity for wonder.”



**RHS Town Museum**