

Rye Historical Society

Fall Newsletter, 2015

www.ryenhistoricalociety.org

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

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Rye History Trolley Tour October 12

On Columbus Day, Monday, October 12, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, Rye Historical Society will sponsor the last Rye history trolley of this year. The 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, an active fishing port; and Goss Barn, which was restored by the town. This English Style barn was converted into the traditional Yankee Barn in the late 1800s. There will be an ongoing historical narration, 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 are appreciated, and can be made by e-mailing RHS

(info@ryenhistoricalociety.org) with your name, number in your party and telephone number, by October 10. 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.

October 22nd Program on Rye Beach and Little Boars Head



On the veranda at The Farragut

Local author Thomas Clarie will be the speaker at the next meeting of the Rye Historical Society, Thursday, October 22 at 7:00 in the Rye Public Library. He will present a slide show about his latest book, *Oceanside History at Rye Beach and the Farragut*.

The Farragut Hotel in Rye Beach was one of the premier hotels in its day, starting in the mid-1800s, drawing upper class guests from across the United States. The book discusses some of these families and what they did as they spent their summers by the shore, as well as what was going on in the outside world.

The book looks at the area of Rye Beach and the larger town as well as Little Boars Head from the 1860's to the 1950's through newspaper accounts which Clarie quotes from and comments on. Newspapers were often the only documentation of events so this book offers an invaluable insight into a century of Rye history.

Clarie, a former board member of the Rye Historical Society, has two master's degrees, one in history, is the co- author of "Just Rye Harbor" and other books and historical card games. He will have books available for purchase and will be happy to sign them for you.

This program is free and open to the public. The library, located at 581 Washington Road, is handicap accessible.

New Diaries Donated to the Town Museum

**Note – The article below was written by Martha Shepard who visited the museum this summer with her husband David from Tennessee and David's aunt from Portsmouth. It was one of the more memorable visits we have had to the museum. The diaries came down in David's family and the Shepard's generously donated all of them to the museum. They are a treasure trove of insights into the life of a Rye resident during the latter half of the 19th century and the entries are much more extensive than the laconic comments of George Lang who kept a diary from 1870 to 1900. Together they offer wonderful primary source material and a picture of a time gone by. Martha read every word of the diaries and digitized them as she became quite attached to the writer, which is often the case when you really spend time with any diarist. Supply Foss Trefethen lived near "Trefethen's Corner" on Sagamore Rd near Clark Rd.*

- Alex Herlihy

Supply Foss Trefethen

Supply Foss Trefethen was born July 12, 1833 in Rye, New Hampshire where he lived all his life and died on October 14, 1907. Supply religiously kept a diary from at least 1856 to the day before he died. Supply was my husband, David Alan Shepard's, great-great grandfather. David's mother, Patrician Ann Thomson Shepard, was born and raised in Portsmouth, New Hampshire where she met a Tennessee sailor during WWII. They married after the war and he took her to Tennessee. "Pat" ended up with Supply's diaries for some reason and my husband, David, got them at her death. David, nor his siblings knew about the diaries. After they lay in our house a couple of years I picked them up and began reading. I was enchanted, marveled and hooked on finishing them. Two years later, after interruptions from life, grandkids, politics, volunteering... I did finish reading all forty diaries. Although Supply wrote quite well, sometimes the ink was faint or smudged and I struggled to make out the words. I stopped often to google something that I did not understand such as a disease or wagon term like

“whippletree.” I lived Supply’s life as I read. I envisioned each step he took. I loved every minute I spent in Supply and his family’s life.

Supply wanted to be a writer in his younger years, but like most of us, life’s responsibilities got a hold of him. He married Mary Emily Clark July 12, 1862. They had two children, Lizzie Wallis Trefethen and Edith Mable Trefethen. Supply was a farmer of all types of vegetables and an apple orchard. He sold his produce to the public and to restaurants. He had some of his apples made into cider and I interpreted that “hard” cider was alcoholic. He did have many visitors on Sunday afternoons! Supply was also a shipbuilder at the Kittery Naval Yard when there was work. He was paid \$2 a day for ship building and could afford to pay someone \$1 a day to do his farm work when shipbuilding, which allowed him to still have his produce to sell at harvest. Supply built three rental houses over the course of his life which seemed to be his retirement plan. He was always financially stable and stayed on top of all the news of the day, locally and nationally. He did not fight in the civil war but wrote about major events in his diaries.

Supply went to Portsmouth frequently and to Boston only once that I could tell. He worked hard every single day except Sunday, which he called a “day of rest.” He went to church regularly early in his life but seemed to stop later on, although he continued to pay his “minister tax.” I think he was just plain tired at the end of the week.

Mary, his wife, who he always called “wife” in his diaries, died June 16, 1902. Supply was devastated at her death and that was the only time he wrote of any feelings. I got teary at reading it and it happened over a hundred years ago to someone I did not know!

A great surprise for my husband, David, happened when I read in his 1904 diary that Supply had been elected as a state representative to the New Hampshire State legislature. He served one term before he died on October 14, 1907. David, is also a state representative here in Tennessee. David’s connection with Supply was totally sealed now that he knew where he got his political talents!

- Martha Shepard

New Shipwreck Exhibit at Museum

RHS is working to document all ship wrecks which occurred on or near the shores of Rye. Several books, a large New England shipwreck map, photos, documented accounts of rescues and several other items comprise the exhibit. The museum welcomes all contributions which may enhance this new exhibit.

Historic Wedgwood Property Added to Rye Junior High Land

After a lengthy fund raising effort the Rye School District has purchased a parcel of land that partially abuts the Junior high property. (The Wedgwood barn on this parcel was dismantled and moved in 2013.) This sale was facilitated by the offer of an additional 1.5 acres which directly abuts the above land as well as the playing field. Alex Herlihy offered to donate this land contingent on the purchase of the other parcel. Now the school will have over two acres to greatly expand their outdoor education program.

The Wedgwood family donated the original land to build the Wedgwood school in 1890 which burned down in 1932, replaced by the Rye Consolidated School in 1934, today's Junior High. The Herlihy family made two previous donations in the mid 20th century to expand the school playing field.

The Wedgwood Project continues a tradition in Rye of land donation and acquisition which benefits the whole town.

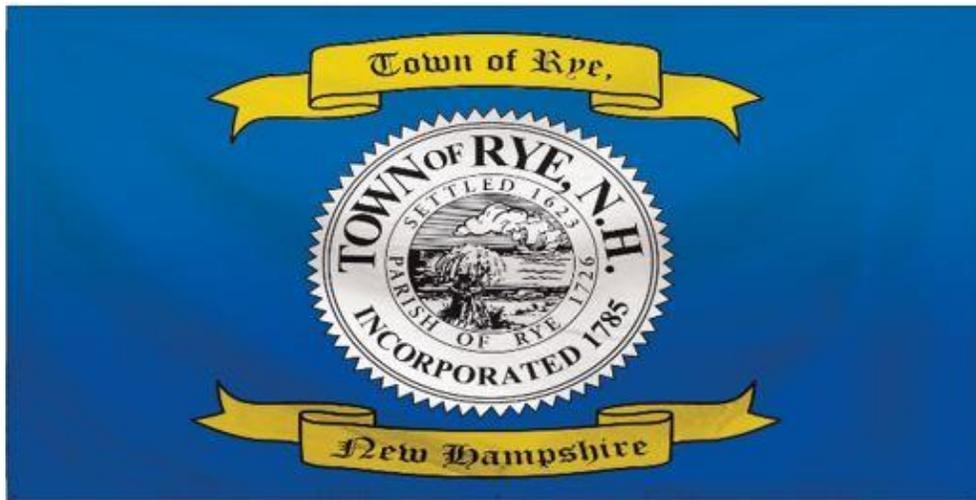
Rye Town Flags Available For Sale at Town Museum

The official Rye Town Flag is available for purchase from the Rye Historical Society.

The final design, by Willem Gerrish, was selected from many submitted in a contest overseen by the late Dr. Michael Mittelman, who served on the board of the Rye Historical Society for many years. Gerrish designed the flag as an assignment in his seventh grade art class at Rye Junior High.

Three sizes are available: 2 feet by 3 feet \$98, 2½ feet by 4 feet for \$122, and 3 feet by 5 feet for \$130. As a minimum of 12 flags of the same size is required to purchase flags at these prices, orders will be collected until we have sufficient orders, so plan to order in advance of the time you need the flag. Individual orders or smaller numbers can be ordered for an increased cost if you do not want to wait.

For more information, email the Rye Historical Society at info@ryenhistoricalociety.com, or stop by the museum at 10 Olde Parish Road. Cash, check or PayPal accepted. The museum is open on Saturdays from 10:00 to noon through October, and most Wednesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 year round.



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**

Museum is Open Year Round!

Museum is open year round. Just call 603997-6742 or email the Rye Historical Society at info@ryenhistoricalociety.com Usually someone is available to open the museum at a mutually convenient time. Regular Saturday hours: 10-12 end on October 31, but if the open flag is flying, the museum is open.