

# RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TOWN MUSEUM



## May News and Upcoming Events



### Pretty Halcyon Days, on the Beach with Ogden Nash

Thursday May 18th 6:30 pm  
Rye Public Library

Ogden Nash and his family spent their summers on Little Boar's Head, in North Hampton, NH. Using examples from their original stage work, "Home is Heaven," Pontine Theatre explores the ways in which

Nash's life on the New Hampshire seashore influenced his poems, giving the reader insight into the man, his character, and his ideas about family, society, and nature. These themes form a rich portrait of the poet and underscore how the intersection of literature and local history can deepen our understanding and appreciation of everyday events in our own backyard.



#### Call to Volunteers!

We are seeking several volunteers to provide one or two refreshment items for this program. Store bought or homemade cookies, brownies, veggies, or crackers, lemonade, punch, or soda would be GREATLY APPRECIATED! Please contact Becky at 436-4579 or [rbrbrbrbr@hotmail.com](mailto:rbrbrbrbr@hotmail.com).

### Black Heritage Trail of NH Spring Symposium May 6 10-3 at Strawberry Banke

*Mapping the Underground Railroad: The Black Past Remembered and Reclaimed in New Hampshire*

Gain more understanding of NH's role in the slave trade and the efforts for freedom at this exciting event. A panel of speakers will discuss relevant people and topics, followed by a Sankofa Tour or Portsmouth's black heritage sites.

Conference, Lunch and Tour \$36



[Click Here to Register](#)



**Summer Hours start in May**  
**Most Wednesdays 3pm to 5pm**  
**Saturday 10am - 12pm**

**BUT REMEMBER** - the Museum is open by request at (almost) ANY TIME! We're here for you - please call for an appointment 603-997-6742 or email us at [info@ryenhistoricalssociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhistoricalssociety.org)

## May House of the Month "The Ledges" 4 Red Mill Road

May's House of the Month's is a 3 ½ story Federalist, hip roofed home in Rye Beach owned by Douglas Nelson & Karin Cullity Nelson. The house dates from 1875-1878, per Ms. Sally Mackie, a descendant of original owner/builder. In 1904-5 an addition was erected following a fire which consumed about half of the original structure. The home retains the original 1878 Shingle Style gazebo & gardens.

Nathaniel Jenness gave the land to his son, Otis Simpson Jenness, and the Marston Family built the house for their daughter Anna Parsons Marston. Job Jenness may have been the builder. (he was a former proprietor of the Ocean House). After a jealous marriage (Anna was a "violet eyed, raven haired beauty"), Otis & Anna divorced in about 1900 and the house went out of the family.



Oral History from Philip Drake notes that there was an order of sisters (reformed young ladies from St Louis) living here in the 1920's.

Philip Drake also recounted that Franklin Delano Roosevelt stayed at 50 Red Mill Lane as a guest of the Castleman/Mackay's, as it was one of the only houses with a bedroom and bathroom suite on the first floor. Otherwise he stayed on board his yacht when visiting friends and family in the Rye Beach/Little Boar's Head area.

Irish maids occupied the servants' quarters over the kitchen for many years. The servant calling system is still in the house. The old ice box is still intact as are the scullery pantry, food pantry and soapstone and German silver sinks.

New Hampshire's largest Japanese Umbrella Pine tree is in the back yard, as are many specimen trees.

There is a rare Blanco & Nero fireplace surround in the living room, from an ancient Italian quarry which has been played out for more than 100 years.



## Is Your House or Road Special? Tell Us Why!

The Rye "House/Road of the Month" - each month a different house or road will be **featured in our newsletter as well as in Rye Magazine.**

Is your house or road historic and of special interest to the community?

If so, please contact us to enter this month's competition. Don't know much about your house but you know it's significant?

**We can help you do the research!**

**Email us TODAY at [info@ryenhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhistoricalsociety.org)**

## 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.

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### We welcome our newest or renewed members - thank you for your generous support!

Sandra Goss Munsey  
Jessica Bland  
Deb Meyer  
Tom and Rose Clarie  
Harold and Gloria Moldoff  
Lesley Cornell  
Gail Finn  
Ted & Cindy Bishop Alex  
J. Dennis Robinson  
Nicole Callahan  
Mark Josephs  
Patricia Lawrence  
Pat Yeager  
Jane Rockwell

Michelle Wright  
Karen Oliver  
Barbara O'Brien  
Michael Schwartz  
Joan Lovett  
Beverly Shea  
Jeffrey Quinn  
Ellen & Dave Hamill  
kay Ruma  
Richard Berry  
Michael & Georgette Fernald  
Bill & Louise Bolton

and new LIFETIME MEMBERS  
Joan Drapeau  
Carolyn Fluke

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## Our 2017 Membership Drive Continues!

**Become a RHS member today!**

### Membership Levels:

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Sustaining	\$25.00

Business           \$25.00  
Sponsor            \$100.00  
Lifetime            \$200.00

**\*Sponsor and Lifetime members will be acknowledged and thanked at a special spring event**

"In kind" - Volunteer with RHS for 6 hours for membership

**(ALL levels of donations are gladly accepted!)**



**[Click here to join online - it's EASY!](#)**

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, or placed in our new mailbox at the museum. Please include your name, mailing address and e-mail..

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**Rye Historical Society | 603-997-6742 | [info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org)  
10 Olde Parish Road, Rye, NH 03870**

**[Click here to be added to our email list](#)**

