

Seeking 20th c. Stories for New Rye History

I have been working on a new history of Rye for several years, but recently a third draft was completed. I have used some material from previously published books on Rye, but from the mid 1800's to the present I have used new information that was not consulted in those books. Town reports, newspaper articles, primary sources in the town museum and my own and other people's 20th century documentation of events and memories have done much to enrich Rye's more modern history. The last century plus will be the most significant part of this new history to carry on the story left off by Langdon Parsons' History of Rye, NH, 1905.

What is missing are more contributions from 20th century people, especially women, who are still with us and can further enrich this history. This can be in the form of family stories, information on family and daily life, events, anecdotes about people and places, farm life, the hotel resort era, transportation, storms, hot town issues, town govt. and employees, humorous stories, town characters, buildings, schools, scandals, church, work, play, outside influences, etc. Your contribution can be: long hand, typed, on tape, set up an interview with me, film, copies of photos and printed material, etc. All will be much appreciated. Contributions from all are still welcome, regardless of how small.

As much as possible, I want the 20th century part of this history to be documented through the people who lived it. Any contributions that are included in the book will be done so with your prior approval and will appear with your name attached. Any material that does not make it into the book will be saved in a chronological Word document that will be available to readers on request. In this way a much fuller history of Rye may be told.

This project emerged from a 100-page timeline of Rye I created a decade ago, that started as a two-page time line given to 4th graders for their Rye History Trolley tour in 2011. The success of that tour inspired the public tours that are still going strong. We look forward to resuming them and all other RHS activities as soon as possible.

There are other tasks relating to the publication of this new history that need volunteers such as deciding which photos to include. Volunteers to help get this new town history finished are welcome.

Thank You for helping to preserve Rye's history and bring it to life.

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