

Rye history topics - Alex Herlihy, Town historian, January 2023

To give the schools and the public access to Rye history, I have created over 70 documents on different topics in Rye history. Some are complete and others in draft form with further info and editing needed; some have been edited by others and are close to completion such as Parsons Park; dumping, transfer/recycling station, and the cemetery/graveyards. They are all in separate Word documents on my desk top computer and most of them have been generated by interest from different people and my need to organize material. Most of the articles are ½ -3 pages, with longer ones noted. These documents have been made accessible to the schools and now the public. As they become more finalized, always containing a qualifier that edits are welcome, they may be transferred to RHS web site. While the roots of most of the articles go back in time, the focus of the topics is mostly on the 1900s and early 2000s. All articles are written by me unless otherwise noted.

Most of the original material was cut and pasted from the draft of my new history of Rye which will be published ...when it is done.

Sources consulted:

Parsons Hist of Rye, Bill Varrell – three books, Tom Clarie - two books, other local history books, town reports from 1863; Tom Clarie historic newspaper archives from late 1800s/early 1900s, Portsmouth Herald articles about Rye from mid 1900s to present, my experience as a native living in Rye from mid 1900s, other published and unpublished material in town museum, oral history from town residents, etc.

This is an organic list that keeps growing.

With any new topic that is requested, I will try to make a document and send.

Rye History topics – over 70 documents and growing – more need to be added

African Americans

Aging communities

Atlantic and Farragut hotels

Battle of Rye Harbor

Central Cemetery

Center school property history

Childhood memories of 1890s

Churches

Citizen petition to renovate Town Hall 1975

Coastal tour

Diary of Supply Foss Trefethen, late 1850s/early 1860s – take from draft of book

Diary of George Lang – 1871-1901

Drake House hotel

Drinking/alcohol abuse

Dumping and Recycling

Education/schools

Families of 20th c.

Farming

First Light Infantry

Fishing

Five century Marston house

Founding Families from 1600s and 1700s

Goss Farm

Graveyards - 60+ at family farms

Growing up in Rye Center in early 1800s

Hotels of Rye

Houses built before 1901 – approx. 317

Housing developments

Indians

Laighton family on shoals

Lafayette Road

Land conservation

Landmarks

Life- saving stations and life savers (Surfmen)

Maj. John Parsons 1800s

Mill on Red Mill Ln.

Natural and cultural hist inventory

NH National Guard – Camp Winant 1920s/30s

Odiorne Pt time line (1 page & 24 pages)

Oil refinery battle –1973/74

Parsons family descendants (Langdon Parsons)

Parsons Park

Policing

Quiz on Rye Hist.

Restaurants/snack bars

Rye Historical Society history of org.

Rye history - 100 p. time line

Rye history – 4 versions: 5 pg time line, 1 short narrative history; two paragraphs inclu geog.

Rye Beach Precinct building 1919

Rye Center

Rye Civic League history and documents

Rye, East Sussex, England – one of the famous “Cinque Ports”

Rye harbor

Rye NY hist. soc./museum

Rye Public Library

Salt marsh restoration near Rye Harbor

Stores/gift shops, etc.

Straw’s Point community

Studebaker family letters from WWI era

Sunken forest

Surfing

Tallman, Louise, Rye historian

Town Hall from 1873

Town museum

Town reports

Trolley in Rye from 1899

Trolley tour narration

Water – surface and underground

War monument in center

WWI - those who served

WWII 244 who served plus narrative history

Other topics to add – suggestions welcome

Businesses in Rye in mid-20th cent.

Boarding houses – some fragments that could become an article

RHS Cemetery walking tour, 2020, on RHS web site

Concord Point Community on Parsons Pt.

Manchester colony off Wallis Rd.

Fire dept hist

Green – Charlie and Harry

International Cable company – 1874-1922

Land use in Rye – a history

Library Centennial in 1911 – RHS power point with list of all slides; PP is on museum desk top

Lost Rye – bldgs. now gone

Planning and Zoning hist. from 50's and 60s

Others?