

### Introduction

Below is a list of more than 75 topics on Rye history for which short comprehensive histories are available on request. Most are ½ to 3 pages, with longer ones noted. The schools are already using these documents and the wider public is welcome to them as well.

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 later this year or next year. If you have additional information or corrections, please send to me and I will update the document.

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about Rye from mid 1900s to present, my experience as a native living in Rye from mid 1900s, other published and unpublished material in town museum, oral history from town residents, etc.

If you are interested in a topic that is not on the list, I will create a document with the information I have and send it to you. Contact me at:

[alexherlihy@comcast.net](mailto:alexherlihy@comcast.net) or call: 603 997 6742

---

Topic	time frame
African Americans	comprehensive over time
Aging communities	recent study of towns like Rye in NH
Atlantic and Farragut hotels	1840s – 1880s
Businesses in Rye 1950s	
Battle of Rye Harbor	part of War of 1812 (1814)
Central Cemetery	from 1893 when it was established

Center school property history	from 1800s to present
Childhood memories of 1890s	by Emma Foss, Central Road
Churches	from the first in 1726
Citizen petition to renovate Town Hall	1975
Coastal tour Pt.	film narration Bass Beach on No. H. line to Odiorne
Diary of Supply Foss Trefethen	excerpt from late 1850s/early 1860s
Diary of George Lang	1871-1901 excerpts over time
Drake House hotel	from 1873 to present
Drinking/alcohol abuse	comprehensive
Dumping and Recycling	comprehensive
Education/schools	from first schools in 1800s to present
Eel Pond	
Families of 20 <sup>th</sup> c.	
Fire -fighting/fire dept	comprehensive
Farming	comprehensive
First Light Infantry	In Rev. War 1770s and revival in 1970s
Fishing	comprehenisve
Five century Marston house additions	1600s, 1700s, 1800s; moved to Rye: 1975, 2005
Founding Families	from 1600s and 1700s (43)
Goss Farm	from 1600s to the present
Graveyards at Historic farms	60+ at former family farms
Growing up in Rye Center, early 1800s	researched and imagined essay by Jessie Herlihy
Hotels of Rye	from 1846 to 1920
Houses built before 1901	approx. 317
Housing developments present	Straw's Pt./ Concord Pt communities in 1800s to present

Indians	1600s
Laighton family on shoals	from 1839 to death of Oscar Laighton in 1900s
Lafayette Road present	from 1600s "Long Lane to Lafayette Hghy. in 1825 to present
Land conservation easements	early efforts, conserv. com., land trusts, donations,
Landmarks	
Life- saving stations/ life savers	1872 – to 1930s
Maj. John Parsons	in Florida mid 1800s
Mills	from late 1600s into 1800s
Natural & cultural hist inventory	comprehensive list
NH National Guard August	Camp Winant 1920s/30s, the artillery unit in Rye every August
Odiorne Pt 1623 settlement	David Thomson and others by Dennis Robinson
Odiorne Pt time line (1 p./ 24 p	from 1600s to present
Oil refinery battle in rye	1973/74; RHS pub. book "Rye's Battle of the Century"
Parsons family descendants	Langdon Parsons from the 1600s to late 1900s
Parsons Park in center	late 1970s, grassroots effort save 50 acres for public land
Policing	from 1800s to present
Quiz on Rye History	
Restaurants/snack bars	starting in 1920s
Revolutionary War	39 who died
Rye Historical Society	from its founding in 1976
Rye history 5 versions	paragraph, 5 pg. time line, 1 and 2 ½ pg. narr. Hist. etc.
Rye Beach Precinct bldg.	from 1919, meeting rm. 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, fire station/ PO on 1st
Rye Center	comprehensive
Rye Civic League history	from 1968 – 1993 and 2009 to present

Rye, East Sussex, England	by their museum director Jo Kirkham
Rye Harbor	comprehensive
Rye Public Library	from 1911 to present
Salt marsh restoration	near Rye Harbor 2001 - 2005
Stores/gift shops, etc.	from early 1800s to mid-1900s
Straw's Point community	inventory of houses starting in 1870s
Studebaker family letters	from WWI era; 1917 house on Blvd. by Church Rd.
Sunken forest	from 4000 years ago; recent sightings
Surfing	from 1960s to present
Tallman, Louise	Rye historian from 1960s to 2011
Town govt/ civic engagement	comprehensive
Town Hall	from 1873, former meth./Episcopal church built in 1839
Town museum	c. 1930 antique shop, mid 1900s apt., 2002 Rye Town Museum
Town reports	from 1863 to present – a history of town govt year by year
Trolley in Rye	from 1899 to 1925
Water	surface and underground
War monument in center	built in 1919 with names of those who served in most of wars
World War I	those who served including 3 who died
World War II	244 who served plus narrative history

---