

RHS presented a program at the Rye library in May entitled "Genealogical Gold in New England Town Books and Reports." Rob Weir of Dover revealed this "gold" that was captured in the early 1900s when the NH Secretary of State's office borrowed and copied these early town records, now in the State of NH archives.

Tax records, deeds, mortgages, probate, court records and other material are available to view and one RHS member discovered over 400 pages relating to Rye. To access, go to: familysearch.org and set up an account. It is easy. This is the website of the Mormon Church which microfilmed those town books in 1951 and later digitized them.

Below is a list of all Rye history that can now be accessed on line. Gold indeed.

1. Early Town Records, 1721 -1829 – copied by NH Sec of State in early 1900s; access today - www.familysearch.org
2. Annual Town Reports from 1869 to present (scanned by UNH); RHS has them from 1862; they reveal stats and narrative reports by town depts. and votes on warrant articles and election of town officials.
3. "Historic Newspaper Archives" including Portsmouth Herald and many other newspapers from the 1800s - The material from Tom Clarie's "Oceanside History of Rye Beach and the Farragut" came from this great source.
4. History of Rye NH, Langdon Parsons, 1905. This is a thematic history with Genealogy & index. There is no table of contents; RHS will send on request.
5. Rye Historical Society web site– www.ryenhhistoricalsociety.org
"Resources" tab - i.e. "Access Rye History" town sources from 1850 – 1920
6. Rockingham County, NH – Registry of Deeds; invaluable history here
7. Rye Advocates: Preservation of Rye's Historic Structures; since 2020 this group has been documenting and supporting Rye's older buildings – www.Ryeadvocatesnh.com
8. www.ryehistoryrocks.com - new web site of town historian Alex Herlihy Includes over 80 narratives on Rye history topics: see: "Topics" ta