

# WALK RYE HISTORY SIGNS

Rye Historical Society presents the WALK RYE HISTORY SIGNS TOUR! You can walk virtually online or walk it on foot, as you respect social distancing guidelines. This tour is divided into four sections: Downtown Rye, Waterfront Parks and Milton Point, Boston Post Rd. Historic District and Greenhaven and West Rye.

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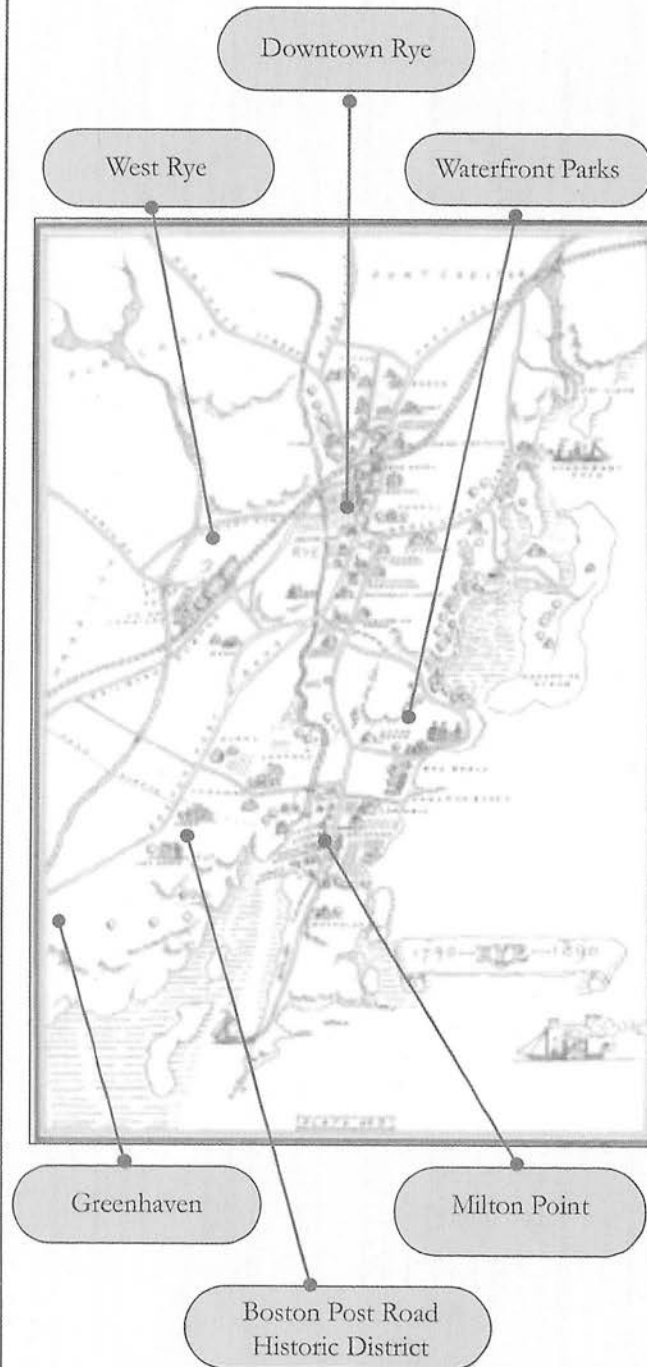
David and Elizabeth Ellis

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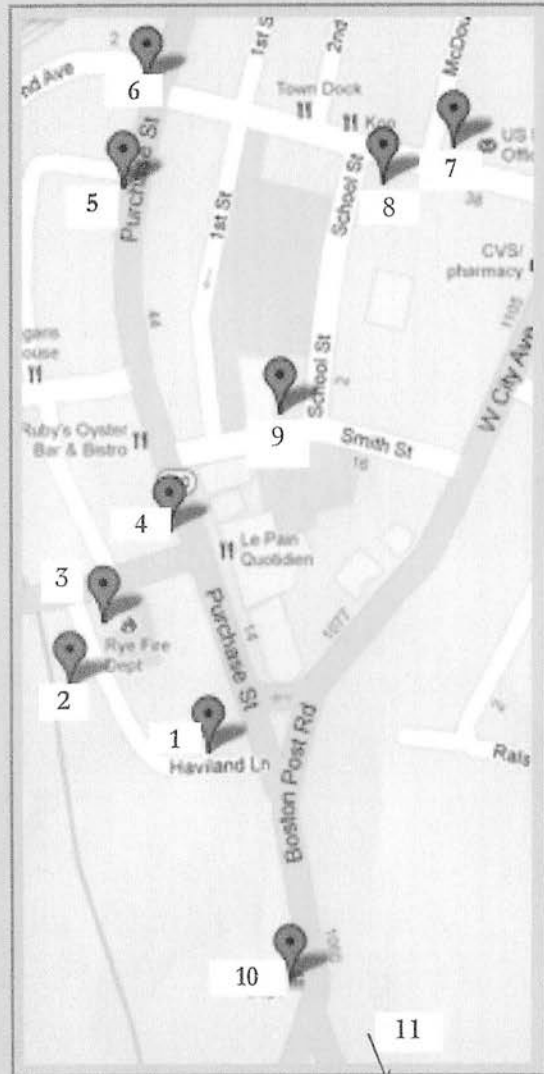
# Walk Rye History

The Rye Historical  
Society's Self-Guided  
Tour Through 350 Years  
of Rye History



Explore Rye's rich and  
varied history by walking  
through downtown Rye, the  
waterfront parks, Milton  
Point, the Boston Post Road  
Historic District,  
Greenhaven, and West Rye.

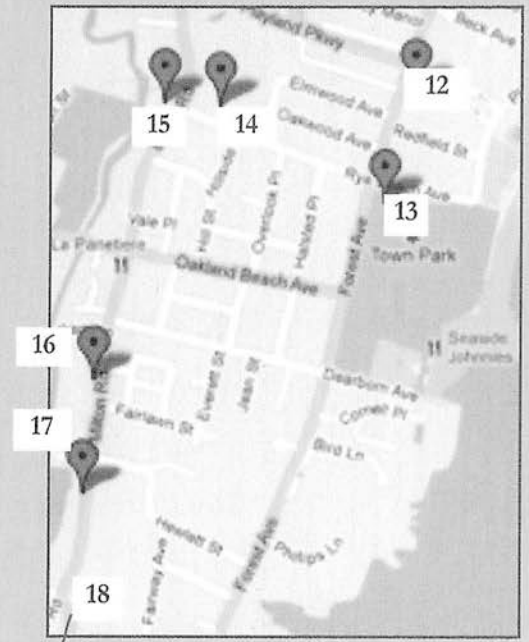
## Downtown Rye



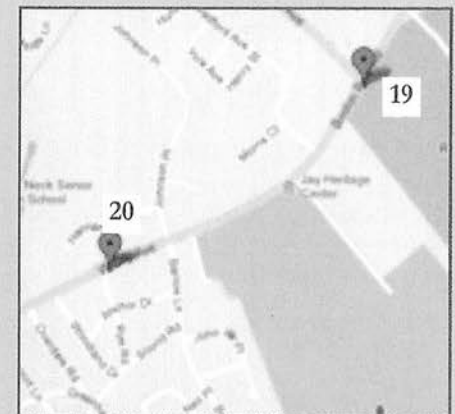
## Walk Rye History Signs

1. Introduction and the Square House
2. The Village Green and the Rye Free Reading Room
3. The Firehouse and the Rye YMCA
4. Church of the Resurrection
5. Rye's Commercial District
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19. The Boston Post Road Historic District (at Rye Golf Club)
20. Greenhaven
21. The African Cemetery (at Greenwood-Union Cemetery)
22. Immigrants in Rye (at Gagliardo Park)

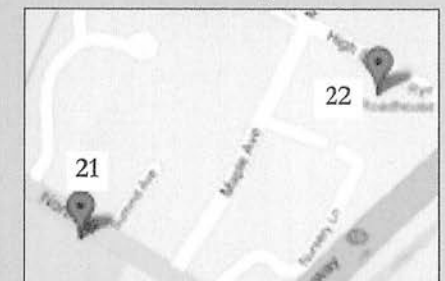
## Waterfront Parks and Milton Point



Boston Post Rd. Historic District and Greenhaven



## West Rye





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Square House Museum & Knapp House Archives

ONE PURCHASE STREET, RYE, NEW YORK 10580

# Walk Rye History

## Introduction and The Square House

Welcome to Walk Rye History, the Rye Historical Society's self-guided tour through 350 years of Rye's rich and varied history. The tour is divided into 4 areas: (1) downtown Rye, (2) the waterfront parks and Milton Point area, (3) the Boston Post Road Historic District and Greenhaven and (4) West Rye. Please pick up a brochure at the Square House (to your left) and enjoy learning about the people and events that make up our living past.



*The Square House with the original farmhouse, 1902*



*The Square House, 1906*

Its most prominent owner was Dr. Ebenezer Haviland. In 1774, he helped organize Rye's residents to protest British taxation. John and Samuel Adams stayed here on their way to and from the First Continental Congress. In 1789, President George Washington stopped twice at this "clean and decent inn."

If you look across the street toward the flagpole, you'll see the location of Rye's first village square. The town militia trained there and "unhappy culprits" were punished in the town stockades. The base of the flagpole is a memorial to the 331 Rye residents who served in World War I.

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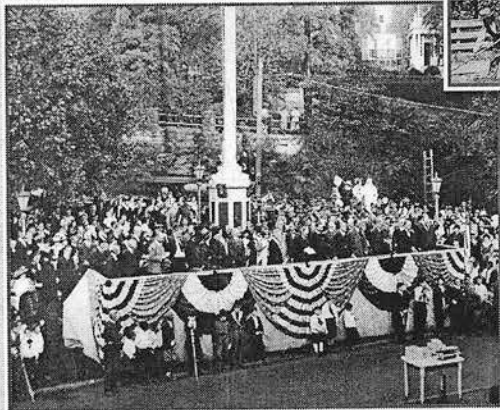
*Piazza Pizzeria*

*Rye Beach Pharmacy*

*Weichert Realtors*

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*Rye neighbors and friends*



*Dedication of the World War I Memorial, 1926*

*For more stops on the Walk Rye History Tour, visit [www.ryehistory.org](http://www.ryehistory.org)*





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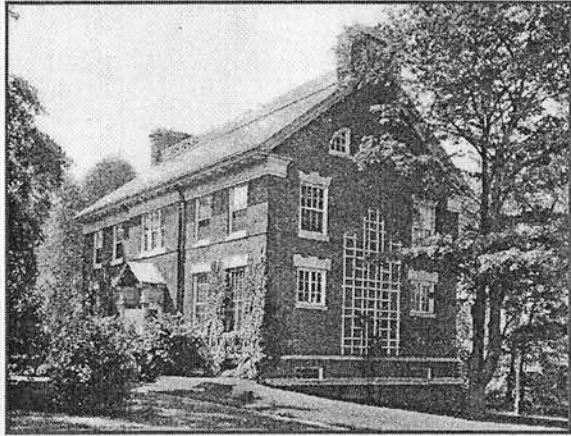
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# Walk Rye History

## The Village Green and The Rye Free Reading Room

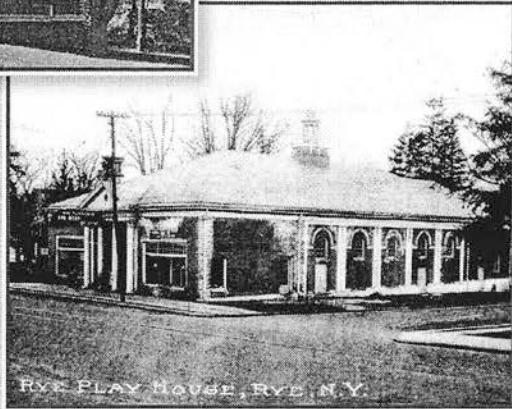
In the early 1700s, a sawmill stood here along the brook, one of about 15 mills in the area. These millstones are from a 1696 Port Chester gristmill.

The Square House became the Village Hall in 1904 after the Parsons and Whittemore families purchased it and donated it to Rye. In 1907, Sarah Ely Parsons offered the surrounding land for the Village Green, the Rye Free Reading Room and the Firehouse.



Rye Free Reading Room, circa 1917

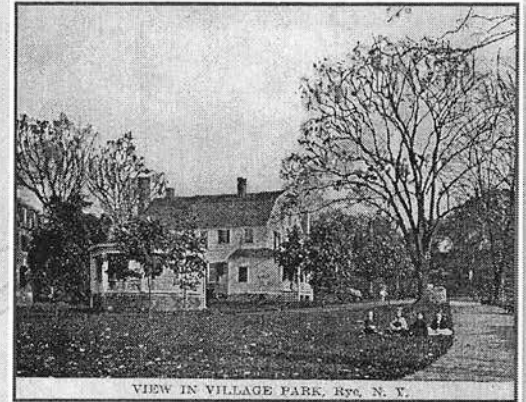
The Rye Free Reading Room dates back to the 1870s. Worried about saloons in town, Christ's Church opened a young men's reading room. It soon moved to the Budd Building on Purchase Street to be closer to its saloon competitors. The library proved so popular that it took over a cottage on Purchase Street and then moved to its new building on the Green in 1913.



The Rye Play House. From "Rye" by Paul D. Rheingold, [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com)

Rye City Hall was built in 1964 on the site of a 1920s movie theater, the Rye Play House. Rye's old-timers still remember paying a dime to see movies there.

The Gazebo commemorates the lives of 15 Rye residents who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.



VIEW IN VILLAGE PARK, RYE, N. Y.

The Village Green, 1920s



Home of the Rye Free Reading Room, 1913-1927.  
From "Rye" by Paul D. Rheingold, [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com)

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# Walk Rye History

## The Firehouse and the Rye YMCA

Rye's volunteer fire department dates from 1886. The first firehouse on Elm Street wasn't big enough to fill the needs of a growing community. The new firehouse opened on October 25, 1909 with a grand parade and a ball attended by 500 people. It had a ridged floor so that horses wouldn't slip when pulling the wagons.



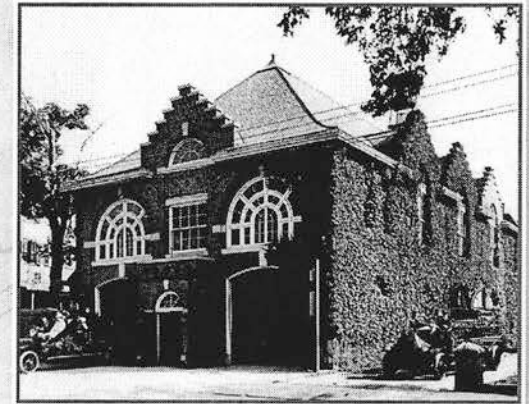
*The Rye YMCA, circa 1919*

The Rye YMCA's origins can be traced to 1914. Initially, it occupied a few rooms over a drug store on Purchase Street and then moved to the cottage vacated by the library. In 1920, the cottage was demolished to make way for a bank and the YMCA bought its current property on Locust Avenue. The much-beloved Y Secretary, Pa Cope, arrived in 1919. He was like a father to generations of boys in Rye, taking them camping,

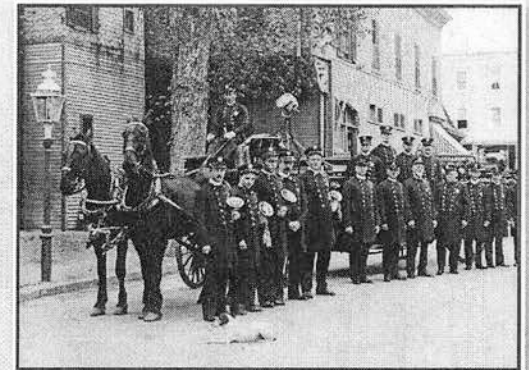


*Louis "Pa" Cope, 1946*

helping them through college and finding them jobs. Pa Cope, a legendary and unforgettable character, continued to serve until his death in 1953. The current building was expanded and renovated in 2003. Pa Cope's legacy lives on through Y programs that develop spirit, mind and body for all.



*The Locust Avenue Firehouse, 1916*



*The Peningoe Hook & Ladder Company, 1913*

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# Walk Rye History

## Church of the Resurrection

You're standing in front of the original site of the Church of the Resurrection. William Smith sold his property extending from Smith Street to the Boston Post Road to the church in 1881. When a new church was built in 1889, Smith's house became the rectory. The house still exists today at 1091 Boston Post Road. The first Resurrection School, now 1085 Boston Post Road, opened in 1907. The Sisters of Charity operated the school and made their daily trips from Harrison by horse and carriage.



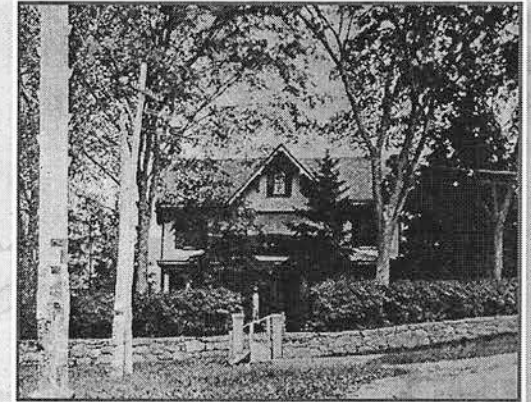
*Church of the Resurrection, circa 1920*



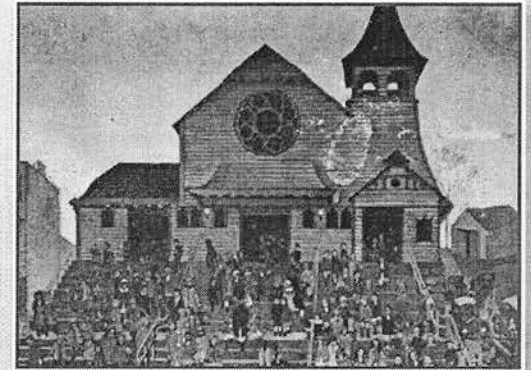
*F.W. Woolworth Company, 1959*

The parish rapidly outgrew its small wooden church. Initially, the parish prepared to build a new church on Purchase Street. By 1926, however, the church decided this location was too congested and bought three acres on the Boston Post Road. The current church and school were completed in 1931. Over 5,000 people attended the first mass in the new church on Easter Sunday.

The building now at #22 Purchase Street housed the much-loved Woolworth's Store from 1929 to 1990.



*The Smith House, 1894*



*Church of the Resurrection as painted by Lauren Ford, circa 1924*

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# Walk Rye History

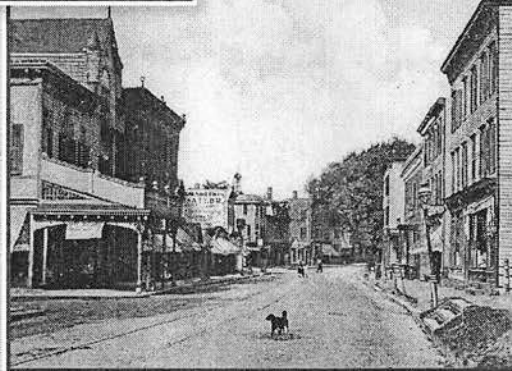
## Rye's Commercial District

Imagine yourself traveling to Purchase Street in 1900 by horse-drawn carriage. After leaving your horse and carriage at one of the nearby stables, you'd walk along the street passing many of the buildings that you see today. Life in 1900, however, was very different. Sprinkling carts kept the dust down on the unpaved street and lamplighters lit the gas lamps at dusk. Purchase Street merchants included a riding school, Cushion's horse shoeing, several dry goods stores, a paint store and a coal and wood shop.



Theodore Fremd Market, circa 1919

Purchase Street, Rye, N. Y.

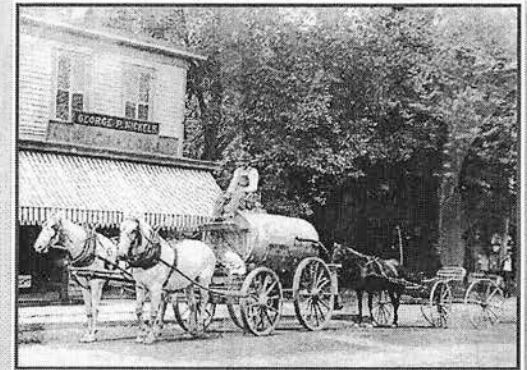


Lyceum Building, 1906

You might get a haircut at Southworth's Barbershop for 20 cents, buy fish at Sniffen Brothers or a steak at Theodore Fremd's Butcher Shop for 50 cents. Men's dress shirts were available for \$1.00 at Halahan's Dry Goods and shoes were \$2 a pair at W.L. Douglas. If you wanted to relax, you'd go to the Lyceum at #33 Purchase Street where you could bowl or hear a band playing from the second floor balcony. And if you were thirsty, you could stop at one of five saloons.



Harry Billington's Livery, circa 1890



Rye Village Improvement Association Sprinkling Cart, 1896

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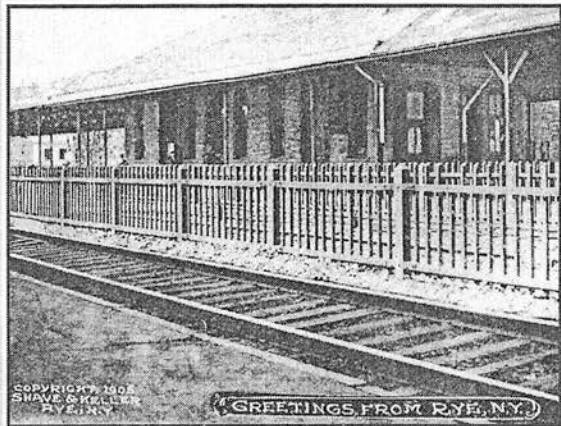
# Walk Rye History

## Arrival of the Railroad

You are standing in front of the Budd Building, built in 1871. It served as the post office until 1910, with Daniel Budd as postmaster. Since there was no regular mail delivery until 1914, residents went to the post office twice a day to pick up their mail.

Looking across Theodore Fremd Avenue, you can see where the first railroad station was located. When the railroad arrived in 1849, the tracks were at grade level. By 1897, the tracks were elevated where they crossed Purchase Street and a new station was built on the other side. With the advent of a 45-minute train ride

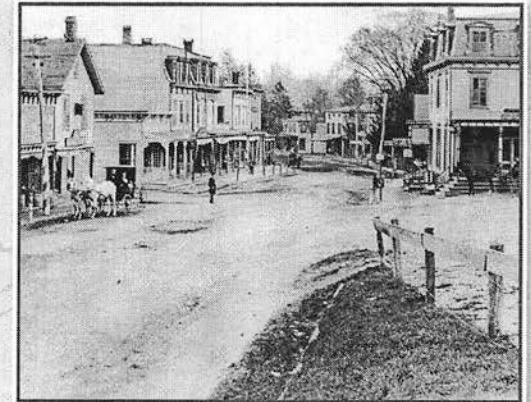
to Manhattan, Rye began its transition from a secluded farming community to a vibrant New York suburb. The current station was built in the 1960s when Interstate 95 was constructed.



Second Rye Train Station, 1905



Second Rye Train Station, 1909



Purchase Street, circa 1890



First Rye Train Station, circa 1890

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# Walk Rye History

## The Caroline O'Day Post Office

The current post office is the fourth in Rye's history. The first post office was in the Square House. It moved to the Budd Building on Purchase Street in 1871 and then

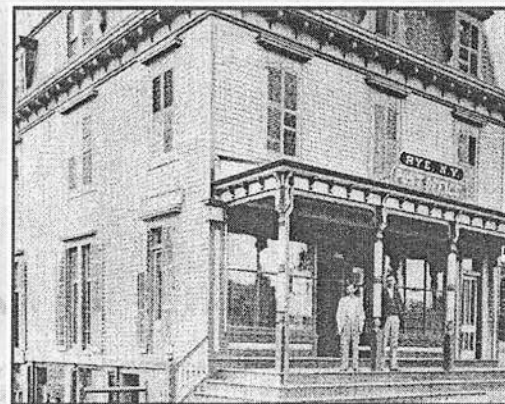
to 7 Purdy Avenue. The existing building was completed in 1936 and is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The WPA (Works Progress Administration) commissioned the mural inside showing John Jay at his family's estate in Rye.



Caroline O'Day's residence, circa 1917



Caroline Goodwin O'Day

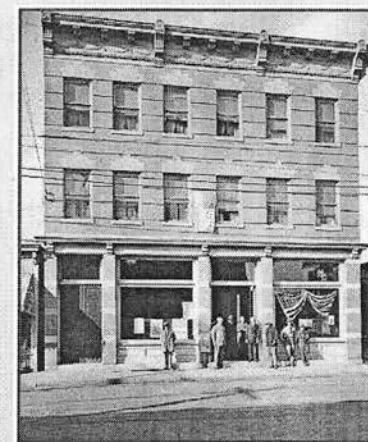


Rye Post Office with Daniel Budd, 83 Purchase Street, 1880s

The post office is named after Caroline O'Day, a four-term Congresswoman who lived in Rye

from the early 1900s until her death in 1943. O'Day was a leader in the Democratic Party, ardent suffragette, pacifist and social activist. She worked tirelessly for labor reform and civil rights. Eleanor Roosevelt, her great friend, wrote of O'Day:

*"her high ideals and integrity were an inspiration to all who knew her or felt her influence."*



Rye Post Office, 7 Purdy Avenue, circa 1910

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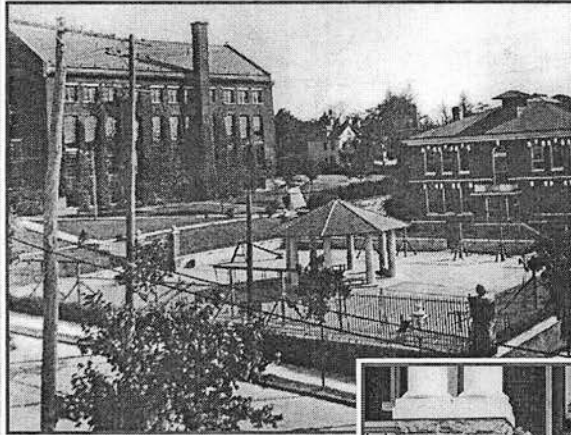
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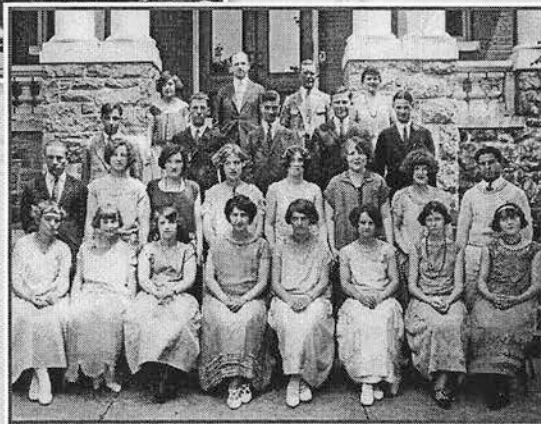
## Rye's Public Schools

Local landowners and missionaries started Rye's first schools in the 1700s. The education was rudimentary and each effort to establish a permanent school failed.

In 1812, New York passed a law requiring public education. Rye Grammar School, built around 1868 for the village area, was located at the corner of Purdy Avenue and the Boston Post Road. Overcrowding soon became a problem. The wooden school was expanded and then replaced by a brick building in 1902. At that time, few students continued beyond grammar school to high school. By 1910, however, the high school population had grown enough to justify a separate school, and the building opposite you was completed.

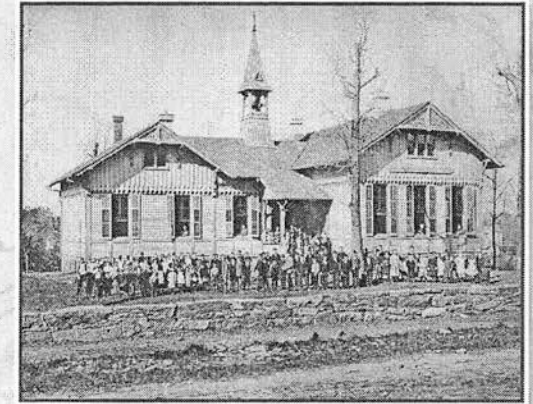


*Rye Grammar School and Rye High School, circa 1910*



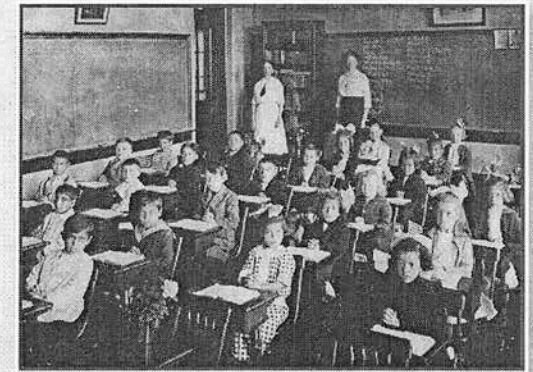
*Rye High School Graduating Class, 1924*

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*Rye Grammar School, circa 1878*

In response to demand for better facilities, the current high school opened in 1931. The famed Rye Garnets won their first game against Harrison in 1933. After World War II, rapid population growth created serious overcrowding in the elementary schools. Midland School replaced Rye Grammar in 1953. The building across from you served as the "Midland Annex" for neighborhood children until the 1970s.



*Rye Grammar School classroom, circa 1917*

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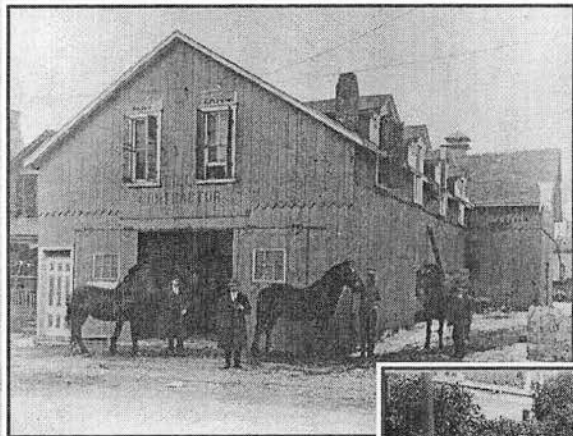
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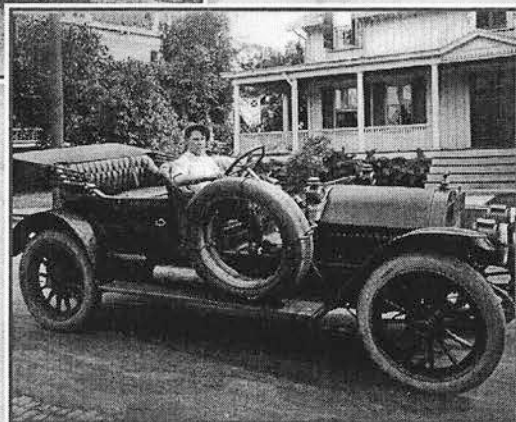
# Walk Rye History

## Billington's Livery and Stables

You're standing on the site of Billington's Livery and Stables. Billington's house was around the corner, and you can still see the stone wall that surrounded his home. Around 1900, Purchase Street and the nearby area had many stables, livery shops, saddle shops, blacksmiths, carriage shops and a riding school. There were only 30 registered cars in Rye in 1906. A want ad in the Rye Chronicle sought a family horse "not afraid of automobiles." Purchase Street wasn't even paved until 1912.



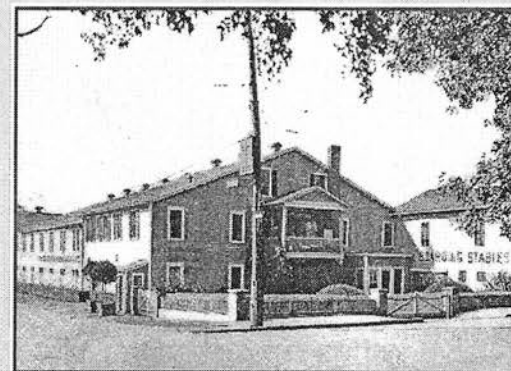
Billington's barn on Smith Street, circa 1900



Walter De La Marque on Smith Street, circa 1915



Purchase Street, circa 1907



Rye Riding School, circa 1917

By 1918, Billington's Livery and Stables became Billington's garage. Soon, Billington's Motor Company was a Chrysler-Plymouth dealer – a business that remained on Smith Street until the 1960s. Carpet Trends, founded by the Rogers family in 1956, moved from Purdy Avenue to Billington's

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# Walk Rye History

## History of the Boston Post Road

When the European settlers arrived in 1660, the Boston Post Road was a narrow Native American footpath. Post riders started traveling between New York and Boston in the 1670s and the path was renamed The Kings Highway. The first stagecoaches appeared in 1722, stopping at Rye on their way from Manhattan to Connecticut.



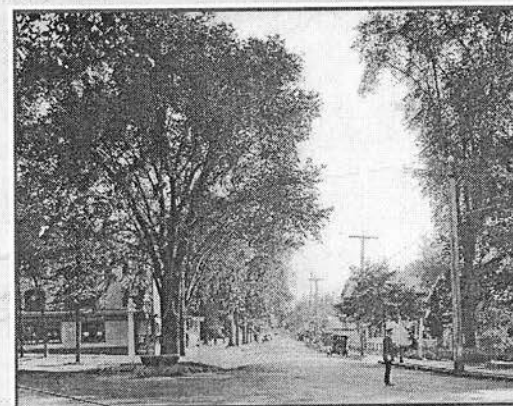
*The Strang House, circa 1900*

Inns and taverns sprung up along the stagecoach route. Rye had three taverns: the Square House, Strang's (at the corner of the Post Road and Rectory Street) and Van Sicklin's. Van Sicklin's occupied the Old Stone Fort near what is now the Methodist Church. The fort was originally the stone house of an early settler.



*Milestone 25 (Boston Post Road near Parkway Drive)*

Benjamin Franklin, Deputy Postmaster General, developed a system of milestones and regular postal routes along the Post Road. Three mile markers from Franklin's system still remain in Rye: #24 by the Jay Heritage Center (another stop on this tour), #25 near the intersection of the Post Road and Parkway Drive and #26 near Christ's Church.



*Boston Post Road, circa 1910*



*The Old Fort. From "A History of Rye" by Charles W. Baird, Harbor Hill Books*

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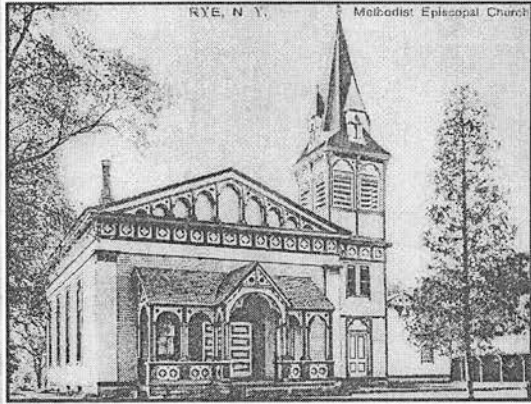
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# Walk Rye History

## Religion in Rye

This building, now the Rye Arts Center, was once Christ's Church and stood where the current church is today. It was built in 1788 to replace the Anglican church destroyed during the Revolutionary War.

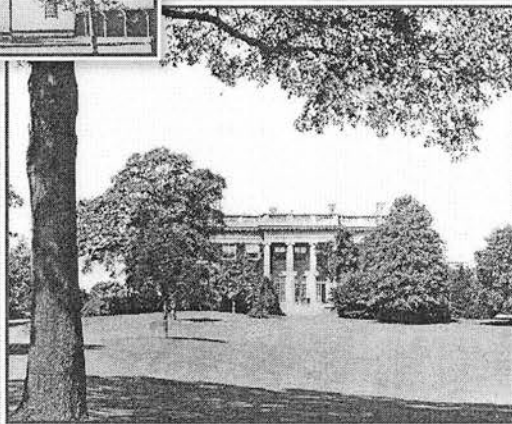
The early Rye settlers were largely Presbyterians. Yet all residents, regardless of their faith, were taxed to build an Anglican church (known as Grace Church) in 1705. The Presbyterians rebelled and built their own church in 1727 on the current location of Rye Country Day School.



Rye Methodist Church, circa 1906

During the Revolutionary War, the Presbyterians generally sided with the Patriots while the Anglicans sided with the British. Both churches burned to the ground. After the war, the Anglicans replaced Grace Church with this building and renamed it Christ's Church. The Presbyterians built their new church in 1793 on the site of their current church.

The Methodist religion took hold in Rye in 1804. Services were first held at the Knapp House (another stop on this tour). The congregation quickly outgrew that space and built a Greek Revival temple in 1832 where their current church stands.

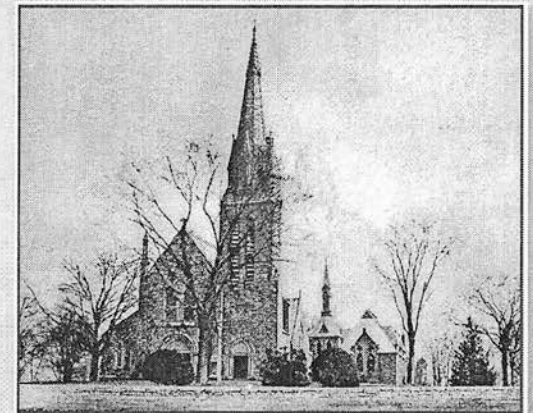


The Barron Estate, circa 1917

The Rye Community Synagogue traces its origins to 10 families who met in 1948 in this building to discuss establishing religious classes for their children. The first classes took place in a former mansion on Forest Avenue. Under the leadership of its first rabbi, the congregation acquired the nearby Barron Estate for the home of their new synagogue.



Former Christ's Church building, circa 1900



Rye Presbyterian Church, circa 1905

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# Walk Rye History

## Rye Playland

Rye Playland was built between Labor Day 1927 and Memorial Day 1928 – an amazing feat of engineering. Over 1,000 people worked at dredging, clearing and filling the site, constructing buildings and installing rides. When Playland opened on Memorial Day weekend, 300,000 visitors came from all over the country.



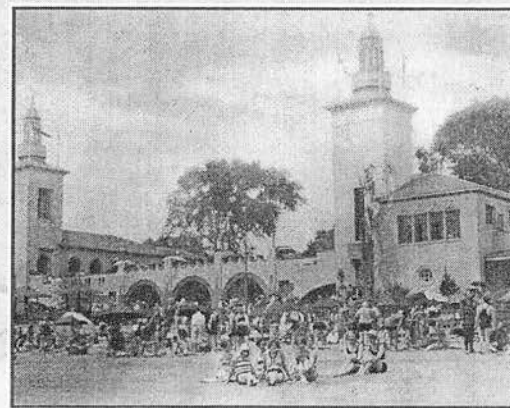
entry booth, circa 1930

The Westchester County Parks Commission acquired the land, previously occupied by run-down hotels and amusement parks, to create a wholesome family park. Playland was the first totally planned amusement park and the first specifically designed for automobiles. In 1928, families arrived in their best attire. Uniformed nurses minded the children at Kiddyland while their parents dined and danced to the sounds of big band entertainers. The whole family watched circus acts on the midway and enjoyed music from the Art Deco music tower, another innovation.



Kiddyland, circa 1930. From "Playland" by Kathryn W. Burke, [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com)

Today, Playland looks much as it did in 1928. In recognition of its historic and architectural importance, it is a National Historic Landmark and listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.



Playland bathhouse, circa 1930



Parking Place, Playland Park, Rye Beach, N. Y.

Airplane Coaster, circa 1930

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*Piazza Pizzeria, Playland Market and Rye Beach Pharmacy*

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RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Square House Museum & Knapp House Archives  
ONE PURCHASE STREET, RYE, NEW YORK 10580

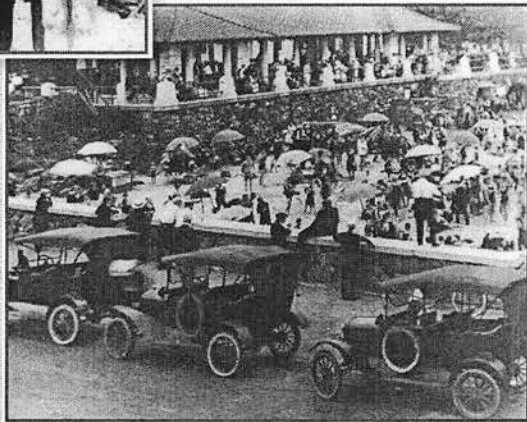
# Walk Rye History

## Rye Town Park

By 1900, many large estates occupied Rye's shoreline. To ensure public beach access, the Rye Town and Rye Village governments created this park in 1907. The Rye Town Park Commission acquired the land and retained Hobart Upjohn to design the buildings. Construction took place during 1909-1910.



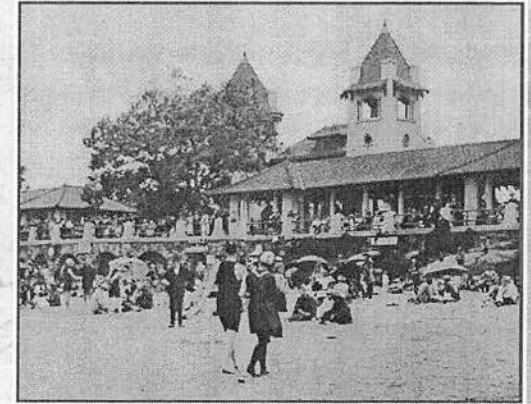
Rye Town Park, circa 1920



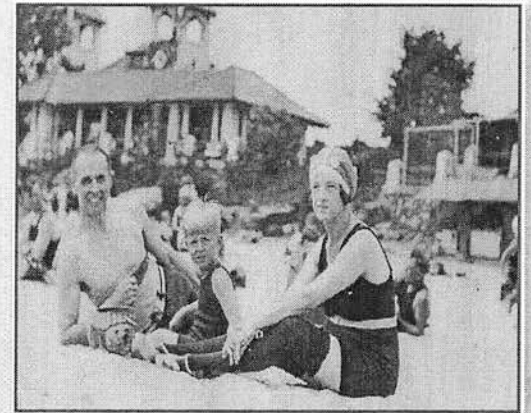
View from Dearborn Avenue, circa 1920

The park was immensely popular from the outset. Bands played on the balcony of the bathing pavilion while patrons danced overlooking the Sound. At the lower level of the pavilion, tunnels led from the locker rooms to the beach shielding beach goers from the guests dining above. Men were required to wear bathing suits with tops, while women were covered from head to toe with bathing dresses and dark stockings. Visitors who didn't own bathing suits could rent them for 20 cents. The bathing pavilion also contained five jail cells that held disorderly park visitors until they were transferred to the Rye Police. Even in 1910, parking was a problem. Visitors complained that parked cars didn't leave enough room for horses and carriages.

Rye Town Park is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.



Rye Town Park Pavilion, circa 1920



Rye Town Park, circa 1920

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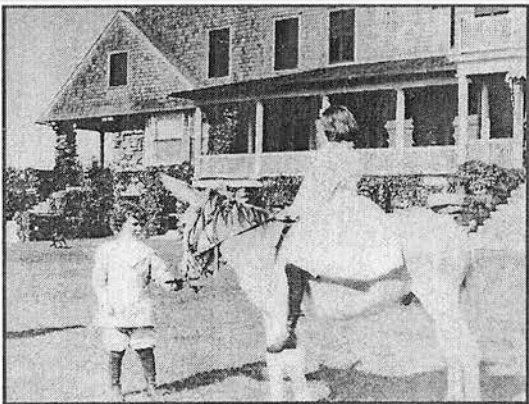
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# Walk Rye History

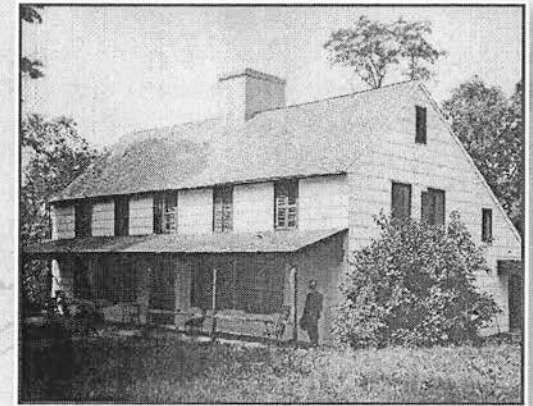
## The Timothy Knapp House

Timothy Knapp's house, built between 1667 and 1680, is thought to be the oldest house in Westchester County. The house initially had just two rooms: a keeping room with a bedchamber above. Knapp farmed the land and served as the town constable and tax collector. He was also a vestryman for Grace Church (now Christ's Church). Services were held here before the first church was built in 1705.



*Lauren and Hobart Ford  
in front of Simeon Ford's "cottage"*

Ezekiel Halsted, a wealthy landowner, purchased the house in 1749 and expanded it twice. During his family's ownership, lasting 150 years, the house acquired its distinctive saltbox shape and fish scale shingles. The Halsteds also held religious services here after they converted to Methodism in the early 1800s.



*The "Halsted Homestead", 1893*

In 1906, Simeon and Julia Ford, summer residents of a 48-room "cottage" on Forest Avenue, bought the house for their children. The Fords added a studio for their daughter Lauren, a successful artist, but otherwise the house was largely unchanged.



*The Knapp House, early 1900s*



*Lauren Ford's painting, "Tea for Lauren" (depicting Knapp House interior)*

Today, the Knapp House, listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, is owned by the Rye Historical Society and houses Rye's archives.

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# Walk Rye History

## Milton Cemetery

The Milton Burying Ground is Rye's oldest cemetery. Joseph Lyon (buried here with his wife Sarah) gave this one-acre plot to Rye around 1750. Some older graves were moved here, including that of Nehemiah Webb who died in 1722 at age 28. Many members of Rye's earliest families are buried here: Purdy, Brown, Disbrow, Budd, Sniffen, Theall, and Van Sicklin. In the northwest corner surrounded by an iron fence, you'll find the Halsted family plot with 21 graves, including that of Ezekiel Halsted, former owner of the Knapp House.



The Halsted Family Plot



Portrait of Mrs. Ezekiel Halsted, 1762 - 1845

The gravestones tell us much about life in Rye during the 18th and 19th centuries. The tombstone for Samuel and Catherine Bouton reveals that their four children died in 1849 within a week of each other. It is thought that a scarlet fever epidemic tragically took their lives. Many gravestones show that Rye's residents lived into their 80s and 90s, including Sophia Parker who died in 1852 at age 97.

The cemetery has not been used for burials since the 1880s. Today, the Milton Cemetery is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.



Gravestone of Nehemiah Webb



Gravestone of Sarah Lyon

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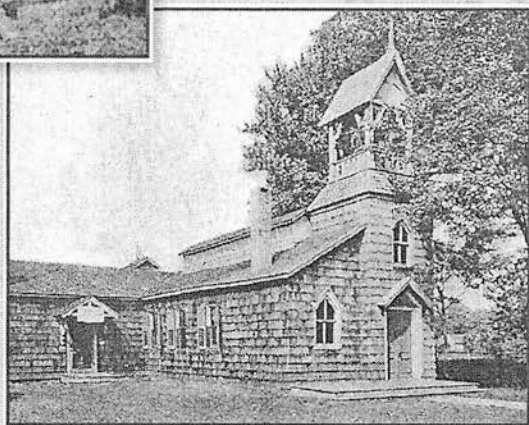
# Walk Rye History

## The Bird Homestead and Rye Meeting House

The Bird Homestead provides a rare glimpse into 19th century life in a thriving maritime village. This outstanding Greek Revival house, dating from 1838, has survived intact, along with several farm buildings. Owned by one family for over 150 years, the house is as important for its occupants as for its architecture. Three remarkable scientists, Henry Bird and his sons Roland and Junius, were born and raised here. All made significant discoveries in the fields of entomology, archaeology and paleontology. Henry's daughter Alice was a talented nature illustrator, while Doris was the much-loved children's librarian at the Rye Free Reading Room for 42 years.



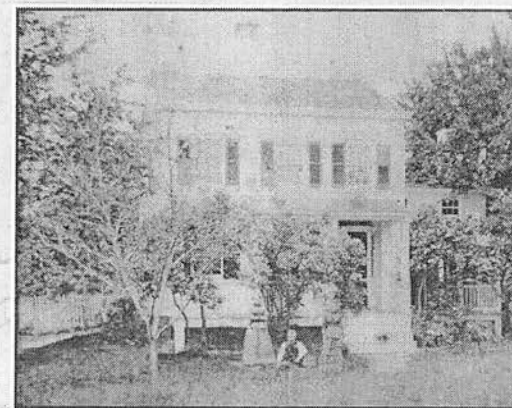
Roland T. Bird, circa 1918  
(Courtesy of the family of John Erikson)



The Rye Meeting House, circa 1917

The Rye Meeting House has stood on Milton Road since 1867 when a Christ's Church vestryman purchased it and moved it here. The building was probably a schoolhouse from earlier in the 19th century. It became Grace Chapel, serving the Milton Point families who found it difficult to travel by horse and carriage to church in town. Around the same time, the Methodist Church also established a chapel at 626 Milton Road, now a private home. A small branch library was added to Grace Chapel in 1875 where Doris Bird received her first training as a librarian. In 1959, the Religious Society of Friends purchased the chapel and converted it into a Quaker Meeting House.

Today, both buildings are owned by Rye City and are listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.



The Bird Homestead, 1880s



Doris, Roland, Alice and Junius Bird, circa 1910

For more stops on the Walk Rye History Tour, visit [www.ryehistory.org](http://www.ryehistory.org)

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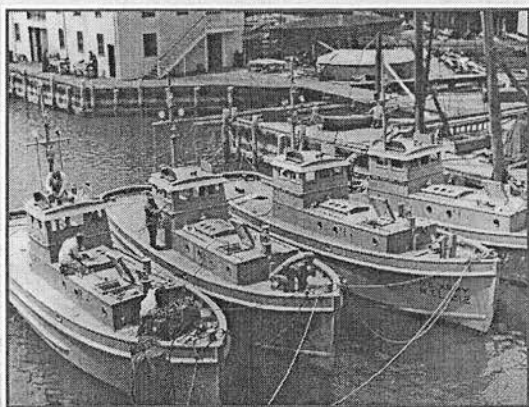
# Walk Rye History

## Milton Commercial District

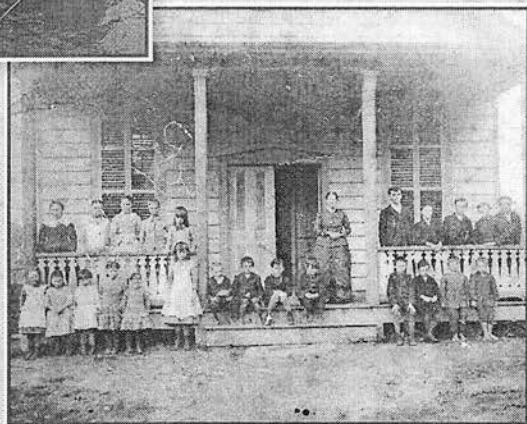
Milton Road was originally a Native American footpath and one of Rye's first roads. In the 17th century, gristmills developed along the Blind Brook. Local farmers brought their grain to be processed into flour. Soon, farmers were shipping their produce on the market boat to New York. Milton Road was lined with wagons waiting to unload farm products at the boat landing and buy supplies from Gedney's store.

The area was also a boot-making center. Boots were made entirely by hand, with local residents specializing in different parts of the boot.

Many ship captains lived in the houses along Milton Road, and boat building became an important part of the local economy. David Kirby, Jr. established his famous boatyard in the 1850's where Milton Harbor House is now located. The Kirby boatyard built a number of successful racing yachts, including an America's Cup winner and two contenders. The boatyard, then owned by William Edgar John, also built PT boats for the Navy during World War II.

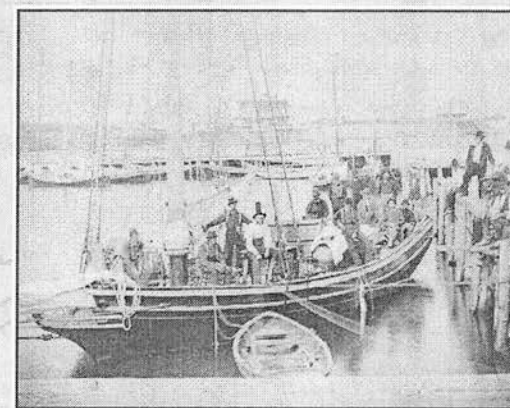


PT Boats, William Edgar John Boatyard,  
circa 1943



The Little Yellow Schoolhouse, circa 1880s

No visit to this maritime village would be complete without mentioning the Little Yellow Schoolhouse at 630 Milton Road, now a private home. The schoolhouse was built in the 1830s on land given by the Halsted family. By 1898, the school population had doubled from 30 to 60 students and a new brick school building – still operating today as Milton School – opened on Hewlett Avenue.



Captain Gilbert Lyon's Sloop



Gedney Store and Shipyard, 1898

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# Walk Rye History

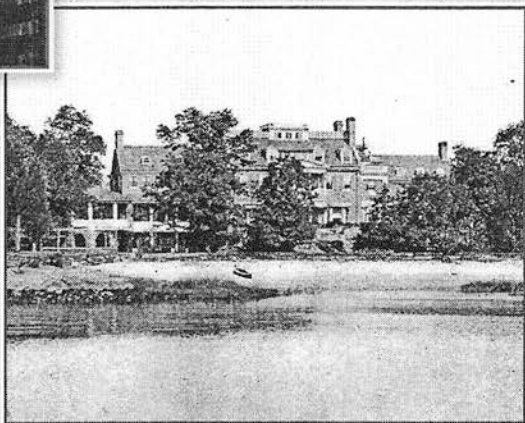
## The Wainwrights and Their Houses

In 1864, John Howard Wainwright bought half of Milton Point, previously owned by descendants of an original Rye settler. Over the years, the Wainwright family built most of the older houses that still stand along Stuyvesant Avenue, named after Mrs. Wainwright's family.



*Fonrose Wainwright Condit in the library at Wainwright House*

One of Wainwright's four sons, J. Mayhew, built Wainwright House between 1929 and 1931. The house was inspired by the French Chateau de Raincheval where Mayhew was stationed during World War I. He vowed that if he returned from the war safely, he would build a house resembling the chateau. Mayhew was a community leader and served in both the New York Assembly and the U.S. Congress. After Mayhew and his wife died in the 1940s, their daughter Fonrose donated the house to the Laymen's Movement, a group dedicated to promoting business ethics and world peace. The Laymen's Movement played an important role in the United Nations. Today, the Wainwright House contains the original furnishings from the U.N.'s meditation room.

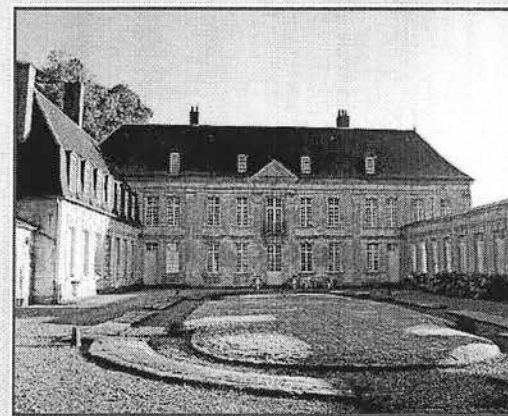


*"Homewood", circa 1917*

Another of Wainwright's sons, Richard, built what is now Coveleigh Club as his residence in 1904. Richard was an architect and designed a number of houses in Rye. "Homewood", as he called his house, was a gracious 50-room home on over 18 acres. Like his brother, Richard served in World War I and later played an important role in many Rye civic and charitable organizations.



*The Wainwright Family, 1869*



*Chateau de Raincheval*

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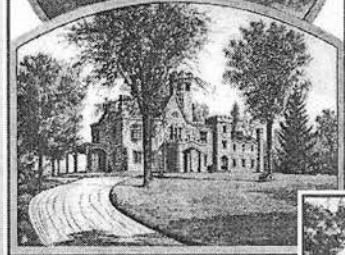
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# Walk Rye History

## The Boston Post Road Historic District

The Boston Post Road Historic District, listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, includes three significant buildings: the Peter Augustus Jay House, Lounsbury and Whitby Castle (now the Rye Golf Club).

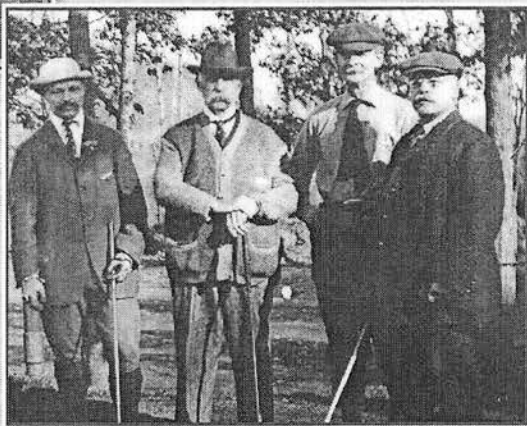


*Whitby Estate, circa 1910*

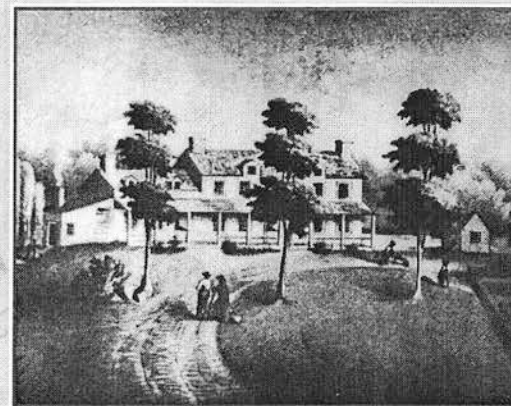
John Jay, the first Supreme Court Justice, grew up at The Locusts, the estate purchased by his father from one of Rye's early settlers. Jay's father moved his family from Manhattan to Rye in 1746 when Jay was 3 months old to spare them from the smallpox epidemic. At 15, Jay left to study at Kings College (now Columbia), but he returned to Rye many times during his career. His son, Peter Augustus Jay, built a striking Greek Revival mansion in 1838 on the footprint of Jay's boyhood home. Today, his mansion is a National Historic Landmark and is home to the Jay Heritage Center.

Lounsbury takes its name from an early settler, Richard Lounsberry. Edward Lamb Parsons purchased the land with a small existing house in 1831. He quickly set about expanding the house and converting it into the elegant Greek Revival mansion you can see today. With the exception of a few years in the 1850s, this private residence has remained in the same family since it was built.

Whitby Castle was completed in 1854 for William Chapman, a wealthy stockbroker. Chapman chose Alexander Jackson Davis, a leading Gothic Revival architect, to design his villa. Chapman later sold Whitby to Joseph Park and in 1920, the property became the Rye Country Club. The City of Rye purchased the property for a municipal club in 1965.



*The Rye Country Club, circa 1930*



*The Locusts (Courtesy of the Jay Heritage Center)*



*Lounsbury, circa 1917*

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# Walk Rye History

## Greenhaven

New York real estate magnate Vivian Green developed Greenhaven as a garden suburb during the 1920s. He purchased the land from the descendants of Henry Brevoort, a wealthy New Yorker. Green's vision was to create a bucolic waterfront community with access to swimming, boating and tennis.

Greenhaven's layout, architecture and communal facilities were immediately popular, especially with publishers and entertainers. Three sisters in the Annenberg family – owners of the Philadelphia Enquirer, TV Guide and Seventeen Magazine – lived in Greenhaven. Frederick Eikerenkoetter, better known as TV evangelist "Reverend Ike", was a resident. Noel Paul Stookey of Peter Paul and Mary lived here, as did Olympic swimmers and actors Buster Crabbe and Johnny Weissmuller. Ethyl Barrymore, famed stage and screen actress, and singer Ezio Pinza both had houses bordering Greenhaven.



*Canoeing off Greenhaven's beach*

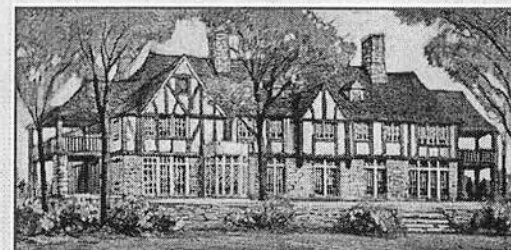


*Ice Skating on Lake Greenhaven*

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*Aerial View of Greenhaven on the Sound*



*Vivian Green's residence*

Greenhaven's most distinctive personalities were its movie moguls. During the mid 20th century, Greenhaven was home to some of the most powerful men in the movie industry. Spyros Skouras, Chairman of 20th Century Fox, lived here for 40 years. A poor Greek immigrant, Skouras and his brother started with a nickelodeon business, took over Fox Theatres and merged with 20th Century Films. Albert Warner was also an immigrant who began a nickelodeon business that became the famed Warner Brothers studio. Barney Balaban, another poor immigrant, got his start with a small movie theater business and ended up as President and Chairman of Paramount Pictures.

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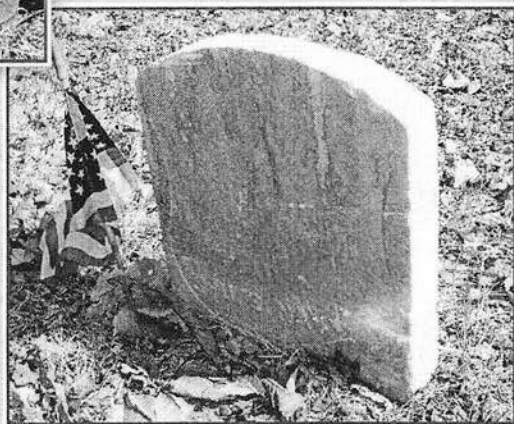
# Walk Rye History

## The African Cemetery

In 1860, Underhill Halsted, a prominent Rye citizen and fervent Methodist, gave land to the Town of Rye for an African Cemetery. During the 18th century, many Rye families, including the Halsted ancestors, relied on slaves for household and farm work. In 1798, not long before New York outlawed slavery, there were 123 slaves in Rye. After slavery ended, many freed slaves remained in Rye and continued working on local farms.



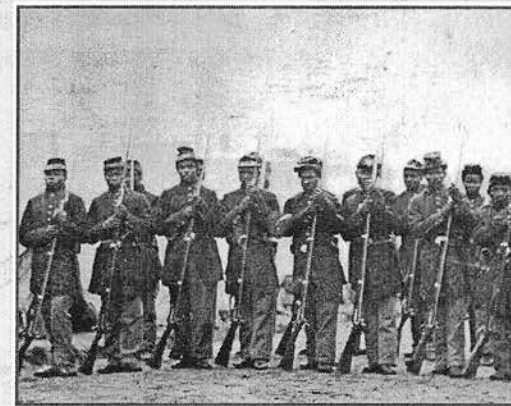
Gravestone of Samuel Bell,  
54th Regiment U.S.C.T.



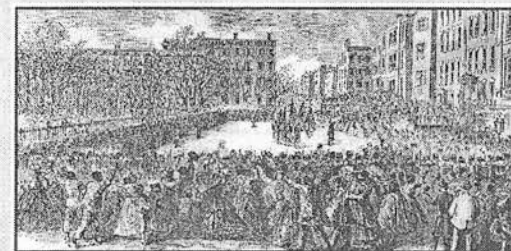
Gravestone of Edwin Purdy

The African Cemetery served as a final resting place for local African Americans for 100 years. The Cemetery contains the gravesites of at least 35 African American veterans, including many who served in the "United States Colored Troops" during the Civil War. Several members of the New York 20th Regiment, led by Rye Town resident Col. Nelson Bartram, are buried here. The 20th Regiment, formed with the support of the Union League Club, saw action at Port Hudson, Louisiana. You can also see the grave of Samuel Bell who served in the famous 54th Regiment that conducted the courageous assault against Fort Wagner, SC. One of the most interesting graves is that of Edwin Purdy. It is believed that when Purdy moved to this area, he adopted the name of the influential Purdy family. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy, which was fully integrated during the Civil War, and served on one of the iron-clad warships, the USS Monadnock.

Today, the African Cemetery is listed on the New York and National Registers of Historic Places.



"United States Colored Troops" at Port Hudson, La., 1864  
(Courtesy of the National Archives)



The Twentieth U.S. Colored Infantry presented with its colors,  
March 5, 1864 (Courtesy of the Jay Heritage Center)

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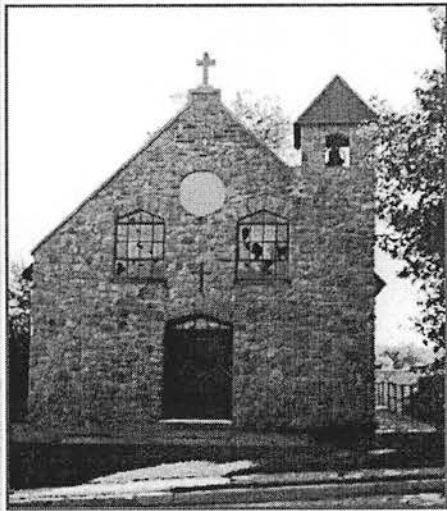
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# Walk Rye History

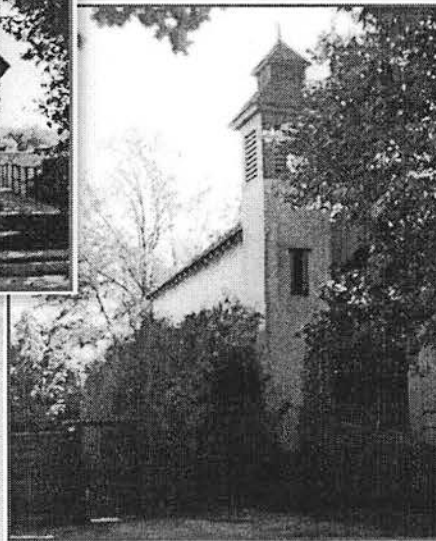
## Immigrants in Rye

During the second half of the 19th century, many Irish immigrants settled in this neighborhood, attracted by the construction trades. The area, centered at the intersection of Maple Avenue and High Street, became known as Dublin. By the 1890s, many of the Irish families were replaced by Italian immigrants who worked for the local nurseries and on nearby farms and estates. Often, they built their homes with native fieldstone that can still be seen on the exteriors of many houses.



*St. Donato's Chapel, 109 Maple Avenue*

In 1892, John Mainero, one of the early Italian immigrants, built a small wooden chapel on Maple Avenue honoring Saint Donato, hoping that he might thereby regain his eyesight. The wooden chapel burned but was rebuilt of native stone in 1925. Each year, the local residents celebrated the Festival of Saint Donato with a procession of men in brightly colored uniforms carrying an image of the Saint through the streets. Dan Capozzi, another prominent Dublin resident, built a chapel on Maple Avenue in 1921 to honor Saint Gertrude. Today, Saint Donato's chapel houses a local business, while Saint Gertrude's chapel is a private residence.

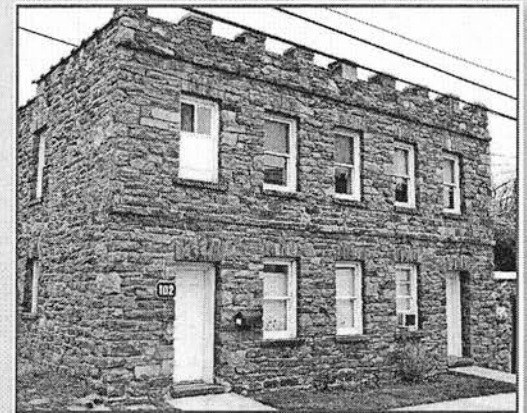


*St. Gertrude's Chapel, 59 Maple Avenue*

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*Students in West Rye, circa 1900*



*102 Maple Avenue*

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