In H. P. Lovecraft’s writings, Ye and ye are not the same words as Yᵉ and yᵉ.

If you are reading an electronic copy of a Lovecraft story, and it only shows Ye and ye, and doesn’t show any examples of Yᵉ and yᵉ, then you have an incorrect version of the story.

Visit hplovecraft.com, and look through the text of The Case of Charles Dexter Ward at:


and do a ctrl-F to search for “ ye ” (that’s space ye space without the quotes), and see how quickly you start seeing examples of yᵉ in the text. These are the archaic spelling of “The,” and are not to be confused with ye.

All of the texts at the hplovecraft.com site, as well as the books edited by S. T. Joshi, are very carefully formatted to make sure that Yᵉ and yᵉ (the) and Ye and ye (yee) are used exactly as intended by H. P. Lovecraft.

And when any Lovecraft reading I’m doing includes these words, I am very careful with what I say, so I will match Lovecraft’s intent of saying “the” for yᵉ, rather than saying everything as, “Yee.”

From http://dictionary.reference.com/:

Yᵉ and yᵉ are pronounced Thee
definite article Archaic version of the.
The word Yᵉ, as in Yᵉ Olde Booke Shoppe, is simply an archaic spelling of the definite article the.
The use of the letter Y was a printer’s adaptation of the thorn, þ, the character in the Old English alphabet representing the th- sounds (th) and (th) in Modern English; Y was the closest symbol in the Roman alphabet.

Ye and ye are pronounced Yee
pronoun
1. Archaic (except in some elevated or ecclesiastical prose), Literary, or British Dialect.
a. (used nominatively as the plural of thou, especially in rhetorical, didactic, or poetic contexts, in addressing a group of persons or things): O ye of little faith; ye brooks and hills.
b. (used nominatively for the second person singular, especially in polite address): Do ye not know me?
c. (used objectively in the second person singular or plural): I have something to tell ye. Arise, the enemy is upon ye!
d. (used with mock seriousness in an invocation, mild oath, or the like): Ye gods and little fishes!