



Annual Meeting

The Falmouth Historical Society

January 18, 2023

Falmouth Heritage Museum

*Images, unless otherwise attributed, are
from The Falmouth Historical Society*



Agenda

Annual Membership Meeting

- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Committee Reports
- President's Report
- New Business

FHS Presents!

- Falmouth's First Summer Colony
- An Early Falmouth Family

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Secretary's Report

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Secretary's Report

Agenda

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

- Programs
- Museum Operation & Exhibits
- Collections
- Local History
- Communications
- Merchandise
- Museum Buildings & Grounds
- Technology
- Development

President's Report

New Business

Membership growing steadily

Meeting materials

Everything is online

- Slides, minutes, reports, speakers' notes
- Annual and monthly board meetings

Society Membership			
Primary	Family	Sponsors	Total
83	19	4	106

<https://thefhs.org/Documents>

The screenshot shows the website header with the logo and name 'Falmouth Historical Society Preserving Falmouth's Heritage'. A navigation menu includes 'Welcome', 'About FHS', 'About Falmouth', 'Heritage Museum', 'Events', 'Get Involved', 'Research', and 'Documents'. Below the menu, there is a list of documents under the heading 'Documents - FHS 2023 Board and Annual Meetings'. The list includes links for each month from January to October 2023, plus '2023 Annual Meeting' and 'Archived Documents'. A sidebar on the right shows a 'From the Collections' section with a list of board and annual meetings from 2017 to 2023.

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Treasurer's Report

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Treasurer's Report

Agenda

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

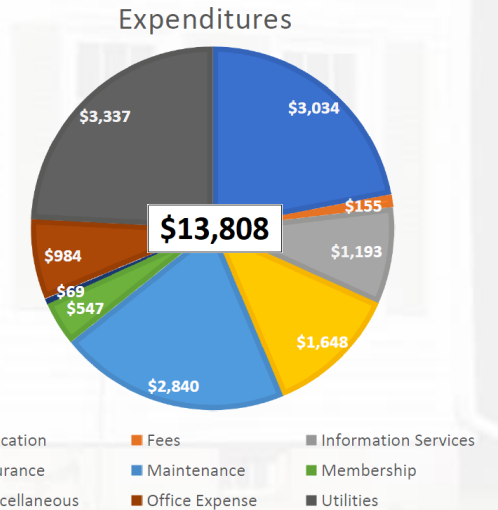
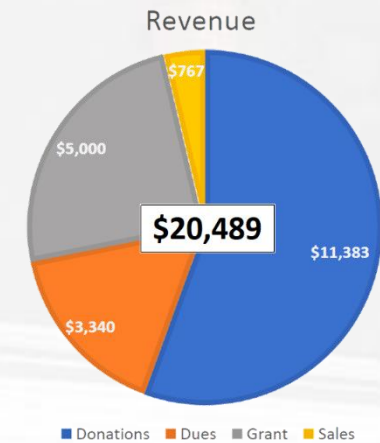
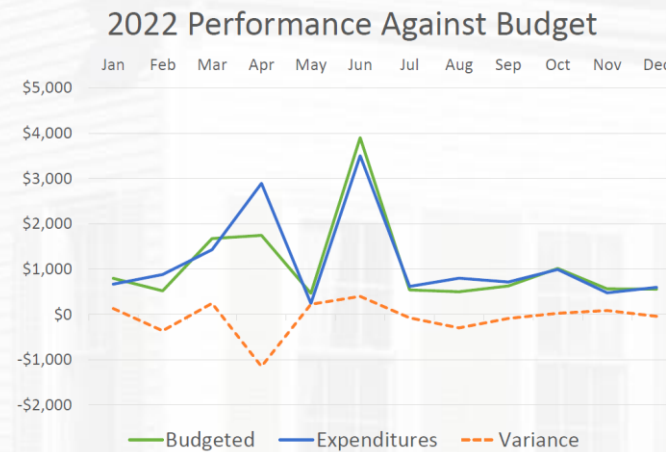
- Programs
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President's Report

New Business

Financial Report—All in Four Charts

FINANCIAL POSITION	
December 31, 2022	
Assets	
Operating Accounts	8,819
Inventory	4,744
Land and Buildings	449,900
Fire Truck	35,000
Investments	21,538
Total Assets	520,001
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	518
Sales Tax Payable	68
Total Liabilities	586
Net Assets	
Net Assets Beginning of Year	330,949
Change in Net Assets	188,466
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	520,001



Details can be found in the Annual Treasurer's Report on the Society website.



Committee Reports

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Programs Committee

Agenda

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President's Report

New Business

Public Appearances Beyond the Museum			
In-Person	Hybrid	Virtual	Talks
5	3	1	4

Education

- Supporting Falmouth Schools
- Marion Perkins Scholarship



FHS Table at Cumberland Fair

Mission
❖ Preserve Falmouth's heritage
❖ Make it accessible to community

Programs
❖ Collections
❖ Research
❖ Education

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Museum Operations & Exhibits Committee

Agenda

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President's Report

New Business

Full season: May-November

Public Hours

- Tuesdays, June-October
- At least four volunteers on duty
 - Docents, accessioning, research, reorganizing files
- Also open by appointment

Resumed second grade visits

Falmouth Heritage Museum in 2021

Season (weeks)	18
Public Days	15
Visitors	155



Second Graders Arrive at Museum

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Collections Committee

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President's Report

New Business

Accessions

- Pace of accession slowed post-pandemic
- Volunteers caught up with 2021 surge

Artifacts inventoried and photographed

- Eagle Scout project: Dan Rabinowitz of Falmouth Troop 93



Dan Photographing Artifacts at Museum

Museum Items in Digital Catalog	
Photographs	77
Books etc.	486
Artifacts	315
Documents	266
Total	1,163



<https://thefhs.pastperfectonline.com/>

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Local History

Agenda

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Treasurer's Report

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President's Report

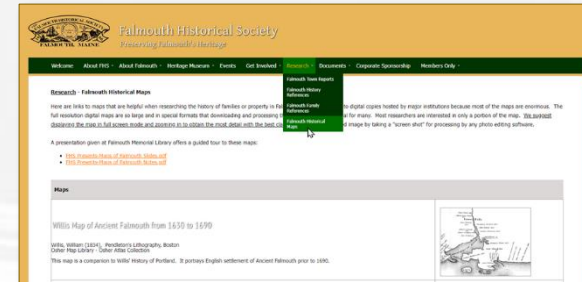
New Business

FHS Online Museum

Open 24/7, 365 days/year

Website Expansion	
Research Aids	
Historical References	14
Family References	30
Historical Maps	18
Newsletters	25
Local Research	3
Total	80

<https://thefhs.org/Research>



Responses to Queries from the Community	
Property History	10
Local History	20
Family History	16
Collections	5
Other	3
Total	54

Plus three queries meant for the "other Falmouth"

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Communications Committee

Agenda

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President's Report

New Business

Communications with members was highlighted as a major shortcoming last year

Improvements have been made, but more is needed

Communications since the last annual meeting:

Channel		Number	Mode	Reach
	Paper mailings	3	Push	88
	Website notices	Continuous	Pull	146
	Email blasts	2	Push	75
	Facebook posts	8	Push	160

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Merchandise Committee

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President's Report

New Business

New Edition of Cookbook

- Two volumes (Savory & Sweet)
- New look and style
- Self-publishing with first run of eight pairs

Online Bookstore

- Society website
- Fulfillment
 - Pickup in Falmouth now
 - Mail order next month



The Falmouth Heritage Bookstore

<https://thefhs.org/Bookstore>

Item	Sold	Sales
Books	43	\$790
Maps	2	\$13
Clothing	8	\$137
FTM*	19	\$376
Total	72	\$1,316
Margin		\$422

* Falmouth-Themed Merchandise

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Museum Building & Grounds Committee

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President's Report

New Business

Upkeep of Museum is difficult

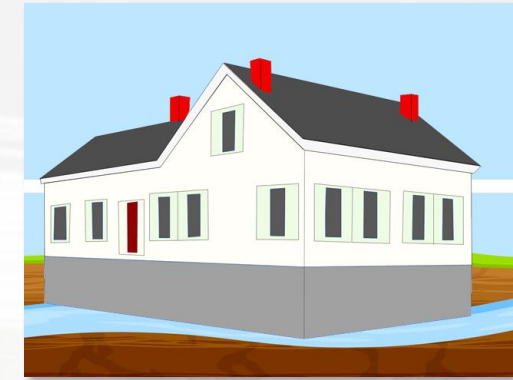
- Old farmhouse atop swampy ground
- Sump pump can run nonstop

Catastrophic failure last spring

- Sump pump and GFI breaker failed
- Sump overflowed

Restoration was a major effort

- New pump and breaker installed
- Wireless sensor and alarm installed
- Basement cleaned and sanitized



Other Major Work

- Septic tank pumped

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Technology

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Users Visiting Website		
Town	Users	Views
Falmouth	253	2,565
Portland	152	384
Yarmouth	69	485
Gray	55	185
Cumberland	48	150
South Portland	43	97
Scarborough	39	81
Freeport	24	59
Other Maine	366	1,124
Massachusetts	372	729
Other New England	189	503
Other US	1,940	2,828

Top Dozen Web Pages Visited	
Title	Views
Home Page	5,306
Colonial Origins	885
Falmouth Historical Maps	498
The Almouchiquois	432
Falmouth History References	254
Falmouth Family References	196
Events	182
From Town, to Destination, to Suburb	169
About FHS	159
About Falmouth	144
Historic Site Tours	137
Falmouth Heritage Tours	124

Facebook	
Followers	642
Reach	781
Visits	401
Likes	82

Trending upward—new content drawing visitors

Falmouth Heritage Museum



President's Report

Falmouth Heritage Museum



President's Report

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President's Report

New Business

Big Challenge # 1

Volunteers are stretched too thin

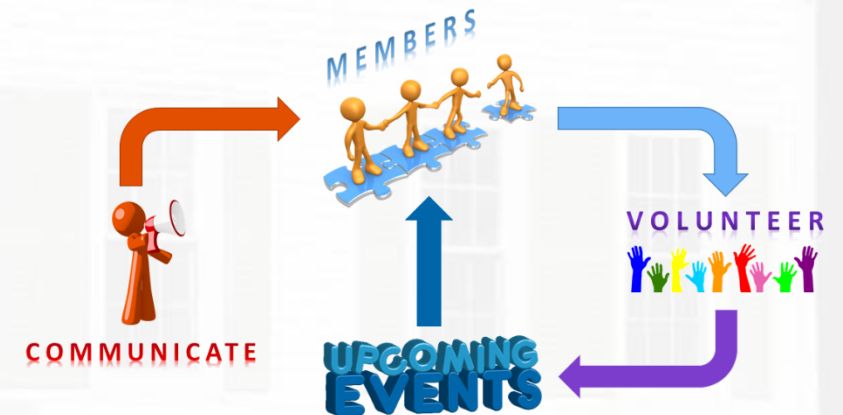
- Speeding up in one area means slowing down somewhere else

Need more members

- Members become volunteers
- Volunteers drive events
- Events bring more members

Please volunteer!

- We need whatever skills you bring



Falmouth Heritage Museum



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President's Report

New Business

Big Challenge # 2

Society facing major expenses

- Conversion from septic to sewer
- Painting of barn
- Assessing other upkeep issues

Pursuing all options

- Local businesses or organizations willing to donate material or labor
- If too big, seek grant



Falmouth Heritage Museum

Image: LinkedIn



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President's Report

New Business

Accomplishments

The committee reports tell it all
Our small band of dedicated
volunteers is delivering what the
community expects from a town
historical society

- Doing it well
- Doing a lot with very little



The Falmouth Heritage Museum and Barn

Falmouth Heritage Museum



New Business

Falmouth Heritage Museum



FHS Presents!

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Falmouth's First Summer Colony

The Casco Terrace & Amerescoggin Neighborhoods

David Farnham
The Falmouth Historical Society

January 18, 2023

Falmouth Heritage Museum

Images, unless otherwise attributed, are
from The Falmouth Historical Society



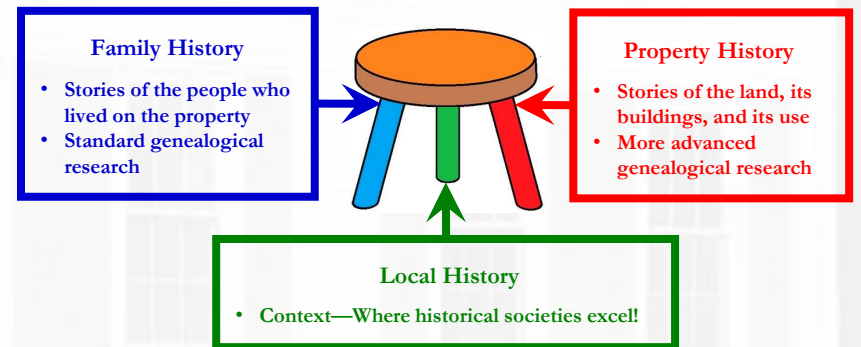
The Request

Property History Query

- A resident of the Amerescoggin neighborhood asked whether we could provide historical information about specific homes in the Amerescoggin and Casco Terrace neighborhoods to share with their new residents.

Routine Request

- We run the deeds to build the chain of ownership
- We use our genealogy toolkit to collect the stories of the people who lived there
- We overlay this with local history to provide context





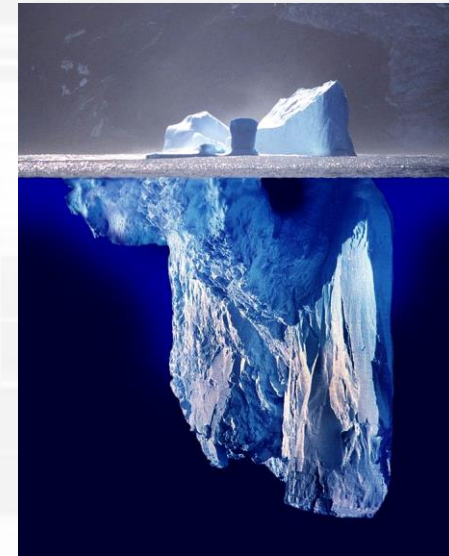
Initial Results

Tracing the Deeds

- All three homes were relatively new (built around the turn of the last century)
- Before that, small farms

Homes are the tip of the iceberg

- Chapters in the evolution of Falmouth Foreside
- Agricultural → Summer Resort → Suburbia
- These two neighborhoods were at the nexus of that evolution





Our Focus

16 Acres on the Foreside

- Two adjoining neighborhoods north of Town Landing
 - Amerescoggin Road
 - Casco Terrace
- Separate histories, shared significance





Rustic Falmouth

Three mariners—three farms

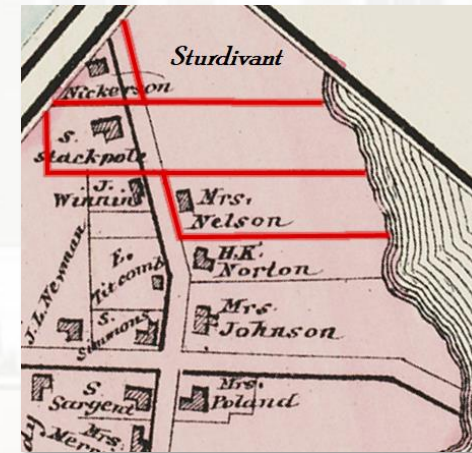
- Isaac Sturdivant (1784-1858)
- Samuel Davis (1819-1880)
 - Later sold to Stackpole family (also mariners)
- Andrew Nelson (1795-1860)

Lots along the Foreside

- Originally 30 acres
 - Minimum size for a farm
- Many divided in half
 - 15 acres enough for a subsistence farm
 - Some halved again
- Popular with sea captains and craftsmen



1857 Atlas



1871 Atlas



Rusticators

Flocked to Maine in summer

- Seeking fresh air, beautiful scenery, and a more “rustic” lifestyle
- Began in the Gilded Age after artists painted alluring landscapes of Maine coast
- Wealthy fled heat and bustle of cities
- Built seasonal “cottages” along the coast

Expanded the market for seaside real estate



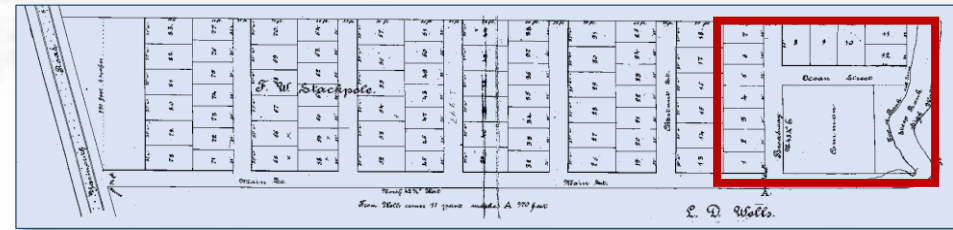
*“Graunka”
Cottage of H.J. Brown built 1903
177 Foreside Road*



Stackpole Farm

The Stackpoles

- Samuel Stackpole (1811-1887)
 - Sea captain of Yarmouth
 - Lived on the former Davis farm until his health failed
- Frederick Stackpole (1844-1911)
 - Samuel's nephew, former sea captain, banker in Kansas
 - Purchased farm in 1882



Stackpole Farm Subdivision

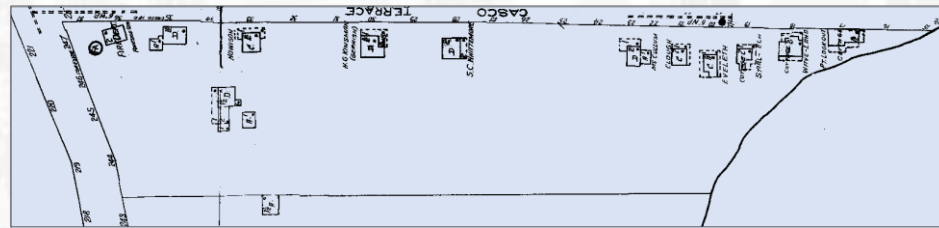
- Published the first subdivision plan for a neighborhood along the Foreside
- Lots on lanes off Casco Terrace
- Oceanfront lots bordering common ground



Nelson Farm

Nelson Farm abutted Casco Terrace

- Inherited by Mary Elizabeth Wells (1833-1916)
- Carved out and sold individual lots
 - No subdivision plan



Nelson Farm Subdivided in 1924

Falmouth Heritage Museum



The Auburn Colony

Joseph Chamberlin (1817-1901)

- Retired carpenter, building contractor, and cabinetmaker of Auburn
- Purchased first lot from Stackpole in 1881
- Purchased more from Stackpole in 1885
- Purchased land from Wells in 1888

The beginning of a summer colony surrounding the Common

- Summer cottages for families of Auburn
- No connection to the earlier Auburn Colony of Harpswell



View from the Common Today

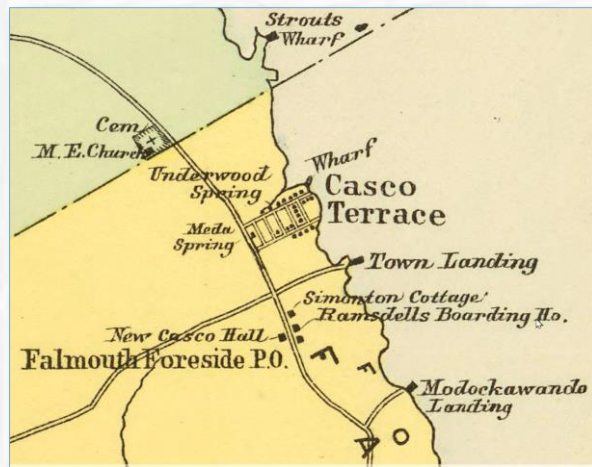
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Summer Colony Expands

Casco Terrace was the first summer colony and grew rapidly

- Cottages at the bay end of Amerescoggin followed soon thereafter
- Terrace Inn was built by a family who summured at Casco Terrace



1890 Atlas



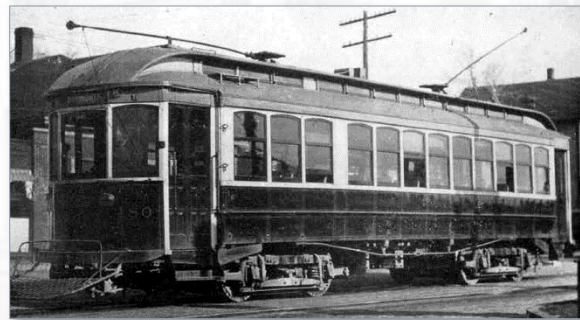
Terrace Inn



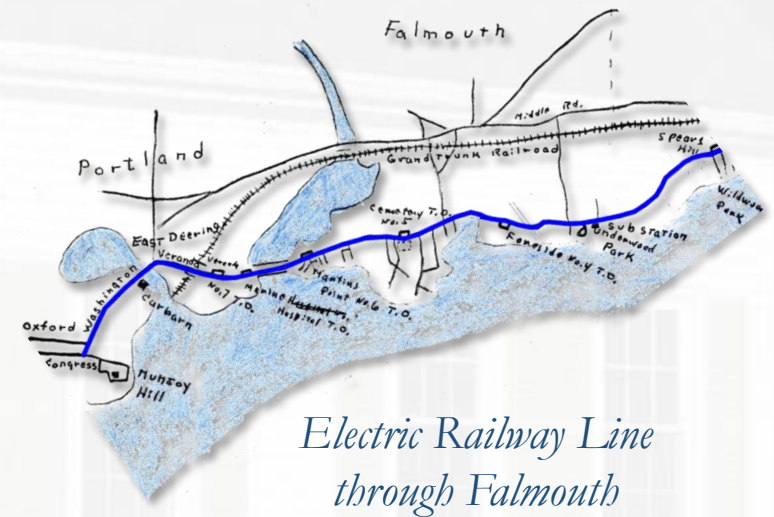
Trolley Service Comes to the Foreside

Portland & Yarmouth Electric Railway Co.

- Opened trolley service through Falmouth in 1898
- Acquired by the Portland Railroad Co. the following year
- Made the Foresides accessible to all
- Trolley service was discontinued in 1933 having been displaced by automobiles



Car # 180 in front of Union Station enroute to Falmouth



Electric Railway Line through Falmouth



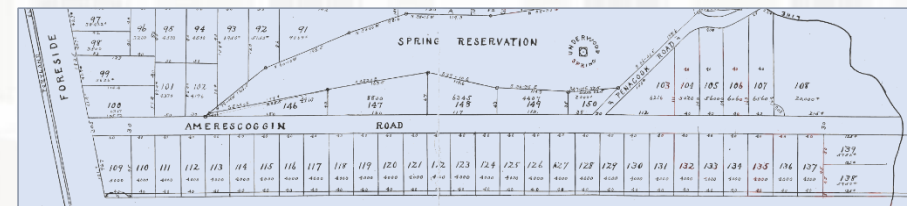
Underwood Spring Park

Recreational Parks

- Portland RR Co. established parks to attract riders
 - Riverton, Cape Cottage, and Underwood Spring
- Underwood Spring Park opened in 1899
 - Casino, open-air theater, and Japanese pavilion
 - 34½ acres including the former Underwood Farm
- Park closes in 1907
 - Casino and theater destroyed by fire; not rebuilt
 - Land purchased by a George Edwards in 1909
 - Publishes subdivision plan with lots on both sides of Amerescoggin Road



Casino at Underwood Spring Park



*Subdivision of Underwood
Bordering Amerescoggin*



Underwood Spring

George Thornton Edwards (1868-1932)

- Real estate dealer of Portland
- Established Underwood Motor Camp on the site of the former casino
- Featured small cottages and tent sites

Mildred Prentice White (1887-1970)

- Purchased Underwood after Edward's death

Lots were sold over the years

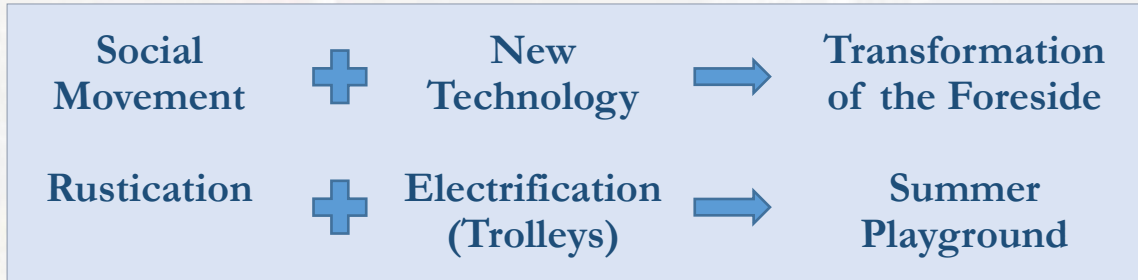
- Park transformed into a seaside neighborhood



Underwood Motor Camp



The Foreside Became a Resort



It happened with amazing speed

- Became unstoppable within two decades
- Brought a resort “venue,” a country club, and a yacht club to the Foreside
- Trickled down to middle and working classes
 - By 1919, roughly 40% of properties in Falmouth were owned by non-residents
 - Cottages and summer residences figured prominently



The Three Farms on Current Town Plat



Suburbia

Another wave of change swept over the Foreside after WWII

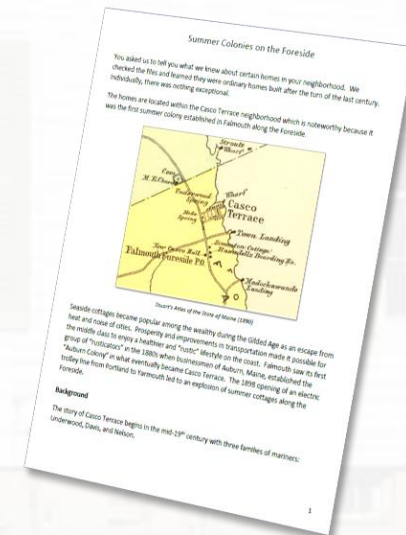
- Summer cottages became year-round homes
- Lots consolidated and redivided for new homes

Falmouth Foreside today is blend

- Old farmhouses
- Cottages grand and modest
- New neighborhoods
- Country club and yacht club are thriving

We responded with an eight-page history

- Including information about who built the three homes





An Early Falmouth Family

Our First Experience with Genealogical Tourism

Betsy Jo Whitcomb & Suzanne Farnham
The Falmouth Historical Society

January 18, 2023

Falmouth Heritage Museum

Images, unless otherwise attributed, are
from The Falmouth Historical Society



The Request

It began with an email...

We have happily learned that we have ancestors who were founders of Falmouth, Maine. For example, Joshua Brackett (1723-1816) and Esther Cox/Cocks (1727-1816).

We would love to learn more. We found their names on 1775 map outside of the area that was burned by the British. Hopefully, our ancestral search is correct!!

Nevertheless, we look forward to visiting Falmouth in September. Hopefully, we can join a tour and learn more about the history of our ancestors by seeing documents, pictures, buildings or other resources. Thank you for your kind help!

We receive an average of five queries each month.

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Initial Screening

Are we the correct Falmouth?

Our first step?

- No different than on TV
- Searched on Ancestry.com using the names and dates provided
- Result: a tree citing a published genealogy

Answer:

- They came to the correct Falmouth
- Their family extends back to early Falmouth



All results for Esther Cox

Your search: Esther Cox, Born: 1727, Any: Falmouth, Cumbe..., Death: 1816, Spouse(s): Joshua Brackett, Focus: [empty]

Found in Ancestry trees: **Esther Brackett Cox** (Family tree)

Spouse: Lieut Joshua Brackett
Father: John Cox
Mother: Tabitha Cox Davenport
Children: Joshua
Birth: 9 Jan 1725 Dorchester, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA
Death: 1816 Falmouth, Cumberland, Maine, USA

Esther Brackett Cox
BIRTH 09 JAN 1725 • Dorchester, Suffolk, Massachusetts, United States
DEATH 1816 • Falmouth, Cumberland, Maine, USA

Facts

Age	Event	Location	Source
1725	Birth	09 Jan 1725 • Dorchester, Suffolk, Massachusetts, United States	1 source
1744	Marriage	9 Dec 1744 • Falmouth, Maine, USA	Lieut Joshua Brackett (1723-1817) 1 source
1744	Marriage	9 December 1744 • Falmouth, Cumberland, Maine	Pages 65-68 Family information Maine, Marriage Index, 1670-1921 Maine, Marriage Records, 1713-1922 Massachusetts,

Sources

Ancestry sources: Brackett genealogy: descendants of Anthony Brackett of Portsmouth and Captain Richard Brackett of Braintree

Family

Parents: John Cox II (1688-1747), Tabitha Cox Davenport (1688-1747)

Siblings: Lieut Joshua Brackett (1723-1817), Joshua Brackett II (1762-1849)

Spouse and children: Lieut Joshua Brackett (1723-1817)

Image: Ancestry

Falmouth Heritage Museum



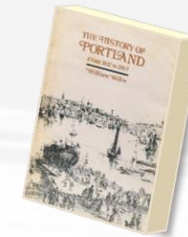
Digging Deeper

For Colonial Falmouth:

- Begin with the authoritative history: Willis' *The History of Portland from 1632-1864*
- Information about prominent families can often be found in century-old published genealogies
 - Brackett genealogy (1907)
 - Cox genealogy (1912)

No, we do not spend our days haunting libraries

- We're not that “old school”



William Willis
(1794-1870)



NEHGS Boston



MHS Portland

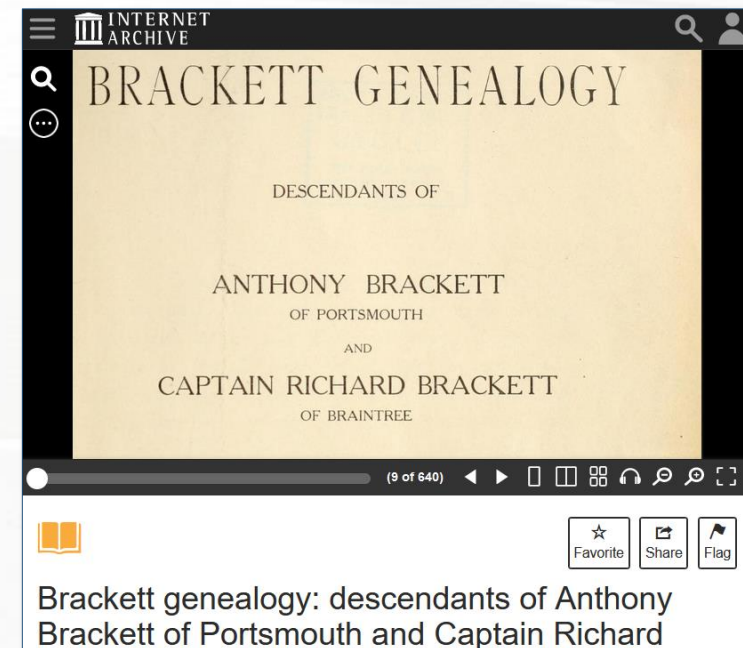
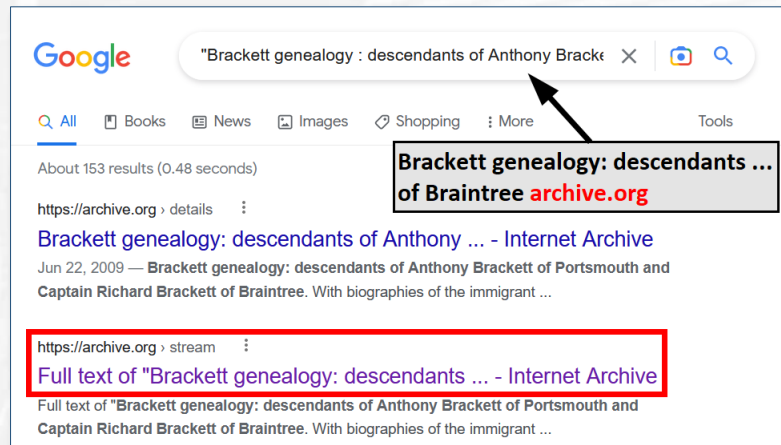
Falmouth Heritage Museum



The Researcher's Friend

Many of those old tomes have been digitized

- Archive.org, Google.com, FamilySearch.org, etc.
- Search for the title and append “archive.org”



- Can be downloaded as PDFs



More Screening

Are we the correct historical society?

- Most activity took place in Portland
- Brackett family arrived by 1662; Cox family in 1729

Falmouth was originally incorporated in 1658

- Eight-mile square encompassing today's Falmouth, Cape Elizabeth, Portland, South Portland, and Westbrook
- Portland peninsula didn't split off until 1786
- The rest of Portland followed in 1814

Answer:

- They came to the correct historical society
(FHS responds to queries for Ancient Falmouth)



*Colonial Massachusetts
(1761)*



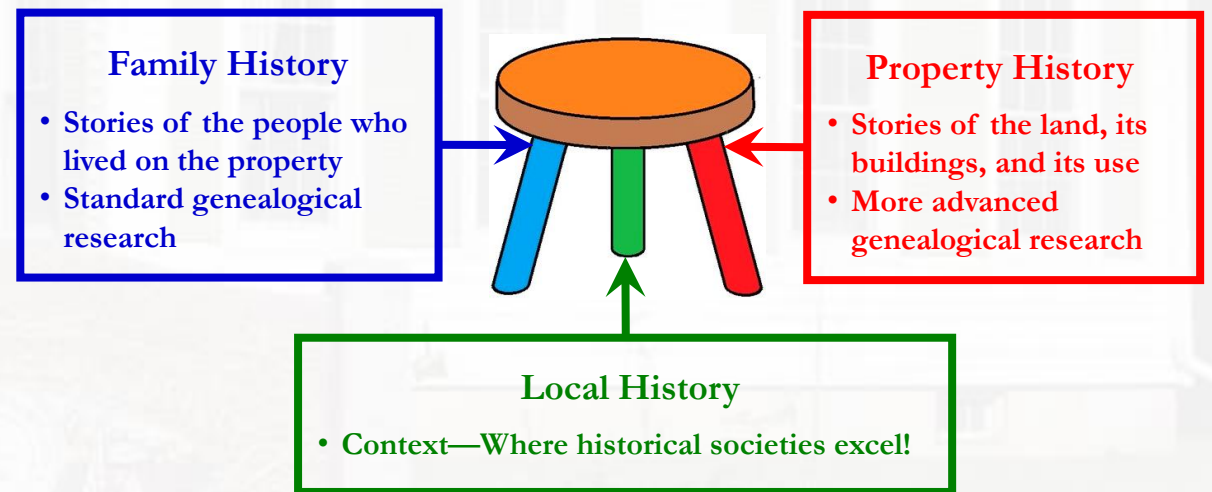
Approach—The Three-legged Stool

Most queries fall into one of three categories:

- Family history, property history, local history
- Responses focus on one area, draw upon all three

This request sought a narrative blending all three

- Assembling a self-guided tour seemed like a good idea
- Lots of material at hand
- Should be easy





Early History of Falmouth

Provides context for family narratives

- Turbulent period
- Events had a profound impact on Brackett and Cox families

1632	English Settlement of Falmouth.
1658	Incorporation of Falmouth. The town was formed from the villages of Casco and Spurwink after Massachusetts Bay Colony annexed the Province of Maine.
1675-1678	King Philip's War. This was an uprising of Native People who had been treated badly by English settlers. Many residents of Falmouth skedaddled south for safety. Quite a few took refuge at Salem.
1688-1697	King William's War. This was the North American theater of the European Nine Years War between France and England (plus others). The French, with their Native allies, attacked and destroyed Falmouth including Fort Loyal where many settlers had sought refuge. Many who hadn't fled were massacred.
1702-1713	Queen Anne's War. This was the North American theater of the European War of Spanish Succession between France and England (plus others). The French, with their Native allies, attacked and destroyed Falmouth. Fort New Casco, where many settlers had sought refuge, barely withstood (barely) the assault. After the settlers were evacuated to safety, only the garrison at the fort remained as an English outpost during the conflict.
1718	Falmouth Reincorporated.

Falmouth Heritage Museum



People

Validated the family trees

- Corrected errors
- Identified ancestors for narrative
- Less precision needed than for a complete family history

1. Anthony BRACKETT (-1691).
 2. Anthony BRACKETT (-1689); m. bef. 1668 (1) Ann MITTON (-1677); m. 1678 (2) Susannah DRAKE (1652-1719).
 3. Zachariah BRACKETT (1682-1751); m. (1) Hannah ROLFE (1682-1736); m. 1741 (2) Mary ROSS.
 4. Joshua BRACKETT (1723-1817); m. Esther COX (1727-1817).
 5. Daniel BRACKETT Sr (1745-); m. Sarah GOULD (1749-1830).
 6. Daniel BRACKETT Jr (1792-1876); m. Mary CONNELL (1807-1809)
-
3. John COX Jr (bef. 1688-1747), m. 1712 Tabitha DAVENPORT (1688-), parents of Esther.



Brackett Family

Anthony Brackett of Portsmouth

- Arrived before 1640
- Killed at Portsmouth in 1691

Capt. Anthony Brackett of Falmouth

- Captured and escaped in 1676
- Killed at Falmouth in 1689
- Farm destroyed 1690
- Brother Thomas killed in 1676
- Son Seth killed while son Anthony captured and escaped in 1690

Zachariah Brackett

- Returned to Falmouth in 1715 and took possession of farm
- Sold farm and moved to Ipswich

Lt. Joshua Brackett

- Served during King George's War, the French and Indian War, and the Revolution

Sources: Willis, "History of Portland"
Brackett, "Bracket Genealogy"

Image: ?

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Cox Family

William Cox of Pemaquid

- Ties to Bristol, England
- Arrived by 1625
- Family fled to Salem and Dorchester in 1677

Capt. John Cox Jr

- Grandson of William
- Mariner
- Arrived at Falmouth in 1729
- Killed at Pemaquid in 1747



Shallop in Casco Bay

Sources: Willis, "History of Portland"
Cox, "Cox Family in America"

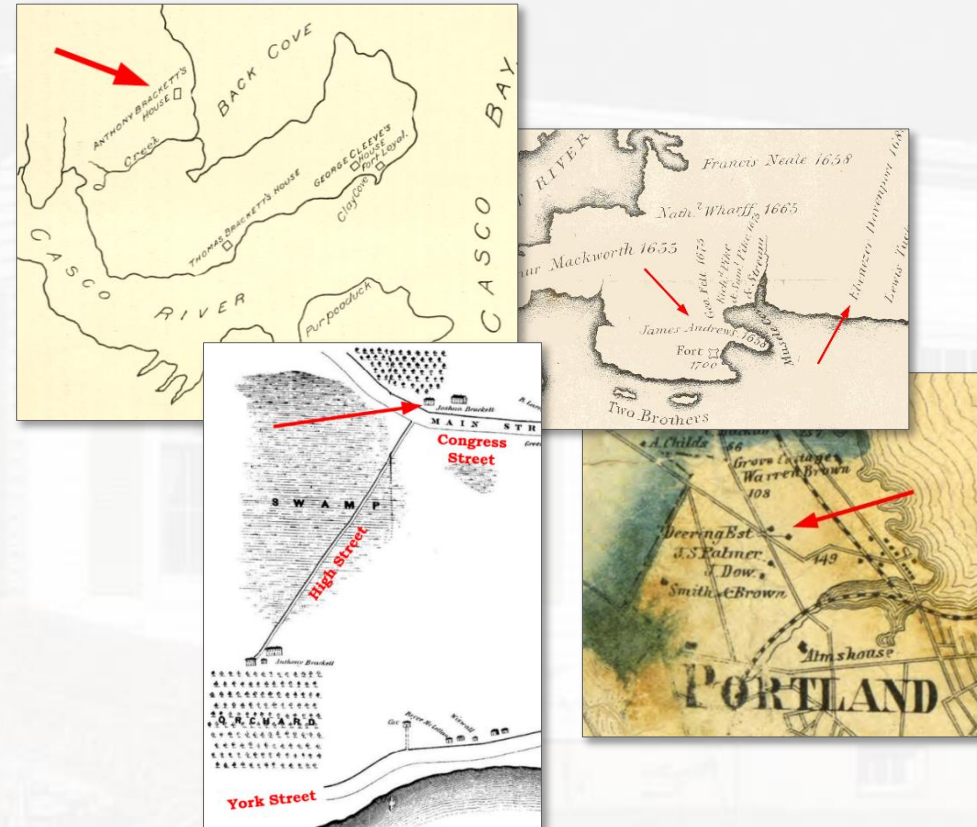
Image: Portland in the Past



Places

Geolocation was a challenge

- Relied on reconstructed maps to identify colonial locations
- Relied on atlases to identify present-day locations
 - Landmarks gone or moved
- Some deed tracing confirmed ownership



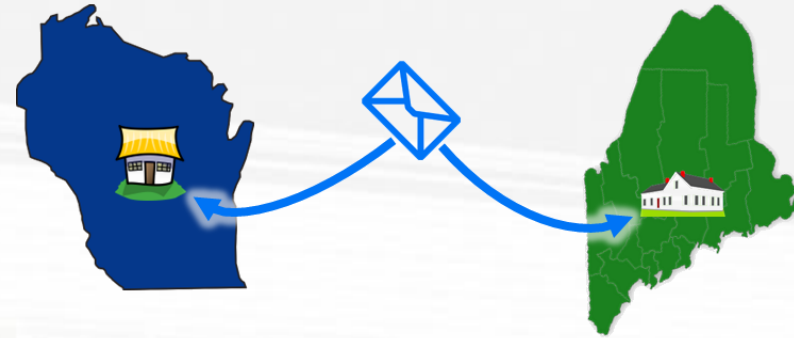
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Information Exchange

This project was more interactive than most

As the planned visit approached, the emails flew

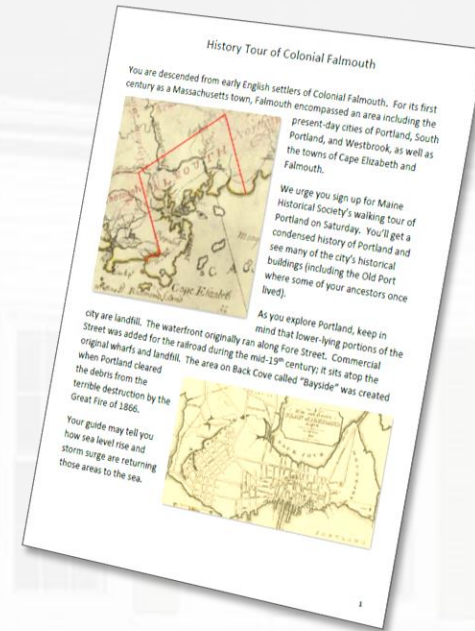


From “The Tourists”	From Falmouth Historical
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Their family tree• Itinerary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information about Colonial Falmouth<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Towns splitting off— Timeline including conflicts• Results of research• Links and references to published genealogies



Deliverables

1. Self-guided tour
2. Scheduled a visit to our Museum
3. Suggestions
 - Sign up in advance with Maine Historical for their guided walking tour
 - Local sightseeing
 - Local dining



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Lessons Learned

We reconstructed a narrative of people, events, and locations for an early Falmouth family

This was a “best case” scenario

- Well-documented genealogies with colorful stories
- Prominent families who figured in historical accounts

Took more work than expected to assemble everything

- Geolocation can be surprisingly difficult

It was fun to do

It brought events long ago back to life



Image: Clipartmax

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