




Annual Meeting

The Falmouth Historical Society

January 19, 2021

A wooden sign for the Falmouth Heritage Museum is visible in the foreground. It features a circular logo with a sailing ship and the text "Falmouth Heritage Museum" at the bottom.

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Agenda

Annual Membership Meeting

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

FHS Presents!

- The Proprietors Map—Preservation of Historic Documents
- Bucknam Tavern—Preservation of Historic Homes

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Secretary's Report

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Records & Membership

Minutes & reports are posted online at the FHS website:
<https://www.thefhs.org/>

Board meetings are held via Zoom and are open to all

Society records are filed online and can be viewed at the Museum

Membership as of January 19, 2021

	Households	Members
Active	31	38
Pending Renewal	36	47
Total	67	85
Plus two corporate members!		
Lapsed	23	28



Treasurer's Report

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Assets

	July 1, 2019	June 30, 2020	January 19, 2021
Cash	\$1,818	\$5,462	\$3,949
Investments	\$25,068	\$13,498	\$15,971
Real Estate	\$265,100	\$265,100	
Other Property	\$35,000	\$35,000	
Total ^a	\$326,986	\$319,060	
Merchandise ^b	\$4,837	\$4,343	
Net Gain (Loss)		(\$8,420)	

a. Assets as reported to IRS on Form 990

b. Merchandise is an estimate (not inventoried) and not included in assets reported on Form 990

1. Does not include furniture, office equipment, books, artifacts or petty cash

2. Audit pending

3. Accounts receivable as of January 19th is \$250
Accounts payable as of January 19th is \$10



Prior Year Operating Income & Expense

	JUL 2019	AUG 2019	SEP 2019	OCT 2019	NOV 2019	DEC 2019	JAN 2020	FEB 2020	MAR 2020	APR 2020	MAY 2020	JUN 2020	TOTAL
Revenue													
Donations	37.00	110.50		25.00	100.00	100.00							\$372.50
Dues	240.00	210.00		370.00	290.00	150.00		265.00	294.35	160.00	189.99	60.00	\$2,229.34
Grant							125.00						\$125.00
Investments	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,000.05	0.11	0.08	0.07	0.06	5,000.06	0.12	\$10,000.66
Sales	523.00			209.00	25.50					66.00			\$823.50
Total Revenue	\$800.03	\$320.52	\$0.02	\$604.02	\$415.52	\$5,250.05	\$125.11	\$265.08	\$294.42	\$226.06	\$5,190.05	\$60.12	\$13,551.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$800.03	\$320.52	\$0.02	\$604.02	\$415.52	\$5,250.05	\$125.11	\$265.08	\$294.42	\$226.06	\$5,190.05	\$60.12	\$13,551.00
Expenditures													
Fees				125.00		50.00		35.00		-55.00			\$155.00
Information Services								163.36	920.00				\$1,083.36
Insurance							225.00			1,400.00			\$1,625.00
Maintenance	210.00		312.00	210.00	30.00	100.00	125.00		54.40	949.41			\$1,990.81
Membership						98.00	35.00		100.00				\$233.00
Merchandise					-50.00								\$ -50.00
Misc	4.73	7.29	1.74		5.88	6.97		5.67	6.06			3.47	\$41.81
Office Expense	340.39	140.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	155.00		40.00			99.99	84.39	\$979.77
Utilities	275.77	252.59	231.42	276.83	626.00	592.22	352.10	286.29	348.08	209.50	199.90	196.25	\$3,846.95
Total Expenditures	\$830.89	\$399.88	\$585.16	\$651.83	\$651.88	\$1,002.19	\$737.10	\$530.32	\$1,428.54	\$2,503.91	\$299.89	\$284.11	\$9,905.70
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -30.86	\$ -79.36	\$ -585.14	\$ -47.81	\$ -236.36	\$4,247.86	\$ -611.99	\$ -265.24	\$ -1,134.12	\$ -2,277.85	\$4,890.16	\$ -223.99	\$3,645.30
NET REVENUE	\$ -30.86	\$ -79.36	\$ -585.14	\$ -47.81	\$ -236.36	\$4,247.86	\$ -611.99	\$ -265.24	\$ -1,134.12	\$ -2,277.85	\$4,890.16	\$ -223.99	\$3,645.30

Net loss in assets in \$8,420. Difference with operating net loss is due to \$10,000 withdrawal from investments (-), a \$493 accrual adjustment (+), and coarse estimate of merchandise inventory.



Prior Year Expense vs. Budget

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Fees	155.00	85.00	70.00
Information Services	1,083.36	992.00	91.36
Insurance	1,625.00	1,725.00	100.00
Maintenance	1,990.81	1,952.00	38.81
Membership	233.00	233.00	0.00
Merchandise	-50.00	500.00	550.00
Misc	41.81	100.00	58.19
Office Expense	979.77	821.00	158.77
Utilities	3,846.95	3,152.00	694.95
Total Expenditures	\$9,905.70	\$9,560.00	\$345.70

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Committee Reports

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Programs

Seminar on “Architecture of Old Houses” on hold due to Covid

“Rural Life in Maine” for school-age children being developed

- Experiences taken from diary of Betsy Whitcomb’s grandmother describing life in rural Maine during 19th century
- To help students visualize rural life, the Merrill homestead (built 1809 by Nathan Merrill) is used as a local reference



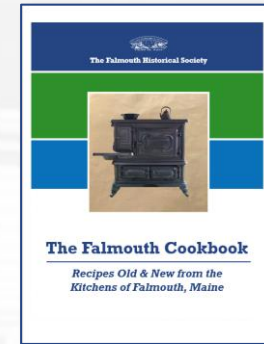
Falmouth Heritage Museum



Merchandise

The Falmouth Cookbook

- New look with broader appeal
 - Include traditional as well as modern locavore cuisine
 - Highlight ties to Falmouth, Casco Bay, & Maine
- First pass is done—time to winnow the list



Falmouth-themed tote bag

- Next step is to visit our local dealer



Falmouth Heritage Museum



Museum Operations

Museum was closed last winter

- Due to high cost & safety concerns for operating a 19th century house during a Maine winter
- Planned to reopen in May 2020

Then Covid struck

- Museum closed through 2020
- Won't re-open until it is safe for volunteers & visitors
 - After vaccinations reach Phase 2
 - Sometime after the Fourth of July
- Falmouth Heritage Museum must comply with state guidelines for museums and libraries



Falmouth Heritage Museum



Buildings & Grounds

The Museum is closed to the public but still requires upkeep

- Kitchen was painted
 - Eagle Scout project by a member of Falmouth Troop 93
- Improvements made to sump drainage
- Groundskeeping



Boy Scouts at the Museum

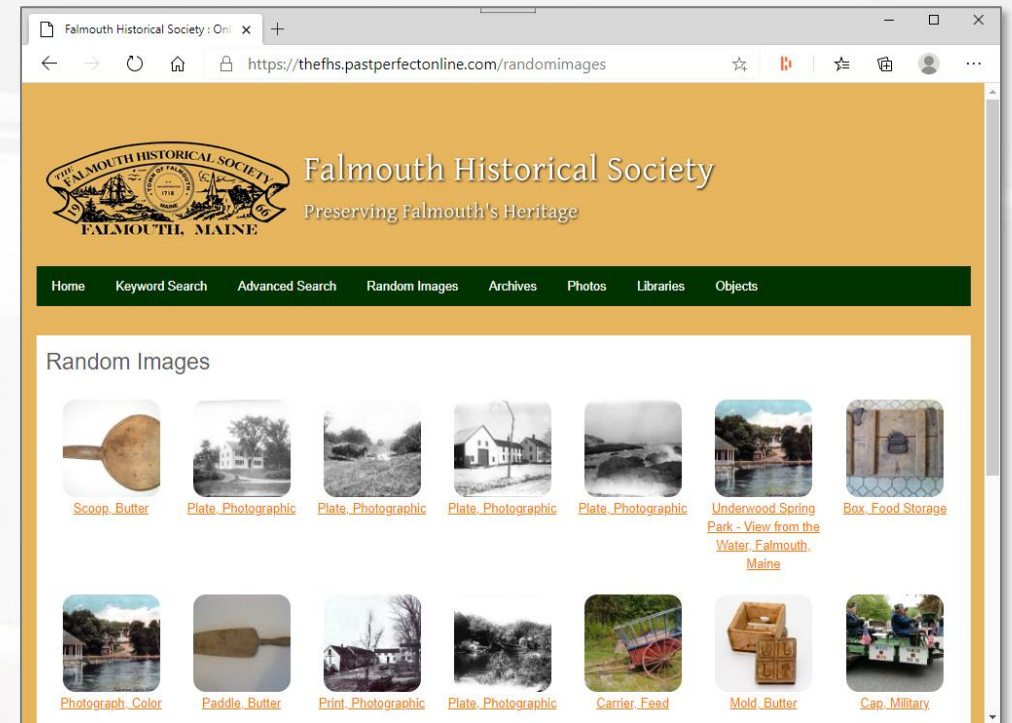
Falmouth Heritage Museum



Collections

Moving our catalogs online

- Using PastPerfect
- Catalog entries for artifacts acquired during **2009-2019** have been loaded
- Catalog will eventually include books and document collections
- Lots to do before we add a link on our website
 - Complete the artifact catalog
 - Photograph artifacts without pictures
 - Record artifact locations in the database



Catalog accessible from the Internet

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Collections

Tidewater Farm

- Nobody stepped forward to underwrite preservation of the farmhouse and barn
- The buildings were razed in December
- FHS volunteers salvaged artifacts for future re-use prior to demolition
 - Eight period doors with hardware
 - Two smaller doors
 - Fireplace mantle from the kitchen
 - Late 19th century cast iron sink from the barn
 - Prob. late 19th century yoke
 - Assorted bits of trim



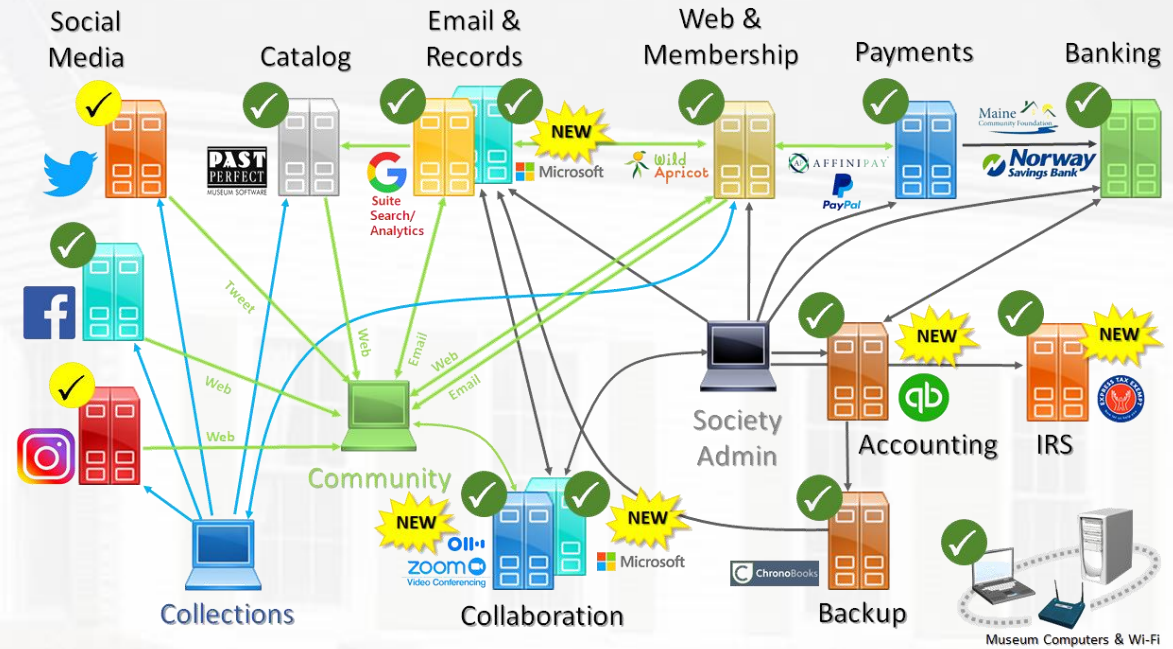
The living room fireplace midway through demolition



Technology

Technology made it possible for the Society to continue working while the Museum was closed

- Zoom Meetings
- Improved financial applications
- Additional workgroup applications



Technology allows us to work and collaborate from home



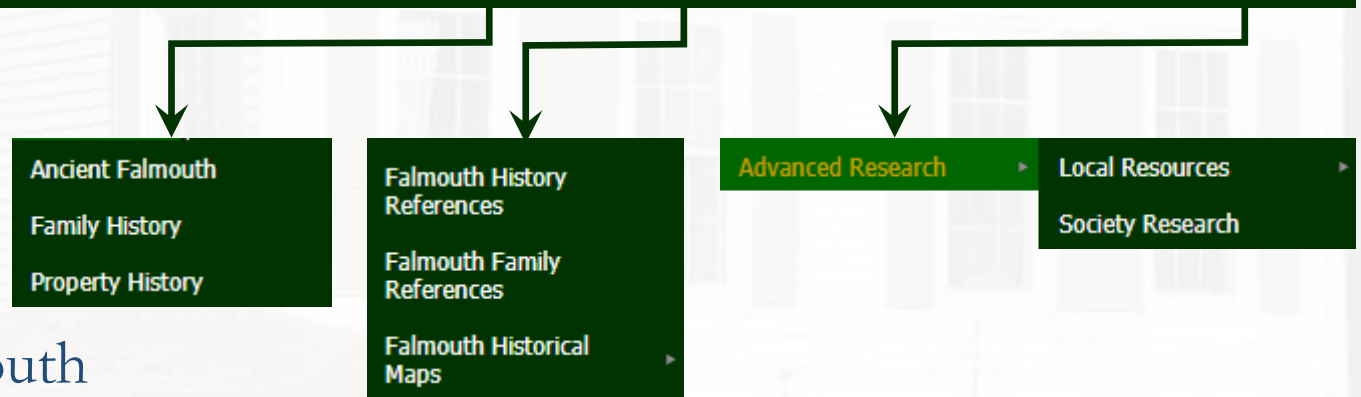
Local History

Volunteers respond to an average of three queries from the community every month

Welcome About FHS ▸ About Falmouth ▸ Heritage Museum ▸ Events Get Involved ▸ Research ▸ Documents ▸ Corporate Sponsorship Members Only

Enhancements to the FHS website are coming

- Guides to local research
- Books and maps about Falmouth history and families
- Advanced research resources (members only)



Falmouth Heritage Museum



President's Report

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Challenges

Our volunteers are doing great work!

- Preserving the heritage of our town
- Sharing the story of our town and its people

Still face the same challenge we had last year:

- All-volunteer society doing more without growth in membership or income

Now we face a new and unexpected challenge:

- Covid



H1N1 Pandemic of 2018



Accomplishments

Business “almost as usual” with the Museum closed

- Doing more online

Making progress on our goals

- Board updated goals and objectives last January

Regulatory drama is behind us

- Back in good graces with the IRS and State
- Charter is compliant with the federal tax code
- Financial records are clean and consistent
- Required submissions are up to date



Falmouth Heritage Museum



New Business

Falmouth Heritage Museum



FHS Presents!

Falmouth Heritage Museum



The Proprietors Map

David Farnham

Digital Preservation of Historic Documents

The Falmouth Historical Society

January 19, 2021

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Falmouth's Violent Past

Ancient Falmouth abandoned, repeatedly

Suffers terribly over four decades

1675-1678 King Philips War

1688-1697 King William's War

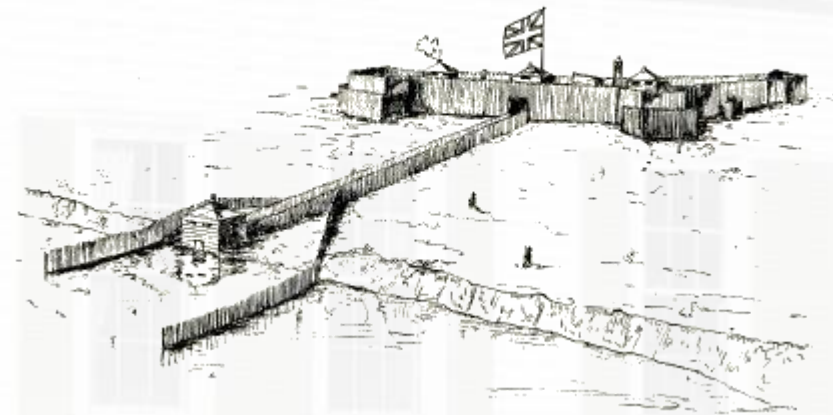
1702-1713 Queen Anne's War

Settlers flee south for safety

Buildings destroyed

Settlers begin returning in 1715

Town reestablished in 1718



*Fort New Casco on Falmouth Foreside
(1700-1716)*

Image: Mainmemory.net

Historical photographs, unless otherwise attributed
were obtained through the Wikimedia Commons

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Resettlement of Falmouth

Old Proprietors

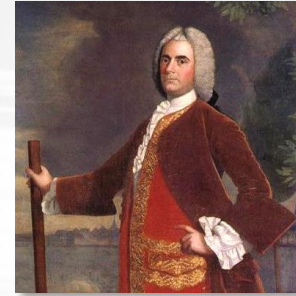
- Holders of previous grants or conveyances
- Those who purchased title to land
- Old proprietors share ownership of common land

New Proprietors

- Holders of new grants from common land

Squatters

- New Proprietor wannabes “flocking to petition for lots”



*Gen. Samuel Waldo
Old Proprietor*

The persons who revived the settlement of Falmouth, came from different parts of the country ; they were actuated by no common principle, and held together by no common bond, except that of self-preservation. It was a frontier post and a few persons who were able to live in more secure places, or unless moved by an uncommon spirit of enterprise, would venture their persons and property in so exposed a situation. The first settlers were consequently poor ; many of them were soldiers, “the cankers of a calm world,” whom the peace of 1713, had thrown upon society, and who found a resting-place here.

William Willis, History of Portland



Legal Confusion & Chaos

Conflicting patents, grants & conveyances issued

- Council of Plymouth
- Plymouth agents in New England
- Province of Massachusetts Bay
 - Annexed Maine in the 1650s
 - Purchased patent from Gorges heirs



Ferdinando Gorges

Seal & Signature of Sir Ferdinando Gorges

Records of Ancient Falmouth burned in 1690

Surveys lacked precision

Massachusetts wanted to hasten economic recovery

Who owns which land?

Image: Willis, History of Portland

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Enter the Lawyers

Dispute became heated in 1728

Old Proprietors pressed their claims in Boston

- Told to “sort it out amongst yourselves”

Old Proprietors formed a Propriety

New Proprietors (of the town) responded in kind by establishing their own Propriety

Compromise reached in 1732

1728

May 25. Town meeting chiefly to consider the Selectmen's accounts, and after having wrangled all day broke up in a flame ; as near fighting as possible.

Rev. Smith's Journal

1732

September 22. They finished the meeting to-day, entirely to the satisfaction of every body. The New Proprietors took in the Old ones by vote, (and others,) all signed Articles of Agreement. This was the happiest meeting Falmouth ever had. Thanks to God.

Rev. Smith's Journal



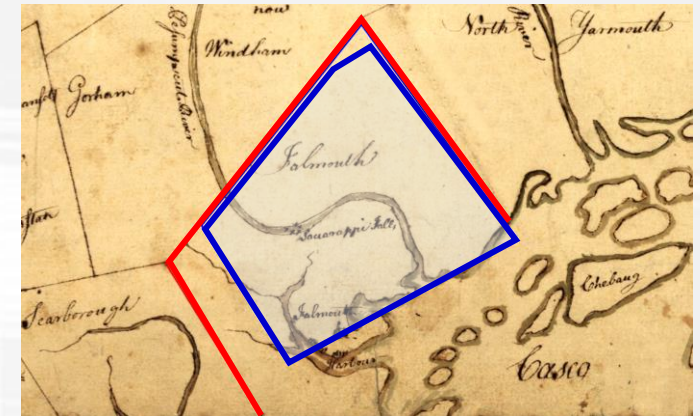
The Proprietors

An extra-governmental corporation responsible for admission of proprietors along with grants and sales of land in Ancient Falmouth

By 1773, the Proprietors had laid out 34,493 acres

Records of the Proprietors

- Three bound volumes & three small paper books at the Cumberland County Registry of Deeds
 - Deeds recorded in York and Cumberland Registries
- Map of Falmouth Neck at Portland City Hall
- Map of northern Falmouth at Falmouth Memorial Library—the “Rosetta Stone” for interpreting early deeds



Part of Oxford & Cumberland Counties - 1771

-  *Boundary of Ancient Falmouth*
-  *Proprietors Map at FML*

Image: LOC.gov



The Proprietors Map

Original in poor shape

- Many areas are barely legible
- Professionally conserved

Digitally imaged by Osher
Map Library in 2019

- Imaging pulled out details not visible to naked eye
- Accessible online:

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=93179>



Falmouth Memorial Library

Graphic: Falmouthmemoriallibrary.org

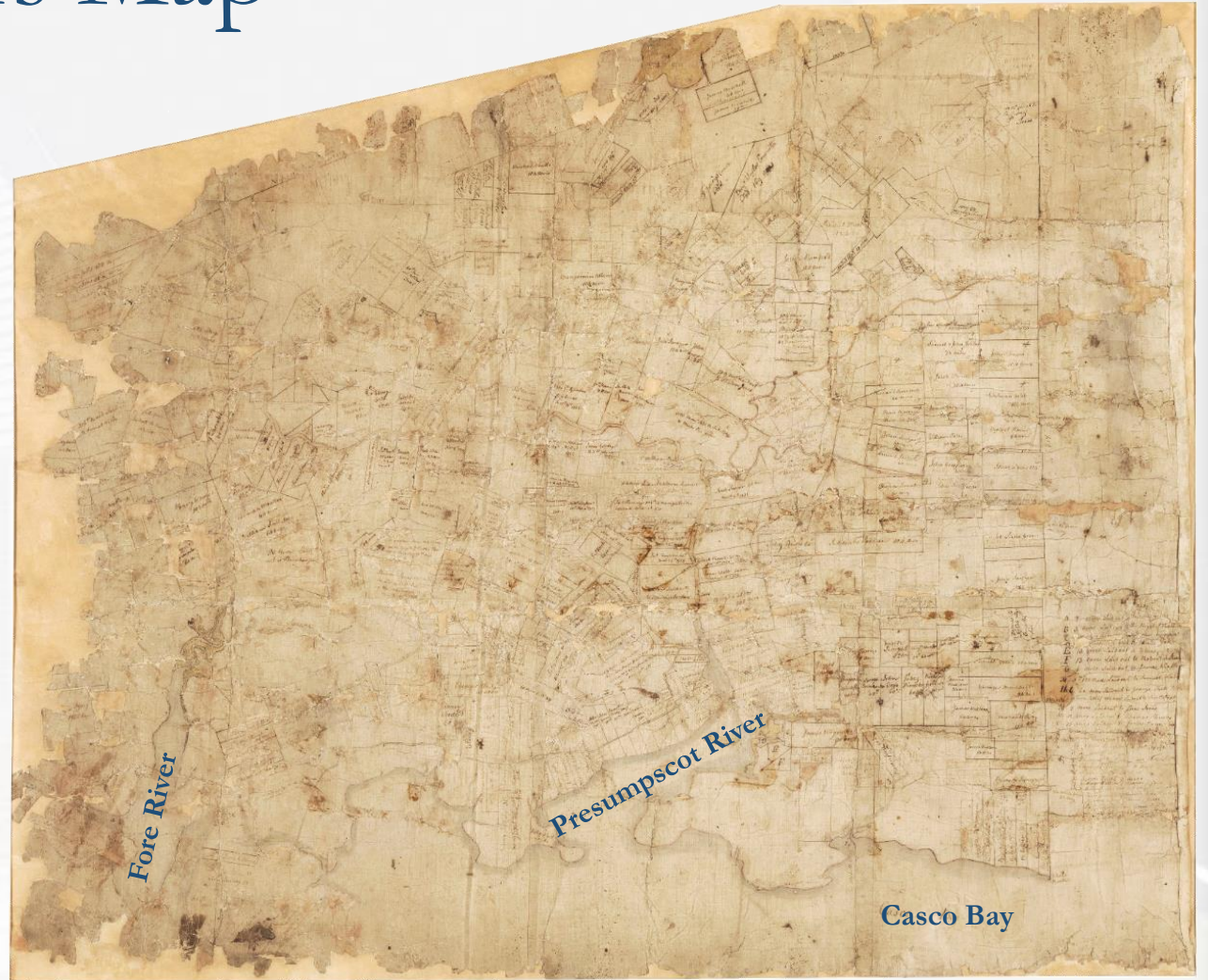


Image: Oshermaps.org

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Osher Map Library

The Osher Map Library and Smith Center For Cartographic Education

- Houses tens of thousands of rare and historical maps
- Second largest collection of publicly available maps in the country
- 19,000 sq ft facility on the USM campus
 - 7,500 sq ft, two-story vault
 - Gallery
 - Reference Room
 - Education Center
 - **Digital Imaging Center**



Osher Map Library
Smith Center for Cartographic Education



**UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE**

Graphics: Oshermaps.org

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Digital Imaging Center

State-of-the-art imaging equipment

- **Two Phase One Camera stations**
 - 60 mega-pixel camera
 - 120mm Schneider-Kreuznach lens
 - Used to capture large and oversized maps & atlases
- **Nikon D850 stations**
 - 36-megapixel camera
 - Used to capture smaller to medium-sized maps & atlases

Follows federal and international guidelines

- Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative (FADGI)
- European Metamorfoze Standards



Phase One Camera Station

Image: Osbermaps.org

Falmouth Heritage Museum



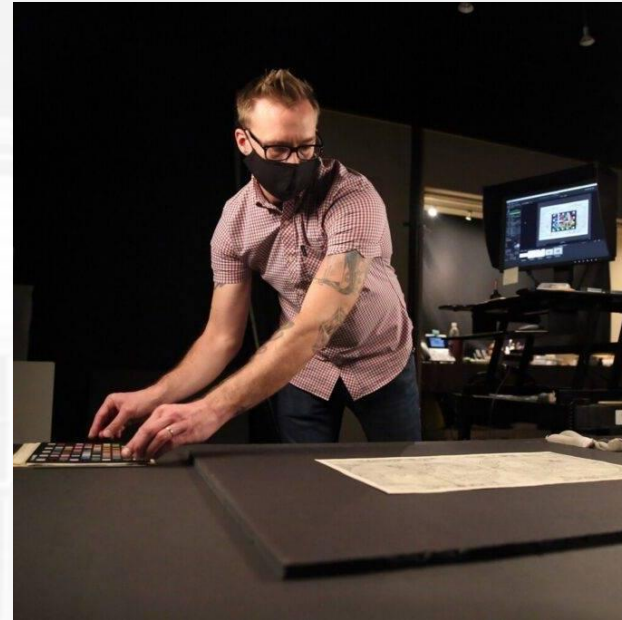
Digital Imaging Staff

Mr. David R. Neikirk
Digital Imaging Coordinator

B.A. History, USM 2010

Grad Cert in Digital Curation,
UMaine 2016

*Exquisite skill and experience with
highly sophisticated imaging systems*



Mr. Neikirk

Image: Facebook.com

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Digital Imaging Process

Imaging and post-production of the Proprietors Map took two days

Goal is a true image of the original map

- Fine color and spatial calibration ensured focus and color accuracy
- Visible light imaging
- Images are not altered to enhance features or details
- Image was collected in tiles and then stitched together



Image: Osbermaps.org

Falmouth Heritage Museum



So What?

Maps are crucial to property history research

- Locating property from a deed with references to long-forgotten neighbors or landmarks
- Providing those details to find the right deed

The Proprietors “re-baselined” property ownership in Ancient Falmouth

- Map is the “Rosetta Stone” to interpreting deeds
- Map can provide guideposts for unpublished York deeds (recorded 1738-1760)
- Only detailed, contemporary map for the period



Image: USGS.gov

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Finding Your Property in 1732

Tools

Proprietors Map at oshermaps.org

Town Plat at falmouthme.org

Computer

- Bigger screen is better
- Photo-editing software

Ruler with centimeter scale

Calculator

If using a deed for reference:

- Meets & bounds software

Process

Access the Town Plat

- Determine distance to known landmarks

Access the Proprietors Map

- Enter full page mode and zoom in
- Use centimeter ruler to determine scale
- Convert distances from plat to centimeters
- Use distances to landmarks to find location
- Take and save a screen shot of the map

Crop and enhance the shot to make it legible

Go back to Town Plat

- Use area tool to overlay the 1732 lot on the Town Plat



*It's not that awful—
Your town historical
society can help!*

Image: Clipartbest.com



A Big Deal for Falmouth History

If you are researching...

- Property in Falmouth
- Great Migration families in Falmouth

You are likely to hit an 18th century brick wall

The Proprietors Map may be your door to the past

- Depending upon legibility of your spot on the map and accessibility of deeds

The next presentation shows how

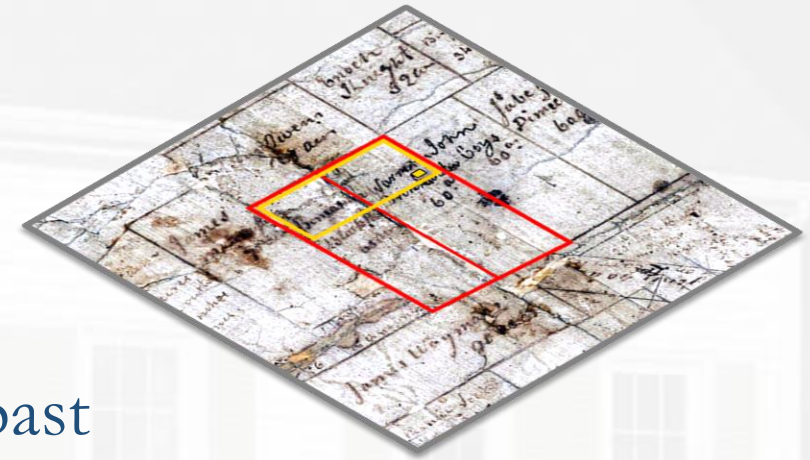


Image: FHS with excerpt from Osbermaps.org

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Bucknam Tavern

Betsy Jo Whitcomb & Sue Farnham
Case Study in Researching Old Homes
Supporting Historic Preservation in Falmouth

The Falmouth Historical Society

January 19, 2021

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Bucknam Tavern

Among the older buildings in Falmouth
Tavern built and operated by one of our
town's more prominent and affluent families
Had fallen into disrepair
Now undergoing renovation

What is the story of the tavern?



Image: FHS

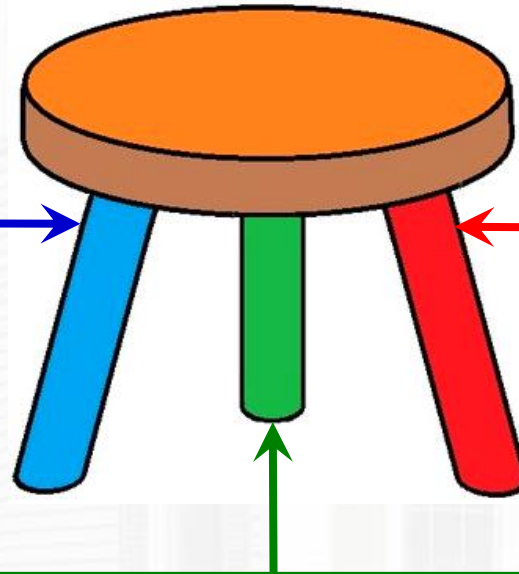
*Historical photographs, unless otherwise attributed
were obtained through the Wikimedia Commons*



Approach—The Three-legged Stool

Family History

- Stories of the people who lived on the property
- Standard genealogical research



Land History

- Stories of the land, its buildings, and its use
- More advanced genealogical research

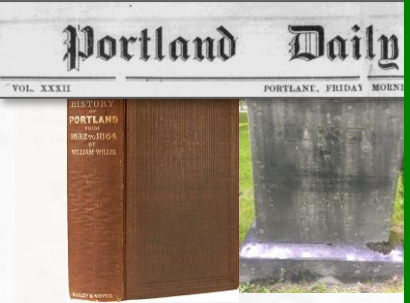
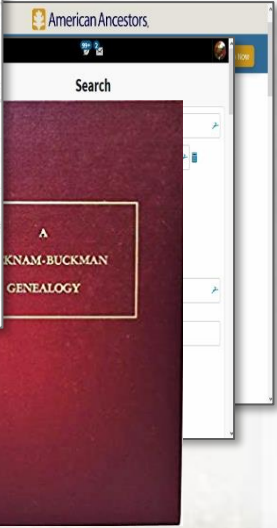
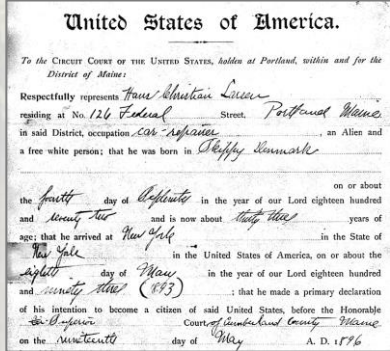
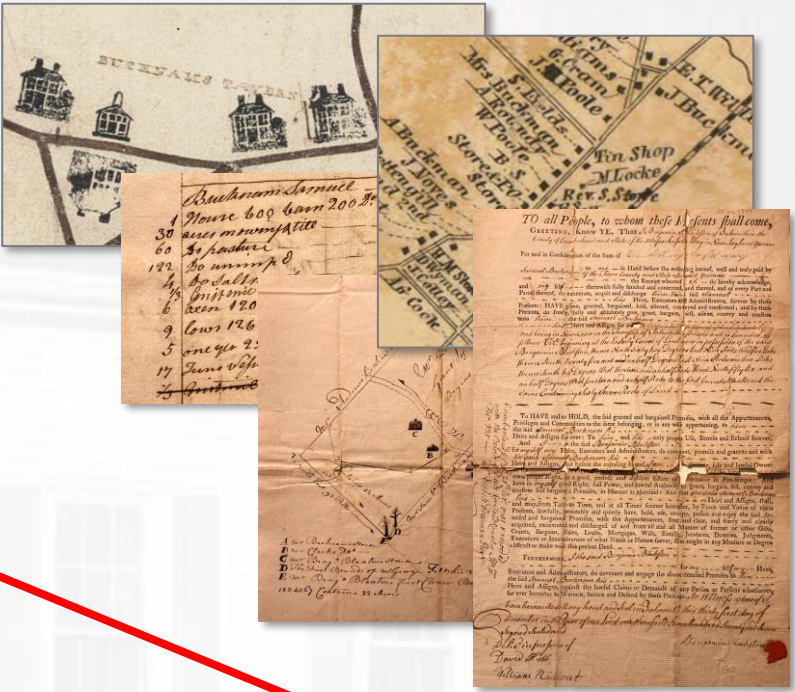
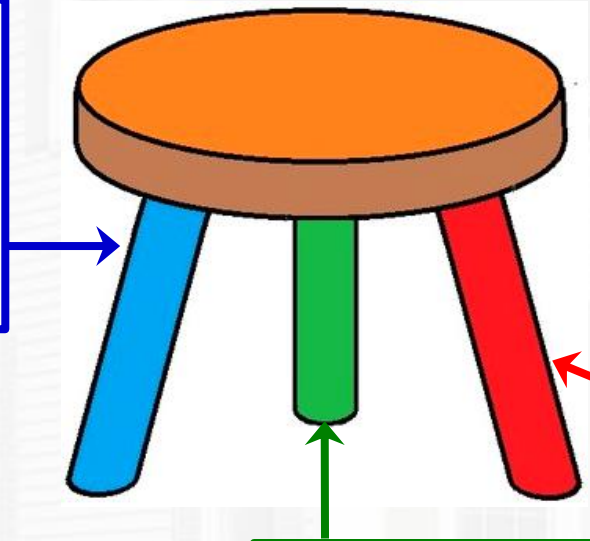
Local History

- Context—Where historical societies excel!



Resources

Vital records
 Census Records
 Immigration Records
 Genealogies



Local Histories
 Local Directories
 Local Cemeteries
 Local Newspapers

Maps
 Deeds
 Tax Records

Image: Ancestry.com, Genbank.com, Findagrave.com, Osbermaps.org, LOC.gov, Maine Historical Society



Result

Reconstructed Narrative

- Story of the land, buildings & people who lived there over 288 years
- Two families (Bucknam & Larsen) have owned the tavern for 175 years
- Chronicle of immigrants
 - English settlers of Ancient Falmouth in the early 18th century
 - Danish émigrés to modern Falmouth in the late 19th/early 20th century

Period	Owners	Period	Owners
ca. 1741-1858	Bucknam	1905-1912	Iversen
1858-1891	Williams	1912-1919	Carlisle
1891-1893	Iversen	1919-1927	Lund
1893-1905	Nielsen	1927-present	Larsen

Does not include Warren Drinkwater and any intermediate conveyances (ca. 1732-ca. 1741) before William Bucknam



The Story Begins...

...With grants by the Proprietors ca. 1732

- Landholders were inveterate wheelers and dealers
- Grants of 104 acres often included 60 acre lots in the hinterlands
- Two 60 acre lots were sold, carved up, recombined, and sold again
- Bucknam family ended up with more than 80 acres from the two lots
- Tavern was located in the upper half (above Falmouth/Middle Roads)

Bucknam Tavern



1732 Proprietors Map

- 60 acres (Blackstone)
- 60 acres (Drinkwater)



Overlaid on Town Plat

- Original grants
- 1788 deed



Bucknams at Falmouth Corners

William Bucknam

(1709-1776)

Prominent landowner in New Casco

- Acquired land at Falmouth Corners by 1741

Active in Falmouth town government

- Selectman, assessor, moderator, surveyor of highways, fence viewer, pound keeper, jury of trials from 1737-1768

Samuel Bucknam

(1752-1814)

Prominent landowner in New Casco

- 1776 Purchases 2 acres with house & barn (110 Bucknam Road, built about 1750)
- 1778 Expands land adjacent to house to 39½ acres
- 1788 Acquires 47 acres across the "County Road" (Middle Rd.) that was part of father's homestead

Among wealthiest in New Casco by 1798



Bucknam Tavern

How old is the Tavern?

Tavern was licensed by 1786

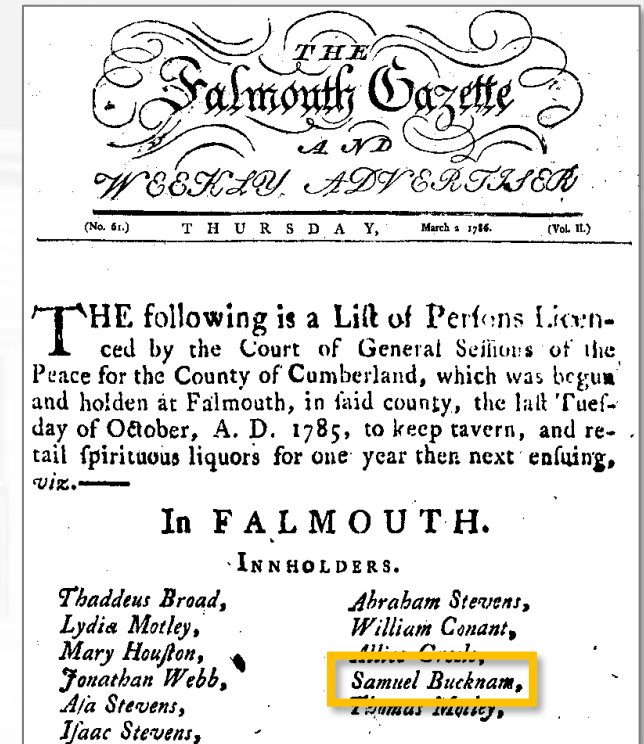
Tavern was built on land belonging to William

- Settled New Casco by 1737
- Landowner at Falmouth Corners by 1741 (lot described as “part of his homestead”)

Architectural details provide clues

- Probably built after 1770 but before 1790
- Major renovation ca. 1850

Best estimate is ca. 1780 (± 5 years)



March 2, 1786

Image: Genbank.com



Heyday of the Stagecoach

The County Road

- Today's Falmouth & Middle Roads
- Main artery from Portland to Brunswick
- Stagecoaches were safer than travel by sea
- Bucknam Tavern was a convenient stop

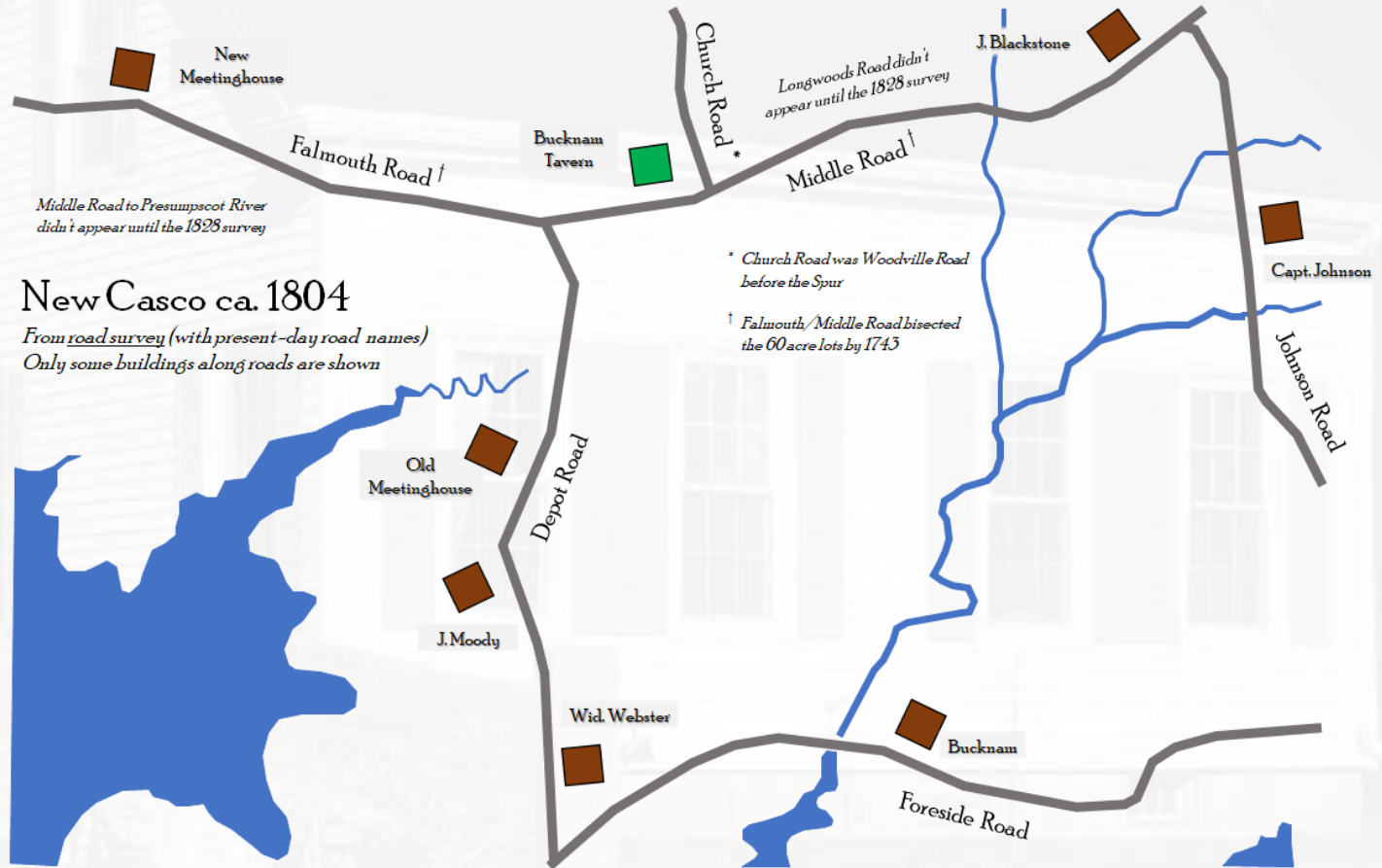


Image: FHS based on map at Osbermaps.org



New Owners

Decline of Bucknam Tavern

- Samuel Bucknam died in 1814
- Hulda, his widow, continued to run the tavern as demand declined until the 1830s
- Hulda died in 1856
- Family sold the tavern in 1858

Tavern underwent a major renovation

- Original features removed



*Samuel's headstone
at Pine Grove Cem.*

Image: Findagrave.com

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Tragedy at the Tavern

Life of the next family was anything but peaceful

- Gruesome suicide with a sword-cane!
- Gruesome murder with beheading!
- Members of family declared insane!
- Stories about the supernatural!
- Exorcism!

Be prepared for surprises when delving into the past!





Arrival of the Danes

Five of the next six families to purchase Bucknam Tavern were immigrants from Denmark

- Owners 1891-present
- Exception was Walter Carlisle (1912-1919), a grocer from Boothbay
- Danes arrived in U.S. 1872-1911
- Maren Forsyth, the current owner, is the great granddaughter of Hans & Maren Larsen (1927-1945)



Falmouth Heritage Museum



The Future of the Tavern

“Full gut” renovation underway

- Partial restoration by stripping away “improvements” made over the years
- Appearance from road will be closer to original (minus the central chimney)

Focus now is on the exterior



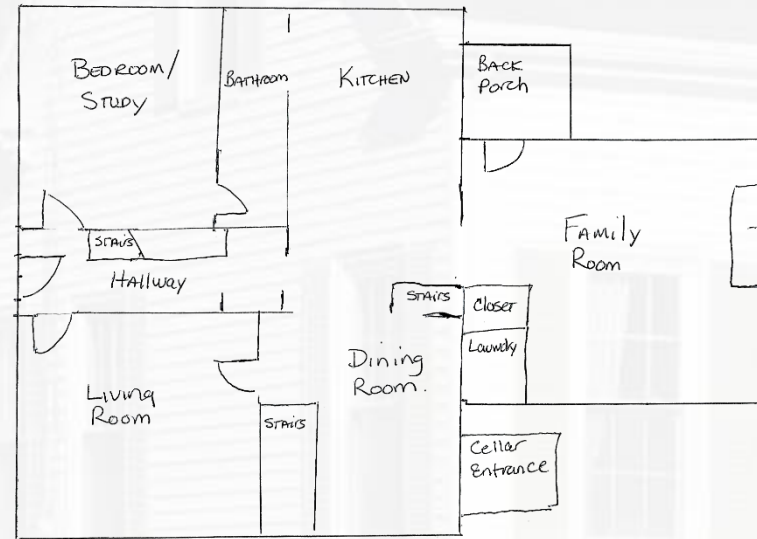
Image: FHS



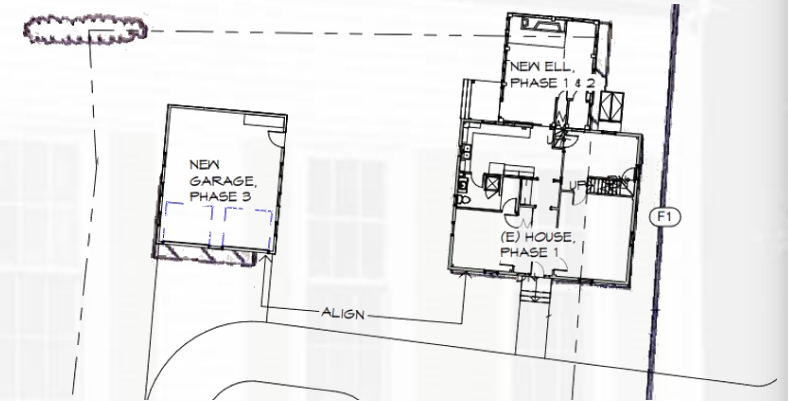
Plans for the Tavern



Before Renovation



Early Ideas



Site Plan

Image: FHS, M. Forsyth



Summary

Bucknam Tavern exemplifies preservation in Falmouth

- Historic home had become a “fixer-upper”
- Major renovation is making it livable again
 - Preserving part of our town’s history for years to come
 - Partial restoration hearkens back to its origins

Possible to discover the story of old homes

- Takes some work but the information is there
- Your historical society can help



Image: FHS

Falmouth Heritage Museum