

The Newsletter of The  
Falmouth Historical Society

Volume 1 Number 2  
June 2012



Falmouth Heritage Museum

## GRAND OPENING AND BARN DEDICATION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 23, 2012

The Board of Directors cordially invites members and friends of The Falmouth Historical Society to attend the Grand Opening and Barn Dedication Ceremonies at the museum on Saturday, June 23, 2012.

If you passed by 60 Woods Road on May 19<sup>th</sup> you probably saw a busy group of people working hard to make *Clean up Day 2012* a success. Winter weather conditions and general wear and tear from building the new display barn took a toll in addition to putting a new roof on The Museum building. Alas! The journey has been a long one since June, 2008 when The Society first opened for the museum. Do make your plans now to come out and join us from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for all the fun and food!

### Opening Day Schedule

- 9 – 10 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 9:30 a.m. Flag Raising Ceremony by  
Falmouth Legion Post #164
- 10 a.m. Opening Ceremony and  
Barn Dedication
- 11 a.m. Historical Presentations

1925 Reo Fire Engine, Smokey Bear  
Sign and History of Leighton Farm  
House.

Around Noon: Hot Dogs, Chips & Soda

*For Reservations/Information Call  
781-4727 or Email  
falmouthhistorical@myfairpoint*



**Officers and Directors**

President.....Carol I. Kauffman  
Vice President...Scott McLeod  
Secretary.....Maytha Southard  
Treasurer.....Fred Howe

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Janice Delima  
Mayer Fistal  
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Mary Honan  
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**Immediate Past President**

Rod Duckworth

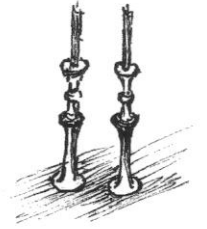
**Newsletter Committee**

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Betsy Jo Whitcomb

**Dues Collection Time**

Fred Howe, our treasurer will soon be mailing out the forms for dues payments. All members will be receiving a packet about the middle of June. *Dues for the 2012-13 are due and payable on July 1, 2012. Members have until October 1, 2012 to renew. If your dues are not paid by October 1st non-payment will constitute resignation.* Your membership is important to The Society. Membership entitles you to attendance at all of our programs, subscription to the newsletter and a 10% discount on all Society sales items. All members

Joining after April 1, 2012 shall be considered paid members for the coming year. Additional contributions are always welcome! Checks should be made payable to The Falmouth Historical Society and mailed to PMB 367, 190 US Route 1, and Falmouth, ME 04015.



**Wanted: Your Treasures!**

The Society needs some items which you and your family are willing to loan to us to display at The Falmouth Heritage Museum this season! The Display Committee is asking you to lend us one or more items similar to what might have been used in the early days of Falmouth. You may also have a special collection like that of cut glass or commemorative plates which you would be willing to lend.

Please be assured anything that you wish to loan us will be properly documented and secured. Kindly call 781-3626 or 781-4727 to arrange for pick up. Items are welcome not only for opening day but at anytime during the season. Of course if we could receive your treasure before **June 19<sup>th</sup>** it would be appreciated. Loaned items for display will be returned to you after September 15<sup>th</sup> when the Museum closes.

**SEE YOU AT THE POLLS!**

AGAIN THIS YEAR YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE AT THE POLLS FROM 7 A.M. UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WE WILL HAVE OUR SALES TABLE AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU. STOP BUY AND LOOK AT OUR ITEMS WHOSE GENERATED PROFITS HELP TO MAINTAIN OUR PROGRAMS AND THE MUSEUM.

STOP AND CHAT AWHILE ABOUT FALMOUTH HISTORY!

## More about the 1925 Reo Fire Truck

In 1925 the Town of Falmouth purchased a state-of-the-art Reo Fire Truck. "It was an excellent truck; well advanced in 1925." according to Ted Vail who generously spent time with me at Whipple Farm House to talk about one of The Society's most recent acquisitions.

I was curious to know when Ted first rode in the Reo. He shared that in 1929 the Vail family moved to Falmouth from Vermont. At the age of 16 he joined the West Falmouth Fire Company. "The first time I ever rode in this truck I was 16 years old. We were going to a grass fire up on the Gray Road. The fire was at a place called Portland Spring Company. The first time I ever drove the truck was in 1943. The fire was up on the Winn Road at a place called Prescott-Dunsmore Garage."

Ted Vail's work as a fireman is only one part of the picture. Ted is part of a team of men in Falmouth who have given of their time and talents to maintain the fine condition that the Reo Fire Truck enjoys today. The other team members include: Roger Hanson, Charles Whitcomb, Eric Anderson and Norman O'Brien. We owe a debt of gratitude to these men.

We also appreciate the accounting of the documented history of the Falmouth Fire Department which Vail wrote on the years 1912 to 2000. Copies of this work will be reprinted with addenda and sold on Opening Day at The Falmouth Heritage Museum.

### *Falmouth Heritage Museum "Spruce-Up"*

Hat's off to the volunteers who helped in our Spring Spruce-Up on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>. Indoor clean-up chores like window-washing, dusting, sweeping, curtain hanging were attacked with vigor and thoroughness that would make the early Pioneers proud! And outside, dandelion and other intrepid weeds were summarily up-rooted and bagged for disposal. New flowering shrubs were carefully planted in their pre-appointed spots by the entrance. And the crowning achievement of the day was the laying of electrical wire for the spotlight to illuminate Old Glory as she waves aloft the Flag-pole! Thank you volunteers for your outstanding work!

Heritage Museum is now almost ready for the 2012 season. Sue Geyer will be coordinating our student volunteers from Falmouth High School for some final clean up chores on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Opening day is June 23<sup>rd</sup>. So mark your calendars and come join us with your friends and family for our opening celebrations!



(photo by Delima)



(photo by Kauffman)

By Janice Delima  
Director



### **Kudos to the Card Party Committee!**

March 30<sup>th</sup> was the day of another successful card party produced by our faithful committee headed by Mary Honan, Sheri Fistal and Carol

Kauffman. Mary and Carol took reservations for 16 tables after Carol designed flyers and mailed or handed out post cards describing the event. Hannah Russell did the centerpiece and table decorations. Mary made all the sweet breads for the card tables. Meanwhile Sheri planned the delicious lunch in early March. On the day of the card party Sheri was joined by Judy Currier, Maytha Southard, Bea O'Brien, Nancy Walkenford, Pat Halpin, Betsy Jo Whitcomb and Louise Theodoras. Our loyal bakes included Nancy Merrill and Helga Ryder who were joined by other volunteer bakers. Beverley Knudsen and Sue Geyer collected ticket money at the door. The delicious fillings for the stuffed rolls were made by Elizabeth Duckworth, Pat Halpin and Sheri Fistal. Falmouth merchants donated items which were sold as opportunities. Mayer Fistal submitted copy to the local media.

Mark Stevanovic and Jack Zinn took down the tables which had been set up Mary Honan and friends. Fred Howe, treasurer, reports a profit of nine hundred dollars! This is the best ever! Thank you everyone who worked or came to play cards. The Society has held card parties since fall 2007. We need a chairman or co-chairman for the fall 2012. **Please consider volunteering for this important committee work. You would have an experienced team to help you.**

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### **Society Members Attend Spring SOLVE Meeting**

Members of several area historical societies met April 9, 2012 at the Windham Historical Society museum for a dowsing program and meeting. Carol Kauffman, Ann Morton, Betty Winslow, Mayer and Sherri Fistal, and Betsy Jo Whitcomb represented Falmouth.

Mr. Wayne Wholmquist, of the Raymond/Casco Society, talked about dowsing in general and then specifically in finding graves/and or cemeteries.

After he finished, Linda Griffin, Windham Historical Society President, went around the table and each society represented told what their group had this year for programs and projects; what their problem areas are; and how they work to solve those problems. After each presentation the other societies represented had a chance to make suggestions as to how to solve each situation. Some of the problems discussed were: membership, getting people to volunteer for things that need to be done, and raising money for projects that the societies need and/or want to accomplish. It was a very interesting meeting. After the meeting, Caroline Small, President of Cumberland Historical Society, gave Falmouth six bottles that she had that once held drinks from Underwood Springs. The Fistals will see that these get to Whipple Farm for accessioning and then to the museum for display.

**The next meeting will be hosted on Saturday, October 20th at 9:30 at the new location of the Westbrook Historical Society on Bridge Street.**

Betsy Jo Whitcomb, Volunteer Genealogist

### ***THANK YOU VOLUNTEER GENEALOGISTS!***

*During most of April Ann Morton and Betsy Jo Whitcomb worked diligently to ready The Society's valuable Genealogy Collection for the move to the Sun Porch at The Whipple Farm House.*

*The move took planning, organization and physical labor to meet the end objectives. This "LABOR OR LOVE" did not go unnoticed! Thank you Ann and Betsy.*

## FHS ACTIVITY-A THONS

### FHS Program Committee Plans New Summer Project with The Falmouth Memorial Library.

Janice Delima has planned an exciting *Summer Treasure Hunt* for all families in Falmouth with young children. The purpose of the program is to share the history of Falmouth with a broader audience. The program piggy-backs on the Falmouth Library's Summer Reading program. The library will disburse the entry forms and provide information to interested participants. Participants will be asked to visit 5 historic locations in the town. They will photograph, draw or describe the specific 'treasure' at each location. Entries will be dropped off at the Library. The first 50 entries will receive a gift. Sign-ups at the library begin June 13. Presentation of gifts will be made at the library during the Ice Cream Party Finale on August 17.

### Spring Programs

At our April 10<sup>th</sup> program meeting Hannah Russell told about how she had made the replica of the Deacon Bailey House. The front panel of the dollhouse was loaned to The Society by the Maine Historical Society for two weeks and was displayed at The Falmouth Memorial Library for 10 days.

On May 5<sup>th</sup> Bob Shafto from the Falmouth Conservation Core presented a most informative program done with Power Point describing how the Falmouth Trail System had been created. This program stimulated many questions which Bob answered nicely.

Hannah Rusell speaks at April program.



Bob Shafto and Mayer  
Fistal have a chat.

### Memorial Day Sees Society on Parade!



That's our boys! Scott and Mark!

And the Women behind them!



Seated are Barbara McLeod and Carol Stevanovic  
and standing is daughter Ava Stevanovic.

### THE JUNE SPOTLIGHT IS ON A SPECIAL TEAM



Fred Howe left and Rod Duckworth,  
right, have worked long hours behind the  
scenes to see that our new display barn  
got built. Hats off to both of you!

## SUMMER 2012 AT The FALMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM

### READ ALL ABOUT IT! TAKE A TOUR WITH ROD!

**Beginning on June 27 and ending on September 14**, I will be conducting personalized and dedicated tours by appointment only. I will be available on any **Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 to 2:00 for individuals and groups**. A person or group spokesperson can simply call me on my cell phone (207-838-5762) or e-mail me at ([rduck@maine.rr.com](mailto:rduck@maine.rr.com)) to request a tour time and date. I will give them directions and meet the visitors at the Museum. The tour will last approximately 45 minutes.

If I am out of town I will contact all callers to arrange for a tour when I return. *Very quick follow-up and good service.*

I plan to start each tour with the history of Falmouth, using the large maps. I will then take the visitors through the Museum and point out displays and talk about how the house may have looked in the 1800's. We will then move to the Barn to point out the display items.

If there is anyone else in our membership who would like to give these tours I would be happy to provide all necessary training and education so they can become a great tour guide (Docent). The fun and fulfillment is seeing visitors enjoying themselves and happy they decided to come....Rod Duckworth, May 2012

### President's Message

It might seem strange to the reader that the President's Message is on the last page; there is a reason for this. As you have glanced through this issue of our newsletter you have noticed a bevy of activity that has gone on in your Society since the March issue came out. Much of this has happened with you, our members in mind. Your officers and board of directors work hard as a team to bring you a variety of programs and activities to participate in. **We are counting on you to come out on Opening Day at The Museum on June 23<sup>rd</sup>**. If you need a ride please call 781-4727. We will try our best to find you a ride. If you are an OceanView resident there will be a van going at 10:30 a.m. Sign up!

There are two major events scheduled this summer: Opening Day on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and an Antique Appraisal Fair on Closing Day September 15<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile you can still have a personal tour by calling Rod Duckworth when you have visitors in your home or you wish a personal tour for yourself. Our Interior Display committee is hard at work planning some new displays. Sheri and Mayer Fistal are working

with Mark Stevanovic in providing delicious goodies at lunch on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Meanwhile Mary Honan and Pat Halpin are stocking the Gift Shop with new items as well as your favorites from past seasons. Sue Geyer and the Building and Grounds team have spent many weeks now after the warm weather came back to "spruce up the grounds" and do other necessary preparations to make it just right for your visit. I have named only a few here but the bottom line is all of your Board is pitching in to "preserve Falmouth's history for those creating it". Check out page one again. Between 9 a.m. and Noon there is something planned for everyone!

Over the summer the Nominating Committee will be busy assembling a slate of officers and directors to be elected at the October annual meeting. Do consider joining the team. One year of membership is required to run for office. Your Society needs your time and commitment. We have fun too!

It's not all work! Let me know if you are willing to serve. Please call 781-4727 or speak to me personally. Take care and have a good summer!  
**SEE YOU JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>!**



*Carol I. Kauffman  
President*

