

Annual Meeting on January 23rd

This year's Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 23rd, at 7:00 p.m.

- In-person at Falmouth Town Hall Council Chambers (really!), and
- Online via Zoom Meeting (the link will be published the day of the meeting).

Agenda

- A brief business meeting.
- A look back at last year's accomplishments.
- Short presentations sharing recent research into local history. These topics were selected from more than fifty research projects conducted in response to requests from the community during the past year.

Falmouth's Western Frontier



Mast Road in 1857

The western side of Falmouth abutting Windham was settled mostly by Quakers during the mid-1700s. A century later, Mast Road was home to four families, all descended from those first settlers. Three were closely bound by blood, marriage, and faith. The story of Mast Road and its people reflect Falmouth's evolution from Wabanaki homeland to the present day.

The Story Begins with a Sword



Model 1960 Light Cavalry Saber carried by Corporal Iver Hanson Iversen during his military service in Cuba

During the rededication of Falmouth Memorial Library after completion of the major expansion, a sword donated by a member of the Iverson family was displayed. The library was originally housed in the former Iverson home. The expansion erased most evidence of the home, but artifacts donated to the library provide tangible connections to the Iverson family.

The sword belonged to Iver Iverson, previous owner of the home. According to family history, he had carried the sword (actually a saber) during his military service during the Spanish-American War. How did the son of a Danish immigrant who fled to Maine after Prussia invaded Denmark come to serve with the US Army in Cuba? We soon discovered that Lawrence Iverson, Iver's brother, also served in Cuba. We will share what we learned about this chapter in the story of the late 19th century Danish immigration to Falmouth.

Please join us! This event is free and open to the public. You need not be a member to attend.

Please send an email to info@thefhs.org and we will send you the link to join the meeting online well before the annual meeting. Material for this meeting will be posted on the Society website prior to the meeting.

The Edward Dow Violin



Violin Made by Edward Steele Dow

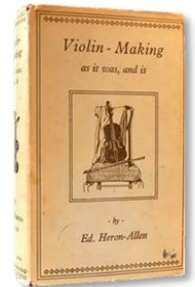
Our collections include hundreds of artifacts reflecting our town's heritage. These range from tiny items of jewelry to Falmouth's first motorized fire truck. Every artifact has a story. We recently learned more about the story behind one of our most prized artifacts—a violin made more than a century ago by a Falmouth blacksmith!

The Anderson family visited the Museum and Barn in November to view several artifacts crafted by their ancestor. Three of the visitors were great-grandsons of Edward Steele Dow, a blacksmith, watchmaker, and luthier (a maker of stringed instruments). The family still lives in the Dow homestead on Falmouth Foreside. They were accompanied by Bill Dalbec, a local luthier and dealer in antique instruments, who provided an informal lecture about the violin.

Bill acquired and restored the violin before it was acquired by the Society. He arranged to have the instrument played in a concert by a professional violinist. He was amazed by the quality of its sound. He told us the violin is consistent in its design, materials, and construction with a professionally made 19th-century European violin. The workmanship is exceptional—what one would expect from a skilled luthier. How did so fine an instrument come to be made by a rural blacksmith?

Bill told us that a cottage industry of violin makers emerged during the second half of the 19th century. Contemporary newspaper articles show that Edward Dow wasn't the only amateur violin maker in Maine. In a March 1903 interview, Cyrus Davis of Falmouth (a distant cousin of Edward Dow) describes his experience making violins. In 1897, Philip Henry Holmes of Gardiner explained how a prominent Boston violin maker helped get him started and sold material for making violins.

"How-to" guides for making violins were published. European material could be purchased, and mail-order kits were probably available. Edward Dow may have received advice from other local violin makers, or even professional luthiers of Boston "rusticating" by Casco Bay.



The Dow violin has the hallmark of a professionally made Italian instrument but was crafted by a Falmouth blacksmith. We can only speculate about how Edward Steele Dow learned the trade of violin making, but the result is a very fine instrument that is now part of our collections.

Museum & Barn Closed for Winter

Chilly weather brought an end to public hours. Until the Museum reopens in spring, our volunteers are still busy working online. If there is something in our collections you would like to see, [we can make that happen](#). Just call or send us an email.



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