



Annual Meeting

The Falmouth Historical Society

January 18, 2022

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!

- 2021 Acquisitions—Preservation of Historic Artifacts
- Mackworth Island and Fort New Casco—Historic Sites on the Foreside

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 stable

February mailing

- Newsletter + Annual Report
- Donation letter
- Membership Renewal Form

Society Membership

Primary	Family	Sponsors	Total
67	19	3	89

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Society Bylaws

Agenda

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President's Report

New Business

Proposed Changes to the Society's Bylaws

- Address two administrative issues
 - Forestall loss of officers & directors through temporary suspension of term limits
 - Ensure good financial administration by clarifying the role of assistant treasurers
- Prevent disruption to regular operation of the Society
- Resolution asking the membership to approve the proposed changes was adopted by the Board
- Membership was notified on December 9th

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Society Bylaws

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New Business

Temporary Suspension of Term Limits

Whereas the ongoing pandemic has impeded normal activities for recruitment of officers and directors, the Board of Directors of The Falmouth Historical Society resolves that, subject to approval by the membership, the provisions of Article IV, Section C of the Society Bylaws establishing term limits for officers and directors be suspended until such time that the Board of Directors determines conditions allow a return to the status quo ante.

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Society Bylaws

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New Business

Clarify Role of Assistant Treasurers

Whereas timely and accurate financial reporting to government authorities is necessary to retain the Society's status as a public charity, and compliance depends upon competence and continuity in the office of the Society Treasurer, the Board of Directors of The Falmouth Historical Society resolves that, subject to approval by the membership, Article III, Section I of the Society Bylaws be amended to clarify the role of Assistant Treasurer:

Section I. Assistant Treasurer The Board itself may elect ~~an~~ one or more Assistant Treasurers ~~if the need arises~~. Assistant Treasurers shall perform any or all functions specified in Article III, Section H as directed by the Treasurer or President. An Assistant Treasurer shall serve as Acting Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer. Assistant Treasurers shall be *ex officio* members of the Board except when acting as Treasurer. The provisions of Article IV, Section C pertaining to term limits shall not apply to Assistant Treasurers.

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Treasurer's Report

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Treasurer's Report

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President's Report

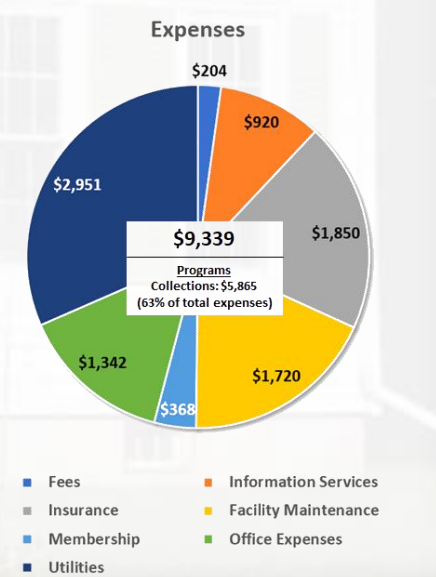
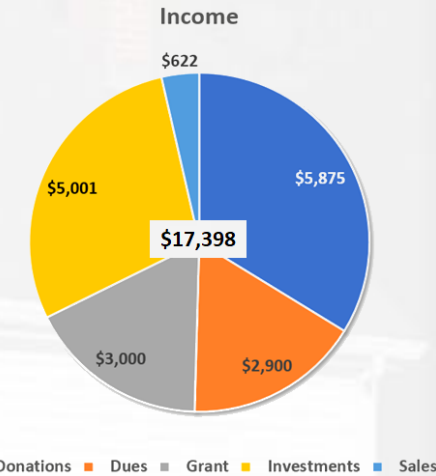
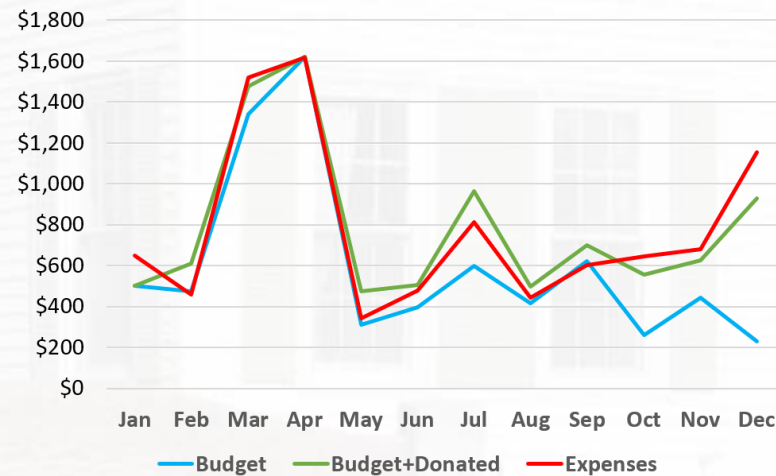
New Business

Financial Report—All in Four Charts

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Operating Accounts	11,892
Inventory	3,773
Land and Buildings	265,100
Fire Truck	35,000
Investments	15,387
Total Assets	331,152
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	173
Maine Revenue Service Payable	30
Total Liabilities	203
Net Assets	
Net Assets Beginning of Year	325,727
Change in Net Assets	5,222
Current Net Assets	330,949
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	331,152

Budget vs. Actual Expenses



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



Committee Reports

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Programs Committee

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President's Report

New Business

Education

Working with Falmouth Schools

Marion Perkins Scholarship

Events on hold due to Covid



Model barn for guiding discussion about 19th living and artifacts

Mission	Programs
❖ Preserve Falmouth's heritage	❖ Collections
❖ Make it accessible to community	❖ Research
	❖ Education

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Museum Operations & Exhibits Committee

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President's Report

New Business

Museum underwent a thorough housecleaning

- Had been closed for 20 months
- Everything back in place after painting of office/kitchen

At least four volunteers at Museum on days open to the public

- Plenty to do
- Accessioning
- Reorganizing files

Falmouth Heritage Museum in 2021

Season (weeks)	15
Public Days	13
Visitors	33



Falmouth Heritage Museum



Collections Committee

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President's Report

New Business

Accessions

- Received a dozen significant items or collections in 2021
- More about donations in FHS Presents!

Digital Catalog

- Replacing ledgers and index cards with a searchable online database
- Accession ledgers for 2004-19 have been transcribed into catalog
- Next step is to add photographs of artifacts to catalog



Museum Items in Digital Catalog	
Photographs	77
Books etc.	486
Artifacts	315
Documents	266
Total	1,157



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

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Local History

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New Business

FHS's Online Presence

- Open 24/7, 365 days/year

Website Expansion Research Aids Added to Website in 2021	
Historical References	14
Family References	19
Historical Maps	18
Newsletters	25
Local Research	3
Total	79

Responses to Email Inquiries	
Property History	11
Local History	9
Family History	8
Collections	5
Other	7
Total	40

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Communications Committee

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New Business

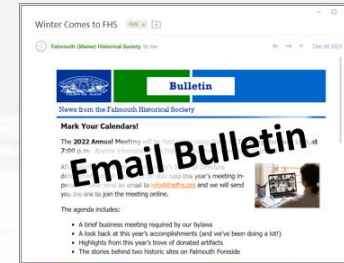
Our members expect to hear about what we are doing

- Multiple channels to fit different audiences

We failed to meet their expectations

Our communications were sporadic
Must do better this year

- We urgently need volunteers to handle communications



Falmouth Heritage Museum



Merchandise Committee

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New Merchandise for 2021

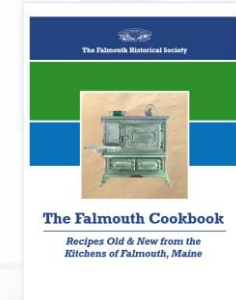
Falmouth-themed tote and beanie

- To get yours, email info@thefhs.org;
- \$24 for tote, \$20 for beanie



Revision to The Falmouth Cookbook

- Two-volumes (Savory & Sweets)
- Draft being edited



Falmouth Heritage Museum



Museum Building & Grounds Committee

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New Business

Maintenance issues addressed

- Storm damage to barn's roof ridge repaired (donated by MAJCO!)
- Museum and barn locksets fixed

Museum and barn now shut down until May 2022

NOTICE
CLOSED FOR
WINTER



Falmouth Heritage Museum



Technology

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Website Activity in 2021

- *We built it and they did come!*

Users Visiting Website	
Falmouth	366
Portland	154
Yarmouth	100
"Other" Falmouth	50
Cumberland	44
Other Maine	320
"Other" Portland	10
Total	4,384

Top Ten Web Pages Visited			
	Page	Views	% of Total
1	Home	4,182	35.6%
2	About Falmouth-Colonial Origins	1,118	9.5%
3	Falmouth Historical Maps	399	3.4%
4	About Falmouth-From Town to Destination...	223	1.9%
5	Falmouth Heritage Museum	206	1.8%
6	Falmouth History References	168	1.4%
7	Contact	150	1.3%
8	Falmouth Retrospective	144	1.2%
9	About FHS	141	1.2%
10	Board of Directors	141	1.2%
	Total	11,760	58.4%



Development

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President's Remarks

New Business

The Perkins family has stepped forward as a major supporter of the Society

- Pledged to continue support this year
- Marion Perkins Scholarship for a graduating student at Falmouth High

New corporate sponsor

- MAJCO Roofing of Falmouth

Almost ready to knock on doors seeking support from local businesses



*Marion A. Perkins (1905-1992)
Falmouth town clerk in the 1960s*

Falmouth Heritage Museum



President's Report

Falmouth Heritage Museum



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New Business

Challenges

Volunteers are stretched too thin

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

Communications is the key

- Top priority: volunteers to handle communications
- Email, website, Facebook, Newsletter, etc.





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President's Report

New Business

Accomplishments

Re-opened the Museum

Expanded our online presence

Made progress on goals

Improved financial posture

Much remains to be done, but we're more than halfway there



Falmouth Heritage Museum



New Business

Falmouth Heritage Museum



FHS Presents!

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Your Town's Attic

Highlights from Acquisitions in 2021

Betsy Jo Whitcomb & Sally Farneth
The Falmouth Historical Society

January 18, 2022

Falmouth Heritage Museum

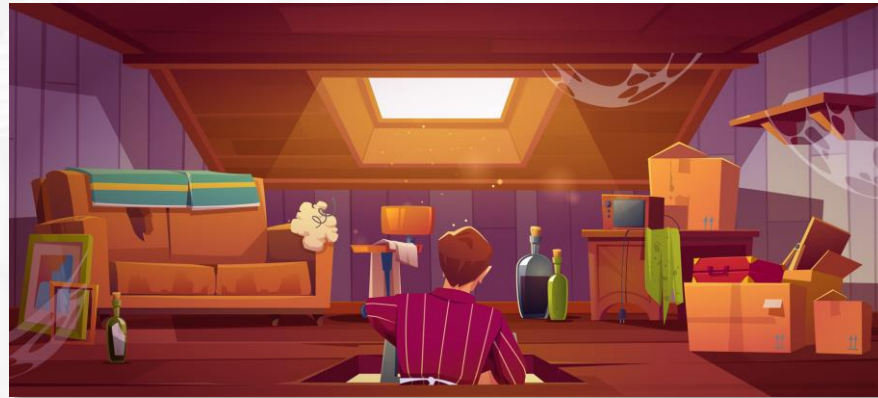
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A Trove of Donations

What did the people of Falmouth do during the pandemic?

They cleaned out their attics, of course!



What did they do with the treasures they found?

They brought them to the Falmouth Heritage Museum!

Falmouth Heritage Museum

Image: iStock

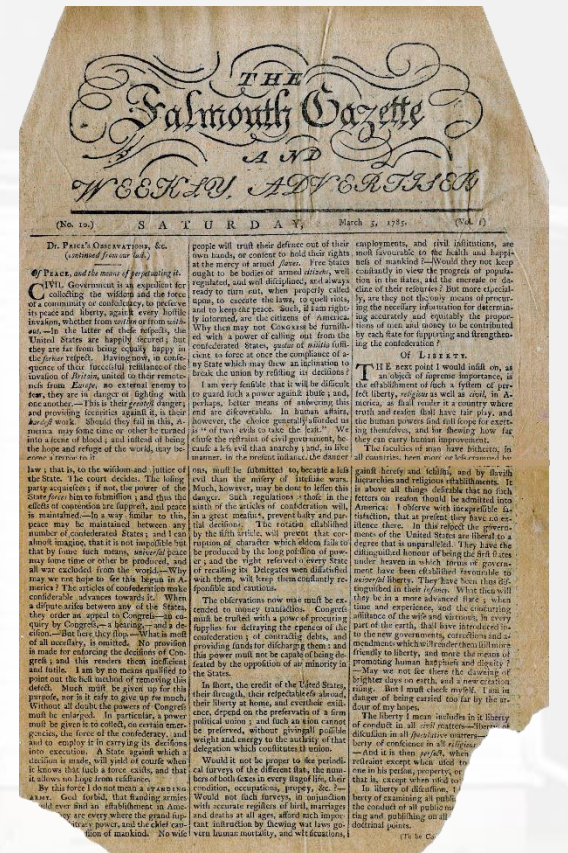


Maine's First Newspaper

The Falmouth Gazette and Weekly Advertiser

- Published weekly starting on New Year's Day in 1785
- A collector of historical materials donated the tenth issue

An important symbol of a town rebounding from the Revolutionary War



Thanks to William Wooldridge, retired railroad executive, amateur historian, and author

Falmouth Heritage Museum



Found in the Attic of the Old Parsonage

“Old Parsonage” on Falmouth Road

- Built between 1804 and 1822
- Served as residence for minister at First Congregational for 84 of past 210 years
- Major renovations in 1856 and 1940s
- First Congregational was razed in 1942

New owners donated a box of articles found while installing new insulation

- Placing shoes in the attic to ward off “evil spirits” is an old English custom

Thanks to Deena Ball, artist and owner of the Old Parsonage



Items Date to Mid-19th Century



Farm Tools

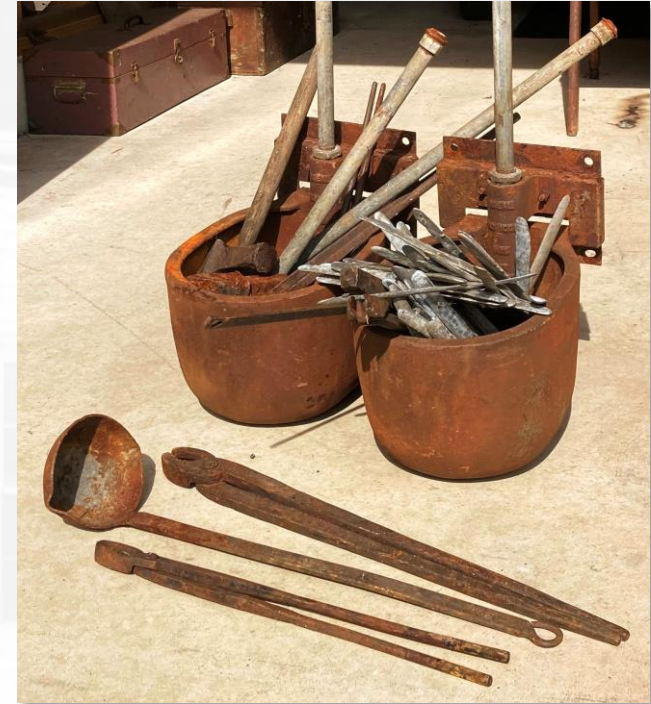
Rev. Ebenezer Williams (1738-1799) came to “New Casco” around 1765

Family owned two farms

- Depot Road where Ricetta’s is now
- Middle Road where the roundabout is now

Depot Road farm was sold in 1945 after it was bisected by the “new” US Route 1

Family donated a yoke, haying tools, and smithing tools



Smithing Tools

Thanks to Emmy Anderson, great-granddaughter of John F. Williams (1871-1938): farmer, constable, tax collector, state legislator.



The Schoolmaster

David Odell Moulton

- Schoolmaster at School # 3 (Falmouth Corners, at 14 Falmouth Road): 1871-75, 1882-92
- Lived at 268 Middle Road: 1868-1905
- Active in town affairs; served as selectman
- David Edward Moulton, their son, founded the Portland Water District
- Ruth Moulton Freeman, their granddaughter, donated Gilsland Farm to Maine Audubon

2nd-great grandson donated their portraits



*David Odell
Moulton*

*Mehitable (Wormwood)
Moulton*

Thanks to William & Joan Moulton; David is a great-great grandson of David (1830-1920) & Mehitable (1836-1920) Moulton



The Schoolhouse Bell

Graves School

- Two-story wooden schoolhouse at 54 Pleasant Hill Road
- Replaced Presumpscot School (#5), a small brick building
- Funded with a bequest by Crispus Graves in 1879

The Bell

- Students collected donations from neighborhood
- Schoolmistress ordered bell from Sears Roebuck

School closed in 1975

- Now a private residence

Thanks to Beverley Joan Knudsen (1931-1921), a member of the Society.





Falmouth High Athletics

Nine large (more than 2' tall) athletic plaques from the 1930s

- Triple-C (Cumberland County Conference) athletics
- Probably rescued from the dumpster by a school employee when the high school moved from Middle Road to Woodville

Contacted the high school to see if they have room to display any of these Plaques from the Past



Thanks to Jeff Scher who donated the plaques which were saved by Darrell (1911-1989) & Evelyn (1913-1974) Richardson.

Falmouth Heritage Museum



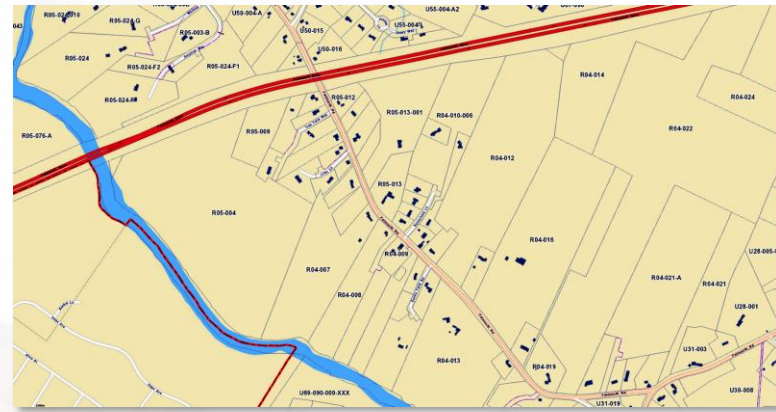
Falmouth Town Maps

Falmouth Public Works maps from the Mid-20th century

- Portray the expansion of Falmouth from farmland to suburb
- Invaluable in decoding old deeds—show lots before subdivision



Ca. 1957 Town Plat



2022 Town Plat

Thanks to Emmy Anderson, granddaughter of John Roger Williams (1914-1985): farmer, director of public works, deputy fire chief.

*2022 Town Plat:
Town of Falmouth*

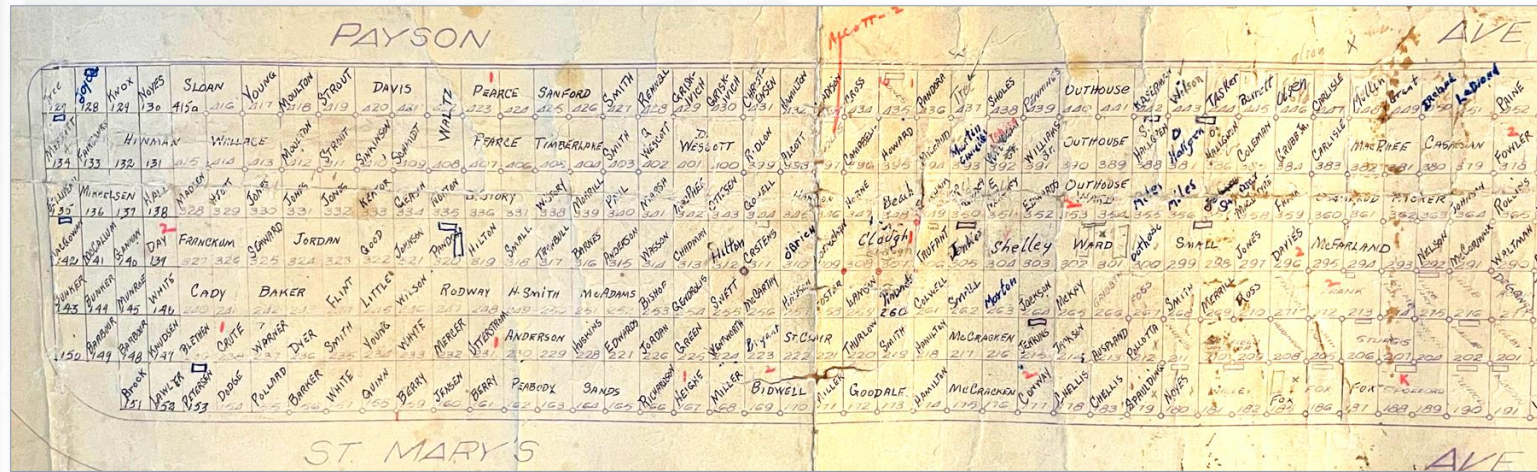
Falmouth Heritage Museum



Falmouth Graveyard Maps

Used to track headstones to be marked with flags

- Appears to contain surname and actual locations that Find-A-Grave and MOCA don't have



Pine Grove Cemetery

Thanks to Ralph Thomas Bonville (1919-2021), WW II veteran.



Acquisitions

All must have a direct connection to Falmouth

- People, places, events
- We declined offers for items unrelated to Falmouth

Don't have to be ancient

- These artifacts ranged from 1785 to 2020
- Almost anything becomes historical with time

Don't have to be “valuable”

- Items from everyday life tell us a lot

What's in your attic?



Falmouth Heritage Museum



Researching Early Falmouth

Two Historic Sites on the Foreside (1633-1713)

David Farnham
The Falmouth Historical Society

January 18, 2022

Falmouth Heritage Museum

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



Queries from the Community

We responded to 40 requests last year

- Some are easy
- Many are challenging
- A few are very difficult
- Research brick walls encountered most often south of Lunt and Depot Roads

Two cases from 2021

- Portland Country Club: Where was Fort New Casco?
- Mackworth Island: What is the island's history?





Researching Ancient Falmouth

Research almost always begins with William Willis' *The History of Portland from its First Settlement*

- Fundamental reference for history of Ancient Falmouth
- Well-researched, well-sourced, well-written

After Willis, the trail becomes harder to follow

- Some resources lost or difficult to access

Recently digitized resources are opening windows into the past



*William Willis (1794-1870)
Lawyer, Politician, Historian, Author*

Falmouth Heritage Museum

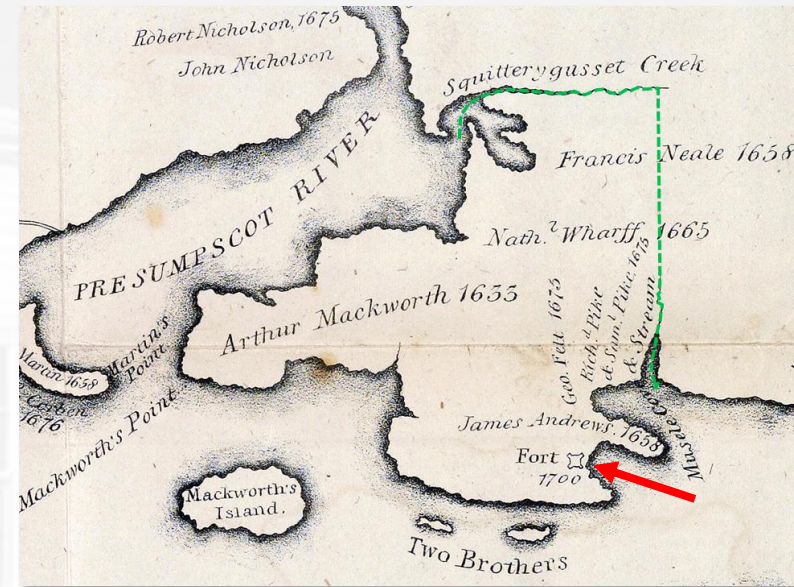


Arthur Mackworth

Falmouth's first settler

- At Mackworth Point ca. 1633, then on Mackworth Island
- Received grant for 500 acres in 1635
 - More like 1,300 acres
 - Bounds included everything south of the Fire Station and Mill Creek Pump House
- Died ca. 1657
- Widow made grants to children (Neale, Wharff, Felt, Andrews)

Then war came to Falmouth



Willis' Falmouth 1633-1690

Showing Mackworth Grant

Nothing on this map is exact!



Falmouth's Violent Past

Ancient Falmouth abandoned, repeatedly

Suffered terribly over four decades

1675-1678 King Philips War

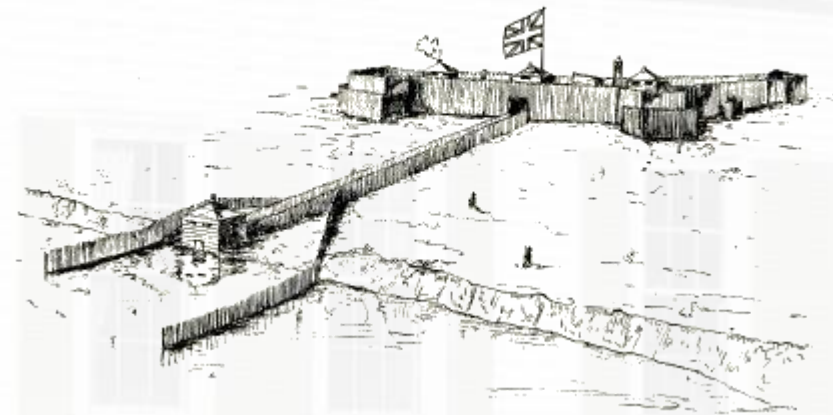
1688-1697 King William's War

1702-1713 Queen Anne's War

Settlers fled south for safety

Buildings destroyed

Town reestablished in 1718



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

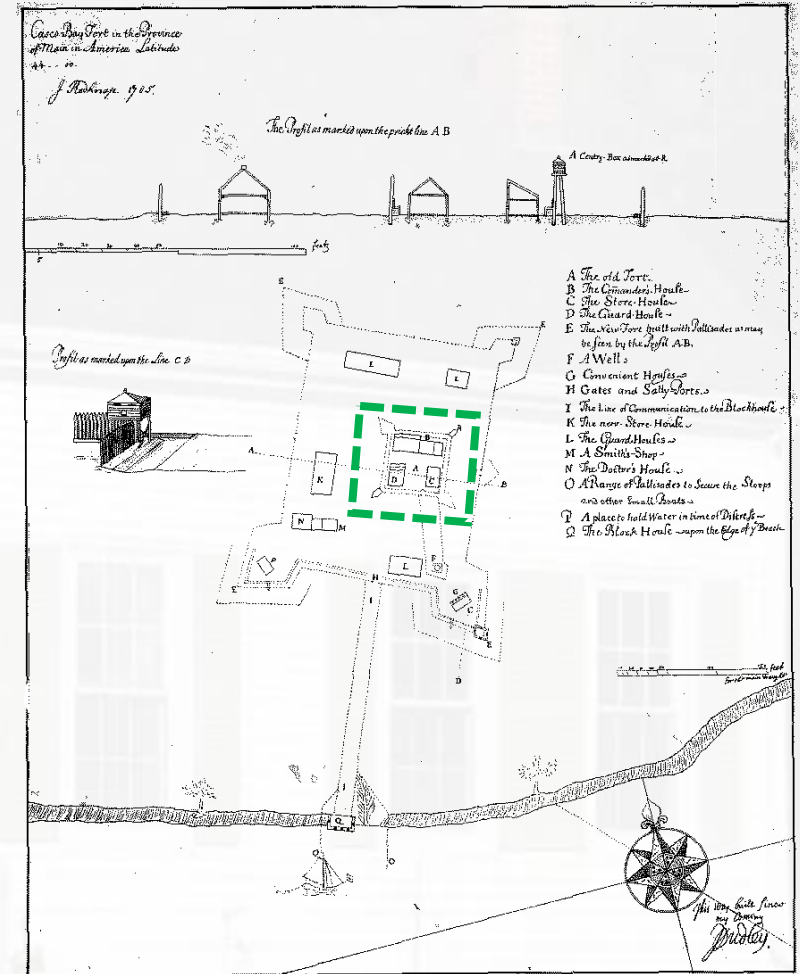


Fort New Casco

Built by Col. Romer in 1700

- 70 square foot palisade
- Bastions at NW and SE corners
- Raised sentry boxes at NE and SW
- Commandant's quarters, guardhouse & storehouse
- Garrison of 36 men commanded by Maj. March
- Original fort outlined in green

Became the central point of defense for all settlements on Casco Bay



Capt. John Redknapp's Map (1705)



War Comes to New Casco

Queen Anne's War erupts in August 1703

- “Whole eastern country was in a conflagration, no house standing nor garrison unattacked.”
- English settlers took refuge in fort
- French laid siege to fort
- Siege relieved by arrival of armed ketch
- Garrison remained while families evacuated
- Fort expanded in 1705
- Treaty of Portsmouth signed in 1713
- Fort demolished in 1716 and settlers began returning to “Old Casco” (Portland's Old Port)



*Carte du Canada ou de la Nouvelle France
et des decouvertes qui y ont été faites (1718)*

Image: Library of Congress



Where Was Fort New Casco?

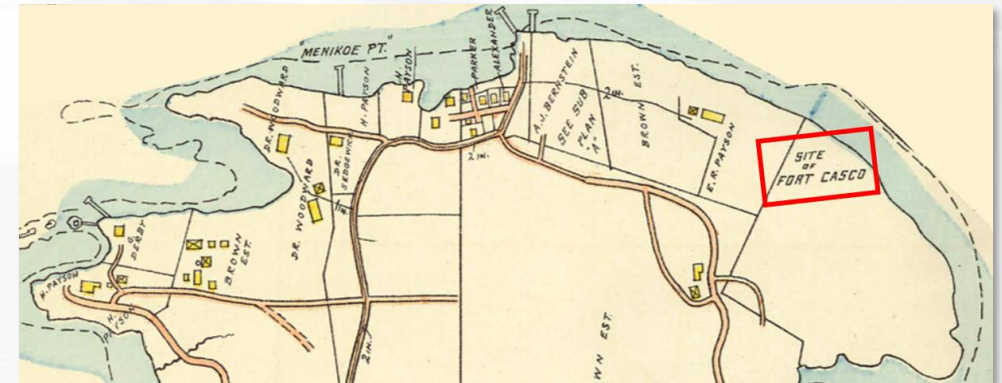
An abundance of “authoritative” sources

- Willis, historical societies, maps galore
- All agree it was near the PCC on the former Brown estate
- Locations are all over the place

1705 Plan of fort is most authoritative

- Prepared by a skilled military engineer
- Dimensions and directions should be accurate

19th century maps & charts



*Richards Atlas of the City of Portland 1914
Part of Falmouth Foreside (Plate 21)*

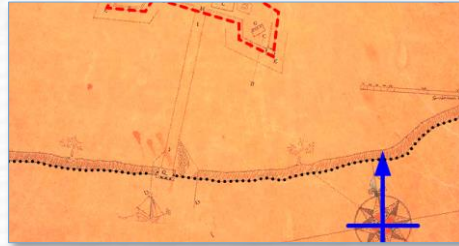
Image: Portland Public Library



The Answer

A: Based on Site Plan

Located on private land near golf course between holes 16 & 17



Redknapp Corrected for True North



Overlaid on Town Plat



Google Maps

B: Based on Old Maps

700 feet to east of "A"

300-yard stretch along shore

Both are consistent with contemporary descriptions



Image: Portland Country Club



Mackworth Island

First step is to build the “skeleton”

- Family history: Family tree
- Property history: Chain of deeds

Deeds for Falmouth are in two counties

- 1635-1760 York County
- 1769-present Cumberland County

Most deeds have been preserved and are accessible

- Unlike many town and some probate records

Except for York County Volumes 20-36 (1737-1760)



Mackworth Island



The Black Hole of York Deeds

York Deeds Vol 1-19

- Published and downloadable from [Archive.org](https://archive.org)
- Searchable at [AmericanAncestors.org](https://www.americanancestors.org)

York Deeds Vol 20-36

- Accessible ~~only~~ at Registry of Deeds in Alfred
- Digitized microfilm now accessible at familysearch.org

Records of the Falmouth Proprietors

- Accessible ~~only~~ at Registry of Deeds in Portland
- Digitized transcript now accessible at [Archive.org](https://archive.org)

Brick walls are meant to be broken!



*York Deeds
Vols. 1-19*



Researching Mackworth Land

Lesson in past presentations

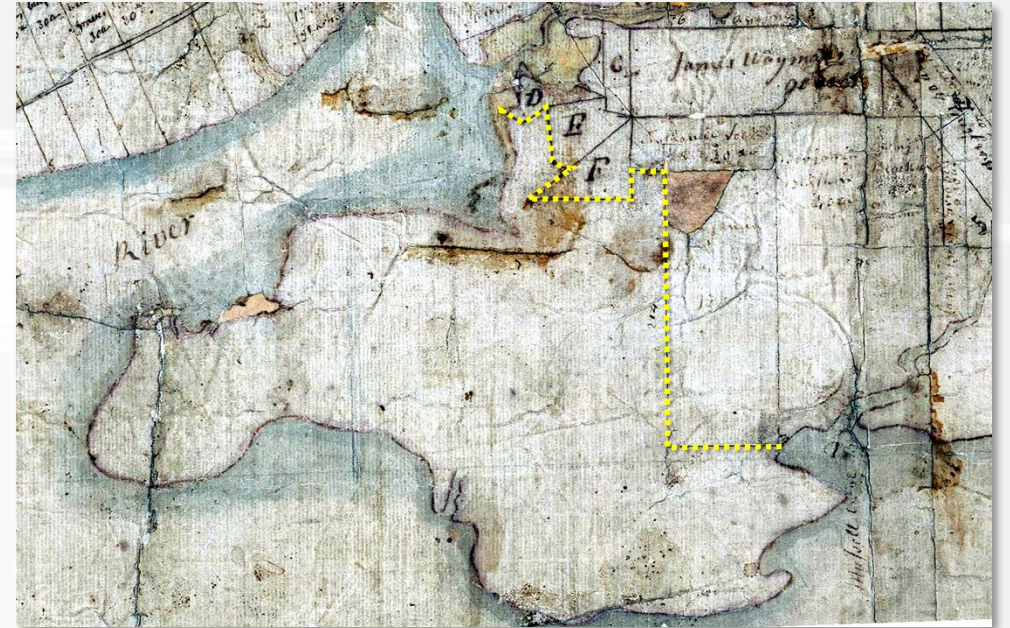
- Use the 1732 Proprietors Map as a guide to early Falmouth deeds

Doesn't work for Mackworth tract

- Yellow line shows Mackworth boundary
- Most of tract viewed as “Old Proprietor”

Picked up the trail in Cumberland County deeds after 1760

- Island had been divided into four parts
- Confusing deeds misled researchers



Proprietors Map for the Flats and South Foreside



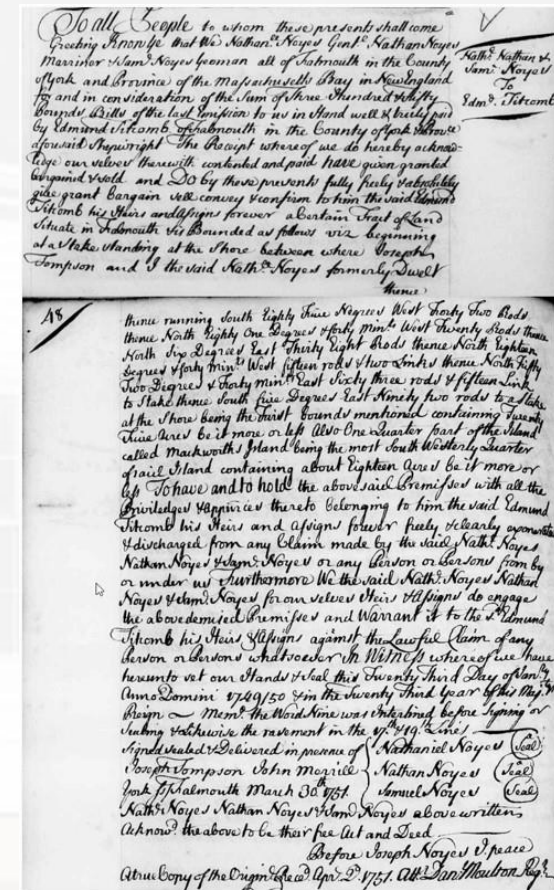
Untangling the Chain

Followed the trail back into York Deeds

- One deed in 1765 referred to a sale in 1751
- Armed with the year and name of the seller, found the date of the deed in the index
- Found the actual deed

Continued following the chain back to 1742

- The Mackworths were dead
- A descendant came forward
- She sold the residual estate to a lawyer
- It was resold to Nathaniel Noyes
- Noyes carved up the island and sold the parts



York Deed for Mackworth Island



The Peculiar History of Mackworth Is.

York Deeds put us back on the correct trail

Island owned by farmers until 1807

Owned by landlords for the next 77 years

- Including James Deering, a bank, and a developer
- Three months as US Army Camp Berry in 1863

James Baxter purchased the island in 1884

Gov. Percival Baxter donated the island to the state in 1943



Baxter Summer Home



Conclusions

Reconstructing the narrative for property in Colonial Falmouth is challenging but can be done

Newly digitized records open a window to the past

- Broad range of source materials helped find the answer to “Where was Fort Casco”
- Non-governmental copies of government records broke through brick walls to reconstruct the story of Mackworth Island

Your town historical society is ready to help you solve your mysteries!



Falmouth Heritage Museum