



Your Town's Attic

Highlights from Acquisitions in 2021

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The Falmouth Historical Society

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Falmouth Heritage Museum

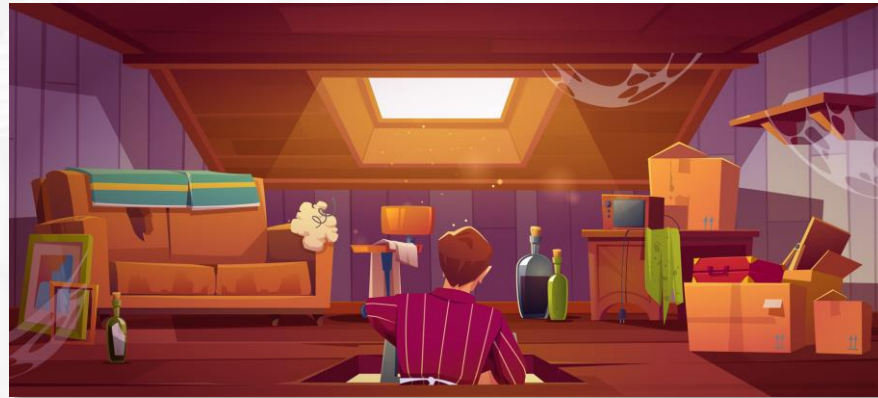
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A Trove of Donations

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

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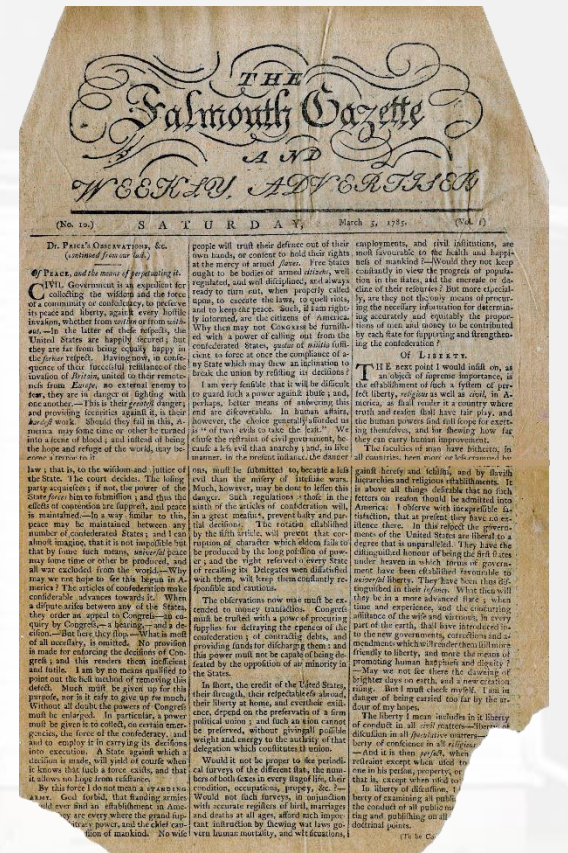


Maine's First Newspaper

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

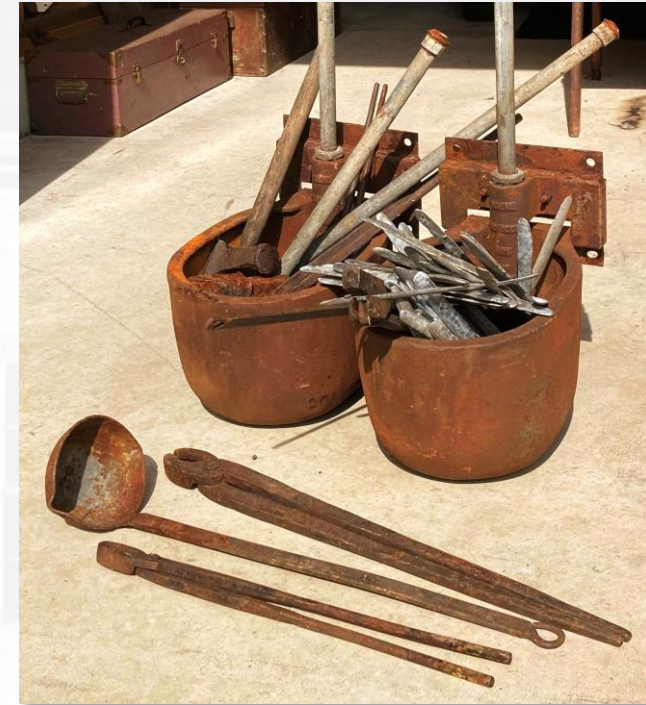
Rev. Ebenezer Williams (1738-1799) came to “New Casco” around 1765

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.

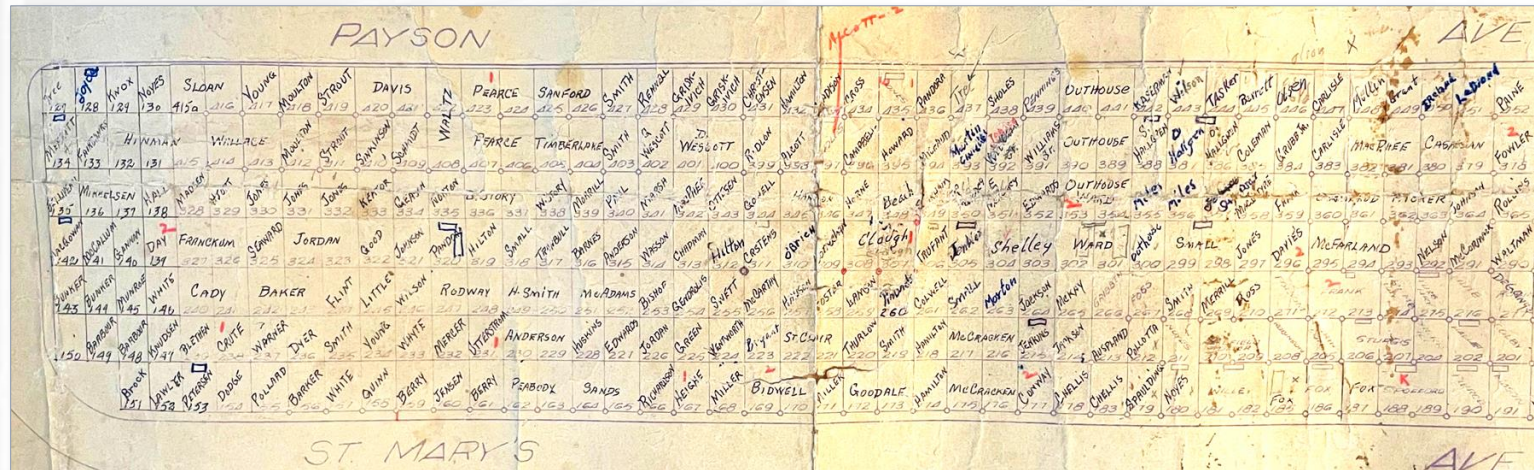
Falmouth Heritage Museum



Falmouth 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?



Image: iStock

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