



# From the Collections

The Newsletter of the Falmouth Historical Society

Autumn 2022

## Look for Us

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| October 18<br>7:00 p.m. | <b>FHS Meet &amp; Greet</b><br>OceanView Blueberry Commons             |
| November 8<br>All day   | <b>FHS Table at the Polls</b><br>Outside Falmouth High Gym             |
| December 2<br>6:00 p.m. | <b>FHS Table at Merry Mix 'n Mingle</b><br>American Legion Parking Lot |

With the arrival of cold weather, the Falmouth Heritage Museum on Woods Road is open only by appointment. Our volunteers are ready to answer your questions year-round. Contact us by email ([info@thefhs.org](mailto:info@thefhs.org)) or phone (207-781-4727).

## Cumberland Fair

We had fun meeting and greeting people at our table in the Exhibition Building. We had lively discussions about current and “ancient” Falmouth. We want to thank Sue and Dave Farnham, Betsy Jo Whitcomb, Sally Farneth, Wendy Morrissette, and Lee Hanchett for staffing our booth.



## Do Your Holiday Shopping Early



**Rope Tote - \$24**  
(\$22 member price)



**Fleece-lined Beanie - \$20**  
(\$18 member price)

Purchase these Falmouth-themed items at the polls or Merry Mix ‘n Mingle. They may be purchased online for local delivery in the Falmouth area:

<https://www.thefhs.org/Bookstore>

## History Detectives

Do you have a mystery involving Falmouth places or people? Call in our squad of volunteer history sleuths! We respond to a half-dozen queries every month from people who want to know:



- the story of their home,
- more about ancestors who lived in Falmouth, or
- whether a tale about Falmouth history is true.

Some queries “from away” bring genealogical tourists to our town. One family traveled from the Midwest to learn more about ancestors who had been early English settlers of Falmouth. We prepared a self-guided tour showing where their ancestors had lived and worked 350 years ago. Alas, some had died violently. Back then, Falmouth was the frontier.

**Museum**  
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PMB 367  
Falmouth, Maine 04105

## Summer News

Visitors a plenty this year! Not only were we visited by many people who live in or near Falmouth, but travelers came from Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Wisconsin, and Arizona.

Summer is when work with our collections of artifacts and documents shifts into high gear.

- Ann Gagnon accessioned a huge volume of material including items backlogged from 2021.
- Ron Scorsone finished transcribing our catalog from ledgers and index cards into PastPerfect, our new digital catalog.
- Dan Rabinowitz of Boy Scout Troop 93 inventoried and photographed hundreds of artifacts for his Eagle project.
- Betsy Whitcomb, Sally Farneth, and Sue Farnham spent many hours organizing and preserving documents.
- Will Hawkes helped with the antique firetruck.

The Falmouth Heritage Museum is nearly three centuries old and requires continuous upkeep. Ron Scorsone, Rich Meserve and Sue Farnham devoted countless hours maintaining the buildings and grounds. Carol Kauffman took the lead in arranging events. Wendy Morrissette, our newest Board member, is nearly done editing the two new volumes of The Falmouth Cookbook (which we hope will be ready to purchase in December).

## SOLVE Restarted after Covid

The Falmouth Historical Society is one of 145 town historical societies in Maine. We all face many of the same challenges and take advantage of any opportunity to learn from one another. SOLVE

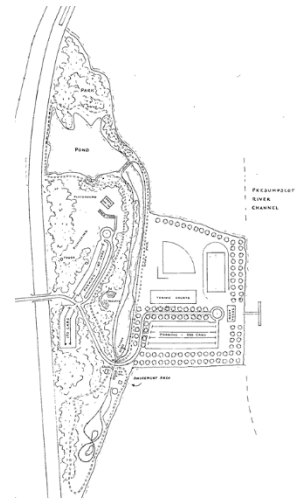
(Society of Local Volunteer Executives) provides a semi-annual forum for exchanging ideas among historical societies in the Greater Portland area. After a two-year hiatus, we hosted a meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup> at Falmouth Memorial Library. The speaker was Nancy Cline, a trustee of the Maine Historical Society, who discussed how Maine's flagship historical society can support local organizations. Thanks to Betsy Whitcomb and Carol Kaufmann for bringing this off.

## Where is Mild Pond?

We recently received a map drawn in the late 1950s for a proposed regional park at Mild Pond in Falmouth. The 44-acre park was to have walking and horse trails, a boat launch and marina, beach, playground, an amphitheater, ballfields, and parking for 830 cars.

Mild Pond is on the eastern side of I-295 just south of where the highway crosses the Presumpscot River.

The pond was originally a small inlet carved by streams draining into the Presumpscot Estuary. After the Civil War, the inlet was walled off as part of the failed effort by the Presumpscot Land and Water Company to construct a 150-foot-wide freshwater canal along the northern side of the estuary. More than a half-mile of the canal was excavated. The project collapsed a few years later and most of the canal was filled in. Mild Pond remains, now isolated by I-295. As for the regional park, the proposal failed to gain support.



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