



# From the Collections

The Newsletter of the Falmouth Historical Society

Winter 2021

## Society Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held online via Zoom on January 19<sup>th</sup>. It had been postponed from October in the hope that conditions would improve allowing it to be held “in person.”

We missed seeing those of you who were unable to join us online. Present were two local authors who have written books about the history of our town as well as the owner of Bucknam Tavern with the owner of the company renovating the historic building. In addition to a brief business meeting, our volunteers spoke about what your Society has been doing during the pandemic (and we’ve been doing a lot!).

This was followed by two presentations by the Local History Committee:

- **The Proprietors Map**, explaining why the 1732 map of Ancient Falmouth at Falmouth Memorial Library is historically significant and how Osher Map Library's digital imaging of the map--plus their making the digital map accessible online--has given a big boost to genealogical and property history research in Falmouth.
- **Bucknam Tavern**, telling the story of one of Falmouth's older buildings, explaining how we reconstructed the narrative from publicly accessible documents, and giving an update on the renovation now underway.

The presentations were filled with tips and hints for those researching families or property in Falmouth. The slides are posted on the Society website at:

<https://thefhs.org/Annual2020>

## Historians Look to the Future

An article about the Society appeared in the January 28<sup>th</sup> issue of the Northern Forecaster.



Brielle Hardy, a reporter for the Forecaster, attended the Annual Meeting and interviewed several of our volunteers. The article includes details that were not covered during the Annual Meeting.

## When Will the Museum Re-open?

During last year’s Annual Meeting, the Society announced that the Museum would be closed from November until May because the cost of operating a public accommodation in a 19<sup>th</sup> century house during a Maine winter was too high. There was also concern about the safety of volunteers and visitors on the treacherously slippery ground around the Museum.



Then in February, Covid struck and everything closed. The state order closing the Museum was lifted in June because the Museum & Barn are considered “public and community buildings.” State guidance recommends that we still conduct our activities online to the fullest extent possible and we have remained closed.



There are two obstacles to reopening the Museum:

- Coronavirus puts our volunteers and visitors at risk. Many are in higher risk categories—it’s just the nature of town historical societies.

**Museum**  
60 Woods Road  
Falmouth, Maine 04105  
(207) 781-4727

**Web:** [www.thefhs.org](http://www.thefhs.org) • **Email:** [info@thefhs.org](mailto:info@thefhs.org)

**Mail**  
190 US Route One  
PMB 367  
Falmouth, Maine 04105

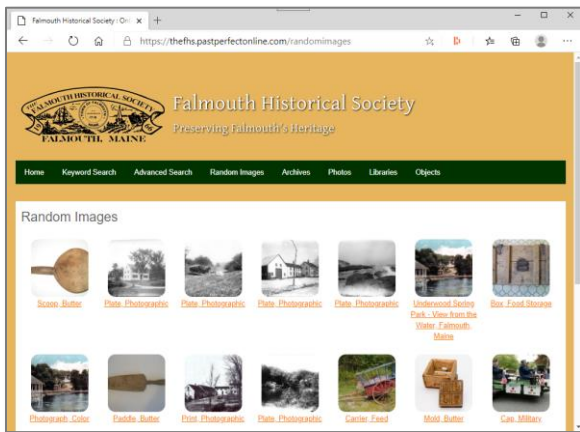
- Compliance with state guidelines is a heavy lift for a small all-volunteer nonprofit. Our Museum must conform with the guidance for both museums and libraries.

The Society Board adopted a strategy of moving forward slowly and with caution. The safety of our volunteers and visitors comes first. We will open the Museum to the public only when we are confident it can be done safely. This means waiting until the experts tell us the risk is low, and our volunteers and buildings are ready under the new rules. This will not happen before July.

Until then, we continue doing the work of the Society online. We respond to an average of three requests from the community each month. Our collections are accessible—our volunteers visit the Museum every few weeks to retrieve material and information in response to requests.

## Catalogs Moving Online

We are migrating the catalogs for our collections from boxes of index cards to an online catalog accessible from the Internet. Artifacts acquired during 2009-2019 have been loaded. Our online catalog will eventually include books and documents, but much work remains to be done.

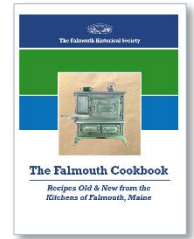


For a sneak peek at the online catalog, visit:

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

## The Falmouth Cookbook

Volunteers are working on a new edition of the cookbook. It will feature old classics as well as newer dishes highlighting Maine's farm (or boat) to table cuisine. If you have a favorite recipe, please submit it to us at [info@thefhs.org](mailto:info@thefhs.org) or send it to the mail address at the bottom of this newsletter by March 12th.



## Tidewater Farm

During the 2019 Annual Meeting, you heard about efforts to save the historic but decrepit farmhouse and barn on property recently acquired by the town. Unfortunately, funding could not be found to preserve the buildings and they were razed last December. FHS volunteers salvaged Federal-era artifacts for future re-use prior to demolition.

## Improvements to the Museum



The Museum may be closed to the public, but we continue making modest improvements to its appearance and accessibility. Boy Scouts from Falmouth Troop 93 recently painted the office and kitchen area as part of an Eagle Scout project. This spring we will take the next step in rearranging our office, exhibit, research, and archival areas to make more efficient use of the space.