Annual Meeting

The Falmouth Historical Society

January 23, 2024
Agenda

Annual Membership Meeting
  • Secretary’s Report
  • Treasurer’s Report
  • Committee Reports
  • President’s Report
  • New Business

FHS Presents!
  • Falmouth’s Western Frontier
  • The Story Begins with a Sword
Secretary’s Report
Secretary’s Report

Membership continues to inch upwards

Meeting materials
Everything is online
— Slides, minutes, reports, speakers’ notes
— Annual and monthly board meetings

Society Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Sponsors</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://thefhs.org/Documents
Treasurer’s Report
Treasurer’s Report

Financial Report—All in Four Charts

### Financial Position

**December 31, 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Accounts</td>
<td>16,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land and Buildings</td>
<td>449,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Truck</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>23,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>524,753</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Tax Payable</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>629</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Assets</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets Beginning of Year</td>
<td>519,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>4,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>524,753</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Performance Against Budget

- **Income**
  - Discount given: $4,701
  - Donations: $4,029
  - Dues: $14,763
  - Grant: $4,701
  - Investments: $4,029
  - Sales: $14,763

- **Expenditures**
  - Education: $2,500
  - Information Services: $1,730
  - Maintenance: $1,190
  - Misc: $1,190
  - Utilities: $1,190
  - Office Expense: $1,190

**$1,430 Below Budget**

($1,000 rebate for prior-year expense)
Committee Reports
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  • Museum Operation & Exhibits
  • Collections
  • Local History
  • Communications
  • Merchandise
  • Museum Buildings & Grounds
  • Technology
  • Development
President’s Report
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Public Appearances Beyond the Museum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-Person</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Virtual</th>
<th>Talks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Education

• Supporting Falmouth Schools
• Marion Perkins Memorial Scholarship

Mission

❖ Preserve Falmouth’s heritage
❖ Make it accessible to community

Programs

❖ Collections
❖ Research
❖ Education
Museum Operations & Exhibits Committee

Full season: May-November

Public Hours
- Tuesdays, June-October
- At least four volunteers on duty
  - Docents, accessioning, research, reorganizing files
- Also open by appointment

Second grade field trip

Falmouth Heritage Museum in 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season (weeks)</th>
<th>22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Days</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Collections Committee

Accessions
  • Marge Merrill Devine Collection
  • Steady stream of books and artifacts

Collection Management
  • Migration to PastPerfect digital catalog continues
  • Reorganization of files progressing well

Museum Items in Digital Catalog

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books etc.</td>
<td>487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artifacts</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documents</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://thefhs.pastperfectonline.com/
Local History

FHS Online Museum
Open 24/7, 365 days/year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website Expansion</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historical References</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family References</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Maps</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Newsletters</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td><strong>89</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses to Queries from the Community</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property History</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local History</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family History</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collections</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td><strong>51</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plus several queries meant for the “other Falmouth”

https://thefhs.org/Research
Communications Committee

Communications during 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Reach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper mailings</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Push</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website notices</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>Pull</td>
<td>1,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email blasts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Push</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook posts</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Push</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plans for 2024

- Achieve goal of four newsletters/year
- Increase activity on Facebook
- Share “This Week at the Museum”
Merchandise Committee

Where to purchase items
- In-person at the Museum
- In-person at Town Hall
- In-person at public events
- Online via FHS Website
- Mail order now in Maine & NH

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- Online via FHS Website
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The Falmouth Heritage Bookstore
https://thefhs.org/Bookstore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Sold</th>
<th>Sales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>$780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTM*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>52</td>
<td><strong>$1,065</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Margin</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$353</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Falmouth-Themed Merchandise
No drama this year
Basement remains clean and dry
• Sump pump sensors provide real-time alerts
• Humidifier has made a big difference

Huge thanks go to Ron, Rich & Sue for their tireless efforts to keep our 19th-century “fixer-upper” and its grounds in good order!
Technology

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Users Visiting Website

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total from Maine &amp; Mass.</td>
<td>1,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falmouth</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarborough</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Portland</td>
<td>22</td>
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Top Dozen Web Pages Visited

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Views</th>
<th>Users</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>12,328</td>
<td>4,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>3,472</td>
<td>1,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonial Origins</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Almouchquois</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falmouth Hist Maps</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHS at the Fair</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falmouth History Refs</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About FHS</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falmouth Family Refs</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Collections</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>103</td>
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</table>

Facebook

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Followers</td>
<td>673</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reach</td>
<td>773</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits</td>
<td>694</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likes</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trending upward—new content drawing visitors
President’s Report
President’s Report

Accomplishments

The committee reports tell it all

Our small band of dedicated volunteers is delivering what the community expects from a town historical society

• Doing it well
• Doing a lot with very little

The Falmouth Heritage Museum and Barn
President’s Report

*Needs*

**Same as last year**

*We are running at capacity*

*We need more volunteers*
  *We need whatever skills you bring*

*We need additional funds*
  *Expenses exceed income*
  *Major expense would be catastrophic*

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*Presidents of all-volunteer nonprofits must sound like broken records*
Impact

We do history

• Remember, rediscover, and share stories of our town
• Small group of amateur historians
• One of 9,190 “very, very small” history organizations

History matters

• History is part of what draws people to Falmouth
• We help quench that thirst for knowledge
New Business
FHS Presents!
Falmouth’s Western Frontier

The Story of Mast Road and its Families

Betsy Jo Whitcomb & Suzanne Farnham
The Falmouth Historical Society

January 23, 2024
Historical Research

We received pair of routine requests about sites on Mast Road
• Average five queries each month
• Employ our standard methodology: the three-legged stool

Property history—reconstruct the narrative for a home
• Trace the deeds
• Build light genealogies for the families who lived there
• Add local history as the backdrop

Family History
• Stories of the people who lived on the property
• Standard genealogical research

Property History
• Stories of the land, its buildings, and its use
• More advanced genealogical research

Local History
• Context—Where historical societies excel!
Began with Two Maps

Four families who defined the story of this road

• Huston
• Purinton [Purington, Purrington]
• Lord
• Pride

Three early settlers whose families spanned three centuries here

Two families bound by marriage and faith

Their stories are the story of our town

Maps: Library of Congress, Digital Maine Repository
Before the Settlers Arrived

Falmouth lies within the lands and waters where the independent band of Wabanaki we know as the Aucocisco farmed, fished, hunted, and thrived before the arrival of English settlers.

Village and planting grounds are believed to be on the Presumpscot River.

Archeological research provides evidence of indigenous habitation in the vicinity of Highland Lake.
When Was Mast Road Settled?

Not before 1725!

Chronology

1632  First English settlers arrive, built homes by the water
1658  “Old Casco” annexed by Massachusetts, chartered as Falmouth
1675-1725  King Philips War, King Williams War, Queen Anne’s War, Dummer’s War

Western Falmouth was the frontier
• Wilderness and the front line in wars with France

Settlers Flee for their Lives

Map: Osher Map Library
The Quaker Expansion

Province of Massachusetts Bay
• Included Maine
• Puritan theocracy with no daylight between church and state
• Best place for non-Puritans to be was as far from Boston as possible

After 1725
• Quakers migrated from New Hampshire and Southern Maine to Colonial Falmouth
• Settled along “Quaker Lane” (Old Washington Avenue)
• Expanded north along Blackstrap Road around 1750
When Was Mast Road Settled?

Certainly by **1763**, and possibly by **1750**
- Oldest map showing Blackstrap is 1794
- Oldest map showing Mast Road is 1804
- Likely pre-1750 logging roads

Purinton home is the oldest still standing

William Huston built earlier
- Forester for the Royal Mast Agent
- Purchased land by 1750
- Log cabin burned twice before he built current home
Why did Massachusetts seize Maine?
• Natural resources, of course
• Mostly, it was all about wood
  – Domestic needs
  – Exports
  – Most critical, wood for warships
Botany determined naval strength
• Maine and New Hampshire had splendid white pine for masts, bowsprits, and spars
Blackstrap was a lucrative area for mast trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Diameter (inches)</th>
<th>Length (yards)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mainmast</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowsprit</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foremast</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3rd Rate Ship of the Line—74 Guns
The principal industry in Colonial Falmouth
- Fishery was an important export but secondary
- Agriculture was for subsistence and fell short

Royal Mast Agent moved to Falmouth in 1727
- King’s Broad Arrow edict issued in 1729
- Falmouth overtook Piscataqua after 1762
- Exports for Royal Navy screeched to a halt in 1775

Brutish, exploitive business
- Fat cats prospered
- Small fry suffered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exports for Royal Navy</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masts</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowsprits</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yards</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spars</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Consequences

Widespread resentment of Broad Arrow edict
• Fueled support for the Revolution
• Led directly to Mowatt’s attack on Falmouth

Resentment of exploitative timber industry
• Drove decision by Gorham and Brunswick militia not to defend Falmouth against Mowatt’s attack

Loss of American masts impaired Royal Navy
• Allowed French Navy to support Revolution
Family was Scots-Irish; Presbyterians fleeing religious persecution

Home built about 1764 by William, the son of William the immigrant.

During the 1870 census, the household consisted of Stephen (age 57), his wife, three children, and an Irish woman as a domestic. The farm had 73 acres in tillage, 10 in woodland, and 30 unimproved. The farm was valued at $5,000 plus $125 in equipment, and $400 in livestock (one horse, three milk cows, two oxen, one other cow, two pigs). The farm produced wool, hay, corn, barley, peas, beans, potatoes, butter, and milk.

In 1926, the farm (then 200 acres) was sold out of the family after 177 years and six generations.
Elisha Purinton (1729-1816)

Quaker and blacksmith from Hampton Falls, New Hampshire.

Elisha’s father, a skilled clockmaker, taught his son the trade but Elisha opted instead to become a blacksmith. He was very prominent in the Quaker community of Falmouth.

Home built about 1763 by Elisha. The farm grew to 300 acres. In 1791, Elisha conveyed 85-acre lots to each of his two sons. Elisha may have removed to Windham by 1820.

His grandson, Francis (1808-1870), was living at the Falmouth homestead in 1857. During the 1860 census, the household consisted of Francis (age 53), his wife, four children, and his mother. The farm had 100 acres in tillage and 100 unimproved. The farm was valued at $5,000 plus $150 in equipment and $500 in livestock (one horse, seven milk cows, two oxen, four other cows, twelve sheep, two pigs). The farm produced wool, hay, corn, oats, peas, beans, potatoes, barley, butter and cheese. In 1863, Francis sold the 200-acre estate.
Pride Farm

The former Purinton farm took on the name of the Pride family who owned it for nearly a century.

The family of Alexander and Mary Pride purchased the farm in 1870.

During the 1880 census, the household consisted of Alexander, his wife, and five children. The farm had 80 acres in tillage and 120 in woodland. The farm was valued at $4,000 plus $125 in equipment and $400 in livestock (one horse, six milk cows, two oxen, 14 sheep, 32 pigs, and 36 chickens). The farm produced hay, corn, pulse, potatoes, apples, and wood.

In 1966, the 200-acre farm was sold by grandchildren of Alexander and Mary Pride.
Abraham Purington (1763-1730)

Abraham, son of Elisha Purinton, was a farmer.

Home was built about 1790 by Abraham. In 1791, Elisha conveyed an 85-acre lot to his son Abraham but may have been a different lot.

Abraham’s son, George Hussey Purinton (1801-1888) was living on the farm by 1857. During the 1860 census, the household consisted of George (age 58), his wife, and two sons. The farm had 30 acres in tillage and 60 unimproved. The farm was valued at $3,000 plus $75 in equipment and $450 in livestock (one horse, four milk cows, two oxen, two other cows, eleven sheep, two pigs). The farm produced wool, hay, wheat, corn, peas, beans, potatoes, and butter.

In 1895, the farm was purchased by Charles G. Purrington (1864-1955), a very distant cousin (4C2R). Together, the two parcels on both sides of Mast Road comprised 125 acres. The farm was sold off piecemeal with Charles retaining the right to dwell in the house until his death.
John Lord (1772-1856)

John Lord was a farmer.

Home was built about 1791 by John Lord who acquired the land from his father, Nathan Lord. The family came from Berwick and may have had Quaker connections.

During the 1850 census, the household consisted of John (age 58), his wife, daughter, and two others. In the 1860 census, the house consists of John’s widow, Abigail, their daughter, and John Pride as a farm laborer. The farm had 60 acres in tillage and 40 unimproved. The farm was valued at $2,000 plus $50 in equipment and $200 in livestock (four milk cows, two oxen, one other cow, six sheep, one pigs). The farm produced wool, hay, corn, peas, beans, potatoes, barley, and butter.

In 1966, Roscoe Lowell, believed to be the 2nd-great grandson of John Lord, sold the 100-acre estate.
Camps

Turn of the last century saw seasonal camps popping up along the shore of Highland Lake

- Today there are about 100 in Falmouth
  - Near four times the number there in 1911

Initially the camps along Mast Road sat on land belonging to the three families

- As the landholders sold off their land, the camps became privately held
- Today there are community and road associations

Good topic for a future research project
Highland Lake was originally known as “Duck Pond”

Alvin Dyer and Sadie Woodbury owned the general store and post office at Duck Pond Corner in Westbrook. Sadie was described as a strong-willed person. She reputedly convinced the Postal Department to rename their station to “Highland Lake” despite the existence of a Highland Lake in nearby Bridgton. The change took effect October 1st, 1900.

Without fanfare, the name of the pond changed to Highland Lake and Falmouth’s Duck Pond Road became Mast Road shortly thereafter. Little Duck Pond and Westbrook’s Duck Pond Road retained their names.

Those who believed “Duck Pond” lacked class applauded the change. Many others considered the change to be an abomination and unsuccessfully pushed for a return to the original name for decades thereafter.
Mast Road

How did Mast Road get its name?

All we have is legend.

Harvesting of timber—and especially mast trees—took place around Blackstrap Hill well before settlement. Historical accounts tell us that foresters hacked logging roads through the wilderness.

Mast Road may have been a logging road. A forester who worked for the King’s Mast Agent lived there. Some point to the wide turn by Pride Farm.

There is a long history of mills at Duck Pond Village in Westbrook.

Mast trees may have been transported by road (what became the County Road to Windham) or water or both.
Summary

Evolution of western Falmouth is distinct

- Settlement began later
- Harvesting of timber continued through most of the 20th century
- Farming was the mainstay from 1750 to 1950
  - In Falmouth, everyone was a farmer
- Unlike the Foreside, seasonal communities are still strong
- Lower density housing (camps excepted)

Four families + 200 years + 700 acres on a two-mile-long road
The Story Begins with a Sword

*The Iverson Brothers in Cuba*

David Farnham
The Falmouth Historical Society

January 23, 2024
Falmouth Memorial Library

The Rededication

• Ceremony to rededicate the Library following a major renovation was held on 2 Nov 2022

• Former home of Iver Iverson became the Library in June 1951.

• During the ceremony, a sword carried by Iver during his military service in Cuba was displayed
  — Sword was donated to the Library by an Iverson family member
The Saber

Model 1860 Light Cavalry Saber
Type issued to cavalry troopers during the Spanish-American War

How did the son of a Danish immigrant in Falmouth come to serve in the US Army in Cuba?
Iver’s Father

Martin Hansen Iversen (1854-1932)
• Born in a rural hamlet in Schleswig

Danish Duchy of Schleswig
• Home to Danes, Germans, Frisians
• Claimed by German-speaking nations
• Seized by Prussia in 1864
• Ceded by Denmark
• Led to an exodus of Danes
• Martin Iversen emigrated to Maine in 1872
Iversen Family

Martin became a farmer in Falmouth
Martin married Elise Boetilda Miller (1861-1941)
  • Emigrated from Denmark in 1874
They had four children
  • Iver Hansen Iversen (1880-1948)
  • Lawrence Martin Iversen (1882-1959)
  • Martin Hansen Iversen (1885-1951)
  • Lillian Elizabeth Iversen (1896-1965)
Spanish-American War

The “Splendid Little War” of 1898

Apr 21 US declared war on Spain
Jun 10 US forces began landing on Cuba
Aug 7 Most US forces withdrew
   - 24th US Inf, 9th & 10th US Cav remained
Aug 12 Hostilities ceased
Dec 10 Treaty of Paris was signed
   - War officially ended on Apr 11 the following year
   - Cuba became a US protectorate

USS Maine
Battleship exploded and sank in Havana Harbor on Feb 15, 1898
Army of Cuban Occupation

Army units deployed to Cuba

- 2nd Cav in the west
- 8th Cav in the center
- 7th Cav in the east

8th Cav arrived in Nov 1898

- Headquarters was at Puerto Principe (now Camaguey)
- Garrison was established at Nuevitas
Iver Enlists in the Army!

Chronology

• Enlisted at Portland in Nov 1900 for three years
  — Assigned to 8th US Cavalry
  — Arrives in Cuba in Dec 1900
• Assigned to L Troop, 8th Cav
  — Spent next 15 months patrolling and providing armed escorts in Puerto Principe Province
  — Advanced from raw recruit to corporal
  — Departed Cuba in Feb 1902
• 8th Cav returned to Fort Riley, Kansas
  — Garrison duty
  — Honorably discharged in Nov 1903
Return to Cuba

Cuban self-governance established
- US forces left Cuba in 1902
- US-Cuba Treaty signed in 1903
- Granted US right to intervene

Rigged Cuban election in 1905
- Led to revolt in 1906
- Government collapsed

US invoked 1903 treaty
- Sent Army back to Cuba in 1906
- Took over governance of Cuba
Lawrence Enlists the Army!

Chronology

• Enlisted at Portland in Apr 1904 for three years
  ─ Assigned to I Troop, 15th US Cavalry
  ─ Garrison duty at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont

• 15th Cav sent to Cuba in Oct 1906
  ─ Lawrence promoted to corporal and served as leader of a machine gun section
  ─ Provided security at fixed locations around Cienfuegos

• Enlistment ends
  ─ Departed Cuba for Fort Monroe, Virginia, in Mar 1907
  ─ Honorably discharged in Apr 1907
Iver Hansen Iverson
• Married Laura Jensen in 1905
• Became a carpenter
• Lived on Depot Road
• Died Mar 1948
• Laura died Mar 1950
  — Buried at Pine Grove

Lawrence Martin Iverson
• Married Wilhemina Wibe (1888-1916) in 1912
  — Lawrence Martin Iverson
  — Minnie Iverson
• Married Alice Lund (1894-1962) in 1920
  — Ruth Iverson
• Became a carpenter
• Lived on Depot Road
• Died 1959
  — Buried at Pine Grove
Research Challenges

Reconstructing narrative for military service is often difficult

- Made worse by 1973 fire at records center
- Unit rosters are often the best source
- No records of overseas service in Cuba
- Only record for enlisted soldiers was the “Register of Enlistment”
  — Provides only enlistment and discharge
- Relied on military histories and newspapers
  — Collections at GenealogyBank.com were most helpful
A Recurring Theme

Falmouth is built on waves of immigration
• Many fleeing oppression and persecution
• Seeking refuge and opportunity
• Military service by immigrant families is common

Iverson Family is another chapter in this story
• Three Iverson brothers and a sister
• Emigrated to Maine soon after Schleswig was invaded by Prussia
• Part of the large influx of Danes who settled and thrived in Falmouth after 1864
  — Lots of Falmouth names ending in “sen” or “son”