

FALMOUTH: A

12,000 YEARS AGO

Paleo-Indians follow big game into what is now Maine.

7,000 YEARS AGO

Maine's Indians begin to practice agriculture.

1606

French explorer Samuel de Champlain visits the Maine coast and names its indigenous peoples the "Almouchiquois."



1613 Map of Saco by Samuel de Champlain. Courtesy Library of Congress.

1623

Christopher Levett visits a Native American village along the Presumpscot River. He is the first settler in the Casco Bay area and establishes friendly relations with the local Abenaki.

1630s

Arthur Mackworth, the first settler in today's Falmouth, takes claim to land on the east side of the Presumpscot River, a nearby point, and island, later named Mackworth Island.

1631

Local Sachem Skitterygusset leads a raid against Walter Bagnall, a corrupt fur trader living on Richmond Island. Bagnall is killed.

1633

George Cleeve and Richard Tucker establish a small farm on the site of present day Portland.

1658

Falmouth, including South Portland, Portland, Westbrook, Falmouth, and Cape Elizabeth, first incorporates.

1675-1676

King Philip's War reaches Maine with the killing of the Wakely family along the Presumpscot River in today's Falmouth. Decades of war and violence follow.

1690

Fort Loyal in Portland is destroyed by French Canadian forces and their Native American allies. English settlers abandon all Casco Bay settlements.

1699

Renewed peace leads to the construction of a new fort in today's Falmouth. Fort New Casco is an English center for trade with local Abenaki and a stronghold along England's colonial frontier.



Sketch of Fort New Casco. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.

1701

Massachusetts officials meet local Abenaki-Pigwacket sachems at Fort New Casco to reaffirm peace. To symbolize the peaceful co-existence of these two peoples, stone cairns, called Two Brothers, are erected. The peace is short lived.

1821

John Watt is chosen as Falmouth's first representative to the new Maine Legislature.

1821

Rebecca and Samuel Blanchard deed land to the town for a town meeting house.



Falmouth's old meeting house. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.

1821

There are 13 school districts in Falmouth with school budgets averaging around \$50 a year.

1833

Falmouth opens its first high school, Oak Grove Academy.



Oak Grove Academy was moved to its current location visible from Middle Road and later became the lodge for a fraternal organization. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.

1848

The Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad becomes the first railroad to pass through Falmouth.

1853

An observation tower is constructed on Blackstrap Hill and becomes a popular tourist attraction.

1861-1865

Falmouth sends at least 102 men to battle during the Civil War. The majority served in the infantry.

1870s

Settlers from Denmark settle in the Woodville area and establish a church and school.

1885

Portland Yacht Club relocates to Falmouth Foreside.

1892

The Piscataqua Village Improvement Association organizes a library in the upstairs of Pearson's Store in West Falmouth. With 642 books it is open Saturdays from 2-5pm.

1898

Twenty-two Falmouth men serve in the Spanish-American War.

1899

To promote its line, the Portland and Yarmouth Electric Railway Company opens Underwood Springs Park, featuring a casino, hotel, and outdoor amphitheater.



Circa 1910 postcard of the trolley at Underwood Springs. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.



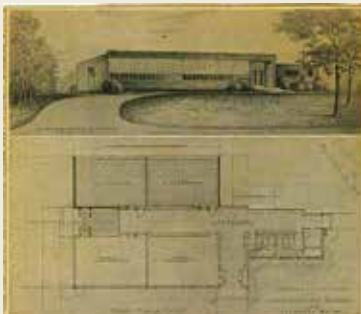
1916 postcard depicting West Falmouth Corners. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.

1899

Falmouth's current Town Hall is constructed.

1931

Falmouth's first free high school is constructed at the corner of Lunt and Middle Roads.



This 1949 news clipping shows a rendering and floor plan of Falmouth's new junior high school. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.

1941-1945

The U.S. enters World War II. At least 316 Falmouth residents serve and six die in the line of duty.

1944

The Falmouth Memorial Library Association incorporates with the goal of establishing a library as a memorial to Falmouth veterans.

1946

Hurricane Ski Slope opens in West Falmouth.

1947

The Maine Turnpike, running through Falmouth, opens. The Spur is added a few years later.

1947

American Legion Post #164 is chartered.

1948

Falmouth builds its first junior high school, currently the Mason-Motz Center on Middle Road.

1950

Falmouth Lions Club established.

1950-1953

Of the 202 casualties in the Korean War from Maine, one came from Falmouth.

1951

Falmouth's four fire companies join together to form the Falmouth Fire Department.

1952

Falmouth Memorial Library opens in its current location.



The Iverson home, shown here in 1908, was donated to the Falmouth Memorial Library Association for use as a memorial library. Courtesy Falmouth Memorial Library.

HISTORIC TIMELINE

HONOR
the **PAST** | **CELEBRATE**
THE **PRESENT**
INVEST in the **FUTURE**

1718
Falmouth, including Portland, South Portland, Westbrook, Cape Elizabeth, and today's Falmouth, known as New Casco, is officially incorporated.



1719
Falmouth's residents convene to assign a clerk and choose selectmen.

1725
45 families live in Falmouth on Portland Neck. Only one family lives in New Casco at this time.

1754
New Casco establishes its own parish, the Third Parish of Falmouth, a precursor to Falmouth Congregational Church.

1765
Cape Elizabeth and South Portland break away from Falmouth.

1767
High winds, described as a hurricane, clear a path from Sebago Lake across Duck Pond (today's Highland Lake). Afterwards, the area is known as Hurricane Valley.

1775
The burning of Falmouth destroys the majority of buildings on Portland Neck.

1775
The parish of New Casco sends 17 cord of wood and a letter of encouragement to the revolutionaries in Boston to relieve suffering due to lack of necessities.

1780-1880
Era of shipbuilding in today's Falmouth.

1786
Portland separates from Falmouth.

1812
Falmouth privateers take active part in the War of 1812 against Great Britain.

1814
Westbrook and Deering separate from Falmouth.



1820
Maine becomes a state. Peter M. Knight and Nathan Bucknam are delegates from Falmouth to the State's Constitutional Convention.

1907
Fire destroys Underwood Casino.

1911
Water from Underwood Springs wins the Gold Medal and Grand Prize at the Paris Exposition.

1913
A new bridge at Smelt Hill is the longest single cement span in the State of Maine at that time.

1913
The Falmouth Foreside Fire Company organizes.

1913
Portland Country Club relocates to Foreside.



Casino at Underwood Springs Park.
Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.

1914
Portland to Lewiston Interurban service, with stops in Falmouth, begins and continues for 19 years.

1917-1918
US enters World War I. Several Falmouth residents, including high school students, enlist.

1918
The town allocates funds for the commemoration of Falmouth's 200 year anniversary.

1920
George Thornton Edwards, resident of Falmouth Foreside, writes the official Maine Centennial Song, "State of Maine, My State of Maine."

1922
Falmouth celebrates Old Home Day.



1922 Old Home Day celebration on the grounds of the Falmouth Congregational Church. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.



This Old Home Day float from Graves School won First Prize for Education. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.

1925
The town purchases a Reo Speed Wagon Fire Engine for \$3,000. The engine is currently on display at the Falmouth Historical Society.



1925 Town REO Speed Wagon Fire Engine. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.

1955-1975
Vietnam War. Falmouth suffers no casualties in this conflict.

1956
The Falmouth Playground Association, with land leased from the American Legion, establishes a central area for sports and recreation.



Circa 1968 aerial of the Legion Fields complex. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.

1957
Falmouth appoints its first full-time police chief.

1957
A wharf is constructed at Town Landing to make water available for boating during low tide.



Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.

1957
Falmouth builds a new high school on Woodville Road, currently today's middle school.



1957 Falmouth High School Dedication Program. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.

1962
Falmouth adopts a council-manager form of government.

1965
Plummer School is converted to an elementary school.

1966
Falmouth Historical Society is founded.

1976
Falmouth marks the 200th anniversary of the United States of America with a celebration and historic publication.

1981
Falmouth Land Trust is established.

2001
Falmouth Rotary Club chartered.

2011
Falmouth opens a new elementary school on Woodville Road.

2011
Forbes Magazine ranks Falmouth a "top city to live and learn."

2018
Falmouth commemorates its 300th anniversary.