



Falmouth's First Summer Colony

The Casco Terrace & Amerescoggin Neighborhoods

David Farnham
The Falmouth Historical Society

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Falmouth Heritage Museum

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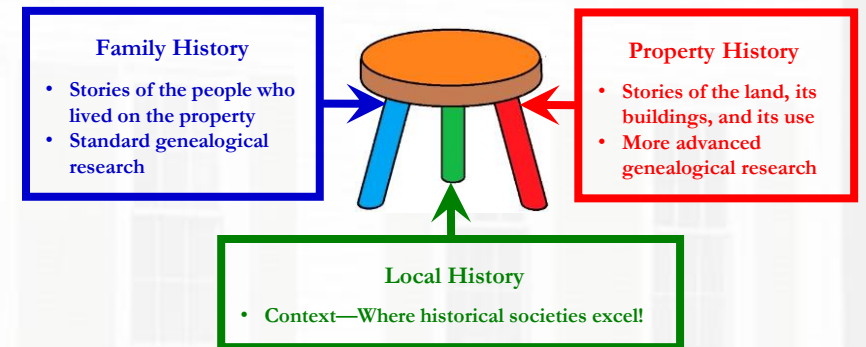
The Request

Property History Query

- A resident of the Amerescoggin neighborhood asked whether we could provide historical information about specific homes in the Amerescoggin and Casco Terrace neighborhoods to share with their new residents.

Routine Request

- We run the deeds to build the chain of ownership
- We use our genealogy toolkit to collect the stories of the people who lived there
- We overlay this with local history to provide context





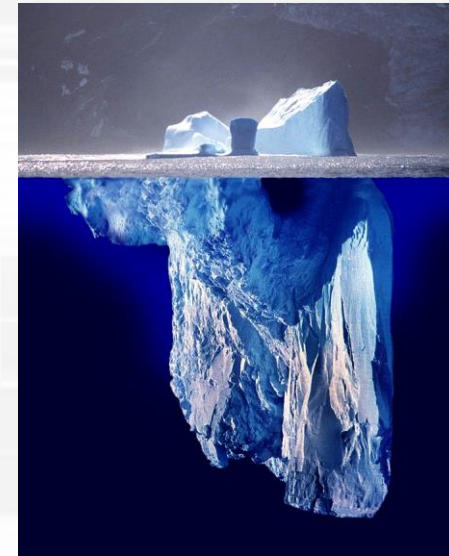
Initial Results

Tracing the Deeds

- All three homes were relatively new (built around the turn of the last century)
- Before that, small farms

Homes are the tip of the iceberg

- Chapters in the evolution of Falmouth Foreside
- Agricultural → Summer Resort → Suburbia
- These two neighborhoods were at the nexus of that evolution





Our Focus

16 Acres on the Foreside

- Two adjoining neighborhoods north of Town Landing
 - Amerescoggin Road
 - Casco Terrace
- Separate histories, shared significance





Rustic Falmouth

Three mariners—three farms

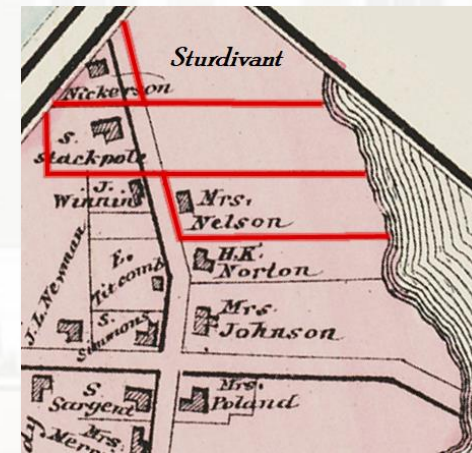
- Isaac Sturdivant (1784-1858)
- Samuel Davis (1819-1880)
 - Later sold to Stackpole family (also mariners)
- Andrew Nelson (1795-1860)

Lots along the Foreside

- Originally 30 acres
 - Minimum size for a farm
- Many divided in half
 - 15 acres enough for a subsistence farm
 - Some halved again
- Popular with sea captains and craftsmen



1857 Atlas



1871 Atlas



Rusticators

Flocked to Maine in summer

- Seeking fresh air, beautiful scenery, and a more “rustic” lifestyle
- Began in the Gilded Age after artists painted alluring landscapes of Maine coast
- Wealthy fled heat and bustle of cities
- Built seasonal “cottages” along the coast

Expanded the market for seaside real estate



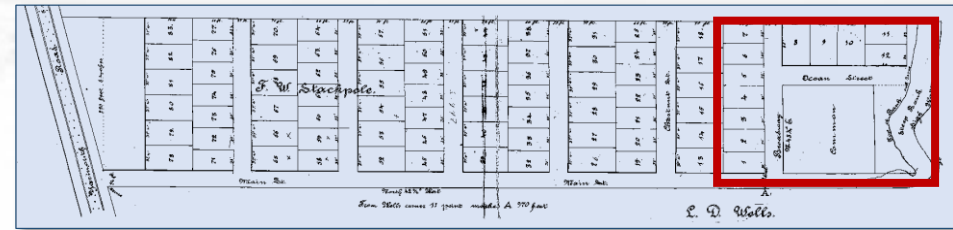
*“Graunka”
Cottage of H.J. Brown built 1903
177 Foreside Road*



Stackpole Farm

The Stackpoles

- Samuel Stackpole (1811-1887)
 - Sea captain of Yarmouth
 - Lived on the former Davis farm until his health failed
- Frederick Stackpole (1844-1911)
 - Samuel's nephew, former sea captain, banker in Kansas
 - Purchased farm in 1882



Stackpole Farm Subdivision

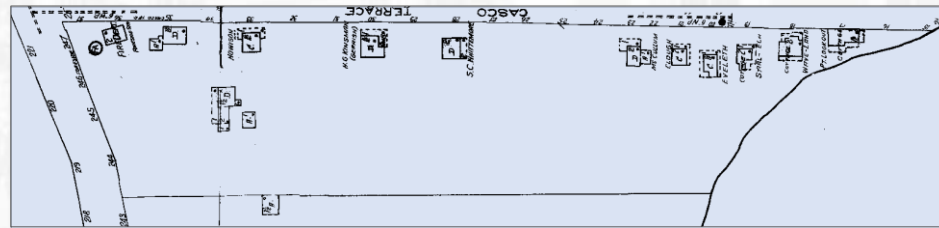
- Published the first subdivision plan for a neighborhood along the Foreside
- Lots on lanes off Casco Terrace
- Oceanfront lots bordering common ground



Nelson Farm

Nelson Farm abutted Casco Terrace

- Inherited by Mary Elizabeth Wells (1833-1916)
- Carved out and sold individual lots
 - No subdivision plan



Nelson Farm Subdivided in 1924

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The Auburn Colony

Joseph Chamberlin (1817-1901)

- Retired carpenter, building contractor, and cabinetmaker of Auburn
- Purchased first lot from Stackpole in 1881
- Purchased more from Stackpole in 1885
- Purchased land from Wells in 1888

The beginning of a summer colony surrounding the Common

- Summer cottages for families of Auburn
- No connection to the earlier Auburn Colony of Harpswell



View from the Common Today

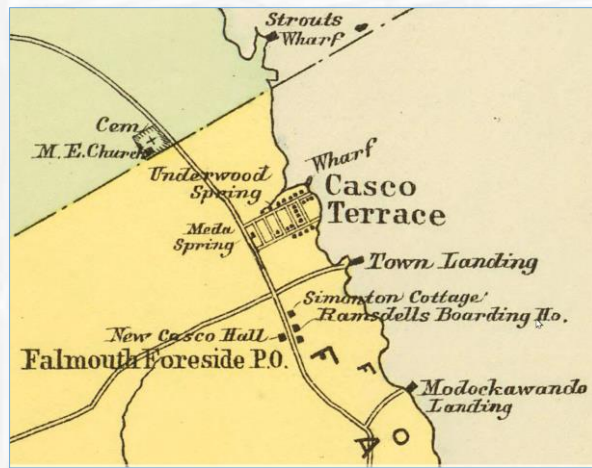
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Summer Colony Expands

Casco Terrace was the first summer colony and grew rapidly

- Cottages at the bay end of Amerescoggin followed soon thereafter
- Terrace Inn was built by a family who summured at Casco Terrace



1890 Atlas



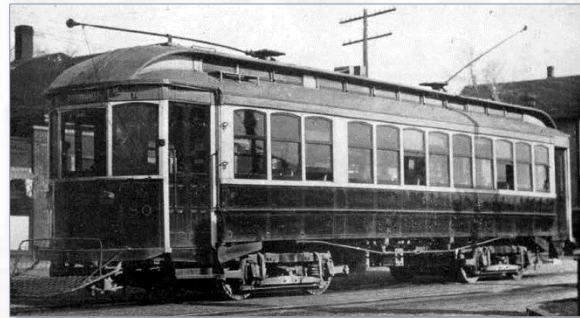
Terrace Inn



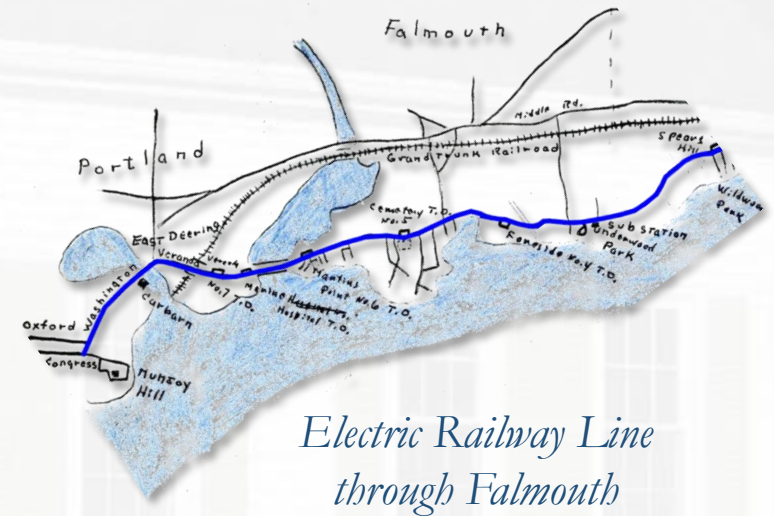
Trolley Service Comes to the Foreside

Portland & Yarmouth Electric Railway Co.

- Opened trolley service through Falmouth in 1898
- Acquired by the Portland Railroad Co. the following year
- Made the Foresides accessible to all
- Trolley service was discontinued in 1933 having been displaced by automobiles



Car # 180 in front of Union Station enroute to Falmouth



Electric Railway Line through Falmouth



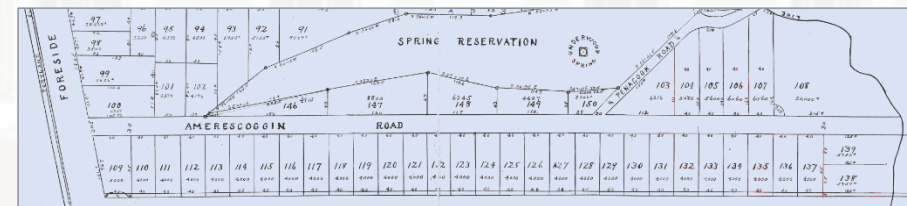
Underwood Spring Park

Recreational Parks

- Portland RR Co. established parks to attract riders
 - Riverton, Cape Cottage, and Underwood Spring
- Underwood Spring Park opened in 1899
 - Casino, open-air theater, and Japanese pavilion
 - 34½ acres including the former Underwood Farm
- Park closes in 1907
 - Casino and theater destroyed by fire; not rebuilt
 - Land purchased by a George Edwards in 1909
 - Publishes subdivision plan with lots on both sides of Amerescoggin Road



Casino at Underwood Spring Park



*Subdivision of Underwood
Bordering Amerescoggin*



Underwood Spring

George Thornton Edwards (1868-1932)

- Real estate dealer of Portland
- Established Underwood Motor Camp on the site of the former casino
- Featured small cottages and tent sites

Mildred Prentice White (1887-1970)

- Purchased Underwood after Edward's death

Lots were sold over the years

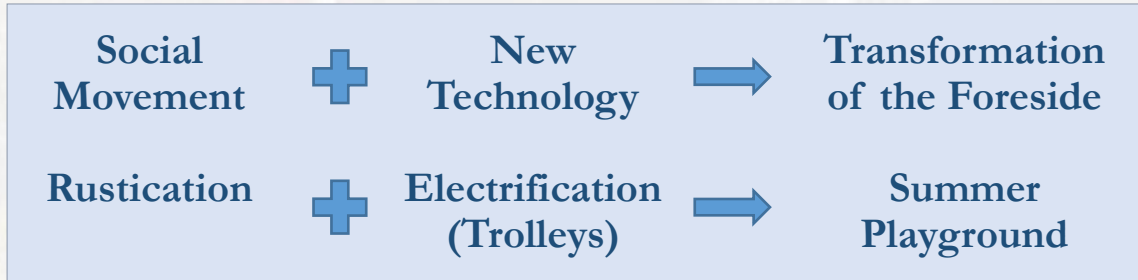
- Park transformed into a seaside neighborhood



Underwood Motor Camp



The Foreside Became a Resort



It happened with amazing speed

- Became unstoppable within two decades
- Brought a resort “venue,” a country club, and a yacht club to the Foreside
- Trickled down to middle and working classes
 - By 1919, roughly 40% of properties in Falmouth were owned by non-residents
 - Cottages and summer residences figured prominently



The Three Farms on Current Town Plat



Suburbia

Another wave of change swept over the Foreside after WWII

- Summer cottages became year-round homes
- Lots consolidated and redivided for new homes

Falmouth Foreside today is blend

- Old farmhouses
- Cottages grand and modest
- New neighborhoods
- Country club and yacht club are thriving

We responded with an eight-page history

- Including information about who built the three homes

