Local History at All Levels:
Making collections relatable and accessible

Kim DeWall, Mahala Nyberg, Megan MacGregor
Postcards from Falmouth:
Engaging the Community in the Creation of Digital Content

Presented by Kim DeWall, Falmouth Public Library
Falmouth Public Library Strategic Plan

Priority 1: COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS AND CONNECTIONS

Priority 2: A PLACE FOR DISCOVERY

- Provide digital resources that will expand access within and beyond the physical building.

- Contribute to the historic record of the community through ongoing conversations and digitization projects.
Go Local: Building Communities & Collections

1. Use historical documents to deepen the contemporary record by capturing and making available the stories and experiences of the community.
2. Collaborate with like-minded organizations in the preservation of the local story.
3. Reach out to residents to help in creating content and the access to it.
The Historical Documents: Postcards!

Falmouth Public Library Historical Postcard Collection

Historic postcards of Falmouth, Massachusetts.
Engaging Community Organizations Through Collaboration
Engaging the Community Through Oral Histories

- Noted Landmarks
- Avid Research / History & Culture
- Tourism/Commerce
- The Arts
- Collective Memory
Play Ball!
Mr. Richard Kendall
A local historian with deep roots in community:
Boyhood memories mixed with historical fact and municipal knowledge.

Oral Histories include links to related resources:

- Cape Cod Baseball League Website
- Geolocation/Maps
- Book and AV Materials
- Local Newspaper Articles
- Transcripts

https://falmouthpubliclibrary.omeka.net/exhibits/show/oral-histories/richard-kendall-on-falmouth-he
Engaging Community Through Social Media

So many memories! ... I learned so much and have a picture book somewhere. Where should I send it? I was in love with Andy Card (the motorboat driver who later became George Bush’s Chief of Staff). I learned to whistle with my fingers there. Would love to connect with co-inhabitants of the cabins and old friends!
Encourage Visitor Commentary and Contributions

Do you recall stories about Main Street over the years? Click on the postcards and comment!

*All the stories I'll ever need are right here on Main Street.* Robert Cormier

While the transportation, stores, faces and activities may change, Main Street, itself, somehow looks the same! Take a look at Main Street through the years as depicted in the postcards.

Did you know that at one time Falmouth students and football enthusiasts prepared for the annual Thanksgiving Day game against Barnstable with a parade down Main Street, from the Village Green to the Recreation Center, for a pep rally, which included a bonfire and dance on the night before the game? According to the Enterprise, the tradition started in the late fifties.

Did you attend one of the pep rallies, or do you recall stories from long ago when residents rode their horses down Main Street as pictured above? Contact us!

Here's to dear old Falmouth! Click on the image of the postcard to share a story about Main Street!

Check out our collection of Lawrence and Falmouth High School digital yearbooks, too!
Engaging the Community Through Virtual Programs: Local Authors on Falmouth
Engagement through Writing Workshops:

inspired by the postcards (front & back!)

Writing Stories From Postcards
... a three-week writing workshop creating stories based on historic Falmouth postcard collection...Learn about Falmouth as a resort town, as well as learning about writing short stories!

Jennie Wentworth, the young, widowed proprietor of Falmouth’s only year-round boarding house, set breakfast down before her sole boarder, Mr. John Ainsley. She sat across the table from John and said, “I’m so glad to have you here, Mr. Ainsley. It’s not the money, it’s the company. Falmouth is just so terribly cold and cheerless in winter. You know that better than I, working out of doors on the dredging project.” The Boarding House, by Steven M. Gleason
To view the Falmouth Public Library’s collection of locally significant content, please visit:
www.falmouthpubliclibrary.org

The Falmouth Public Library wishes to thank:
Digital Commonwealth, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, our community collaborators & volunteers, Anna (our Grant Assistant), and YOU!