



The Village News
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 North Falmouth Village
 Association



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**NFVA QUARTERLY
 NEWSLETTER**

**BOX 762
 North Falmouth, MA.02556**

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Beautification: Brian Head

Historian: Dan Small

Publicity: Alice Folan

**Membership: Ruth Ann Mo-
 lyneaux**

Program: Barbara Hampson

**Seniors: Chris Bagarella and
 Barbara Hampson**

Youth: Grace Simpkins

ON THIS DAY IN NORTH FALMOUTH HISTORY DECEMBER, 1905

SATURDAY EVENING A NICE SUPPER OF CAKE AND COFFEE WAS SERVED IN MEGANSETT HALL, AFTER WHICH THE 90 GUESTS ADJOURNED UPSTAIRS WHERE THE ROOM WAS DECORATED WITH THE CHRISTMAS COLORS AND GREENS. THE 12 FOOT TREE ON THE STAGE LOOKED VERY ATTRACTIVE WITH MANY PRESENTS FOR YOUNG AND OLD. THE CHILDREN GAVE AN ENTERTAINING SHOW OF CHRISTMAS SONGS. THE GIFTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE TREE AND A MERRY GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

President's Corner:

Happy 2015!! Your North Falmouth Village Association is already hard at work organizing our many programs and events for the upcoming year! Starting us out in March we are once again invited back to the Royal Megansett Nursing Home for a fabulous meal! The time and date are yet to be determined, but we will let you know. Thank you again to the efforts of Barbara Hampson! You can call her for details: 508-563-2375. Put your on winter boots and coats and join us for a lovely meal in the dining room with gorgeous views!

We are still looking for new volunteers to help with many of the duties of the NFVA Board of Directors so if you are interested in helping please call or email me. Monthly meetings are only an hour long and the time spent volunteering is not much more than another hour per month. All for a great organization!

Down on the Rand Farm
By Daniel R. Small, Historian

One of the first developers of North Falmouth was James Henry Rand, Sr., who had moved his family here from North Tonawanda NY in the 1920s. Mr. Rand was an inventor and businessman along with his son and namesake, James Henry Rand, Jr. They were in the office machinery business, which was really bustling back then, along with most everything else in the USA. After all, it was called the "Roaring Twenties."

After they moved here to North Falmouth, they set up a number of businesses and moved their families into a few of the older homes that they purchased here. Mr. Rand Jr. set up a farming operation on Wild Harbor Road with livestock and farmland. The main focus of this farming operation was to feed the rapidly growing Rand family itself with the freshest meat and produce available. Back in the 1920s there were no supermarkets of course, refrigeration was still new, and it wasn't easy to find the freshest food unless you had your own farm.

One of the old houses the Rand family purchased at this time was the John Nye homestead of 1776 at 95 Wild Harbor Road. This became the "Rand Farmhouse." Down the road from this, and in a westerly direction closer to the intersection of Chester Street, 3 large (about 70 feet long and 35 feet deep) identical barns were built to house the Rand's livestock, farm equipment and tools. The barns were built parallel to Wild Harbor Road and were also parallel to each other. According to Sara Morner in *The Book of Falmouth*, edited by the late MaryLou Smith, the 3 barns sheltered "a team of Belgian draft horses, a pony, a donkey, 2 saddle horses, 2 cows, 2,000 chickens, several goats, 2 pigs, a dozen sheep and many ducks, geese and turkeys." Sounds like Noah's Ark to me! These barns were all located where 118 Wild Harbor Road is now and, interestingly, the last surviving barn converted to a large house about 50 years ago is still standing proud!

So, what happened to the other 2 Rand barns? Well, Barn #1, closest to Wild Harbor Road, was destroyed by fire in 1937, according to a *Once Upon a Time* article in the *Falmouth Enterprise*. My late father, Walter Small, was one of about 12 call-firemen here in North Falmouth who helped fight the fire. In the process he lost his wallet, which during the Great Depression of the 1930s when money was scarce and jobs even scarcer was a big deal! The day after the fire, a wonderful lady by the name of Ruth (Bray) Smith found the missing wallet near the ruins of the barn. My father, as he often said, was "tickled to death" to have his wallet returned but the barn was a total loss. I have no information on the cause of the fire or if the animals survived.

Rand Barn #2 was also destroyed by fire in the late 1940s or early 1950s. The cause was arson and I just found out who set the fire only recently. The arsonist was just a teen-ager when it happened and he turned out to be a very good person. The burned-out ruins stayed there a long time and the smell of the burned-out wood came back every time it rained, carried on the prevailing wind from the southwest. Eventually these ruins were hauled away and the next thing I knew was that Rand Barn #3 was undergoing serious renovations for conversion to a large home. This was undoubtedly what saved it from meeting the same fate as its sister barns.

One of the major causes of the demise of farms like the ones the Rand family had was the arrival of supermarkets. A case in point would be that in the early 1930s, the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, now known as the A&P, purchased or leased the old "Mom and Pop" *Donkin Grocery Store* at the corner of Wild Harbor Road and Old Main Road and set it up with fresh New Bike Oh produce and meats, etc. Many years later this store was "disenfranchised" by the A&P Company and became



a "Mom and Pop" store again, which it still is.

WHAT'S UP IN NORTH FALMOUTH?

- ◆ The bulkhead is being replaced at Wild Harbor.
- ◆ The Good Builder condo project on Old Main Road is underway!
- ◆ Our new Bike Path sign is ready to be put up in the spring welcoming visitors to North Falmouth.
- ◆ The House next to the railroad tracks on County Road was recently demolished.
- ◆ Many trees around the Village were trimmed to help prevent power outages.
- ◆ The buddy bench that NFVA purchased for the North Falmouth Elementary



New Bike Path sign you will see as you enter the village!

**PLEASE STOP AND SUPPORT THESE
BUSINESSSES IN NORTH FAL-
MOUTH**

Dean's Market (Int. Rt.28a and
Rt. 151)

Route 151 Drive-in (Int Rt. 28a
and Rt. 151)

Beach House Restaurant (Rt. 151)

North Falmouth Village Association

Thinking of getting involved in the NFVA and wondering what's involved? The following is a list of the term commitments for association leadership: Officers: 2 year term, Directors: 5 year term, Mellen Fund: 3 year term, Chairmen: appointed (could be for life if you are having fun!)

All of our diverse committees have room for volunteers, so that would be an awesome place to begin. We have a gem of an association here so if you are new to town, retired finally with time to spare or just need a

Membership in the North Falmouth Village Association October 2014 to October 2015

Mail Payment to NFVA PO Box 762 North Falmouth MA 02556

Additional information from: Ruth Ann Molyneaux

Name _____ Local phone _____

Local Mailing Address _____

Winter Address if different _____

Winter Dates From _____ to _____

Email Address _____

Individual Annual Member \$20. q

Family Annual Member \$30. q

Single Lifetime Member (over 60) \$100. q

Single Lifetime Member (under 60) \$200. o

Age 85 and beyond o Free

Please indicate committees you are interested in:

Ways & Means	q	Membership	q	Newsletter	q
Historical	q	Beautification	q	Youth	q
Hospitality	q	Senior Citizen	q	Program	q
Mellen Memorial Fund	q	Building	q	Other	q

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