From the Editors

The history of The Wood Lumber Company by Deborah Griffin Scanlon starts in 1912 and continues for 100 years. It is the history of a local business as its owners adjust to good times and bad with agility and continuing civic commitment. Ms. Scanlon, a prolific writer and frequent contributor to Spritsail, researched and wrote the article. Most recently she co-authored with her father, Robert W. Griffin, the lead article in the Winter 2015 Spritsail about the DoReMi houses on Eel Pond.

Tucker Clark’s article on Charles S. Burgess is the latest in our series of profiles of prominent businessmen active at the beginning of the 20th century. Mr. Burgess bought The Enterprise in 1895 and was its principled and opinionated editor for almost 30 years, until 1925. During her research, Ms. Clark found this quote by him: “The columns of this paper will uphold the right on all occasions and we will with equal earnestness condemn the wrong. Our principles are good government and good citizenship and on that platform we will stand and there is where our friends and our enemies will find us.”

This issue of Spritsail also has companion articles by Martha Burnham Humphrey. In the first one she describes “Driftwood,” the house built in 1892 in West Falmouth for her grandfather, Dr. Samuel Warren Abbott. The second article describes her own childhood train trips in the 1920s from Boston to the West Falmouth station for summers by the sea. These stories echo and expand on the charming account by Dana Hastings, “West Falmouth - A Foggy Beginning 66 Years Ago” that was published in the Winter 2008 issue of Spritsail.

The poem “Earth’s Day, Fells Road” by Olivann Hobbie is especially welcome after this past winter. In a few bright images we join the balancing act of three bicyclists as they wheel through the spring air toward the sea with lifting hearts and opening spirits in response to “our salt blood’s rhythms.”

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