

## *From the Editorial Board*

The two personal narratives in this issue of *Spritsail* illustrate starkly the watershed nature of the U. S. Civil War. One is the almost idyllic account of life in a mid-century seacoast village, seen through the eyes of a teenaged Falmouth boy who was later to serve in the war. The other is the grim memoir of a survivor of that war, a young Falmouth man who fought for the Union, was captured and spent five winter months in a Confederate prison camp.

Publishing these two accounts is in part recognition of renewed national interest in our bloodiest war, through books, movies and a memorable television series. But it is also part coincidence.

We decided to print George Washington Swift's prison memoir. Fred Turkington fleshed it out with research

into Falmouth's role in the Union effort and the major battles in which Swift was engaged. Fred also visited Salisbury, N.C., and obtained additional information and illustrations of the prison camp there.

Meanwhile Harriet Quimby of the Falmouth Historical Society, asked for for an archivist's report, offered the diary of George Seneca Jones which had recently been obtained from his descendants in Pennsylvania. Reading of his simple, happy boyhood we realized that he, too, would have been the right age to serve in the war. Sure enough, a look at the record showed that George S. Jones of Falmouth enlisted September 19, 1862, in Company F of the 4th Massachusetts Regiment. He accompanied his regiment in the Union campaigns in the upper Mississippi valley and was mustered out in August of 1863.