

Woods Hole Historical Collection & Museum
P.O. Box 185
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER
Falmouth Fire Department and Woods Hole Station
1899-1993

1 box

FALMOUTH FIRE DEPARTMENT and WOODS HOLE STATION

HISTORY

The Falmouth Fire Department in the late 19th and early 20th century was run by a Board of Engineers composed of members from Falmouth, Quissett, Woods Hole, Teaticket and probably East Falmouth. The Board reported to the town Selectmen and needed their approval for the participation of volunteers and the purchase of hose houses and equipment.

Falmouth was designated as "Hose No. 1" and Woods Hole as "Hose No. 5". The records herein do not identify the hose numbers of Quissett, Teaticket and East Falmouth, but names of volunteers for Hose Numbers 2, 3 and 4 are given.

Woods Hole Reflections, 1982, edited by Mary Lou Smith includes a brief interesting history of the Woods Hole Fire Company by Elsa K. Sichel.

SCOPE NOTE

The papers in this collection include copies of minutes of the Board of Engineers of the Falmouth Fire Department from 1899-1904. The Board of Engineers was composed of members from Falmouth, Quissett, Woods Hole, Teaticket and probably East Falmouth. There are also minutes of the Woods Hole Station, 1909-1911, which was known at the time as "Hose No. 5". The minutes contain names of members, attendance at meetings, response to fires and requests for approval of new equipment.

The collection also includes a letter to Chief Leighton Peck from David Simoneau, a call fireman (1970) and a copy of the lease agreement between the Town of Falmouth and the Woods Hole Community Association for the ongoing use of the old fire station as an adjunct to the Woods Hole Community Hall.

Included is an issue of the Woods Hole Historical Museum's journal *Spritsail* which was devoted to firefighting in Falmouth and Woods Hole.

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1. Falmouth Fire Department. Minutes of meetings of the Board of Engineers for the Town of Falmouth, May 1, 1899 – July 14, 1904. Xerox copies.

Although pages are numbered, the last page (page 39), a letter to the telephone company, is incomplete. Page 17 is missing.

The minutes include:

1. lists of members appointed for manning hoses
2. Responses to various fires
3. bids for a new hose house in Teaticket
4. letter to the telephone company accepting the locations of the telephone for fire alarms (incomplete)

2. Woods Hole Fire Station (Hose No. 5), January 7, 1909 – October 5, 1911. Minutes of meetings of Hose Number 5. Xerox copies.

Although pages are numbered to 30, 2 pages are missing.

The minutes include:

1. names of members in attendance and absent at each meeting
2. an inventory of the property of Hose No. 5
3. responses to various fires
4. discussion and requests for equipment

3. Falmouth Fire Department-Woods Hole Station, September 30, 1970. Letter from David Simoneau (call fireman) to Chief Leighton Peck.

4. Old Woods Hole Fire Station. Agreement between the Town of Falmouth and the Woods Hole Community Association for the lease of the old fire station (Water Street), 1981. Xerox copy.

5. *Spritsail*, Volume 7, Number 1, Winter 1993. Issue features articles on Fire Fighting in Falmouth, Early Times Through 1947 and Reconstruction of Wheelwright House, Church Street, Woods Hole (after a major fire).

