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## Statement of Purpose

Falmouth boasts a rich and varied past—more than three centuries of recorded history and an even longer pre-history.

Falmouth residents and visitors have long demonstrated their interest in the colorful tapestry of the town's history, as attested through the years by newspaper chronicles, books and other writings, pageants and celebrations, and organizations devoted to preservation of the historical record. This activity reached a pinnacle in 1986 during the Falmouth Tricentennial which brought forth among other projects the enormously valuable and successful volume, *The Book of Falmouth*.

*The Book of Falmouth* and its predecessor *Woods Hole Reflections* made clear that Falmouth also boasts a large supply of historically-minded individuals with talents as rich and varied as the town's past: scholars, writers, poets, artists and photographers. These are people who know how fascinating and instructive history can be and who have the dedication and skill to dig out the story and present it accurately in lively and attractive form.

This new publication—the only regular journal of local history on Cape Cod—will provide an outlet for those talents. *Spritsail* was created to encourage the continuing discovery and presentation of historical material about our town and the people, places and events which have shaped it. *Spritsail* will also provide news of acquisitions and other activities of local historical groups.

The editors of *Spritsail* have drawn inspiration and example not only from *The Book of Falmouth* but from two neighbor publications: *The Dukes County Intelligencer*, journal of the Dukes County Historical Society, and *Newport History*, bulletin of the Newport (RI) Historical Society. Special thanks are

due Arthur Railton, editor of the *Intelligencer*, and Dr. Daniel Snyder, executive director of the Newport Historical Society, for valued advice and encouragement.

We also thank the Falmouth Historical Society, the Falmouth Historical Commission and the Woods Hole Community Development Foundation for underlining their enthusiastic endorsement of this project with financial support.

We hope that you will enjoy this new journal and will want to support it also, by supplying ideas, comments, manuscripts and new friends. Welcome aboard *Spritsail*!

W. Redwood Wright