

# Spritsail Retrospective – 20 Years

by W. Redwood Wright

This 39th issue of *Spritsail* represents twenty years of publication. Twenty years is a long time, worthy of a retrospective look. What is more important, the anniversary coincides with the retirement of Mary Lou Smith, our editor from the outset. With this issue we celebrate both two decades of publication and the extraordinary accomplishments of Mary Lou Smith.

## Beginnings

The precise origins of *Spritsail* are unclear. I had always thought that Falmouth should have a historical journal. A college history major and a history buff, I was a longtime member of both the Newport (RI) Historical Society and the Dukes County Historical Society (now the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society). I received and enjoyed both journals, *Newport History* and the Dukes County *Intelligencer*.

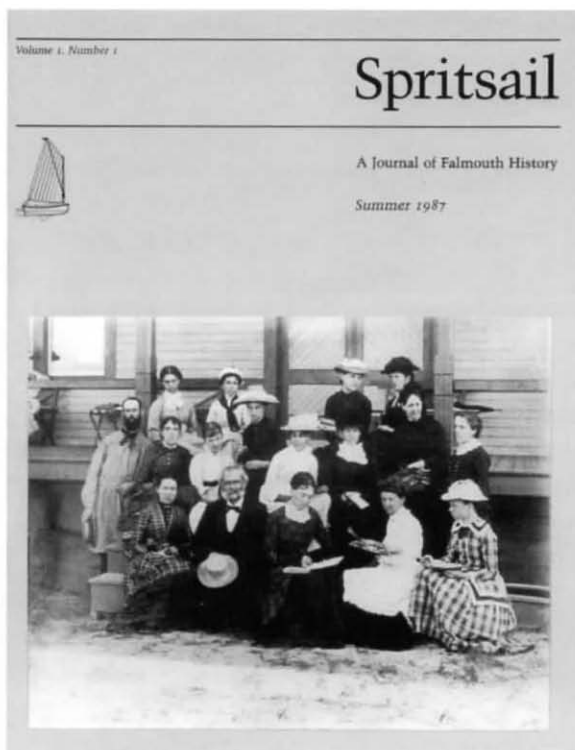
When *Woods Hole Reflections* (1983) appeared, followed by *The Book of Falmouth* (1986), I was stirred

to action. Mary Lou remembers that I tried unsuccessfully to persuade the Falmouth Historical Society (FHS) to publish a journal before turning to the Woods Hole Historical Collection (WHHC), and to her. I know that I wanted any such undertaking to embrace a community larger than Woods Hole.

With some encouragement, my wife Mary and I did a little research in Newport and Edgartown. Dr. Daniel Snodacker, then the executive director of the Newport Historical Society, and Arthur Railton, editor for life of the *Intelligencer*, responded warmly. In the fall of 1986 we spent a day sounding them out about timetables, costs, budget, hours of work, sources of funding, choice of sub-

ject matter, and potential authors. *Newport History* was then in its 58th year of publication, the *Intelligencer* in its 28th. We learned a great deal from both men. Each gave us the same important advice.

First, publishing a journal is the most popular thing a historical society can do, and, therefore, is a big



Cover of the first *Spritsail*: Vol. 1 No.1, Summer, 1987, with photo of Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute (1878-1902) art class. Baldwin Coolidge, artist-photographer, is at the far left. Photographer unknown, 8" x 10". Courtesy Dukes County Historical Society.

help in building membership. Second, publishing a journal is a big commitment. If we start it, we should be prepared to keep it going.

Armed with solid information and with the support of the WHHC board, I called the editorial board of the new journal to its first meeting on Jan. 5, 1987. Joining me were Mary Lou Smith, editor of *The Book of Falmouth* and *Woods Hole Reflections*, and Judy Stetson, Jane McLaughlin and Bruce Chalmers, all people who had helped Mary Lou with both books. Diane Jaroch, designer of the books, agreed to do at least the first few issues. Floyd McCoy, a member of the WHHC board of directors, also joined us.

There was no doubt that we would proceed, and that we would endeavor to maintain the high standards attained by *The Book of Falmouth* and *Woods Hole Reflections*. There would be diverse subject matter, lively writing, solid documentation, splendid illustrations, all set off by an open format on good paper. The minutes of the April 6, 1987, meeting confirm that last point: "It was agreed that the

generous support we have received allows us to make the first issue as big as necessary to do the job right; we should set a superior standard from the start!"

But how many issues per year? I remember pushing for a quarterly, but my more experienced colleagues counseled that we should start slowly. So there was one issue, Volume 1, No. 1 in Summer 1987, and there have been two a year ever since.

Finances were another concern. We put together a three-year budget projecting per issue costs of about \$2000 after the startup year, estimated at \$2800. The WHHC board agreed to put up \$1000 to start.

Proposals for support were sent to the Woods Hole Community Foundation and the Falmouth Historical Commission, both of which were generous. We also approached the Falmouth Historical Society, then headed by Otis Porter. Their board agreed to become involved from the start by contributing to the cost in exchange for copies for its members.



Paul Ferris Smith, designer Diane Jaroch, editor Mary Lou Smith and Judy Stetson celebrate the publishing of *The Book of Falmouth*, June 14, 1986. Courtesy Paul Ferris Smith.

Coming up with a name for our new enterprise may have been the biggest challenge. "Reflections," "Echoes," "Nobska Light" were suggested at our first meeting, but there was no clear front-runner. We wrestled mightily with the question, but when Mardi Bowles suggested "Spritsail" the discussion ended. "The spritsail is a small boat rig of respectable antiquity used around the world," as Mary Lou noted in her introduction to the first issue. The jaunty *Spritsail* logo has graced every cover for 20 years. For clarification we added "A Journal of Falmouth History."



Baldwin Coolidge by John H. Garo, photographer, Boston. "... the best portrait artist in the country." ca. 1910. Courtesy SPNEA. (Vol. 1 No. 1, Summer 1987, p. 4)



Eel Pond, Woods Hole. Sailor prepares to rig a Woods Hole spritsail, left of dock, 1890. Baldwin Coolidge photo No. 5149, 8" x 10". Courtesy WHHC. (Vol. 1 No. 1, Summer 1987, p. 9)

We reached agreement on size (7 x 9 inches, 32-plus pages); whether to use mailing envelopes (yes) and retail sales (yes, if possible). Judy volunteered to get

us registered with the Library of Congress. *Spritsail* was underway!

### Volume 1, Number 1, Summer 1987

The cover of the first issue, with 36 pages, was daffodil yellow, betokening spring and new beginnings.



Waterspout. Viewed from Cottage City (Oak Bluffs). One of three spouts which appeared between 12:45 and 1:25 p.m. Wednesday, August 19, 1896. Martha's Vineyard railway in foreground, steamer Martha's Vineyard at the dock. Baldwin Coolidge photo No. 5149, 8" x 10". Courtesy WHHC. (Vol. 1 No. 1, Summer 1987, p.11)

Jane McLaughlin got us going in grand style with a biography of Baldwin Coolidge (1845-1928), the Massachusetts photographer who recorded scenes around New England for nearly half a century with considerable emphasis on Cape Cod and the islands. Many of his extraordinarily clear and beautiful photos had been used in both *Woods Hole Reflections* and *The Book of Falmouth*. Later, of course, they became the basis for *New England Views* (1998), edited by Susan Witzell, Jane and Mary Lou, and published by WHHC with the cooperation of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Jane's article was accompanied by 13 of Coolidge's pho-



The Village Green and the First Congregational Church after 1857 when the frame of the church was rolled north across the Green and placed in its present location on land donated by Baalis Shiverick. The photo was made from a stereoscopic slide. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society. (Vol. 2 No. 1, Winter 1988, cover and p. 2)

tos, and the cover photo of an art class on Martha's Vineyard that includes Coolidge, two pages of footnotes and a tabulation of Coolidge's glass plate negatives.

John T. Hough, then publisher of *The Falmouth Enterprise*, contributed a review of *The Book of Falmouth*, inaugurating a long and valuable link between our journal and the local newspaper. The first issue also contained many features which have been characteristic of *Spritsail* ever since: short biographies of our authors, reports from the archivists of the Falmouth and Woods Hole historical societies (Harriet Quimby and Jennifer Gaines), information about museum hours, a letter to the editor (from

Art Railton, wishing us well) and a poem: "Falmouth," by Katharine Lee Bates. Mary Lou and I welcomed readers of our new journal and Bruce Chalmers wrote a short piece clarifying the profusion of historical organizations in Falmouth.

### Production

The board met at Mary Lou's call, usually in Bradley House or the Ratcliffe Room at the Woods Hole Library. Planning for the winter issue would be well underway before the summer issue was at the publishers. We tried to have at least a rough idea of our major articles a year or so in advance.



Architectural details from the original Henry Vaughan drawings for the Beebe Church, 1889, showing a section through the chancel and the north side elevation. Courtesy St. Barnabas. (Vol. 3 No. 1, Winter 1989, cover and p. 10)

I had thought the long series of monthly Conversations recorded by the WHHC would be a major resource, but that proved not to be the case. I spent fascinating hours going through the transcripts but soon recognized the gap between a verbal presentation and a written text. We may have adapted a few of them into articles over the years but it was certainly not the gold mine I anticipated.

Most of the articles were developed by the editorial board. A certain structure was provided by a spate of anniversaries. There was the tricentennial of the Falmouth Congregational Church, centennials of The Church of the Messiah and Katharine Lee Bates, and so on. We tried to develop themes, such as the issues on women scientists (Vol. 2, No. 2, Summer 1988) and the Civil War (Vol 5, No. 1, Winter 1991). We welcomed ideas and manuscripts and accepted almost all of those received "over the transom." Mary Lou was adept at recruiting authors to pursue specific subjects; she also never hesitated to persuade a board member to take pen in hand. I suspect that the fact of *Spritsail's* existence may have prompted some authors to come forward with ideas or texts.

Any material submitted would be read by every member of the editorial board. Suggested changes were sent back to the author; occasionally a board member would be assigned a re-write. The final text was sent off to be set in type, in the early years by The Job Shop in Woods Hole.

When the galley proofs were returned, the arduous work of proof-reading began. It was a two-person job, one reading the galley and the other checking word for word with the original. Occasionally corrections or changes were made. Jane was particularly careful and accurate at this chore. Meanwhile

Mary Lou was busily locating photos, sketches, maps and other illustrative material. If more photos were needed, Paul Ferris Smith and Bruce, and, later, Janet Chalmers were always there, cameras at hand. When all the material was ready, the designer produced a page layout and after a final blessing by the editorial board the whole package went off to the printer. Receipt of the page proofs set off another scramble of proofreading. In those early days, it was especially important to check for continuity from page to page, to make sure no text had been left out or overlapped.



George Washington Swift as a Union Soldier with musket and bayonet. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society. (Vol. 5 No. 1, Winter 1991, cover)

While waiting for the finished product, we would prepare for mailing. We had decided to use envelopes instead of sticking address labels on the journals to minimize

damage and keep our lovely covers unmarred. We felt, I'm sure, that each *Spritsail* would be a collector's item! Big excitement at Mary Lou's when the boxes arrived from the printer with 1000 or so copies of our precious journal. After a few minutes of delight and mutual congratulations, and an occasional groan when the very rare typo was found, everyone pitched in to stuff the envelopes and paste on the labels. Roughly half of the press run was delivered to the Falmouth Historical Society for them to distribute. Complimentary copies were set aside for authors.

Several dozen were kept for sale at the Bradley House, more were delivered to our gracious local retailers: Bill and Caroline Banks at the Market Book Shop, Hank Epstein and his wife, Hazel, at the Woods Hole Drug Store. Eastman's Hardware Store also carried *Spritsail* after an article was published (Vol. 5, No. 2, Summer 1991) recounting the origin and growth of that three generation enterprise.

The stuffed envelopes were divided into piles by zip code as dictated by John Klink at the Woods Hole Post Office, under rules that seemed to change from issue to issue. One rule called for two rubber bands stretched just so around each pile. The chairman of the editorial board delivered the works to the post office late in the afternoon when the day's press of business slacked off and John could distribute the stacks into the appropriate bags. Done!

*The Enterprise* always ran a news story to announce the arrival of each new *Spritsail* and also published a



Charlie Eastman and clerk at the counter of Eastman's Hardware Store. Note the prodigious inventory of paints, pots and pans, tools, and bicycles, as well as the tin-pressed ceiling and hardwood floor, ca. 1918. Courtesy the Eastman family. (Vol. 5 No. 2, Summer 1991, pp. 6-7)

review of the issue a few weeks later. Mary Lou recruited the reviewers who were rarely critical!

It took a while to settle on the size of the press run. We ordered 1000 copies of the first issue but actually received somewhat fewer. The journal was well received, surely helped by an *Enterprise* review by Dorothy Turkington. Copies were sent to members of WHHC and FHS and retail sales were brisk. In September we decided on a second printing of 500 which turned out to be more than enough! We started the second volume with 1000 copies then seesawed back and forth between 1000 and 1500 before finally settling on 1200 which seems to cover both membership distribution and sales. On occasion we have ordered a substantial number of extras, such as Vol. 8, No. 2, Summer 1994, with Lucy Coan Helfrich's history of Sea Education Association which SEA wanted to make available to its alumni.



Sea Education Association vessels *Westward* and *Corwith Cramer*. Photo by Kathy Sharp Frisbee. (Vol. 8 No. 2, Summer 1994, cover)



It also took a while to get the cost stabilized. Our first issue came to nearly \$6600, including the second printing, more than double our estimate of \$2800. We promptly raised our price per copy from \$3.50 to \$5 but as most copies were sent out gratis by the historical societies that didn't help much. We continued to seek and receive subsidies from both the Falmouth Historical Commission and the Woods Hole Community Foundation, sought quotes from different printers and eventually got the price under control. The cost per issue varies with the number of pages and the use of color, but is now usually in the \$4,000 to \$5,000 range.

Despite moving to Chicago, Diane Jaroch continued as designer through the Summer 1989 issue, Vol. 3, No. 2, helped by Carrie Fradkin. Hidden Studio printed several issues but in 1990 all the work of designing, typesetting and printing was taken over by Ruth and Dave Shephard at The Job Shop in Woods Hole. The printing was a major undertaking for such a small enterprise, however, and in 1992 that chore was given to Baker Printing in New Bedford. In 1998, as the Shephards neared retirement, the design and typesetting were taken on by The Village Printer of Falmouth, operated by Janet and Steve Chalmers. The Village Printer and Baker (now Bakerdirect) have done the job very handsomely ever since.

Production of *Spritsail* has also benefited from the technological advances of the last two decades, especially personal computers and desktop publishing. We started out with manuscripts typed on a variety of ancient and modern machines (I used my grandmother's Remington Rand!) and even an occasional handwritten letter. All that had to be re-typed, usually by Ruth Shephard, into the right type font to produce the galley proofs. Eventually some of us graduated to laptops, but even this material

had to be merged into a uniform format before it could be printed. Now, thanks to Janet and Steve, it is all very much simpler for the editors.

### Early Years

The second issue (Vol. 2, No. 1, Winter 1988) celebrated two anniversaries: the tricentennial of the Falmouth Congregational Church and the bicentennial of the ratification of the U. S. Constitution. The cover showed the church in its present location, after it had been rolled across the street from the Village Green.

Fred Turkington wrote the history of the church in the first of many appearances in *Spritsail*. He joined the editorial board in 1989. Fred described the changing relationship between the church and the community of Falmouth until about 1840. Then a town hall was built on Main Street just east of the



A spritsail boat at Sarah Fay's boat house, head of Little Harbor. Fay homestead in center background. Photo by Sarah Bryant Fay. Courtesy WHHC. (Vol. 2 No. 1, Winter 1998, p. 32)



Dr. Cornelia Clapp seated at her lab table in Old Main, MBL, 1934. Courtesy MBL. (Vol. 2 No. 2, Summer 1988, p. 13)

Village Green and the separation of church and state became a reality. The transition had been long and gradual: in the early years no distinction existed between the Congregational Church's business and the town's, but all that changed as Quakers and members of other religious groups settled and became prominent in the community. The principle of separation of

a shoo-in for president if Virginia failed to ratify which would disqualify George Washington. The vote was close but clear. Within months three more states followed suit and the Constitution became law.

In an experiment, which perhaps we should repeat, we asked high school students to write brief biographies of the delegates from their towns. Susan Fitch of Falmouth wrote about Capt. Joseph Palmer. Joe Price of Bourne wrote about Capt. Thomas Nye and Dr. Thomas Smith who represented Sandwich and Bourne. We could find no likenesses of these men, but Bruce and I spent a happy sunny winter day seeking out their homes, which Bruce photographed. The issue included a poem, "The Ratification Ballad," which had been sung in 1788 to the tune of Yankee Doodle Dandy, and archivist reports from Dorothy Svenning of Falmouth and Barbara Gill of Sandwich.

church and state was made the law of the land by Article VI of the Constitution and the First Amendment.

Massachusetts' ratification of the Constitution in 1788 was the subject of the second article in this issue, which I wrote. The vote in Massachusetts was crucial. Nine of the thirteen states had to ratify the Constitution to put it into effect and only five had voted in favor when the Massachusetts delegates assembled in Boston. Ratification was not a sure thing as the western towns and some on Cape Cod were opposed. The sponsors proposed several amendments to gain support, amendments which ultimately evolved into the Bill of Rights. They got John Hancock to announce his support by hinting that he would be



Mrs. James Beebe (center) surrounded by members of the Beebe and Fay families. Photo taken after Sunday luncheon at Highfield in 1883. St. Barnabas Church was built in 1889 as a memorial to James Madison and Esther Elizabeth Beebe by their eldest surviving son, Edward Pierson Beebe. Courtesy WHHC. (Vol. 3 No. 1, Winter 1989, p. 8)



Our first special issue appeared in Summer 1988, Vol. 2, No. 2, dedicated to women scientists in recognition of the centennial celebration of the Marine Biological Laboratory. Pamela Clapp, who also soon joined our board, wrote about Dr. Cornelia Clapp, the first student at the MBL in 1888, a beloved teacher at Mt. Holyoke College, and her distant cousin. Mary Draper Janney provided the story of Maria Mitchell, the Nantucket astronomer who taught for many years at Vassar College. Our poem was a delightful piece by Carole Oles, using Mitchell's own words to describe plucking a hair from the head of a child to create crosshairs for her telescope. Jennifer Gaines contributed an essay on student fun at the MBL, and Molly Dreyer submitted a letter from her grandfather Edward Gardiner about MBL life in the summer of 1890. Because Maria Mitchell broadened our horizons well beyond the Upper Cape — to the stars, in fact — we expanded our name and became *Spritsail, A Journal of the History of Falmouth and Vicinity*, which gave us all the leeway we needed.

The 1989 Winter issue, Vol. 3, No. 1, sported a striking cover: an architect's drawing of a cross section of St. Barnabas Church, printed on translucent paper known as vellum to introduce an article celebrating the centennial of the church by The Rev. Thomas E. Adams Jr., then assistant rector. This was *Spritsail's* first piece devoted to a building, one of the landmarks of our town.

The author describes the story of St. Barnabas as “a rich tapestry of stone and flesh” and indeed he makes it one, from the beginnings of the Anglican church in 16th century England, through the first ordination in the New World of an American Episcopal priest in 1792, to The Church of the Messiah, established by Joseph Story Fay in Woods Hole 60 years later. There followed what the author calls “a genteel ecclesiastical encounter” between Mr. Fay and

the family of James Madison Beebe, builders of Tanglewood and Highfield Hall. Despite wrangling, the new parish was established in 1888. The construction of St. Barnabas church and the lives of its first six rectors complete the story, amply illustrated with photos and architectural drawings.



Summertime on Penzance Point. Diving off the float at The Anchorage. Warbasse photo album. Courtesy WHHC. (Vol. 3 No. 2, Summer 1989, cover and p. 16)

In the same issue was another first for *Spritsail*, a personal memoir, the

harrowing tale of a mother and her three children alone on Bassett's Island in Pocasset in the great New England hurricane of 1938. The family went from a glorious September morning, with no hint of bad weather, to horror and fear as the storm waves covered their sandspit island and filled the cellar of their summer home with salt water. With a dory tied to the back door as a last ditch escape route, they watched the water rise, stop and eventually start to recede.

The memoir was written by Emily T. Potter and given to me by her daughter Nancy Potter Hardon, who was 10 at the time of the storm. I learned of the



MBL student in the field. Courtesy MBL. (Vol. 2 No. 2, Summer 1988, p. 36)



Botany Class on Collecting Trip, 1895. Baldwin Coolidge photo No. 7664. Courtesy MBL. (Vol. 2 No. 2, Summer 1988, p. 9)



The steam launch, *Sagitta*, towing students and instructors back from an MBL picnic in 1894. Baldwin Coolidge photo No. 7393. (Vol. 2 No. 2, Summer 1988, cover and p. 34)

manuscript much later when I met Nancy at a meeting of the trustees of the Bermuda Biological Station.

## Bygone Days

The next issue, Vol. 3, No. 2, Summer 1989, opened with a more serene memoir: James Warbasse's reminiscences of summers at Gladheim, his family's house at the tip of Penzance Point. He described a life which no longer exists, the leisurely summer days of a wealthy family before World War I, when chauffeured automobiles were replacing horse-drawn carriages, and the trip from Penzance to the Woods Hole post office was an adventure.

In the same issue was Fred Turkington's article on the electrification of Falmouth, another technological advance in the early 20th Century. The first generating plant in Falmouth, coal-fired, was built in 1909 off Depot Avenue. The new power source was extremely popular, especially for street



Falmouth's Village Green, 1989. Photo by Bruce Chalmers. (Vol. 4 No. 1, Winter 1990, p. 2)

lighting, and in 1911 a new generating plant was constructed on the west side of Falmouth Harbor in a building that had been an old roller skating rink on the Falmouth Heights side of the harbor. Known as "the Parthenon" because of the row of wooden columns supporting its facade, it was capable of producing an astonishing 1500 kilowatts. Fred's story was based mostly on articles in *The Enterprise* and on the Falmouth Town Reports, plus a couple of old-timer interviews.

The electrification story was made personal in an article by Clarence Anderson, who grew up in Falmouth as the times were changing. As a child he tinkered with radios and in 1926, at the age of 14, went to work for the Cape Cod Electric Company where he did everything from house wiring to digging ditches to replacing street light bulbs as the town went electric. In "The Enlightenment," Judy Stetson completed the story with a reprise of *Enterprise* advertisements marking the switch from kerosene lights to electricity.

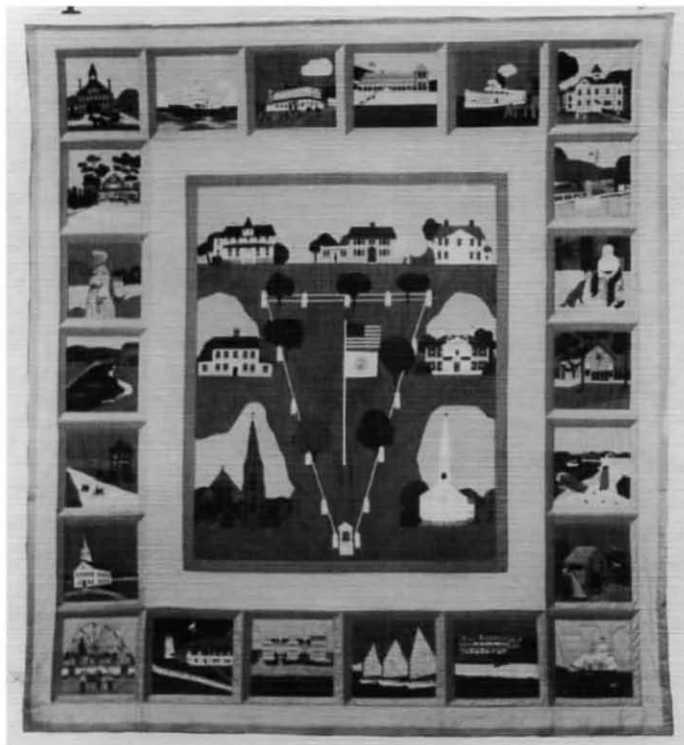


*Nobska* breaks her way through the ice with supplies for Nantucket Island during the freeze-up of 1961. Courtesy Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority. (Vol. 4 No. 2, Summer 1990, pp. 10-11)

By the end of our third year, then, *Spritsail* had introduced the major themes it would continue to pursue: anniversaries, war, significant buildings, biography and memoirs, technology, and day-to-day activities, both summer and winter. In short, the stuff of history. The balance of this retrospective will deal with such subject areas rather than continue as chronology.

First, though, I want to recognize the dedicated volunteers who have served on *Spritsail's* editorial board through the years.

Bruce Chalmers died in 1990 at the age of 83. He had been co-author of the lead article on the Village Green, in Vol. 4, No. 1, Winter 1990. The following issue, (Vol. 4, No. 2, Summer 1990), carried a memorial to him as well as his careful chronology of ferries to the islands. He was an author, photographer, valued friend and colleague; and he helped immensely in getting *Spritsail* under way. Happily his daughter-in-law, Janet Chalmers, agreed to join the board and has served ever since.



The Falmouth Tricentennial Quilt was presented to the town of Falmouth on June 15, 1986, the 300th anniversary of the signing of the town charter. Working from paintings that Louise S. Proctor adapted from the *Book of Falmouth*, 33 women created the fabric scenes representing the ten villages of Falmouth and the Falmouth Village Green. Another 40 women spent six weeks hand quilting. The project was co-ordinated by Elizabeth B. Owens. Photo by Bruce Chalmers. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Commission. (Vol. 4 No. 1, Winter 1990, cover)

In 1990 Floyd McCoy left Woods Hole for a position in Hawaii and Pamela Clapp joined the board. Membership was unchanged until six years later when I resigned because Mary and I were spending most of each winter on the Washington coast. Judy

Stetson became board chair and poet Eric Edwards was elected. Fred Turkington resigned the following year but kept on writing articles. In 2000 Barbara Kanellopoulos became a member, after contributing a splendid article the year before on the Greek families in Falmouth. Pamela Clapp Hinkle resigned in 2003 and Eleanor Bronson-Hodge, travel writer and *Spritsail* contributor, joined the board. Daniel Robb, who had written a book about Penikese Island, served for one issue only in 2005. Also last year, E. Graham Ward and

Maria C. Ward became the latest members. Now retired, both are experienced editors.

*Spritsail* has been fortunate to have had little turnover in 20 years, and especially so in the three stal-

wart individuals who have been there from the start — Jane McLaughlin, Judy Stetson and our superb editor Mary Lou Smith.

### Anniversaries

1989 was the 100th anniversary of the consecration of the stone Church of the Messiah building in Woods Hole, an event marked at the church by an exhibit in the parish hall, Fisher House, and by a service of celebration including an oral history presentation by parishioner Lauren Carson. The event was described in Vol. 4, No. 1, Winter 1990, by Jennifer Gaines, who added material from the WHHC archives including century-old bills from local businesses to the church. The issue also included a recollection by Sarah Bryant Fay, daughter of the founder, of the original dark reddish brown wooden church structure and activities involving the church.

The cover of that issue was a reproduction of the Falmouth Tricentennial Quilt which was created to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the town's incorporation in 1686. The work of some 30 Falmouth women, the quilt shows the Village Green and surrounding buildings and other scenes of the town. It is on permanent display in the Falmouth Public Library.

In the summer of 1993 the Falmouth Historical Society celebrated the centennial of "America the Beautiful," the poem by Katharine Lee Bates which many think should be our national anthem. Robert H. Bidwell of FHS described, (Vol. 7, No. 2, Summer 1993), the trove of memorabilia donated by Chandler Jones, who had for many years owned the house on Main Street where Miss Bates was born. There were letters, books, newspaper clippings, and photographs, many of which were on display during the centennial gala. Mr. Bidwell also included the story

of the 1926 contest to put the poem to music. Nearly 900 compositions were submitted; none was found worthy. Eventually a hymn tune written by Samuel Ward in 1882 became the popular choice and is the melody we sing today. The cover photo superimposes the poem, in its author's own hand, on the image of the Congregational Church, the Village Green and the flagpole.

In 1995 *The Falmouth Enterprise* celebrated its centennial and the Summer issue of *Spritsail* (Vol. 9, No. 2) contained a message from the editorial board recognizing that milestone. Acknowledging that newspapers provide the raw material of history, we noted that *The Enterprise* had been cited as a source in more than half of the articles published in *Spritsail*, and we expressed appreciation to the Hough family which had owned, published and edited the newspaper for the last 66 of those 100 years. The close relationship of *Spritsail* and *The Enterprise* and



A rare photograph of Katie (Katharine Lee Bates) as a baby, which appeared in her biography, "Dream and Deed" by her niece Mrs. George Sargent Burgess. Courtesy the author's heirs. (Vol. 7 No. 2, Summer 1993, p. 23)





Spritsail fleet readying for race at Woods Hole Yacht Club, ca. 1900. Crowell Collection. Courtesy WHHC. (Vol. 10 No. 2, Summer 1996, p. 2)

the Houghs continues, viz. Margaret Hough Russell's article on the Strawberry Festival in the Winter 2006 issue, (Vol. 20, No. 1).

The Woods Hole Yacht Club reached 100 in 1996, and *Spritsail* celebrated with one of its few issues devoted to a single topic. John Valois, a member of the club for nearly half of that century, led off with a 14-page history. The club was founded by a mix of men: residents of the recently developed summer colony on Penzance Point, year-round Woods Holers of varying occupations who enjoyed sailing small boats, and local businessmen. The original yacht club building was set on pilings at the end of a 200-foot dock; it is now the MBL Club, firmly on shore. John described the growth of the club from the big yacht era before the Depression, through the highly competitive years of racing Cape Cod Knockabouts, to today's multifaceted club which places an emphasis on younger sailors. The article is amply illustrated with photos of brass-buttoned commodores, gorgeous big schooners and small boats of many kinds, including, of course, spritsails.

Browne Littell followed with an article on the early days of racing at the yacht club, with line drawings of some of the vessels. Two master small boat sailors were profiled, Prince Crowell by Judy Stetson and Sam Cahoon by John Valois. The issue closed with a poem on sailing by Gordon Todd, long active in WHHC, who had died earlier in 1996.

In Winter 1998, (Vol. 12, No. 1), *Spritsail* published another

poem, by Eric Edwards, celebrating the bicentennial of the East End Meeting House in Hatchville, a Congregational church for much of that time but reborn as Falmouth's first synagogue when the East Congregational Religious Society gave it to Falmouth's Jewish congregation in 1982.

A four-hundredth anniversary was observed in Summer 2002 with an article by James Mavor on Bartholomew Gosnold's voyage to Cape Cod and



Prince Crowell at the helm of *Imp* in Woods Hole passage, 1959. Photo by Dorothy I. Crossley. (Vol. 10 No. 2, Summer 1996, p. 27)



Gosnold at the Smoking Rocks, oil on canvas painting by William A. Wall, 1842, on display at New Bedford Whaling Museum. Photograph published courtesy of New Bedford Whaling Museum. (Vol. 16 No. 2, Summer 2002, cover)

his short-lived settlement of Cuttyhunk. Jim has contributed many articles to *Spritsail*, frequently on archeological subjects including his own research on stone work. In Gosnold's case he provided a scholarly account of early exploration of New England starting with Giovanni Verrazzano in 1524. The article covers a great deal of ground, raises a host of fascinating questions and answers a few of them. Eric Edwards completed the tribute with a poem entitled "Gosnold's Footing (After 400 Years)" graced with Julia Child's sketch of a sassafras twig.

And then there is this issue, Vol. 20, No. 2, Summer 2006, celebrating *Spritsail's* own 20th anniversary!

### Seafaring

The sea and those who venture out upon it are a common theme in any coastal community, a theme found in many of *Spritsail's* issues. There have been a few articles, however, which are mainly devoted to seafaring.

The first of those in historical terms was William Munson's account of privateering in Vineyard Sound

during the American Revolution. Written as a history paper when he was an undergraduate at Harvard, it was revised and published in Winter 1999 (Vol. 13, No. 1) to coincide with the first re-enactment of the British assault by sea on Falmouth in April of 1779.

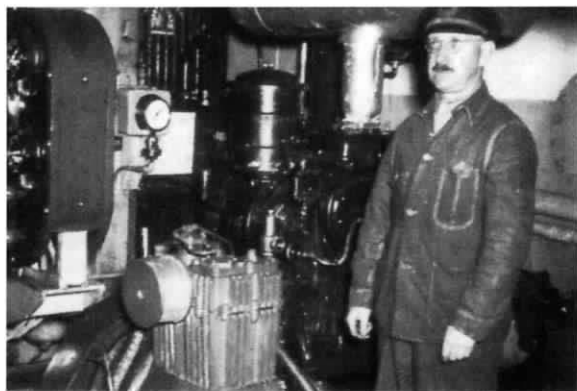
The article indicated the ad hoc nature of privateering, or in the author's words "sporadic, opportunistic and mostly the result of individual action," on both sides of the conflict. The rebels considered themselves patriots and called the British picaroons. The Tories con-

sidered themselves British belligerents. Both thought, with some justification, that the opposition were little more than pirates.

Small vessels called whaleboats were used in local waters. These were more substantial than those car-



Elijah Swift, 1774-1852, founder of the Swift family whaling industry. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society. (Vol. 12 No. 1, Winter 1998, p. 21)



Chief Harold Backus standing by generator in engine room of *Atlantis*, ca. 1945. Courtesy WHOI. (Vol. 11 No. 2, Summer 1997, p. 5)

ried later aboard whaleships. They were manned by up to 15 men and boys, maneuvered under sail and oars and perhaps armed with a swivel gun. It was an uphill struggle for the rebels, who were limited to a kind of guerrilla war as the Royal Navy ruled the local waters with an armed sloop based in Tarpaulin Cove. Nevertheless some prizes were taken and the British were compelled to maintain a presence.

The article was illustrated by reproductions of two paintings by Franklin Lewis Gifford (1854-1936), a self-taught artist and descendant of one of the first settlers of Woods Hole. The paintings depict the British assault in 1779 and show some "whaleboats." Herman Ward completed the scene with a poem evoking a more tranquil peacetime Tarpaulin Cove.

The nautical theme of the issue continued with an article by Karen Allen on "Joseph's boats" which were decaying dories hauled ashore and planted with flowers. The name was used locally in honor of the Rev. Joseph Metcalf who served

Falmouth from 1707 to 1723 and may have started the tradition. There was also a short article by Townsend Hornor about the Time Ball which was dropped each noon at the Fish Commission in Woods Hole in the late 19th Century, and an article by Jennifer Gaines describing the nautical weathervanes in the village.

Whaling out of Woods Hole, Falmouth's only deep water port, was described in Vol. 12, No. 1, Winter 1998, by E. Kent Swift Jr., going back to his great-great grandfather Elijah Swift. The narrative included an attempted mutiny by South Sea islanders. It was illustrated with paintings and photographs, most from the Falmouth Historical Society.

In "From Sail to Steam to Diesel," James Warbasse recounted the history of the island ferries in Vol. 4, No. 2, Summer 1990. He concentrated on the steamers which began service in Woods Hole in 1828 and reached a zenith in the years before World War II. The article was accompanied by the ferry chronology compiled by Bruce Chalmers and by wonderful



Old Stone Dock in Falmouth, originally built in 1801, destroyed in The Great Storm of 1815 and rebuilt in 1817. Painting by Franklin Lewis Gifford in the 1930s. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society. Photo by Paul Ferris Smith. (Vol. 13 No. 1, Winter 1999, inside back cover)

photos of the elegant side-wheelers and the larger propeller-driven vessels used in later years.

The 142-foot ketch *Atlantis*, for 30 years flagship of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, was the subject of one of *Spritsails*'s rare issues devoted to a single article (Vol. 11, No. 2, Summer 1997). The article was written by William B. Cooper of Quissett, who signed on the A-boat as ordinary seaman in the summer of 1944, at the age of 17. Bill served on *Atlantis* four years, working with a series of fascinating characters — skippers, mates, cooks and deckhands including many “squareheads” of Scandinavian birth who had sailed on the big square-rigged cargo vessels. His 36-page tale is crammed with wonderful anecdotes of life afloat and ashore, in Woods Hole and Bermuda and other ports, in the waning days of World War II and early post-war days. *Atlantis* served WHOI until the mid-1960s, but some of the men who sailed her continued to enliven the local scene for decades longer, including second-mate turned marine contractor Dan Clark and Bill Cooper himself.

The article is wonderfully well-illustrated with photos from the WHOI archives, of the A-boat under construction and under sail, of science and other shipboard activities, and of the men who sailed her.

Woods Hole was not long without a sailing ship. Within a decade of the A-boat's departure, Cory Cramer brought *Westward* to the harbor as schoolship for the Sea Education Association, or SEA. *Westward* was a handsome steel-hulled 125-foot staysail schooner which SEA purchased in 1972. Mr. Cramer had conceived of SEA to provide college-age students an alternative educational experience which would combine classroom studies with work and research at sea. *Westward* has been retired but SEA now has two simi-

lar vessels, the *Corwith Cramer* working out of Woods Hole and the *Robert Seamans* on the West Coast.

The SEA story was told by Lucy Coan Helfrich in the Summer 1994 issue (Vol. 8, No. 2), with a lovely cover photo of *Westward* and the *Corwith Cramer* under full sail. Her article includes the history of SEA's Quissett headquarters on Woods Hole Road, which evolved from a 25-room Victorian summer “cottage” built in 1889 by a Boston woolen manu-



View along starboard side aboard *Atlantis* under full sail. Photo by Don Fay. Courtesy WHOI. (Vol. 11 No. 2, Summer 1997, p. 36)



Sailors with local young ladies on the Woods Hole drawbridge. Private collection. (Vol. 9 No. 1, Winter 1995, p. 38)

facturer. The house was remodeled by the Whittemore family, also of Boston, in the years before World War I, and was acquired by SEA in 1985. It is now the James L. Madden Center for Maritime Studies, named for a former SEA chairman. SEA has benefited from its location as scientists, technicians and others from the existing

scientific institutions have provided expertise and equipment and mentoring, while the community has benefited from the enthusiastic young students and the talented professionals of SEA.

## War

Like the sea, wartime has provided a continuous theme in the life of our community and in *Spritsail*, but the subject was featured in only two issues besides those already mentioned.

The Winter 1991 issue (Vol. 5, No. 1) included two personal narratives which, as the introduction noted, "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."

The prisoner of war was George Washington Swift of Waquoit who was captured in October, 1864, in the Shenandoah Valley and was kept in a military prison in Salisbury, NC, until liberated as the war ended. His searing journal was put into context by Fred Turkington, who researched Falmouth's role in the war and even visited Salisbury. The second memoir, provided by archivist Harriet Quimby of the Falmouth Historical Society, was by George S. Jones and covers the years 1853-1857. Five years later, aged 22 and a student at Harvard, he volunteered in response to President Lincoln's call and served for almost a year. The two narratives are connected by a poem written by Warren L. Chadwick, also a prisoner of the Confederates, reprinted from *The Book of Falmouth*.

The impact of World War II on Falmouth was the subject of the Winter 1995 issue (Vol. 9, No.1), in very different views by two frequent contributors. Fred Turkington mined the files of *The Enterprise* to provide an account of the buildup at Camp Edwards and other military activities on the Upper Cape, including amphibious landing exercises on Falmouth's beaches. Susan Witzell described wartime life in



One hundred and eighty-nine veterans marching up Main Street on September 12, 1946, when the town celebrated a Welcome Home Day for its soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen of World War II. Courtesy *The Falmouth Enterprise*. (Vol. 9 No. 1, Winter 1995, p. 23)



Woods Hole, with tourism shut down, the Oceanographic Institution gearing up to help the war effort, and a strong Navy presence in the village. Her story was based largely on interviews with those who were there and on the WHHC archives, particularly the Oral History Program.

The cover is one of my favorites. It shows about three dozen helmeted soldiers treading water off Washburn Island in full field equipment, while the perky *Spritsail* logo bobs in the background!

## Gardens

Three lovely issues described the gardens of Woods



View of the Mary Garden from within the oratory of the Bell Tower, 1981. Photo by Joseph Neary. (Vol. 6 No. 2, Summer 1992, p. 16)

Hole. Jane McLaughlin wrote of the Mary Garden and Angelus bell tower on Eel Pond, in Vol. 6, No. 2, Summer 1992. Located across the street from St. Joseph Church, the tower and the garden were the gifts of Frances Crane Lillie after her conversion to Catholicism in the 1920s. Jane described the

construction of the tower, including its handsome bronze door with six scenes from the life of St. Joseph, the planting and layout of the garden and the many works of sculpture commissioned by Mrs. Lillie. The garden is planted with flowers, mostly



Eugene and Lotawana Nims on the second floor east porch at The Larches in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, ca. 1940. (Vol. 8 No. 1, Winter 1994, cover)

blue and white, named for the Virgin Mary and includes other religious names. It is a tranquil sanctuary on a busy summer day in Woods Hole.

The Winter 1994 issue (Vol. 8, No. 1) carried a description of the landscaping and gardens of a woman with the wonderful name of Lotawana Flatau Nims, including those at The Larches, her 44-acre estate near Nobska Point. Author of the article is Judith Lang Day, a landscape designer and grand niece-in-law of Mrs. Nims.

Mrs. Nims also created a showplace at Bee Tree Farm outside St. Louis. On both estates, Judy Day wrote, "the houses sit high on a hill dominating the surrounding area, but in her gardens it is difficult to tell where nature stops and the work of man begins." She would "turn swamps into mirror pools and poison ivy thickets into slopes of gold," and her motto was "to buy a package of seed and go to work."



Ted Fitzelle planting flower seedlings. Courtesy Ted and Meg Fitzelle. (Vol. 19 No. 2, Summer, 2005, p. 7)

The article discussed The Country Place Era (1880 to 1940) when the great American private gardens were created, and described the planning and plantings at both Nims estates. Mrs. Nims sought advice from great professional landscapers like the Olmsted Brothers, but as often as not disregarded it and went her own way with her resident gardeners. The story is illustrated with lovely photographs; it ends with the author's efforts to bring back the beauty of The Larches.

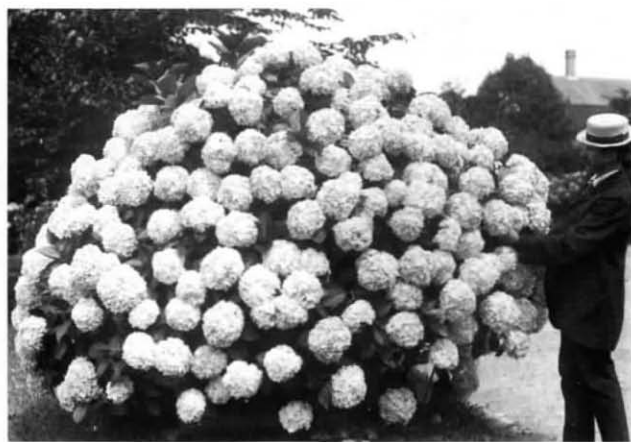
The Larches was featured again, along with other great local estates, in Susan Witzell's account of the gardeners and caretakers of Woods Hole (Vol. 19, No. 2, Summer 2005), another issue devoted to a single article. Susan concentrated on the skilled workmen who built and maintained the gardens, and on their families. At The Larches, that included Gabriel Bettencourt and Manuel Duarte, both from the Azores, and Ted Fitzelle who now cares for the Clark estate on Penzance Point.

Three other nearby gardens were the Carlton estate, the Wheelwright House and the Whitney estate, all on Church Street. William and Ann

Chambers of England came to the Carlton estate in 1923 and spent the remainder of their lives there. Bernard Cavanaugh and Frank Cassick worked the Wheelwright estate while Alden Cahoon (father of Sam Cahoon, the famous small boat racer) was in charge for many years at the Whitney estate, succeeded by James Hallett, Grant Lunn and Henry Rogers. All these men were familiar figures in Woods Hole; many of their descendants are still in town.

Perhaps the most famous gardener was Michael Walsh who worked for the Fay family and developed the rambler rose along with many other hybrids. He received gold medals for his pioneering work. On the Crane estate on Juniper Point there were Albert Swain Jr., whose father worked at the Anchorage on Penzance Point, and two Scots, James Goodfellow and John Tait. Mr. Tait retired to Leslie Street where he had his own large garden.

Then there were Nelson Cahoon at White Crest and John and Olive Martin at Gansett Point. In Quissett there were Leander Blomberg at Red Oaks, his nephew Carl Frank at the Marshall Estate, and



Michael Walsh with a hydrangea, 1896. Photograph by Baldwin Coolidge. Courtesy WHHC. (Vol. 19 No. 2, Summer, 2005, p. 19)



Some of the "house musicians" on Millfield Street in 1944-45. Back row, left to right: Wistar Janney, Paul F. Smith, Jack Decius; front row: Patsy Redfield, Mary Janney and Mary Lou Smith. (Vol. 8 No. 1, Winter, 1994, p. 31)

Clarence Fish at the Fenno Estate, all familiar names in the community.

### Arts and Entertainment

Cultural enrichment has taken many forms in Falmouth, some of it imported but most of it home grown.

Cecelia Fuglister and William Simmons wrote in the Summer 1993 issue, (Vol. 7, No. 2), of informal music making at the Fuglister house in Woods Hole. Cecelia and her husband Fritz were enthusiastic violinists and genial hosts who initiated musical evenings at their Juniper Point home early in World War II. The strong bond between music and science was evident from the start (Fritz was an oceanographer) and the ensemble grew as scientists came to Woods Hole during and after the war. One early member of the group was Mary Lou Smith, editor of this journal and a

talented musician. Bill Simmons, oceanographer and cellist, became a regular when he came to town in 1967.

The musicians played almost entirely for their own enjoyment and uplift but occasionally presented public concerts. The program for one of those, in 1947, characteristically lists the women performers as Mrs., followed by their husbands' names. The article begins with a thoughtful essay on the nature of "house music" and how it affects the participants.

Two years later Dick (DeWitt C.) Jones provided a lively review of the theater in Falmouth over 70 years. "Curtain Rising"

Summer 1995, (Vol. 9, No. 2), had a cover showing Margaret Sullavan and Henry Fonda in 1931. Much of the talent was home grown, as with the music, but there were several professional or semi-professional troupes over the years. Home-grown was represented starting in the 1920s by the Penzance Players who put on summertime dramas over some 55 years; professionals by the University Players which brought performers like Josh Logan and Jimmy



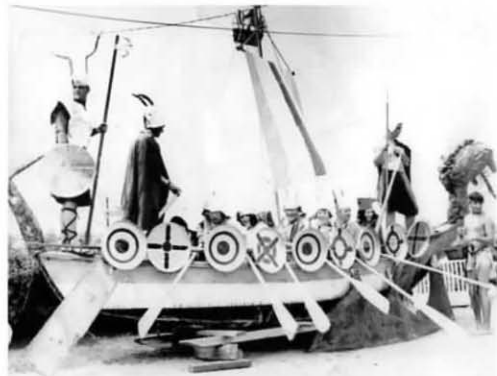
CLOC, 1977. "H.M.S. Pinafore" with David Cantor as Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B. Photo by Andy Montroll. Courtesy CLOC. (Vol. 9 No. 2, Summer, 1995, p. 10)



1976 Woods Hole parade steps out with Albert Szent-Györgyi as Uncle Sam and Phyllis Goldstein as fifer. Courtesy Phyllis Goldstein. (Vol. 16 No. 2, Summer 2002, p. 39)



Mayor Dick Jones addresses the post-parade gathering in front of the Quisset Harbor House. Photo by Carl Bowin © 1976. (Vol. 16 No. 2, Summer 2002, p. 29)



Carl Beverly, Prince Sears Crowell Jr., Prince Crowell, Polly Crowell, Loren Crain, Olive Beverly, Carleton Beverly, Joann Gesserman, Fred Feitler and Prince Sears Crowell III, 1966. Photo by Dorothy I. Crossley. (Vol. 16 No. 2, Summer 2002, p. 38)



Protesting the proposed McDonalds franchise dominated the 1995 Woods Hole parade. Courtesy Phyllis Goldstein. (Vol. 16 No. 2, Summer 2002, p. 39)



Charles Blevins, Dick Jones and Freelon Morris, Jr., lead the 1954 Quisset parade as the Spirit of '76. Courtesy Dick Jones. (Vol. 16 No. 2, Summer 2002, p. 29)



Woods Hole Theater Company, 1982. "Buried Child": Paul Ryan, Karl Schleicher, JoAnn Allard, Eric Edwards, Ashley Edwards. Photo by Thomas N. Kleindinst. Courtesy Thomas N. Kleindinst. (Vol. 9 No. 2, Summer, 1995, p. 18)

Stewart (as well as Sullavan and Fonda) to the old Elizabeth Theater in Falmouth and later to a homemade theater at Old Silver Beach. The group dissolved in the early 1930s.

Summer theater returned after World War II with the first use of the Highfield Theater on the Ter Heun estate. Several groups used the premises in the early years, then in 1958 the Oberlin Players began an 11-year run of Gilbert and Sullivan operetta performances. The Players evolved into the College Light Opera Company, now in its 37th year of presenting musical shows at Highfield Theater. Dick Jones has been president of CLOC for many years.

In 1949 the Falmouth Playhouse was opened at Coonamesset with the support of the Crane family of Woods Hole, who had also helped underwrite the University Players. Well-known stars performed in the early days along with local walk-ons including Dick Jones who shared the stage with Paulette

Goddard and Maurice Evans. The Playhouse burned to the ground in 1994.

Still going strong are the Falmouth Theater Guild and the Woods Hole Theater Company, both amateur groups, and of course the local schools are a continuing source of talent and delight. Great photographs accompany this article!

Dance and the joy of moving to music are described and lavishly illustrated in an affectionate biography of Klara Koenig in honor of her 90th birthday, in the Winter 2000 issue, (Vol. 14, No. 1). The text is by Olivann Hobbie and most of the photos by Holly Smith Pedlosky, both pupils of Klara's. Born in Hungary, Klara Bodnar Koenig lived for a time in Russia with her husband Zoltan but both fled to America at the start of World War II. In 1962 they moved to Falmouth where Klara found great demand for her teaching. Hundreds of girls and women have



Klara Bodnar, 1926. Courtesy Klara Bodnar Koenig. (Vol. 14 No. 1, Winter, 2000, p. 5)



Klara Koenig gives dance instruction to Dove Pedlosky and unidentified child, 1982. Photo by Holly Smith Pedlosky. (Vol. 14 No. 1, Winter, 2000, p. 16)



studied with her, and quite a few young men; several of her students have gone on to professional careers and her dance programs have brought joy wherever they are performed.

The Falmouth Artists' Guild is described by Phyllis Heitzler, a founding member, in Winter 2004 (Vol. 18, No. 1) as part of the history of the town's Poor House which was home to the Guild for some 30 years. When the Town of Falmouth decided it needed the building for office space, the Guild had to find a new home. It plans to build on land donated to it on Gifford Street near the corner of Dillingham Avenue.

Among the lively outdoor activities are the Fourth of July parades held annually in several locations in



Albert Marks was one of several East Falmouth growers featured in *The Enterprise* in 1951 to promote the first Strawberry Festival. Courtesy *The Falmouth Enterprise*. (Vol. 20 No. 1, Winter 2006, p. 8)

Falmouth. Jean Bigelow focuses on two of these in Vol. 16, No. 2, Summer 2002. The Quissett Parade, now nearing its 60th year, goes from the Quissett Harbor House up the hill and back, with a marching band, inventive family floats, kids galore and



Poor House, East Main Street, Falmouth, ca. 1888. Child is Miss Louise B. Laurence of Teaticket. Photo courtesy Falmouth Historical Society, gift of Louise B. Laurence. (Vol. 18 No. 1, Winter, 2004, cover)

plenty of bunting. Several families are into their fourth generation of participants. The Woods Hole Parade has a shorter route but features enthusiastic groups of students from the summer classes at the Marine Biological Laboratory whose themes are long on obscure biological terminology, frenetic group action and general hilarity. Candy is thrown and quickly scooped up, and the whole affair winds up with a watermelon feast at the MBL Club. Here again the photos are delightful.

A more sedate event but great fun for all hands is the annual Strawberry Festival at St. Barnabas Church on the Village Green. In this year's Winter issue (Vol. 20, No. 1) Margaret Russell tells how the festival developed in the years when strawberries were a major crop in East Falmouth. A poem by Eric Edwards catches the spirit of the event.

### Buildings and Development

Throughout its history Falmouth has had its share of landmark buildings and, when it became a magnet for summer visitors, of distinctive neighborhoods and developments. Many of these have been chronicled and richly illustrated in *Spritsail*.



"This fanciful little confection" at #3 Crown Avenue, Falmouth Heights was built in 1872 by Elbridge Boyden and sold in 1880 to Susan L. Arms of Bellows Falls, Vermont. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society. (Vol. 6 No. 1, Winter 1992, p. 12)

An impressive standard for this sort of report was set by architectural historian Candace Jenkins in Vol. 6, No. 1, Winter 1992. The entire issue was devoted to "The Development of Falmouth as a Summer Resort, 1850-1900" which described three very different, and still very active, summer communities. The first was Falmouth Heights, created in the 1870s by a group of Worcester businessmen who used as a model the successful summer colony of Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard. Their intent, the author wrote, was "to provide the greatest numbers with the greatest benefits at the greatest profit to themselves," and it was achieved by creating hundreds of tiny lots set off by large open parks and public buildings. Most of the larger buildings are gone, but the Heights retains the charm of the small decorated cottages.

Over the next 20 years the concept of a summer resort changed to one of an exclusive club with large private estates. Chapoquoit, the former Hog Island in West Falmouth, was begun in the early 1890s. Subdivided into 38 lots averaging about one acre each and connected to the mainland by a bridge and causeway, the area became an exclusive retreat for the rich, though they shared a water tower, electric plant, beach and clubroom.

Penzance Point continued the trend to exclusivity, with estates large enough to allow the wealthy owners to have their own swimming beaches, docks and often fanciful boathouses, and usually tennis courts as well. The houses, mostly in the then (and once again) fashionable shingle style, were larger than those at Chapoquoit. Most of the estates have changed hands in the last century and some of the houses have been replaced but the feeling of grandeur persists.

Candace Jenkins reappeared in *Spritsail* (Winter 2004, Vol. 18, No. 1) with another well-researched article on Falmouth's Poor House, which was built in Hatchville in the late 1760s as a tavern and moved to its present location on Main Street around 1812. The town's oldest municipal building, it served the poorest citizens, ultimately as a kind of nursing



Elaborate boat house of the H.E. Hibbard residence "The Barnacles" with Woods Hole spritsail boats at float, ca. 1895. Courtesy *The Falmouth Enterprise*. (Vol. 6 No. 1, Winter 1992, p. 28)

home, until about 1960. The Falmouth Artists' Guild leased the building for some years, as described in the companion article by Phyllis Heitzler.

Another development, at Racing Beach, is described by Susan Witzell in the Winter 2000 issue (Vol. 14, No. 1). Racing Beach was laid out in the 1920s but was not fully developed until after World War II. The article also describes the three large estates on Quissett Ridge between Woods Hole and Falmouth. One of them is now the home of SEA, one houses the Woods Hole Research Center and the middle one is the Miller House.

Not a development but certainly an impressive array of lovely old buildings is centered on the Falmouth Village Green, featured in Vol. 4, No. 1, Winter 1990. Written by Bonnie Hamilton with photos by Bruce Chalmers, the article highlights the



The Julia Wood House, 55 Palmer Avenue, 1790. The original owner was Dr. Francis Wicks, one of the first to advocate and practice inoculation against smallpox. Later owners included Samuel Crosswell, Captain Warren N. Bourne and Mrs S.E. Gould. Julia Wood, a granddaughter of Captain Bourne, bequeathed this house with its nearly two acres of grounds to the Falmouth Historical Society. The house is now the Historical Society's Museum. The grounds, which include the Herb Garden, the Colonial Garden and the Memorial Park, are maintained by the Falmouth Garden Club. The house and the grounds are open to the public. The Wood House is a Federal style building with hip roof, twin chimneys and a widow's walk. It has an unusually wide two story portico with a pediment roof and modillion cornice. At the time it was built it must have been the most impressive building on the Green, and perhaps in the Town. Photo by Bruce Chalmers. (Vol. 4 No. 1, Winter 1990, p. 11)

grand old structures, most built between 1750 and 1850 as family residences of sea captains, physicians and the like. Some have been converted to bed and breakfasts, a recent evolution which has helped preserve the character of many New England village greens.

In the same Winter 1990 issue is the architect's story of the design and building of what we all call the Airplane House, that eye-catching shingled structure at the tip of Juniper Point in Woods Hole. William Gray Purcell, a Minneapolis architect, described how in 1913 he gently persuaded the Crane family



Reconstruction of Wheelwright House complete, summer 1988. (Vol. 7 No. 1, Winter 1993, p. 32)

not to erect a \$600 portable bungalow on that spectacular location but to let his firm design a house with a porch, bathrooms, extra bedrooms, a kitchen.....how he oversaw the entire project while the Cranes were summering in Europe, and made sure it was furnished and fully equipped for a wedding held a few days after the family returned!

Another impressive summer home nearby, the 15,000 square foot Wheelwright House on Church Street, was built around 1888 for Ogden Jones of Evanston IL. A century later, during renovation, the old wooden building caught fire and was severely damaged. Dr. Charles Lowe, owner at the time, decided to rebuild the house as much like the original as possible, and he describes that process in the Winter 1993 issue (Vol. 7, No. 1), with wrenching before-and-after photos.

Appropriately, the same issue carries Gordon Todd's history of fire fighting in Falmouth, from the early bucket brigades to the big, beautiful fire trucks of the modern era. He explains the growth of the fire department, from volunteer call men to trained pro-



Stained glass window over the altar in the Church of The Messiah: *The Meeting of Christ and the Samaritan Woman*, late 19th century, American. Photo by Paul Ferris Smith. (Vol. 10 No. 1, Winter 1996, cover)



Maxim Combination Chemical Hose 5 of Woods Hole, vintage 1919, at Falmouth Station, 1921. Courtesy Falmouth Fire Department. (Vol. 7 No. 1, Winter 1993, p. 10)

fessionals, and the establishment of fire houses in most parts of town. Along the way he describes some memorable blazes, notably the one which consumed Beebe Woods in October 1947.

Highfield Hall, the hilltop mansion built in 1878 for the Beebe family and now undergoing thorough renovation thanks to a happy partnership of town and private endeavor, is the sole subject of the Winter 2003 issue (Vol. 17, No. 1). Maximilian Ferro provides an

architect's assessment of the building, concluding that it is "a very fine mansion of the Queen Anne Revival Period which still retains much of its original beauty and historical appeal." The building's history is told by Susan Shephard, then executive director of Historic Highfield. She describes its construction, post-war remodeling, its gradual decay, and the struggle to acquire the building and persuade the community of the need to preserve it. Susan was honored in May 2006 by the Falmouth Historical Society for her leadership in that heroic effort. Eric Edwards contributed "Poem: House in a High Field" to round out the issue.

*Spritsail* editor, Mary Lou Smith, then chairman of the Falmouth Historical Commission, also played a crucial role in saving Highfield Hall.

Landmark buildings were not all mansions; the churches of New England have been an inspiration for centuries. The Church of the Messiah in Woods Hole is featured in Vol. 10, No. 1, Winter 1996,



Wilson family's double-decker Aladdin cottage, Gardiner road, Woods Hole, overlooking Mill Pond, July 1933. Courtesy Albert Wilson. (Vol. 18 No. 2, Summer 2004, p. 13)

with *Spritsail's* first full-color cover, showing the stained glass window over the altar. William Burwell describes the construction of the existing stone church, which replaced the original wooden one, in 1888-9. Sally Loessel details the art, the sculpture, furniture and other stained glass windows, several of which were preserved from the first church. This issue prompted a long letter from the Rev. Edgar Lockwood, a former rector, elaborating and adding detail; it was published in Winter 1997 (Vol. 11, No. 1).



MIT students of Buckminster Fuller building the Woods Hole Dome in 1953. Full size components underway to left, model in background. Photo by Paul Ferris Smith. (Vol. 18 No. 2, Summer 2004, p. 33)

Two interesting stories about buildings appeared in Vol. 18, No. 2, Summer 2004. First was Judy Stetson's lively account of "mail-order" houses, buildings of modest size that were shipped to a building site in carefully numbered sections and could be assembled by non-professionals. Several of these were put up in Woods Hole early in the 20th Century to provide summer housing for MBL scientists but their use was widespread around Cape Cod. Many are still in use, though often enlarged and remodeled. Two such homes are described by their occupants, Eleanor Bronson-Hodge and Albert Wilson.





Fay ice house at edge of Nobska Pond. Chimneys of H.H. Fay estate in left background; Fay water tower in right background, ca. 1890. Courtesy WHHC. (Vol. 15 No. 2, Summer 2001, p. 12)

The second report, by Jim Mavor, describes the design and construction in 1953 of the Dome Restaurant in Woods Hole, one of the first of Buckminster Fuller's geodesic domes and truly a landmark building.

### Life and Change (The Way We Lived)

Business, government and changing times, the daily doings of a community, are surely a part of its history.

In Vol. 5, No. 2, Summer 1991, the story of Eastman's Hardware on Main Street was told by Kathy Frisbee. In 1913 Charles Eastman started his own bicycle shop, the shop grew with the community and stayed in the family for three generations until it was sold on June 1, 2005. The Eastmans do still own the block.

The development of Falmouth's municipal water system was the subject of two articles in Vol. 12, No. 2, Summer 1998. Judy Stetson chronicled the expansion of the system from its beginnings in 1888 as a

private enterprise, through a somewhat contentious takeover by the town in 1900 and the gradual acquisition of smaller local operations. Matthew Kierstead, a specialist in industrial architecture and history, described the ornate and stately pumping station, still going strong after 100 years and recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Three tapes from the WHHC Oral History Collection, in Vol. 15, No. 2, Summer 2001, describe the centuries-old practice of harvesting ice from fresh water ponds for storage and use year-round. Lucena Barth and Elsa Sichel of WHHC interviewed three old-timers, Clarence J. Anderson of Falmouth, and Elmer

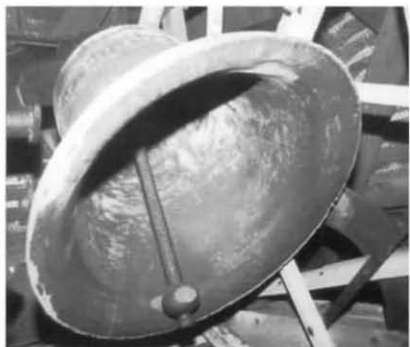
Hallett and Oscar Hilton of Woods Hole, who talked about the heavy work involved, with ice saws and



Margaret Gifford Marshall sitting in the round cutout in the lattice at the carriage house and her sister Eleanore Louise Marshall standing below, about 1910. From the Marshall-King albums. Courtesy WHHC. (Vol. 15 No. 1, Winter 2001, p. 8)



Crowd at the Woods Hole terminal waiting for the boat to arrive. Courtesy WHHC. (Vol. 7 No. 2, Summer 1993, p. 19)



Paul Revere bell in the belfry of the Congregational Church. Photo by Bruce Chalmers, 1985. (Vol. 11 No. 1, Winter 1997, back cover)



Hurricane Carol rescue at Woods Hole Yacht Club, 1954. Photo by Dorothy I. Crossley. (Vol. 10 No. 2, Summer 1996, p. 11)



Leander Blomberg and his son Lennart Blomberg. Courtesy Avis N. Blomberg. (Vol. 19 No. 2, Summer, 2005, p. 33)



Governor Dukakis arrived two hours late and immediately joined the line of dancers outside Christopher's Restaurant, July 24, 1982. (Vol. 13 No. 2, Summer 1999, p. 14)



Postal Clerks Johnny Klink and Roger Gamache wearing the Woods Hole Post Office T-shirts outside the Woods Hole Post Office. Photo by Alan Stewart, August 5, 1993. Courtesy *The Falmouth Enterprise*. (Vol. 8 No. 2, Summer 1994, p. 37)

teams of horses pulling massive sledges. There is an introduction by Jennifer Gaines on the Oral History project and a postscript by Barbara Kanellopoulos on the three major users of such ice supplies: the wealthy summer people who had their own ice houses (and often their own ponds), the owners of fish and meat markets, and finally the ice dealers who sold to the general public.

Jennifer Gaines and Susan Witzell combined their talents in a discussion of family photograph albums at WHHC in Vol. 15, No. 1, Winter 2001. The work was made possible by the new technique of digitizing photos, which preserves images on computer discs for ease of preservation, storage and research while allowing the originals to remain with their owners. The entire issue is devoted to charming and nostalgic scenes from the past: family out-

ings, children in pretty frocks or knickers, old autos, boats, snowscapes and the like. It is enchanting.

Two more inspirational tales from July – In Summer 1994 (Vol. 8, No. 2) she told the story of the Woods Hole Post Office, in continuous operation since 1826, the buildings it occupied and the interesting individuals who sorted and delivered the mail. There is an upbeat ending: in 1993 the trust that owned the present building proposed to sell it, but the Woods Hole Community Foundation led by Mary Lou Montgomery came to the rescue, made an offer which was accepted and then set about successfully raising \$150,000 to pay for it. T-shirts were sold, letters were sent out and in seven months the job was done.

The Summer 2003 issue (Vol. 17, No. 2) has the equally inspiring story of Beebe Woods: how it was



Dog heads home through Beebe Woods after visiting adjacent Peterson Farm. Photo by Janet Chalmers. (Vol. 17 No. 2, Summer 2003, p. 18)

formed in glacial times, how it came together as a unique parcel, how it was saved from development and how it was eventually given to the Town of Falmouth by Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Lilly III. Along the way Judy included lyrical descriptions by noted naturalists who made clear what treasures were there to save. An Eric Edwards poem and a Julia Child sketch complete the happy picture.

Another important project which has helped to preserve our landscape and make it available to all is

the Shining Sea Bikeway which links Woods Hole and Falmouth along the shores of Little Harbor and Vineyard Sound. I wrote about the Bike Path in Winter 2002 (Vol. 16, No. 1) describing the 10-year effort of Joan Kanwisher and Barbara Burwell, friends and village residents, to make



Barbara Burwell and Joan Kanwisher pose on the Shining Sea Bikeway, the product of their vision three and a half decades ago. Photo by Janet Chalmers. (Vol. 16 No. 1, Winter 2002, cover)

rarities or later historians. Such accounts are scattered throughout the 20 years of *Spritsail*, often as the lead article in an issue but frequently just a snippet of recollection. Such memoirs tend to be informal and personal, but they can re-create a moment in time or a scene as surely as a well-researched document.



Louis Hatzikon in front of the Woods Hole store with his fruits and vegetables. 1937 Dodge delivery truck in the foreground, ca. 1939. Courtesy Susie Steinbach. (Vol. 13 No. 2, Summer 1999, cover)



Enjoying the fruits of her labor, 8-year-old strawberry picker Alice Valerio, 1930. Courtesy Alice Valerio Ciambelli. (Vol. 12 No. 1, Winter 1998, p. 12)

their dream a reality after the trains stopped running. The issue includes a short article by Barbara's son David, who founded the national rails-to-trails network, two bike path poems and a lot of photos of the path in use.

## Memoirs and Biographies

Nothing is more interesting than accounts of individual lives, whether told by themselves, contempo-



Hollis Lovell on hood of Ten Acre's Model T Ford delivery wagon. Note crank under radiator, ca. 1921. Courtesy Hollis Lovell. (Vol. 4 No. 2, Summer 1990, p. 20)

We have already mentioned some examples of both; here are some more.

One of the most heartwarming stories is that of the Emerald family of East Falmouth, reported by Dick Kendall in Winter 1998 (Vol. 12, No. 1), with an emblematic cover photo of a grinning Manuel Emerald holding two boxes

of fresh picked strawberries. Manuel and his wife Estrella came from the Azores, met and married in 1902, farmed, and raised eight children. Their story is the story of the Portuguese on Cape Cod.

Mary Dodd Craig was the first woman to win public office in Falmouth, winning election to the School Committee in 1914. An 1898 Wellesley College graduate, she was also a founder of what are now the Falmouth Women's Club and the Visiting Nurse Association, while running a Falmouth Heights hotel with her husband. Her story was told in Vol. 6, No. 2, Summer 1992, by her children Edgar H. Craig and Mollie Craig Rice. In the same issue Fred Turkington offered a sidebar on the few Falmouth women in public office before World War II.

Hollis Lovell, owner of Ten Acre Farm and the Main Street store of the same name, wrote of his life as a farmer/merchant in mid-century, in Vol. 4, No. 2,

Summer 1990. He and his wife Ermine founded Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries and preserved Bourne Farm in West Falmouth.

More merchants, of Greek descent, were chronicled in Vol. 13, No. 2, Summer 1999, by Barbara Kanellopoulos. She wrote of family businesses, names like Tsiknas, Hatzikon, Helmis, Kanellos, Kapopoulos, Karalekas and Economides, and of Christopher's, the restaurant she ran for many years with her husband Chris.

Yankee shipping interests and family life were interwoven in a trove of memorabilia given to WHHC by A. Metcalf Morse Jr. of Quissett, in 1992, and described in Winter 1994 (Vol. 8, No. 1) by Susan Witzell. The Fish family was established in Quissett by 1790. The Yales, Dunhams, Morses and Careys were all associated in the family businesses, and by marriage, and they kept the Quissett connection. The courtship of A. M. Morse Sr. and Maria Yale Fish in 1897 was described later by their grandson Thomas Cushman Morse in Winter 1997 (Vol 11, No. 1).



Maria Yale Fish and Arthur Metcalf Morse's engagement photographs, fall of 1897. Portraits by Hargrave. Courtesy Thomas Morse. (Vol. 11 No. 1, Winter 1997, p. 3)



The diary of Frederick K. Swift was the basis for an article on turn-of-the-century cranberry growing in Falmouth by Ann Sears, Winter 2005, (Vol. 19, No. 1). The same issue included a personal recollection of the 1938 hurricane by Dr. Oliver Strong, who was a young man on Penzance Point in Woods Hole and who became cut off from the village by the storm surge and powerful waves. At least two lives were lost; many had close calls. That memoir elicited three letters to the editor from others who survived the storm.

The life of the Rev. Samuel Palmer, minister of the Congregational Church from 1731 until his



Frank J. Mather and Martin R. Bartlett with giant bluefin tuna from Cape Cod Bay, 1958. (Vol. 14 No. 2, Summer 2000, p. 7)

death in 1775, was described by Leonard Miele (Vol. 20, No. 1, Winter 2006). Mr. Palmer is also memorialized by a stone tablet in the Old Burying Ground, which was itself the subject of an article by Ann Sears in Vol. 10, No. 1, Winter 1996.

Martin R. (Rocky) Bartlett, himself a commercial and research fisherman, wrote of four other Woods Hole fishermen with whom he worked in Vol. 14, No. 2, Summer 2000 Bill Schroeder had a long and productive life in fisheries research culminating in the discovery of an offshore lobster population in the 1950s. Warren Vincent, part of a long line of



The family of Walter and Pauline Janney in their garden. Left to right: Priscilla, Walter Jr., Mr. Janney, Peggy, Marian, Mrs. Janney, Anne, Wistar. Photo by H.P. Rolfe, 1923. Courtesy Marian Janney Ware. (Vol. 5 No. 2, Summer 1991, p. 24)

Cape and island fishermen, helped develop and enlarge that offshore fishery; Frank Mather pioneered the tagging of migratory bluefin tuna; and Henry



At *The Falmouth Enterprise*, from the right, author John Hough Jr.'s father, John T. Hough, his grandparents, Clara S. and George A. Hough Jr., and Linotype operator Edwin Donnelly Jr. (Vol. 17 No. 2, Summer 2003, p. 28)

Klimm was a successful commercial fisherman who also collected specimens for the scientific laboratories,

There are three memoirs of summer in Quissett in the pre-war years in Vol. 5, No. 2, Summer 1991. Virginia Francis and John Sawyer described tranquility and innocence at the Quissett Harbor House. Wistar Janney recalled a difficult relationship with his demanding father.

Among the shorter delights are John Hough Jr.'s memoir of getting out *The Enterprise* in the 1960s (Vol. 17, No. 2, Summer 2003), Anne Swift Sawyer on childhood summers in Falmouth (Vol. 13, No. 2, Summer 1999), Patricia Burke on meeting the train in the 1930s (Vol. 7, No. 2, Summer 1993), and Marjorie Moore on sharing her wedding with Hurricane Edna in 1954 (Vol. 9, No. 2, Summer 1995).

There are delights aplenty in twenty years of *Spritsails*! Going back through all the issues in preparing this article, I found myself getting caught up again and again in what I was reading, finding tremendous enjoyment in reviewing so many aspects of the nearly 400-year history of our community. I realized repeatedly what an interesting place Falmouth is, what a dynamic mix of people, places and activities the town supports, what a great organization we have in the Woods Hole Historical Collection; and, finally, what an inspired and talented group we have that has given us the living history that is *Spritsails*!



Frankie Minot rowing Olney Minot and Anne Swift in the Herring River. "The boat on Herring River was a great adventure. It served as ferry, pirate ship and other purposes. Frankie Minot, who was about four years younger than Anne, was allowed by sufferance to join," ca. 1927. Courtesy Katherine Swift Almy. (Vol. 13 No. 2, Summer 1999, p. 23)

Redwood Wright, a retired oceanographer and former newspaperman, was a founder of *Spritsail* and chaired its editorial board for 10 years. He has lived in Woods Hole since 1960 and was a town meeting member from Precinct One for nearly 30 years. He served on the boards of many Falmouth civic organizations and on a number of town committees.



Quissett family group. Photograph by Baldwin Coolidge, 1897. The Fish/Morse Collection, Courtesy WHHC. (Vol. 8 No. 1, Winter 1994, p. 28)



The 400-pound 1895 Lawrence School bell being hoisted into the St. Barnabas Chapel tower in 1962. Courtesy Ray S. Hall. (Vol. 3 No. 1, Winter 1989, p. 23)



U.S. Fishery Building during the 1938 hurricane. Copyright photo by Linnfield A. Baker, B.S., Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole. 1938 *Hurricane Pictures* published by Reynolds Printing, New Bedford, MA. (Vol. 19 No. 1, Winter 2005, p. 23)



"The Big Tree," off path to The Knob at Quissett, memorialized in poem by Tess Clarkin. (Vol. 18 No. 2, Summer 2004, p. 36)



Bathing scene and Cottage Club from the pier, Falmouth Heights. Nina Heald Webber postcard collection. (Vol. 6 No. 1, Winter 1992, p. 28)



Swordfish Weathervane on top of Endeavour House, Old Methodist Church, Woods Hole. Photo by Arthur G. Gaines Jr. (Vol. 13 No. 1, Winter 1999, p. 23)