

## From the Editors

This issue of *Sprintsail* honors Katharine Lee Bates who was born in 1859 in her father's parsonage at 16 Main Street in Falmouth. The Falmouth Historical Society has organized a year-long celebration of her life and times; please see its schedule of events on the last page.

Leonard Miele, our lead author, researched and wrote *Voice of the Tide, the Cape Cod Heritage of Katharine Lee Bates*. The last biography of Katharine was written in 1952 by her niece Dorothy Burgess. *Voice of the Tide* was published this April and is available at the Falmouth Historical Society, the Woods Hole Historical Museum, and at local bookstores.

In this issue, Miele introduces Katharine Lee Bates and gives *Sprintsail* readers a vivid description of the houses and people that shaped the poet's childhood in Falmouth in the 1860s. Several of her poems were inspired by the characters and places she knew in those years.

Maria Ward has researched and written the history of the house at 16 Main Street to accompany our main article. She concludes her fascinating stories about its

architecture and history by describing its current re-birth under the skilled direction of David and Linda Newton, the new owners of this old house.

Maria Ward is one of the editors of *Sprintsail*. So is Eric Edwards. In fact Eric was inspired to write "Empty Space: A Poem For Katharine Lee Bates" during an editorial meeting. Eric's new poem is followed by two of Katharine's own poetic tributes to Falmouth.

Each of the three poems evokes a vanished, cherished time and place. Each poem also reaches out to readers of any time or place.

On August 12, 1988, the 129th birthday of Miss Bates, the trustees of the Falmouth Public Library dedicated a statue of Katharine Lee Bates on the library lawn. Christine Makris Lynch tells the

story of that statue in *A History of the Falmouth Public Library* from which we have drawn for *Sprintsail* readers.

We recommend the charming, informative booklet, *Walking Tour of Woods Hole Village*, published by Susan F. Witzell, Assistant Curator and Archivist of the Woods Hole Historical Museum.



The house in which Katharine Lee Bates was born was owned by Silas Hatch and was located just two houses beyond the Village Green. Reverend Bates and his family moved to the house in 1858 when he became pastor of the First Congregational Church which was just a short walk across the Village Green. Whaling captain Benjamin Franklin Jones bought the house in 1865. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society.