

## From the Editors

Two previous *Spritsail* authors continue their stories in this issue. Each article recounts specific chapters of Falmouth history. Each also shows how different generations in Falmouth responded to swirling secular and religious currents of the times. In the mid-1600s William Gifford was whipped and fined, apparently as much to strengthen the official Congregational faith of the New England towns where he lived as to punish him for being a Quaker. More than two hundred years later, at the end of the nineteenth century, Antoinette Palmer Jones was inspired by her Congregational faith to do missionary work among sailors.

In each generation, people in Falmouth struggled to make a living, and also to live a good life. Each generation worked out its own answers to the existential questions: What is God's will? For me personally? For my community? For the salvation of strangers? Antoinette Palmer Jones personified the missionary zeal of her generation. The Giffords, Griffins, Hatches, Rowleys, and Robinsons of our first article left fewer traces of their spiritual journeys. They were more remarkable for making homes, farms and towns in the new world. The results of their contributions can be discerned in Franklin Gifford's paintings.

Albert Wilson in his Letter To The Editors tells the end of the dramatic story we published in the Winter 2011 *Spritsail*. Everyone in these histories helped to create the community we have inherited.



"Woods Hole Waterfront, 1870." Painting by Franklin Lewis Gifford. Courtesy Woods Hole Library.