

Five Founding Members of The Board of Trade and Industry

by Judith Stetson

"Let the good work go on" wrote Charles S. Burgess in 1907 about the achievements of the first years of the 1896 Falmouth Board of Trade and Industry. His enthusiasm was certainly justified, as Maria Ward demonstrated in the article we published in the Winter 2014 issue of *Spritsail*.

"**John Arenovski** has been in the retail clothing business since 1885. The 'Boston Branch' was established on October 12, 1892. Business increased from the start requiring much larger quarters than were afforded in the Clark store. A new block was erected by J. M. Winslow, with Mr. Arenovski's convenience in view; but he had not been in the new store two years before another enlargement



John S. Arenovski's clothing store in 1900. From *The Book of Falmouth*.

There is more to be told about the founding members of the 1896 Board of Trade and Industry and their successors on the 1914 Falmouth Board of Trade. These photo essays are based on papers saved by the Chamber of Commerce and the Falmouth Historical Society and articles and advertisements from the *Falmouth Enterprise*. They give us glimpses of the busy, creative lives led by these local businessmen.

was necessary consequently a 500 feet sq. extension has been added to the original salesroom. The stock in trade of this enterprising house consists of everything found in a first class city clothing and gent's furnishing store. The house makes a specialty of fair dealing and full value for the money. The correct business principles which have thus far characterized the 'Boston Branch' accounts largely for its unprecedented growth." (*Falmouth by the Sea*.)

GRAND DISPLAY OF EASTER FASHIONS.

An Unequalled Array of Bargains.



SPRING

OVERCOATS.

An endless variety of Foreign and American fabrics, in choicest shades and latest shapes, all tailor made.

\$12.00 to \$20.00

OPENING BARGAINS.

SPRING OVERCOATS.

Lap seam and strap seam, Coat Cloth, Worsted and Venetians, actually worth \$12, and \$15. All new styles—a large variety to choose from.

CHOICE \$10.00

SPRING SUITS.

Men who want Style, Elegance and Durability at LOW COST, should see our line of New Clothing for Spring and Summer wear.

OUR SACK SUITS

Are made from Worsted, Tweeds, Cassimeres and Cheviots, and they are suitable for dress or business. **— THEY ARE RIGHT.** Right in looks. Right in wear, and, above all, right in price. A hundred different patterns to choose from. Prices from

\$6.00 to \$25.00



MENS CUTAWAY DRESS SUITS.

They are the newest products from the best looms. You're welcome to look at them. Cut away in style and cutaway in price this season. Satisfaction guaranteed, or money refunded.

SPRING TROUSERS

for MEN AND YOUTHS

Just received a lot of "Kentucky Jeans". They are great sellers for a durable working pants. Warrented not to rip. Try a pair for \$1.35. We have other grades from \$2.00 up to \$6.00. **YOUTHS' PANTS**, all sizes, from \$1.00 to \$4.50.



BOYS & CHILDRENS' DEPT.

This department will be by itself in the future. The mechanics are giving us more floor space and our boys' and children's goods will have its own room. **OUR BOYS' CLOTHING** is full of style and value. Five hundred different styles to pick from. A few of them:

BOYS' SACK SUITS.
BOYS' REEPER SUITS.
JUVENILE SUITS, and
LITTLE WAIST SUITS.
made up in Cassimeres, Worsted and Tweeds. Prices from 50c. to \$7.00.

OUR KNEE PANT DEPARTMENT was never filled with a larger and better line than it is to-day. Over 500 pieces to pick from. All ages and prices. Ages from 2 to 16 yrs. Prices from 30c. to \$1.50.



BICYCLE PANTS.

We have a large assortment in these goods. Prices \$2.00 and upwards.

MACINTOSHES.

Men's, Ladies', Boys' and Children's. We are offering some GREAT bargains in these garments. You can buy a double-breasted, cemented seams cape or double-breasted macintosh for \$5.00—a boys of the same make for \$3.50. We have bought a quantity of these coats and while they last you can have them at the above, surprisingly low prices.

FURNISHING GOODS FOR EASTER.

Our line of Easter neckwear is something beyond comparison. Every leading color and stylish pattern. Reversible four-in-hands, Ties, String-Row and Windsor ties. "They are as bright as the Spring sunshine and variegated as the colors of the rainbow."

SHIRTS.

A large and beautiful assortment of negligee shirts, detachable collars and cuffs or colored bosom and cuffs.

EXTRA-SIZE SOFT SHIRTS.

For every day wear in endless variety.

MEN'S and BOYS' UNDERWEAR.

A large assortment of men's and boys' underwear in Summer weights. Light, Gause or Medium. Prices from 25 cts. to \$1.00. A complete assortment of men's hardware and fixtures. The latest shades and best makes. In fact we have everything to complete a gentleman's toilet, from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot.

Lamson & Hubbard



HATS and CAPS. This Spring Lamson & Hubbard is here and you must have one in "the new and" Easter style. It comes in black or brown and is the best hat in the market for \$2.00.

FOR SOFT HATS. See our styles for these winter. We can give you anything you want. Prices are now so good.

Great assortment of Ladies' and Children's Caps.

LADIES' WAISTS. We have a large and beautiful assortment of "new" ready-made waists. They are the latest patterns to pick from. Also in stock.

Spring Style, 1896.

N. B.

Previous to moving our stock into our "addition" we offer extra inducements for the next two weeks.

BOSTON BRANCH CLOTHING STORE,
POPULAR CLOTHIERS, HATTERS AND OUTFITTERS,
JOHN S. ARENOVSKI, Proprietor,
NEW BLOCK, MAIN STREET, FALMOUTH, MASS.

Falmouth Enterprise ad from 1896.

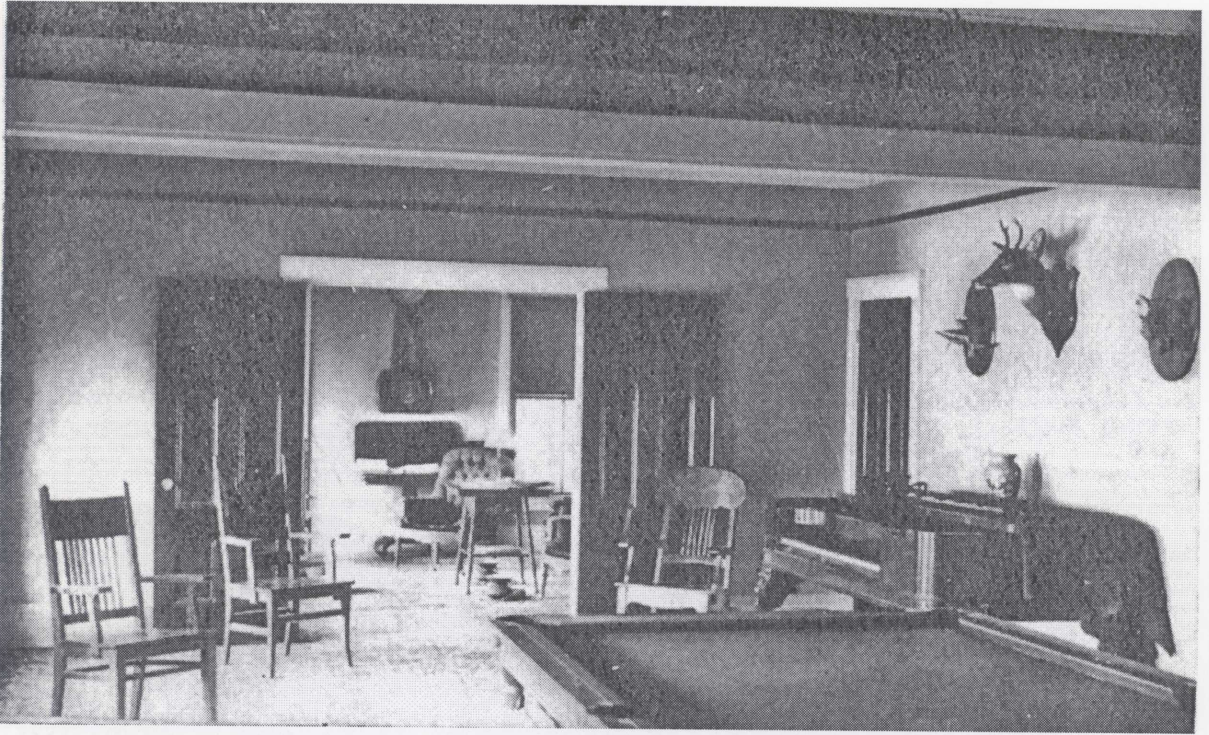
The "N. B." below the hat in the lower right corner reads as follows: 'Previous to our moving our stock into our "addition" we offer extra inducements for the next two weeks.'

Despite the addition, Arenovski soon outgrew J. M. Winslow's block and moved into Walker's new block, on the corner of Walker Street, built by Dr. A. T. Walker to house his drug store.

Dr. Alex. T. Walker's new block on Main street will, when completed, be the most imposing block in town. It is rumored that the first floor will be occupied by a clothing firm.

In 1903 Dr. Walker leased Arenovski's space to a Boston merchant, apparently in anticipation of Arenovski's move into Hamlin's new block, which was not ready for occupancy. Arenovski made a temporary move into Crocker's new block on the western corner of Walker Street until the new Hamlin block was ready.

Falmouth Enterprise, 1898.



The rooms of the Succanessett Club, 1896. From *Falmouth by the Sea*.

Arenovski was somewhat of an anomaly in Falmouth, being born in Russia in 1865 and naturalized in 1894. Nonetheless he was a force in Falmouth's business, civic and social life. He was a steward in the Marine Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, a member of the Knights of Pythias, their Master of Finance in 1909, a founding member of the Rotary Club and a member of the Succanessett Club, whose purpose was Good-fellowship and Sociability. The membership was all male. They met in rooms over W. H. Hewins' dry-goods store.



W. H. Hewins' Dry-Goods Store, 1896 From *Falmouth by the Sea*.

IN - MEMORIAM

The stores listed below are co-operating and closing
all day

ARMISTICE DAY, MONDAY, NOV. 11

John S. Arenovski

Beale's

Buttner's

Samuel T. Cahoon

Charles T. Eastman

Economy Grocery Store

**Enterprise Stationery
Store**

Falmouth Jewelry Shop

First National Stores

**Great Atlantic & Pacific
Tea Co.**

Harvey's Hardware Store

Johnson's Jewelry Store

Lady Pepperell Shop

H. Malchman & Bro.

Mrs. Weeks' Shops

J. J. Newberry Co.

Sampson's

The Boston Branch name went out of use by 1911 and the business became John S. Arenovski.

Falmouth Enterprise ad, 1935.

The business came to a sad end, one more victim of the Depression.

Arenovski's business and home were subject to sale for unpaid taxes dating from 1932.

He subsequently managed a sporting goods store in Falmouth. He died in 1994.

To John S. Arenovski:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in Falmouth and bounded and described as follows:—Northerly by Main Street; Easterly by Glenwood Avenue; Southerly by a right of way and Westerly by a right of way and land of the Wareham Savings Bank. Tax for 1932, \$279.09.

To John S. Arenovski:

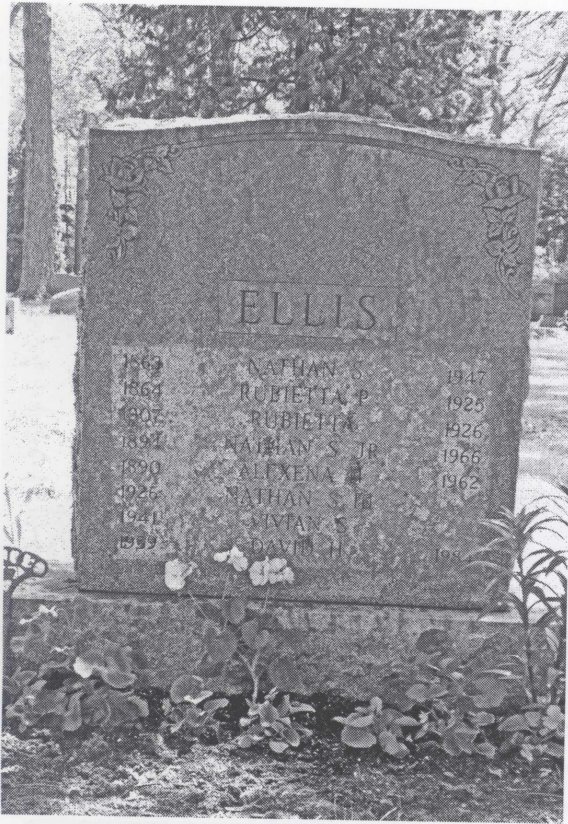
A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in Falmouth, bounded and described as follows:—Northerly by land now or formerly of F. H. Beebe Est.; Easterly by Palmer Avenue, so called; Southerly by land now or formerly of Lillian S. Phillips; Westerly by land now or formerly of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Co. Tax for 1932, Balance \$51.38.

Merchant Is Purchaser Of Arenovski Store Building From Wareham Savings Bank

A. Issokson this week bought the Arenovski block on Main street from the Wareham Savings Bank. The block is in the center of the town's retail business and was long occupied by John S. Arenovski as a clothing store.

Mr. Issokson, long in the clothing and shoe business here, last year doubled the size of his store which is further down on Main street. He has no immediate plans to announce for the use of his new building. John F. Ferreira was the broker in this transaction.

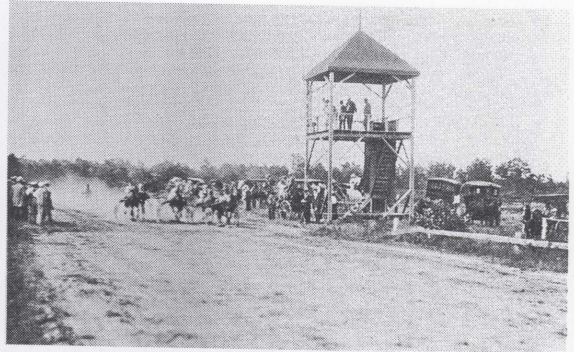
Falmouth Enterprise, 1936



The Ellis family gravestone in Oak Grove Cemetery.
Photo by Stephen Chalmers.

Nathan Snow Ellis (1863-1947) was a contractor who did a lot of work on the town roads, according to Falmouth Annual Reports from 1883 - 1909. He was married to Rubietta Pierce Ellis, born in Truro in 1864, a descendant of Pilgrim Elder William Brewster. Ellis was active in town politics and held office. He was a Fire Ward in 1901 and subsequent years. He was elected Road Surveyor in 1902 and held the post until he was defeated in 1908. The count was 223 votes for Ellis, 325 for Thomas B. Landers.

Ellis was active in many other areas in Falmouth, on the Cape and in Boston.



Trotting Park, ca. 1896
Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society

Gentlemen's Driving Park Association.

THE track of this Association was built under the regulations which govern the National Association tracks, with stretches two hundred yards in length and perfect circles at the turns. The surface of the track is clay, with good foundation. An elevation of some fifteen feet gives the grand stand the best of positions.

The Park includes twenty-four acres, and the best of accommodations are offered for drivers and their horses.

The Association is incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts, with a capital of \$3,000.

Its officers are Dr. James T. Walker, President; Dr. J. M. Watson, Treasurer; George W. Jones, Secretary; E. E. C. Swift, Howard Swift, H. H. Lawrence, B. C. Cahoon, J. L. Nickerson, and Nathan S. Ellis, Directors.

From Falmouth by the Sea.

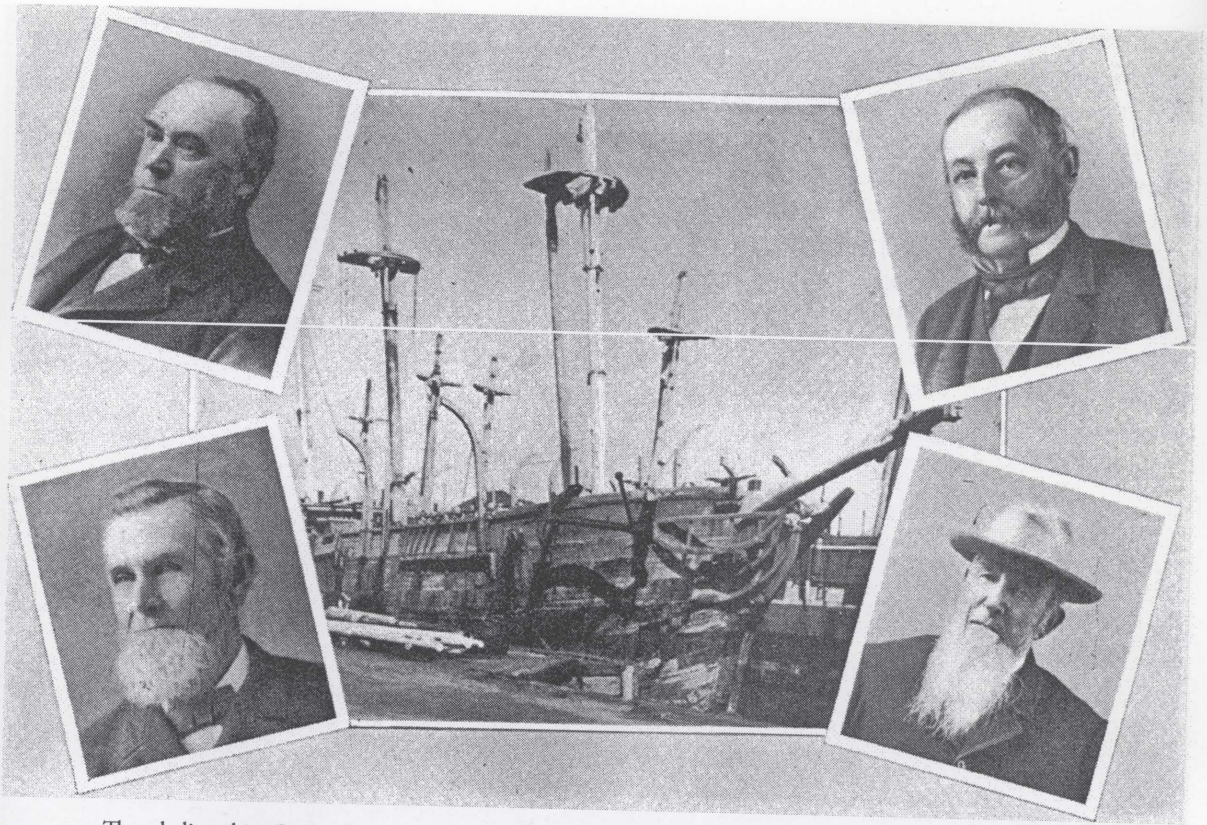
Forbes Manufacturing Company.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Forbes Mfg. Co., held in Boston November 1, Messrs. Nathan S. Ellis and Chas. E. Hall of this town were elected on the board of directors. At a subsequent meeting of the directors, Mr. Ellis was elected president and Otto B. Cole of Boston, treasurer.

The company has purchased a plant in Medfield, Mass., and will engage in the manufacture of Bone Black paint.

From the fact that a number of business men of Boston are interested in this enterprise, its success is practically assured.

Falmouth Enterprise, 1906



The whaling ship *Commodore Morris* and the Falmouth captains who sailed her. From *Falmouth by the Sea*.

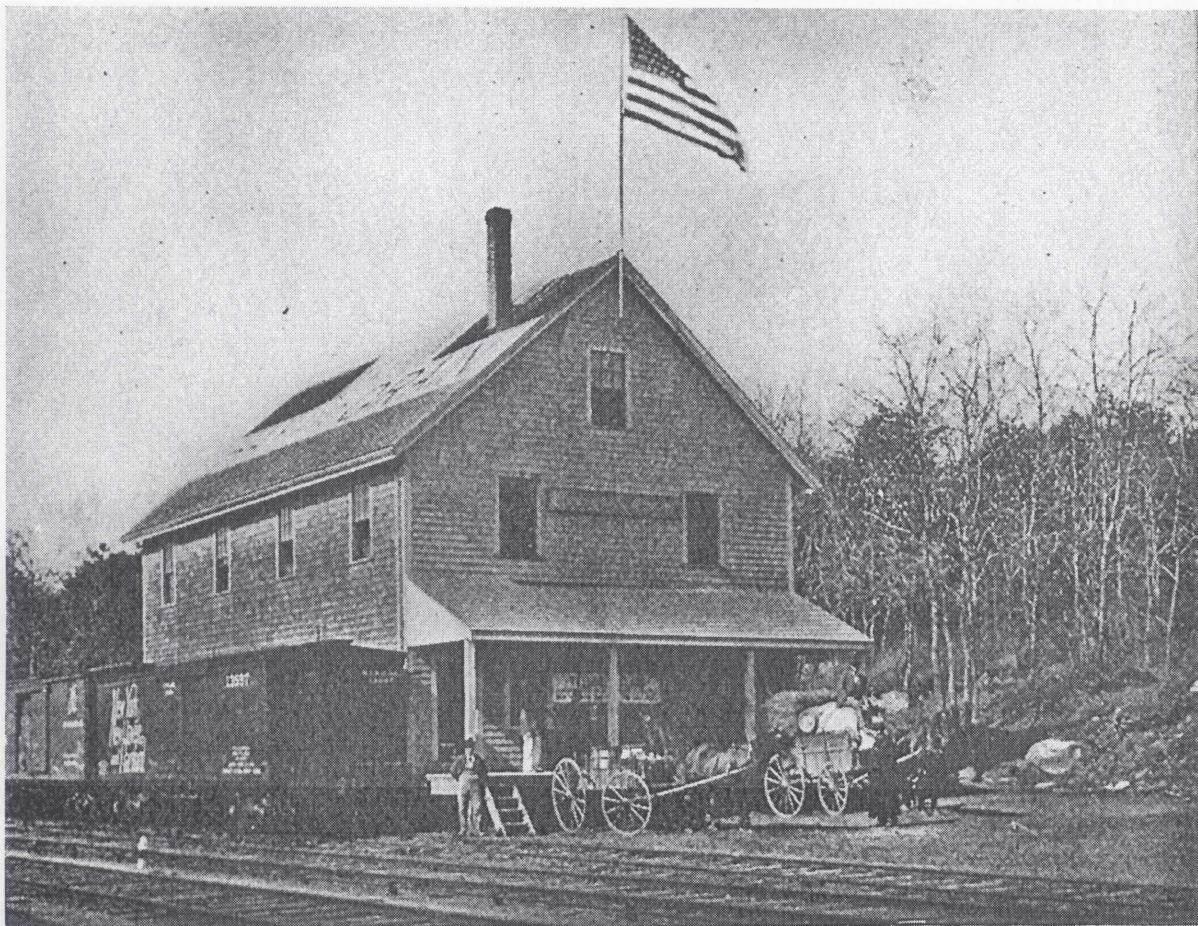
Commodore Morris was built in Woods Hole in 1841. The Falmouth Captains of record were Charles S. Downes, 1841-1845, Silas Jones Jr., 1845-1849, **Lewis H. Lawrence**, 1849-1858, and Silas Jones Jr., again, 1859-1864. Her last recorded voyage ended in 1884.

Frederick T. Lawrence and his brother, Augustus, were born aboard during Pacific whaling voyages.

"Captain Lewis H. Lawrence, my grandfather and the captain of the whaler *Commodore Morris*, retired from the sea in 1871 and entered business in his native town of Falmouth. In 1890 he built the Grain Mill on the west side of the railroad tracks, and a siding was constructed to bring freight cars to the mill. The main track continued to Woods Hole.... Frederick T. Lawrence returned home two years after attending Bryant-Stratton Business College.... The mill on Depot Avenue was operated by Augustus

Lawrence. His brother ran the office and store on Main Street.... The railroad's platform extended to within 42 feet of the Lawrence Bros. mill. It was large enough to unload wagons, autos, cement and the annual circus. Later it was expanded east to an entrance off Palmer Avenue with the addition of three tracks."

(Frederick T. Lawrence, Jr. *The Book of Falmouth*)



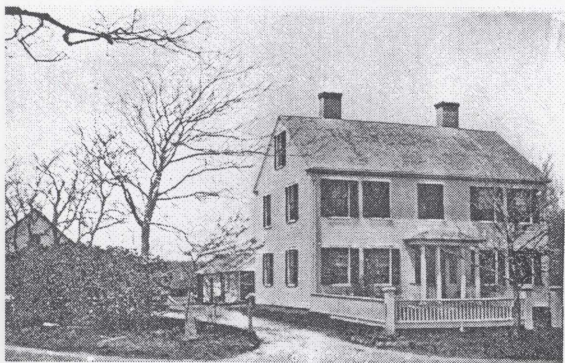
"Grain Depositories of Lawrence Brothers." From *Falmouth by the Sea*.

"This well equipped grain store and elevator was built in 1890. The Brothers Augustus and **Frederick T.** (Lawrence) entered into partnership the same year. Furnished with all the latest appliances, including steam power for grinding, the Lawrence Brothers' mill is unsurpassed. In connection with this depository they have recently bought out the down-town store (grain only) of S. L. Hamlin." (*Falmouth by the Sea*.)

The building burned to the ground in 1988.

Frederick Lawrence was active in the business, political, and civic life of the town. He was elected Selectman three times, was a charter member of Falmouth Kiwanis, and a member of the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club.

The Lawrence brothers sold ice and salt from the Grain Mill, the ice likely coming from Capt. Lawrence's Falmouth Ice Company which harvested ice from Shiverick's Pond.



The Herbert H. Lawrence homestead, ca. 1896.
From *The Book of Falmouth*.

“His (**Herbert H. Lawrence’s**) house was known both for its setting in the broad acres and for the homelike atmosphere created by the Lawrences. Mr. Lawrence built up a first-class milk route.” (Raleigh Costa, *The Book of Falmouth* p. 387.) During the great Portland Gale of November 27, 1898, H. H. Lawrence’s milk wagon was blown into a drift while Eliot Dimmick was driving it down Main Street. (Donald E. Fish *The Book of Falmouth*)



The first Teaticket school, 1874-1912
Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society

Dorothy Sandlin, who “joined her parents, Oscar H. and Nellie J. Lefevre in 1919”, wrote in 1986 about her childhood in the 20s, “Evenings we walked to the Teaticket Post Office...to get our mail from the Postmistress, Effie Fish, and from there to Herbert Lawrence’s Farm (now the new Super Stop and Shop area by the Jones’ Road lights) where we bought milk at 8 cents a quart from Miss Louise - often having to wait for the cows to be milked. That was fresh milk! I recall that occasionally cows wandered from their pasture in the Jericho area (by way of the cattle-crossing in Little Pond at the foot of Iroquois and Cedar Street) and came to graze on our lawn.” (*The Book of Falmouth*)

Lawrence took over as town constable from his brother Chester before 1896. He served as Barnstable County Deputy Sheriff for many years and later became one of Falmouth’s first Chiefs of Police.

(Raleigh Costa *The Book of Falmouth*)

Lawrence was one of the directors of the Falmouth Gentlemen’s Driving Club formed in 1896.

In 1914 he became the first treasurer of the new Falmouth Board of Trade

“On January 30, 1912, A. E. Bragg was returning home from work at the Falmouth Mushroom Cellars between twelve and one o’clock at night when he saw a fire, but he could not locate the source of the blaze. Shortly after 1 a.m. the fire was also discovered by Louise Lawrence who notified her father, Herbert H. Lawrence, a member of Hose Company 1. When the Hose Company arrived, it was too late to save the school. The hose reel was run out and a stream of water turned on to the roof of the neighboring build-

ing, the grocery store and post office operated by Effie Fish. Fortunately the wind was blowing away from the building; it was raining, and the ground was covered with snow so the fire did not spread. Some people living within a stone's throw of the schoolhouse knew nothing of the fire until the next morning. A defective chimney had caused the fire. The School Committee held a special meeting on Tuesday evening, the day after the fire, and made arrangements for reopening the school. Permission was obtained from the Falmouth Fire Department to use the Teaticket Hose House pending the erection of a new schoolhouse. New desks were ordered the next morning from Boston, shipped the same day and arrived in Falmouth on Thursday. School opened exactly one week from the day of the fire.

"The new school was built on the same site as the old one even though all of the pupils at the time lived at the east end of the village. It was soon outgrown and an additional portable structure was put together on the site further east where a new Teaticket School was eventually built (1927), now used as the School Administration Building. That portable structure was always called the Chicken School by the children.

"Lawrence was interested in the Portuguese immigrants who had begun to settle in the area. He employed some of them on his farm. He urged all of these new Teaticket residents to become citizens of their adopted country, sponsoring many of them. It was not uncommon to see Deputy Sheriff Lawrence driving two or three candidates in his horse and buggy to the County Seat for their Citizenship Papers. Mr Lawrence's daughter, Louise, spent many evening hours instructing prospective citizens in the basics of reading, writing, and the Constitution necessary to qualify for citizenship. Louise was remembered with gratitude." Raleigh Costa *The Book of Falmouth*.



The second Teaticket school, 1913-1936 .
Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society

In 1936 the building became the Edward Hooper Gardiner Post #2569 Veterans of Foreign Wars of Falmouth. (*The Book of Falmouth*.)

In 1930 the Portuguese American Civic League of Massachusetts was organized to promote the civic, political, educational and social welfare of the Portuguese Americans. In 1933 a Falmouth Council was chartered and the new Teaticket School became its principal meeting place. One of the principal efforts of the Falmouth Council was to support naturalization classes which qualified many immigrants for citizenship. Their children were even more deeply affected by the Teaticket School and its teachers. Many of them spoke Portuguese at home, at the Teaticket School, they learned English, often becoming the first English speakers in their families.

(Raleigh Costa *The Book of Falmouth*)

The School Administration Building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

About the Author

Judith G. Stetson has contributed several articles to *Spritsail* over the years and has been one of its editors since the first issue in the summer of 1987.