
From the Editors

Today, we take for granted that Falmouth is a special place to live in and to visit. Our town's natural beauty, with its 78 miles of coastline and inviting ponds, plus the myriad summer events offered by community groups, bring visitors from all parts of the country. In the last quarter of the 19th century, however, Falmouth had yet to be discovered as a summer paradise.

This issue's first two articles look at those decades of the town's history when this discovery occurred. Maria C. Ward writes about the unrealized ambitions of R.C. Bodfish, whose goal was to see Falmouth become a major vacation destination for people on the East coast. As a land speculator, he was ahead of his time and died in poverty, his dream unfulfilled.

The hotel builders of the 1880s and 1890s capitalized on the many winning features of Falmouth that Bodfish had touted. Kathy Lanson and Leonard Miele describe the popularity of luxury resort hotels along the Falmouth seashore in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when families came to the Cape to spend much of their summer near, in, or on the water.

In her poem "Living by Waters" Olivann Hobbie captures the unique experience of swimming with the tide in Little Sippewissett Marsh.

This issue also pays tribute to the 100th anniversary of the Woods Hole Community Association. Rob Blomberg traces the history of the Association and its successful efforts to make the Community Hall a center for village activities appealing to young and old.

Irene Wright, interviewed by the North Falmouth Village Association for an oral history project, arrived in Falmouth in 1927 as a nurse. She reminisces about her years as a public health nurse and as a happy resident of the North Falmouth community.