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## From the Editors

The pandemic of 2020 created many obstacles for the writers and editors of *Spritsail*. Because of the restrictions of social distancing, it was impossible to access research, to conduct interviews, or to gather photos and documents for *Spritsail* articles. For the first time in three decades, a summer issue of *Spritsail* was not published because of Covid-19.

Fortunately, five writers persevered through the isolation of the past year and contributed five essays for this winter issue of *Spritsail*.

Leonard Miele has written a comprehensive study of Charles R. Crane and his family in Woods Hole. He documents their diplomatic and philanthropic endeavors and provides an insightful portrait of their personal lives.

Paul Dreyer discusses the history of Shiverick's Pond located in the heart of Falmouth Village. Not only does he describe the ecological and environmental importance of the pond, but he explains the town's efforts to preserve the pond as a recreational destination for the Falmouth community.

Vicky Cullen writes a charming reminiscence of Prosser Gifford, one of Falmouth's true Renaissance men. She describes his impressive academic achievements and his valuable contributions to the town of Falmouth.

Maureen Nolan recalls her memories of an unforgettable sea voyage she experienced as an adult student with the Sea Education Association. Using excerpts from her personal journal, she shares nautical stories of her life-changing adventure aboard the *R/V Westward*.

Drawing on a transcription of a Conversation sponsored by the Woods Hole Historical Museum in January, Pamela Nelson describes the life of Dan Clark, a legendary mariner and contractor who was admired by his friends and colleagues in both the boating and scientific communities of Woods Hole.

We should note two changes to the editorial board of *Spritsail*. The departure of **Maria C. Ward** from the board in October is a loss to our publication and is best expressed by two of her fellow editors: "My grateful thanks for the articles Maria researched and wrote, and for the other authors she shepherded into our fold." And "You've been a valuable editor and writer who has contributed so much to the success of *Spritsail*. Your dedication will be difficult to replace." We might note that, in addition to the many articles she wrote, Maria was a vigilant and well-informed manuscript editor. **Judy Stetson** also bids farewell to the journal this year after serving as an editor of the *Spritsail* for thirty-two years. See her heartfelt letter on page 44.