

To The Editors:

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve on the editorial board of *Spritsail* ever since we featured an article on Baldwin Coolidge by Jane A. McLaughlin in the first issue in the Summer of 1987. Now the time has come for me to step aside.

Back in the 1970s, Mary Lou Smith had recruited me and many other friends and neighbors to create a history of Woods Hole. She was the manager of the Woods Hole branch of The Market Bookshop on Depot Avenue in Falmouth and she needed the book to meet customer demand.

We put out the word for people to look in their trunks and attics for old letters, logbooks, and photographs. We put notices in the paper and we tacked signs up around town asking for contributions. By the early 1980s we were able to publish *Woods Hole Reflections* through the Woods Hole Historical Collection.

Almost immediately, Mary Lou observed that Falmouth would be celebrating its tricentennial in 1986 and we should repeat the whole process with each of the other villages in town! We all followed her lead. Each village had an editor, many people contributed material, and in 1986 *The Book of Falmouth* was published by The Falmouth Historical Commission.

Almost immediately, Red Wright said there was still plenty of material and why didn't we start a quarterly magazine? *Spritsail*, the semiannual journal of the History of Falmouth and Vicinity was created. We named it for the jaunty, practical sailboat that had navigated under the fixed stone bridge from Eel Pond out into the fish filled tidal waters of Vineyard Sound.

May *Spritsail* continue to sail on for many a year!

—Judy Stetson



Judy Stetson was an editor of *Spritsail* for an amazingly productive 32 years.
Photo by Leonard Miele.

From the Editors: It has been an honor for us to work with Judy Stetson on the *Spritsail* Editorial Board. For the past three decades, she has tirelessly solicited submissions for more than fifty editions of our journal, she has guided and advised countless contributors to *Spritsail*, and she has written her own articles on such diverse topics as "Woods Hole in World War II," "Mail Order Houses," and "Beebe Woods: Falmouth's Miracle." Judy is a respected member of the Falmouth community who was awarded the prestigious Falmouth Heritage Award in 2011 for her community activism and her efforts in preserving the history and culture of Falmouth. We shall miss her intelligence, wisdom, and guidance as she bids farewell to *Spritsail*.