



*Framingham coach*

# Local History Collection of the Framingham Public Library

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[www.framinghamlibrary.org](http://www.framinghamlibrary.org)



**Framingham**

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Look here first.

## Introduction

In June of 1700 the General Court of the Province of Massachusetts approved the petition of Framingham Plantation to incorporate a township known as Framingham. In his book, *Framingham: An American Town*, Stephen Herring writes, "Framingham is situated twenty miles due west of the bustling seaport and capital city [Boston] in the direct path of all the traditional forces of American history, including western migration, the railroad era, immigration, industrialization, suburbanization, and the rising dominance of technology in our lives. Thus, the Framingham experience has been, to a large extent, the American experience."

## The Local History Collection

The Local History Collection of the Framingham Public Library has non-circulating materials in a variety of formats, which focus on the history of Framingham and its residents, past and present. These collections are described below and on the Library's website [www.framinghamlibrary.org/referenc.htm#localhistory](http://www.framinghamlibrary.org/referenc.htm#localhistory). They are housed in the Framingham Room at the Main Library. Catalogued materials are listed in the online catalog by author, title, and subject. The reference staff is available to assist in the use of catalogued and uncatalogued materials.

## Histories

*History of Framingham Massachusetts 1640-1885* by Josiah H. Temple (1887) Temple's history spans 240 years and includes an extensive genealogical register of Framingham residents before 1860.

*Framingham, an American Town* by Stephen Herring (2000) Published in the tercentennial year of the Town of Framingham, Herring's book is the fullest general history of the town.

*Framingham* by Laurie Evans-Daly and David C. Gordon (1997) Part of the Images of America Series, this photographic collection captures many aspects of town history.

*A Warren Road Neighborhood: a three hundred year history of the settlement and development of a neighborhood in Framingham Massachusetts, 1670-1970* by E. Otis Dyer (2006)

The collection also includes histories of Massachusetts, its cities and towns, and the New England region.

## Vertical File

An indexed collection of newspaper and magazine articles, brochures, documents and printed memorabilia related to the history, life and culture of Framingham Massachusetts and its residents.

## Highlights from the local history collection

### Business and Industry sources



*Framingham Nickel Plating Works, circa 1900*

The vertical file includes information on major businesses located in Framingham. Directories provide the location of businesses and may include advertisements for these companies. The Dennison Collection has information on the Dennison Manufacturing Company, for many years one of Framingham's largest employers. *The Round Robin*, an illustrated company newsletter issued monthly in the 1910s and 1920s, featured stories on new developments and staff news. Instructional pamphlets using Dennison products also are available.



## Cemetery Records



Charles Haven,  
Old South Cemetery  
photo by Joshua Lee

Cemeteries play a significant role in genealogical research. Gravestones are an immediate and generally reliable source of information about our ancestors. Not only can a headstone tell you who is buried in a plot, it can contain the dates of birth and death for those interred there.

- Edgell Grove 1848-1981
- Edwards 1829-1981
- Old Burial Ground 1700-1979
- St. George's 1860-1975
- St. Tarcisius 1918-1982
- South Burying Ground/Old South Cemetery 1824-1959

## Census

The United States Federal Census has been conducted every 10 years since 1790. In addition to counting the inhabitants of an area, the census generally collects other vital information, such as names, ages, citizenship status, and ethnic background.

- Heads of Families for 11 states from the 1790 Census;
- Nineteenth Century Massachusetts Census Data;
- Heritage Quest Data Base

## Churches



Park Street Baptist Church

The early history of Framingham is inextricably linked to the history of the churches in town. The original meetinghouse and clergymen were government funded. Later schisms in the established churches were often related to civic disputes. The collection includes catalogued information on First Parish Church, Park Street Baptist Church, and Plymouth Church. Information on other churches can be found in the vertical file.

## Civic Groups and Clubs

- Framingham Women's Club: a history, an incomplete set of bulletins and a yearbook.
- Women's National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., Framingham chapter organized in 1955.
- League of Women Voters, Framingham chapter: Materials related to the League of Women Voters of Framingham, Mass. (organized in 1955) which is affiliated with the League of Women Voters of Mass., and the League of Women Voters of U. S. Includes programs, "Voter Vision" newsletter (incomplete set; 1955-1972), "Focus on Framingham" brochure with map, 1961 and other miscellaneous items from this period.



Framingham  
Women's Club

1957-1958

## Genealogical Resources

- Town of Framingham List of Polls [lists of registered voters] (early twentieth Century)
- Town of Framingham Street Lists including residents 1920-present
- City Telephone Directories 1884-1972 (incomplete), 1973-present (full set)
- Massachusetts Military Records of all conflicts prior to 1900
- Burial Records for Framingham Veterans 1775-1982 (microfilm)
- Vital Records through 1850 for most Massachusetts Cities and Towns
- New England Historical and Genealogical Register
- Small set of Passenger and Immigration Lists
- List of Alien Passengers, From January 1, 1847 to January 1, 1851 (Massachusetts)
- Notable Framingham Family Genealogies: Including Bowditch, Danforth, Eames, Hemenway, Merriam



Eliphalet Eames,  
circa 1890



## Education

Vertical files have extensive information on public education in Framingham

- Annual Reports of the Town of Framingham include reports of the School Committee.
  - History of public education in Framingham, prepared by Framingham State College history students under the supervision of Professor Joseph Boothroyd ... [et al.] ; preface by D. Justin McCarthy (1975?)
  - Yearbooks from each of the twentieth century Framingham High Schools (incomplete set)
- Framingham State College (now Framingham State University)

## Library

The vertical file has some items, as does the photograph file. Annual Reports of the Town of Framingham include reports of the Library.

A rich collection of materials includes photographs, catalogues, and other items that document the history of the public library.



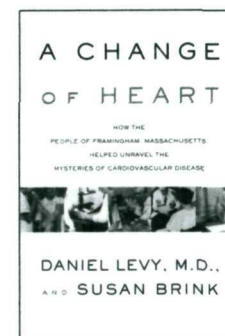
Edgell Library

## Maps of Framingham (1699 - twentieth century)

Chronological, geographical, and topographic maps are included. Of particular note are the 1699 Plan of Framingham Plantation, the 1832 map of Framingham drawn by Warren Nixon, and the 1895 Atlas of the Town of Framingham. Also noteworthy are historical maps of separate areas of the town showing house locations and family names.

## Medical

Includes information on hospitals including Framingham Union (now Metrowest Medical Center), and Cushing Memorial (built in 1943 to rehabilitate war wounded). Also includes documentation of major health studies done in Framingham such as the Tuberculosis Demonstration (1916-1923) that used Framingham as a model town to illustrate the benefits of sanitary living to prevent tuberculosis, and the Framingham Heart Study, among the most important in-depth longitudinal studies of risk factors for heart disease.



## Newspapers

Microfilm of local newspapers 1880 to present (incomplete)

## Wallace Nutting Papers

A collection of materials on the life and work of the well-known antiquarian, furniture-maker, author, and clergyman who came to Framingham Centre in 1912. Includes Nutting photographs, books, papers, memorabilia, and the Newsletter of the Wallace Nutting Collectors Club.

## Oral Histories

Thirteen recordings of reminiscences recorded in honor of the two hundred seventy fifth anniversary of the Town of Framingham.

## Photographs



*250th anniversary parade*

An indexed collection of photographs depicting Framingham in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

- Framingham Illustrated (1900)
- The Library Art Club : photographs of Milton, Framingham and Lancaster / contributed by their respective libraries, members of the Library Art Club.
- Views of Framingham, Massachusetts : a contribution of the Ladies' Centennial Tea-Party, to the great exhibition at Philadelphia (1876)
- Framingham cultural resource survey projects (1980 and 1994)
- Framingham Public Library postcard collection

## Town Records

These sources provide information on the history of the Town and include documents, directories, and records generated by all town departments.



- Annual Report
- Financial Reports
- Town Meeting Reports
- Street Lists
- Vital Records (incomplete)