

FRAMINGHAM

The quarterly publication of the Framingham Historical Society and Museum

HISTORY

Spring 2008

Volume 5 Number 1

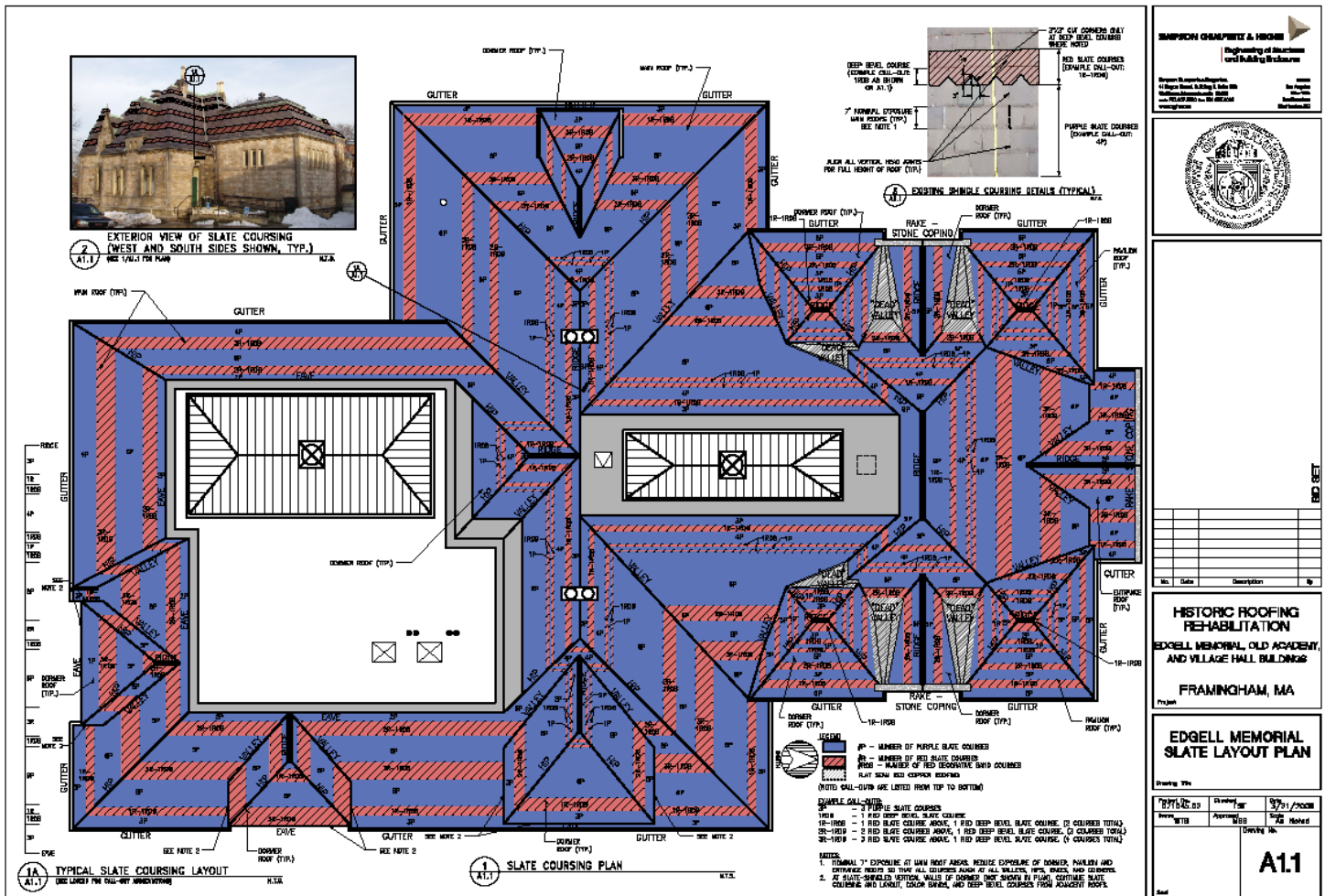


Illustration:

Roof Plan for Edgell Memorial Library repairs, by Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger

From the Executive Director: Help Needed Now on Article 15 at Town Meeting;
 House Tour Feature: The Jonathan Maynard House, by Kevin Swope;
 From the Curator: Updating the Native American Exhibition in the Academy, by Dana Dauterman Ricciardi;
 Process and Partnership, by Annie Murphy;

FRAMINGHAM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY &
MUSEUM

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Framingham History is a quarterly publication of the Framingham Historical Society and Museum. Articles relating to the history of Framingham may be sent to Framingham History, Editor, P.O. Box 2032, Framingham, MA 01703-2032. E-mail submissions are preferred and can be sent as an attached Microsoft Word file to director@framinghamhistory.org.

The Framingham Historical Society and Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported by its members, individual donors, and foundations. Membership is open to the public. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. For more information call (508) 872-3780, visit our web site at www.framinghamhistory.org, or see our membership section in the back of this issue.

Museum Hours

Old Academy (16 Vernon Street)
Framingham Timeline Exhibition
Wednesday-Saturday, 12-4 p.m.
Research Library, Wednesday, 10-4

Edgell Memorial Library
By Appointment
(3 Oak Street)

From the Executive Director..... *Annie Murphy*

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH TOWN MEETING ARTICLE 15

Any day now, Town Meeting will be voting on Article 15: to appropriate \$695,000 to repair the roofs at the Edgell Memorial Library, the Village Hall and the Old Academy. What you see on the cover of this newsletter, the roof plan for the Edgell Library, is one reason for the additional costs. The complexity of this roof is staggering and the forensic engineers who studied it were amazed by it. Built in 1872 as a memorial to Civil War soldiers it was designed to be both a showcase and state of the art building. It is our goal to bring it back to that showcase status by April 12, 2011 – the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War.

Since last year, when town meeting appropriated \$300,000 to stabilize these buildings, we have been working with engineers Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger to study the roofs and draw up construction documents. As part of their study, SGH removed slate from strategic spots on the Edgell and Academy roofs to bring back to the lab and examine. Unfortunately they determined that 136 year old slate on Edgell and the 163 year old slate on the Academy had little life left. Rather than replacing 20% of the slate on each roof as estimated by the 2006 Ann Beha Architects report, SGH recommended that the entire roof be replaced on both buildings.

In February, when the FHSM Board of Directors saw the numbers associated with stabilizing these buildings, they realized they could not sign long-term leases as they did not have these funds and they did not have the capacity to borrow the money. The town does have this capacity and as these are town-owned buildings, we immediately put a placeholder in for an article at Town Meeting. Since the CFO gave me the following figures on the debt service for an allocation of \$750,000 we have received bids that came in lower than estimated. These figures might be a bit high, but what follows is the cost per tax bill over 20 years. Year one would be \$3.45, year two \$3.29, and on until year 20 with a total per tax bill of \$50.01.

Time is of the essence as we are ready to proceed with construction. We have live bids on the roof repair, and we also need to expend our \$52,000 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and its match from the town by the end of June. Finally, please consider this quote from historian David McCullough author of *John Adams* If you substitute *town* for country and society it makes you wonder...

“I think having no sense of the story of your country is not greatly removed from having no sense of the story of your life. It’s a form of amnesia and can be as detrimental to a society as to an individual. If you have no story, I don’t think you have a soul. And if we lose our collective memory, our story as a society and as an ongoing experiment, we’re going to be in big trouble.”

Our stories aren’t just written on paper – they are told by our buildings – our monuments and our very sacred places like our commons. These buildings are irreplaceable. If we lose them we are in danger of losing our identity as a town. Please call your town meeting representative if you support this effort and you can use the data on page 5 of this newsletter to guide your conversation. If you need a list of your precinct members you can go to www.framinghamma.gov or come by the Academy and pick up a list. We’ll be happy to assist.

THE JONATHAN MAYNARD HOUSE

By Kevin Swope

The Framingham Historical Society and Museum will hold its annual house tour on May 18th. One of the highlights of this year's tour is surely the Jonathan Maynard house. Maynard is a celebrated figure in Framingham's history, and it is worth re-examining his role in the community in connection with the showing of his home.

Jonathan Maynard was born January 22, 1752, the son of Jonathan and Martha (Gleason) Maynard. His parents' house was located on the north side of Salem End Road, a few hundred yards to the east of the Temple Street intersection. His grandfather, also named Jonathan Maynard, had moved to Framingham from Sudbury in 1713, and established a tavern in the house that he bought from John Towne that still stands on the north side of Maple Street. The two houses were not far apart, and Jonathan must have been quite familiar with the tavern growing up, as it was not only home to his grandparents, but also his uncle Joseph Maynard's family of ten children.

It was a testament both to Jonathan's promise as a young man, as well as the Maynard family's means, that he attended Harvard College. He was graduated with the class of 1775, just in time for the outbreak of the American Revolution. He was actually still in Cambridge in April 1775, and therefore missed the Battle of Lexington and Concord, unlike his older brother William and cousins John and Needham Maynard, who were Minute Men from Framingham. He enlisted within the week, however, and served alongside the three of them at the Battle of Bunker Hill in June of that year.

A patriotic young man without a family to support, Maynard served in the army throughout the war. He participated in the battles of Stillwater and Saratoga, but the most famous incident of his military career occurred while on a routine foraging expedition near West Point, New York, on May 30, 1778, when he was ambushed by a party of Native Americans allied with the British. The rest of his company was killed, but as he was a lieutenant and wore a sword, he was taken captive and brought to their leader, Joseph Brant. According to lore the chieftain had determined that Maynard would be burned alive, but at the last moment Maynard gave the Master Mason's sign of distress. Brant, who was also a Free Mason, recognized Maynard's gesture, and stayed his execution, instead conveying him as a prisoner to British-held

Quebec. (Brant's father was an Englishman, and Brant himself had traveled to England where he had presumably had been introduced to Freemasonry.) There he remained for well over two years until he was exchanged on December 26, 1780. He was promoted to the rank of captain before finally leaving the service on November 19, 1782.

After the war, Maynard returned to Framingham and married Lois Eaton on May 30, 1784. As his brother William was now occupying their late father's house on Salem End Road, Maynard bought the unfinished Patterson tavern on Edmonds Road in Nobscot. He had the frame moved to land he owned on Pleasant St., and there erected the house featured on our tour. It was a relatively large house for the time, especially given that he and his wife would have no children, although they probably had no way of knowing this at the time of its construction.



Jonathan Maynard House

The house was originally built in the Georgian style, the popularity of which had peaked in the years before the war and was soon to be eclipsed by the new Federal style. Perhaps the older style appealed to him as one favored by the pillars of the community during the years he was growing up in Framingham, especially now that he had come of age and sought to join their ranks.

He did soon become one of the town's most prominent citizens, serving at one time or another as justice of the peace, selectman, town clerk, state representative, state senator, as well as Framingham's first postmaster. In his will he designated half a township in Washington Co., Maine, be granted for the benefit of Framingham Academy.

(continued on page 8)

Don't forget Mother's Day! House Tour tickets make a great Mother's Day present.

TICKET ORDER FORM

Yes! Sign me up for the 8th Annual Framingham House Tour!

Pick up your House Tour Book & map Sunday May 18 from 10:30 a.m. at The Old Academy 16 Vernon St Framingham Centre. Tour book and maps are NOT issued in advance. Tour begins at noon.

Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope; tickets will be mailed to you.

Name _____

Address _____

Town/City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Number of tickets:

Total tickets: _____ @ \$25 (or \$20 for members)

After May 10th: _____ @ \$30 (or \$25 for members)

Patrons Reception _____ @ \$100

Total enclosed \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Framingham Historical Society & Museum
PO BOX 2032
Framingham, MA 01703-2032

After April 15, you may also purchase tickets at Whole Foods Market - 575 Worcester Rd Framingham

Or order tickets online at www.framinghamhistory.org



Framingham Historical Society & Museum and Whole Foods Market Framingham present...

House Tour

Sunday May 18, 2008 12:00 - 5:00

This year's House Tour will be "Opening Doors to Framingham's Past"! Explore an entire section of the Jonathan Maynard Historic District - three sites within walking distance! Don't miss the beautiful Victorian with its sleeping porch master suite and gazebo deck overlooking Gleason's Pond. Marvel at both the restoration efforts and adaptive reuse to preserve some of Framingham's most architecturally significant properties. You'll want to tour to all eight of our featured sites - all "new" to the Tour - *and all 1920's and earlier!*

Ticket price - \$30*

supports the mission of the Framingham Historical Society and Museum to tell the story of Framingham by collecting, preserving and sharing the history of the town and its people, and to foster a sense of excitement and community pride of place now and for generations to come

Get Tickets at these Framingham locations!

Whole Foods Market - 575 Worcester Road
Framingham Historical Society & Museum
- at corner of Grove and Vernon Streets

Order online at www.framinghamhistory.org
Or phone 508-872-3780

**\$5 discount for members/orders by May 10*

Presented by...



Supported by:

- Dennison Triangle Condominiums
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Process and Partnership - How we got to where we are today....by Annie Murphy

What follows is a chronology of FHSM's work with the town of Framingham to repair the Edgell Memorial Library, the Old Academy and the Village Hall. If you need to cite the museum's work to date on this process when talking with your Town Meeting representative, this should help. We are the *only* organization in town devoted to saving these buildings and we have invested a lot of time and funding for a non-profit organization of its size.

- 12/1992 - FHSM invests \$50,000 in Edgell Memorial Library Roof repairs around skylight, valleys and gutters. Roof leaks continue despite repairs.
- 12/1/05 - FHSM hires Ann Beha Architects (\$21,000) to prepare Preservation Plan for Edgell Memorial Library, Village Hall, Old Academy buildings
- 1/26/06 - FHSM submits proposal in response to RFP for Long Term Leases from Town of Framingham
- 9/30/06 - Receive preliminary estimates from Ann Beha Architects (\$5,384,880) on cost to renovate Edgell Memorial Library, Old Academy and Village Hall
- 11/06 - FHSM completes capital campaign feasibility study (\$20,000)
- 12/06 - FHSM submits second proposal to Town of Framingham for Long Term Leases after time limit on first proposal runs out.
- 1/04/07 - FHSM submits proposal to Community Development Block Grant Program for \$40,000 toward Village Hall handicap accessible ramp - \$23,965 awarded
- 1/20/07 - FHSM hires Ann Beha Architects (\$2,000) to draw Edgell roof plan that is required in order to apply for Massachusetts Historical Commission funding
- 2/21/07 - FHSM prepares and submits proposal on behalf of Town of Framingham to Massachusetts Historical Commission for \$100,000 toward Edgell Roof repairs
- 4/22/07 - Town Meeting unanimously approves \$300,000 appropriation for phase 1 of historic buildings repair, preservation restrictions, and permission to commence negotiations on long-term leases
- 6/14/07 - Massachusetts Historical Commission selects Town of Framingham (TOF) for \$52,000 grant toward Edgell Memorial roof repair
- 6/18/07 - FHSM provides town procurement office list of preservation architects for RFP to architects
- 7/26/07 - Town of Framingham issues RFP for design plan for building improvements. No eligible bids received
- 8/18/07 - Town of Framingham re-advertises for architectural services - 2 bidders respond
- 9/15/07 - FHSM building committee chooses Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger (SGH) to begin diagnostics on Edgell Memorial, Old Academy and Village Hall roofs
- 10/5/07 - SGH submits estimate for diagnostic report on roofs to FHSM
- 12/18/07 - SGH contract signed by Town of Framingham
- 12/21/07 - FHSM sends schedule for completed plans, and roof construction to Mass. Historical Commission to ensure progress is being made on their grant to Town of Framingham.
- 2/16/08 - FHSM and Town of Framingham lease negotiations near completion
- 2/22/08 - Preliminary figures for 3 roof repairs, design, and construction oversight (\$1,046,317) presented to FHSM along with construction documents
- 3/26/08 - Town of Framingham advertises for Historic Roof repairs
- 4/15/08 - Town of Framingham receives bids for roof repair

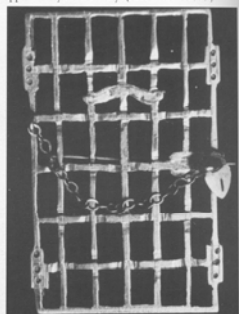
MUSEUM SHOP

Museum and Shop Hours

Thursday – Saturday 12 – 4 p.m. at the
The Old Academy or order on-line at
www.framinghamhistory.org

Suffragist pin \$26.50 (includes tax).

A reproduction of the pin issued by the
National Woman's Party. Sterling silver.



(Photos courtesy Dona Germond and John Neister; pin from FHSM
Collections)

The Essentials

ABCs of Framingham History

\$15 (plus tax)

Images of America: Framingham

\$10 (plus tax)

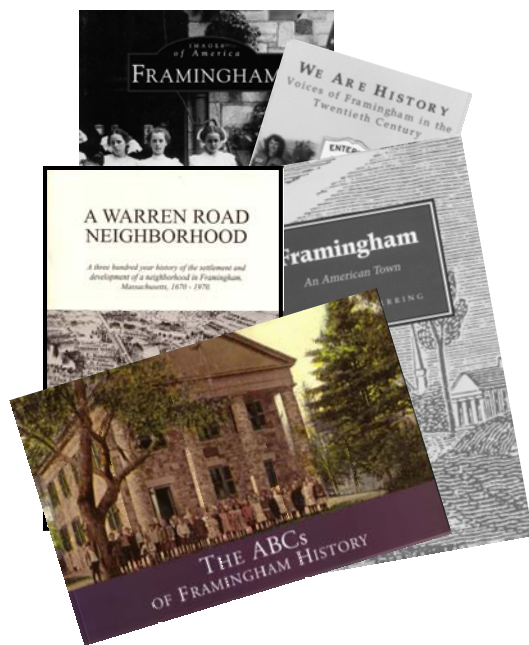
**Framingham: An American
Town**

\$24.95 (plus tax)

A Warren Road Neighborhood

\$25 (plus tax)

We Are History (video)



From the Curator Dana Dauterman Ricciardi

In response to a survey sent to docents for our third-grade program last June, we have updated the Native American timeline exhibit in the Old Academy. With a map designed by former Town Historian Stephen Herring, identification of selected objects by Dr. Curtiss Hoffman and Andy Bullock, illustrations adapted from Esther and David Braun's book First Peoples of the Northeast, feedback on the text from Nipmuc tribal Preservation Officer Rae Gould, and the enthusiastic assistance of volunteer Vanessa Prescott, we hope to make this exhibit more informative and accessible to all audiences.

The new text is printed below.

A land of plenty

Throughout prehistory, nomads and settlers found lakes, rivers, swamps and woodlands teeming with fish and wildlife, in the area now known as Framingham. In the hills they found surface deposits of quartz and quartzite. With abundant resources for food and the fabrication of stone tools, people have lived in this area since the Paleo-Indian Period (10,000 to 8,000 BC), as archaeological evidence confirms.

Nipmuc occupation

By the time Europeans arrived in this area, in the 1630s, the native population had already declined substantially, with many moving west to large, fertile valleys since the Middle Woodland period (500 – 1100 AD). The first European settlers met people who lived in villages gathered loosely into tribes. The native population who lived here belonged to the Nipmuc (or Nipnet) tribe. The Nipmuc, or “people of the freshwater lake,” occupied a large area of central Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont. These natives had cleared land for cultivation; they also lived by fishing, hunting and gathering wild plants. They made their homes in small farmsteads in summer, and moved to larger villages in winter.

Local villages

In what is now Framingham, the three largest villages were:

- (1) Washakamaug, “eel fishing places,” on the plain between Farm Pond and Lake Waushakum. Washakamaug was by far the largest settlement. Part of the village burying ground is now the Park Street Common.
- (2) in Saxonville at The Falls. Here the plentiful alewife & shad were trapped in weirs. A fort helped defend the village and fenced-in planting fields nearby.
- (3) on a bluff overlooking Lake Cochituate. This village also had its fort.

Nipmuc population dwindles

Within decades of the first contact with Europeans, the Nipmuc tribe was decimated by epidemics. Soon afterward, Abenaki warriors invaded from the north, and the weakened Nipmuc community all but abandoned its villages here. Among those who stayed were Aponapawquin (“Old Jacob”) of Indian Head, Tantamous (“Old Jethro”) and his family on Nobscot Hill, and Wuttusacomponum (“Captain Tom”) of Capt. Tom’s Hill, all of whom continued to live here until King Philip’s War (1675-6). The hostilities of this war erupted in sporadic raids like the Eames Massacre on Mt. Wayte in the winter of 1676. After the war, Old Jethro and Captain Tom were tried and hanged for their involvement in this raid; Old Jacob was tried and released.

In later years the Native American presence did not completely disappear. Since the 17th century Nipmuc families have lived throughout the area. Currently, the Nipmuc tribal headquarters are in Grafton, Massachusetts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

www.framinghamhistory.org

May

8 Thursday 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting

Village Hall on the Centre Common
An evening of celebration and reports on our 2007 accomplishments and plans for this year. Featuring George McCully, President "The Catalogue for Philanthropy" on the subject of his forthcoming book Philanthropy Reconsidered a history of philanthropy from Greek mythology to the present. Wine & cheese served from 5:30-6:00 p.m.

14 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

A Look Back at Cushing Hospital

Framingham Public Library - Costin Room
Town Historian, Fred Wallace, will be speaking about his research on this historic site.

17 Saturday 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Patron's Party

Gather at a former horse farm for dinner and local jazz talent. \$100.00 includes open bar, reception, dinner catered by Whole Foods Market Framingham, plus a house tour ticket.

18 Sunday 12:00-5:00 p.m.

8th Annual House Tour - Opening Doors to Framingham's past

Explore an entire section of the Jonathan Maynard Historic District with three sites within walking distance. Eight historic sites in all. Tickets in advance \$25 After May 10th \$30 (\$5.00 discount for FHSM members)

21 Wednesday 7:30

History/Biography Book Group

Spring Series: Ancient Democracies

Barnes & Noble Framingham
Book: Venice: The Lion City by Gary Wills
Leader: Steven Blundy

June

18 Wednesday 7:30

History/Biography Book Group

Barnes & Noble Framingham
Book: Words We Live By: The U.S. Constitution by Linda Monk
Leader: Elaine Storella, Ph.D.
Professor of Government Emerita, Framingham State College

July

16 Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

History/Biography Book Group

Summer Series: Food
Barnes & Noble Framingham
Book: Salt by Mark Kurlansky
Leader: TBA

August

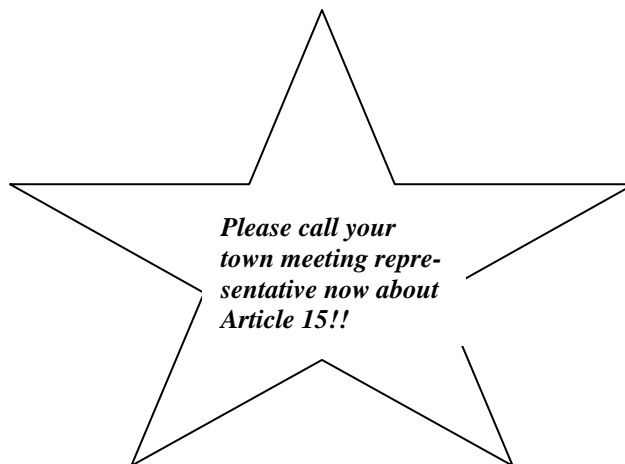
20 Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

History/Biography Book Group

Barnes & Noble Framingham
Book: The Big Oyster: History on the Half Shell by Mark Kurlansky
Leader: TBA

Local Business Members

Bernardi Auto Group
Circle Furniture
Community Newspaper Co.
Gordon Real Estate
Framingham Co-operative Bank
Fletcher, Tilton and Whipple
Charlene Frary, Realty Executives
Herb Connolly Acura
MetroWest Daily News
Middlesex Savings Bank
Murphy, Edwards, Goncalves & Ferrera, PC
Office Depot
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Paul Silva, Custom Builder
Danforth Village
Whole Foods Market Framingham



Join the Museum

Be a part of Framingham's history

Yes, I would like to help preserve, collect, and share Framingham's diverse heritage!

Membership Benefits

- ... *Framingham History*, a quarterly publication
- ... Discounts on programs throughout the year including the House Tour
- ... **10% off purchases at our Museum Store**
- ... Free museum admittance
- ... Invitations to special events and exhibition previews

- Æ **Individual \$ 25**
Æ (student/senior rate: \$ 15)
- Æ **Family \$ 40**
- Æ **Friend \$ 100**
- Æ **Sustaining \$ 500**
- Æ **Local Business \$ 500**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Æ New Member Æ Renewal

Æ Gift Membership for:

Name _____

Address _____

Please send me more information on:

Æ Volunteering Æ Planned Giving

Please return completed form and check to FHSM, PO Box 2032, Framingham, MA 01703

Or Join us on-line at
www.framinghamhistory.org

(continued from page 3)

One interesting episode in the life of the house involved Maynard's role in the founding of the Middlesex Lodge of Masons in Framingham in 1795. He, along with five other Framingham men—Col. Thomas Nixon, Capt. Peter Cloyes, Lieut. Samuel Frost, Lieut. John Trowbridge and Luther Trowbridge—had become associated with the lodge at Albany when their regiment bivouacked there for the winter of 1777-1778. When the Middlesex Lodge was chartered in June 1795, Jonathan Maynard became its first master, and the Lodge met in the large room on the third floor of his house for the first ten years of its existence, again from 1808 to 1811, and briefly in 1834. But the most notable meeting occurred during that first year at the Maynard house. It is believed that Paul Revere himself, in his capacity as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, presided over the formal installation of the officers on November 25, 1795.

Maynard died on July 17, 1835; his widow on December 5, 1836. After his death the house had a succession of owners. Boston merchant Lyman Perry, whose wife, Sarah Park, was a native of Framingham, used the property as a summer estate as late as 1850. It may have been during the Perrys' time there that the house was updated in the then-popular Italianate style, including a new front entrance, doorway and porch, a new side porch, and new window sashes and trim.

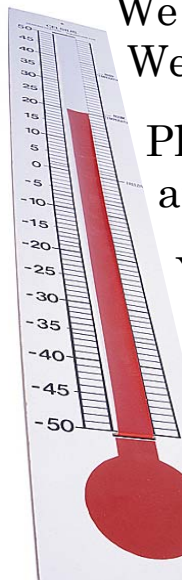
The next owner was Lothrop Wight, the proprietor of Harmony Grove, who may never have lived there, as he sold the house to James W. Fenno in 1851. Fenno in turn sold it to retired sea captain Charles Williams in 1857, a native of Kennebunk, Maine. The property was altered considerably in 1884 when the town extended what was then called Cross Street (now Maynard Road) from Pleasant Street through to Grove Street.

Charles Williams died in 1882, and following the death of his widow Eleanor (Belknap) Williams in 1895, the house passed to his daughter Florence and her husband Frederick B. Horne, a pharmacist and postmaster. Their daughter Diantha Williams Horne married Boston architect George F. Marlowe, later president of the Framingham Historical Society. In 1922 Marlowe designed a house for himself just around the corner on a portion of the property that fronted Maynard Road. (The walnut paneling in what had probably served as Marlowe's drafting room was taken from the dining room of the Maynard house.) Built in an English garden cottage style, Marlowe's "little Maynard house" is also featured on this year's tour.

A third house on the tour was originally built on State Street in the 1920s, where it was home for a time to the Prindiville family. The structure was relocated to the corner of Maynard Road and Pleasant Street by Blanche Partridge in the 1960s when the construction of an underpass on Route 9 consumed its original site.

The Jonathan Maynard house has been lovingly cared for through the years, and remains one of Framingham's treasures both for its historical and architectural value.

This article is based on material drawn from Josiah Temple's History of Framingham; Charles W. Coolidge's address to the Framingham Historical and Natural History Society, "Capt. Jonathan Maynard ; a Brief Sketch of his Military and Masonic Life," as well as the Framingham Cultural Resource Inventory. Thanks also to Chris Walsh for assisting in the preparation of this article.



We are so close to our Annual Fund goal!

We need **\$9,000** by May 31st!

Please help and give to the Framingham Historical Society and Museum!

Your donation helps collect, preserve and promote the history of Framingham to enrich the lives of all community members.

Please make a tax-deductible donation today by going to www.framinghamhistory.org or mailing a check to FHSM P.O Box 2032 Framingham, MA 01703!