



Framingham City Seal

Every seal has a story – some are more remarkable than others. Framingham is among several cities and towns in Massachusetts with an intricate seal that represents events, people, and places significant to the development of Framingham as a town, now city. The original seal was designed in 1900 for the town's bicentennial. It was then redesigned in 2018-2019 to reflect the transition to a city.

The *outer circle* depicts braided straw which signifies the straw bonnet cottage industry, the first major industry in town in the early 1800s.

The building atop the seal is May Hall part of the State Normal School, (now Framingham State University), the first and oldest school in the country dedicated to training teachers.

“May Hall State Normal School” has replaced “Danforth’s Farms 1662” which referred to the thousands of acres granted to Thomas Danforth in 1662. Danforth leased his land to 350 people, including Salem Witch Trial refugee Sarah Towne Clayes, and the town was later incorporated in his memory. Danforth’s Farm also went by the name Framlingham, which was Danforth’s birthplace in England. The “l” was dropped and became Framingham when it was incorporated in 1700.

In the center of the seal is what appears to be a *wheel*. Upon closer inspection, you'll notice the *spokes* are actually railroad lines. This represents the importance of the six rail lines converging on South Framingham, making it a regional *hub* for railway transportation and freight shipping by rail. Further interpretation of the *wheel* is that it represents the waterwheel of John Stone's mill at Saxonville.

The *shield* and *wreath* represent Framingham's military servicemen/women and to honor and remember the dead.

The *three dates* on the bottom of the new seal represent significant years in Framingham’s history: 1662 as Danforth’s land grant, 1700 as the year of incorporation, and 2018 when the town became a city.



Images (left to right): town seal 1900-2018 and city seal 2019-present