We collect artifacts, tangible and intangible, that are quintessentially Framingham. Our collections hold up a mirror to the community while answering the question “What makes this place special?”

Our collections tell the stories of:

- **Our Special Places**: villages, neighborhoods, and communal spaces (Downtown Common, Centre Common, places of worship, Shopper’s World)
- **Industry and Business**: The evolution from cottage industries to global corporations and their impact on the community (straw bonnets, mills and manufacturing, biotech...)
- **The Creative Spirit**: moments of invention, innovation, and art (Margaret Knight, Meta Warrick Fuller, Floyd Walser, Dennison products...)
- **The Land**: Its variety, its beauty, and its natural resources
- **The Changing Built Environment**: the coexistence of rural, urban, and suburban development
- **A Regional and Cultural Crossroads**: The intersection of railroads, highways, and diverse communities
- **The Volunteer Spirit**: serving community and country (The Heart Study, Civil War enlistment, Peter Parker in China, the Military Girls’ Club...)
- **The Lived Experience of Framingham**: attending its schools, building its houses, working in its factories (farm diaries, personal letters, photos...)
- **Families**: Old families, new families, and families of choice; the ways they direct and drive the community
- **Institutions, Traditions, and Celebrations**: Those that are lost and those that continue (Town Meeting, Centennial celebrations, the FHC, the First Parish...)
- **Immigrant Communities**: how they developed, interacted and became part of the fabric of Framingham
- **Class**: class mobility, where classes mingle, where they diverge (Millwood Hunt, The North/South divide, Gentleman Farmers, Mill workers...)
- **Community Inflection Points**: Moments of change and resistance to change
- **Presence**: Framingham’s participation in significant national and international events. (Harmony Grove, Crispus Attucks, Heart Study, President Clinton in Framingham...)

The FHC does not collect:

- Artifacts based solely on aesthetics
- Artifacts that have no specific tie to Framingham
- Artifacts with no provenance or story