



# Friends of Saxonville



Newsletter of The Friends of Saxonville, P.O. Box 3236, Framingham, MA, 01705-3236

Summer 2005

## *Saxonville Celebrates!*

By Cynthia Buscone

June, 1900 – Excitement charged the air all around the village! Framingham was about to celebrate its Bicentennial birthday party, and Saxonville, the oldest part of town was to have an important part. The whole town, of course, would be involved all the second week in June in activities scheduled at different venues around town, but the grand finale of the celebration, the fireworks, were to be Saxonville's own!

Two years before the milestone birthday, a committee had been set in place --- a number of whom came from Saxonville. James Entwistle, former State Senator, selectman, and son-in-law of Samuel Danforth, for whom the street and bridge are named, was chairman of the fireworks committee and several sub committees. Charles Fuller and his brother Luther who owned the store at the Square, were working on Decorations, Illumination, Grounds and Tents. George A. Reed, former Selectman and State Senator, whom many remembered as engineer on the "Saxonville" train of the branch railroad, was chairman of the Children's Procession; Patrick Hayes was chairing the athletic events, and Reverend Patrick Murphy of St. George's Church was at work on the Reception sub-committee.


On the appointed week, the Gazette reported that "the

weather, on which so much of the pleasure of such an occasion depends, was perfect!" Charles Fuller observed proudly that "school houses and public buildings assumed a holiday appearance, and many business blocks and private dwellings were also handsomely and appropriately decorated." On Tuesday morning, June 12, assemblies were held in each of Saxonville's schools. The program at the Saxonville Grammar School (grades 7-9) included a prize essay on "The Settlement of Saxonville." The Temple Street School mounted an exhibition of "Antiquities and Products of Our Industries," while the School Street School (#10) featured singing and marching by Grades 1-3 and essays on "Indian Settlements," "Our Churches," and "Contrast Between Past and Present". There was instrumental music, too!

Then, at 1 PM, there was a wonderful parade of the school children, and indeed, most of the children participated! Sixty-one of the sixty-two children at the Saxonville Grammar School were in the line of march, which included a total of 251 Saxonville scholars! George Reed was Chief Marshall for the students, while William T. Neal was responsible for transporting the children from the village to Grace Church on Union Avenue. The total number of marchers assembled was 1,843, which "surpassed anything of the kind ever seen in Framingham...the youngest children had the right of the line, the schools following in the order of their grade. This procession aroused great enthusiasm among the thousands of persons who witnessed it. The weather, the summer beauty, the happy children, gay with bright colors, following in a long column, school succeeding school, the hundreds of flags and banners, altogether made an extraordinary and wonderfully pleasing sight." When the mile long parade route ended at the grounds of the Middlesex South Agricultural Society, the children were treated to a magician, acrobats, trained dogs, a balloon ascension, sporting events and a baseball game. With understandable pride (and a hint of relief) the committee noted that "the return of all these little folks to their many homes, without accident brought this day to a

Save the Date!

**Shop Sax 5th**



November 5th  
St. George's Hall

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*Continued on P.*

## *Cochituate Rail Trail Update*

By Mark Lamkin, Chairman, Framingham Cochituate Rail Trail Committee

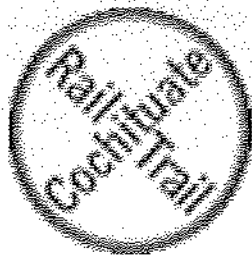
The past few months have been very productive for the Framingham Cochituate Rail Trail Committee. On May 14, we held our annual spring clean up day. This time around, we worked on clearing invasive plants and metal debris from the area between Old Connecticut Path and Route 30. We also did some work preparing the trail for the Mass Turnpike Authority and Framingham's Department of Public Works. These two organizations, with the assistance of hard working volunteers a few days earlier, removed railroad ties that had been abandoned by a previous railroad company.

In early June, on National Trails Day, with the kind support of Eastern Mountain Sports, the Cochituate Rail Trail Committee held two events. In the morning, approximately 50 people participated in a tour of the trail. This was followed by a slide presentation highlighting the history of the railroad corridor, the work currently underway and what the future holds for the trail. On the following weekend, we had a table at the Discover Saxonville event in Pinefield. A large number of people visited our table and learned more about this trail.

The public is also becoming more aware of the trail through various media. We have developed a new brochure aimed more to the general public. These brochures have been distributed at various places including one location near the trail on Old Connecticut Path. The Framingham TAB wrote a feature story on the committee's work on the trail. We are also receiving strong support from several businesses that have made contributions to the trail project.

We are working as quickly as possible to open one section of the trail. Plans have been developed to ensure that this soon-to-be-opened section of trail will be safe for public use and we are currently seeking approval of these plans. In the meantime, we are continuing to make progress on another section of trail. The Selectmen recently approved licenses from the MBTA that will enable necessary work to be performed on two railroad bridges. In addition, the town has recently hired a consultant to negotiate for the town as it works on getting a long-term lease from the MBTA for a majority of the trail in Framingham.

So watch for the Cochituate Rail Trail. You should see more activity along the trail in the upcoming months. We are looking forward to seeing you on the trail soon....



## **Fall Tour**

**Sunday October 16 - 10:00 – 11:30**

**Park at 500 Old Conn Path & check in across the street at the Cochituate Brook Conservation Area**

Volunteers from the Framingham CRT Committee will lead a tour, giving an overview of the project and identifying plants and wildlife along the trail.

For more info, visit [www.crtrail.org](http://www.crtrail.org)

## *Amazing Things Art Center Ribbon Cutting Held July 31st*

*Submitted by Susan Lanspery*

The sun shone on the Amazing Things Arts Center's Welcome and Thank You Party as Amazing members, friends, and neighbors packed the parking lot and mingled inside and out of their beautiful new center on July 31, 2005. The event celebrated what dedicated people can accomplish (in less than a year!) and demonstrated the Center's appreciation for the hundreds of people who have supported its establishment. Ted Knowlton (piano), Ken Steiner (bass), and Dan Nadeau (drums) provided live music, leading a group of musician supporters including local saxophonists Willie Sordillo and Paul Combs. The gallery show, "Art in the Neighborhood," by Saxonville Studios, brightened the Center's walls. The Oriental Pearl restaurant and many Amazing members also supported the event.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony featured State Representative Deborah Blumer, Framingham Selectmen Katie Murphy and Dennis Giombetti, Framingham arts mover and shaker Elsa Hornfischer, Joel Barrera (co-founder and coordinator of the Commonwealth Legislative Seminar), local realtor and "Friends of Saxonville" representative Charlene Frary, and Costadinos Kalapolhais (a.k.a. Dino, from next door's Famous Pizza). Amazing Things Executive Director Michael Moran said, "With all that hardware and all that help, the ribbon was not only cut, but sliced and diced!" (Moran had also asked Russ Doucette to participate, but neglected to "call him to the scissors" in all the excitement.)

The Center also unveiled a plaque recognizing its major Founding Benefactors: Jon and Jill Baker, Jerry Burke, Caroline and Hugh Cockrill, Creative Tile, Joan and Russell Doucette, Frank and Kelly DuMar, David and Aaron Greenblatt, Leslie M. Holmes, David Lang, Barbara and Corbit Larson, Lindalee Lawrence and Richard Lucash, Cheryl Litster, The Lost and Foundation, Yuri Machkasov, The Maxwell Hurston Family Foundation, Lee and Mary Anne Mendenhall, Liza and Michael Moran, The Portland Group, Cynthia Rosso, William and Kathleen Rousseau, Chris Walsh, Peter Whistler, and Thomas Chipman Co.

Amazing Things, located at 55 Nicholas Road in Framingham (in Saxonville's Pinefield Shopping Center), hosts several events weekly. Currently the Center is conducting an on-line auction of donated items to raise funds, and plans its annual membership meeting and party on October 22. All are welcome to bid on auction items and attend the party; and all are invited to join the 300-plus member households (and growing) so they can vote, too! To learn more about Amazing Things, visit [www.amazingthings.org](http://www.amazingthings.org) or call 508-405-ARTS.



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happy ending!"

Of course there were more "Saxonville Moments" in the week. The team prize in the athletic events was won by the Saxonville Athletic Team, which must have made Chairman Patrick Hayes happy! Would he have been proud, too, because P.E. Hayes took second place in the 440? Was that his son? F.A. Ward won 1<sup>st</sup> in both the 100 yard dash and the 220. J.J. Connors of Saxonville triumphed in the 880 and took second in the 100 yard dash. M.B. Doran was second in both the pole vault and the baseball throw.

Bicycle racing events took place at "Wayside Park", located at the end of present day Donlon Street, and the 10 mile bicycle race went right through Liberty Square. On the day of the Grand Parade in downtown Framingham, the Saxonville Mills float showed "seven teams, the first carrying Angora goats representing the raw material for the work. Following were rough wool in bales, bleached wool ready for spinning yarn ready for weaving and the finished cloth and blankets." The exhibit was planned by Robert Dawson, mill agent, who also donated a portrait of Michael Simpson to the historical exhibit.

Let us not forget the ladies. "...to Mrs. George Reed of Saxonville belongs the credit of the suggestion that historic buildings be secured where the D A R chapter could receive visiting friends". Similarly, Mrs. Frances Stearns secured homes along Elm Street from which visiting dignitaries viewing the fireworks could be accommodated.

Then came the glorious, the wondrous finale to a joyful week. James Entwistle had proposed the idea that such a display of fireworks would be even more beautiful if given on the banks of a sheet of water, such as the Saxonville Pond. The suggestion was adopted unanimously, and the date for the display was set for June 15<sup>th</sup>, a Friday evening just past the full moon of Tuesday, which the committee felt would make conditions too bright for fireworks. Saxonville would have the last and crowning celebration on its own mill pond, thanks to Entwistle! "As the brilliant color of a lovely summer sunset gradually faded into softer twilight, thousands of spectators gathered from all directions, carriages filled with people occupied all available spaces along the highways and some twenty extra electric cars were utilized." By the time the display was set to begin, an estimated 10,000 people lined the Mill Pond and the sloping land at the back of the Simpson home, which Frank Simpson had opened to the public. Other nearby residents did the same. Chinese lanterns dotted the shoreline with pinpoints of light, canoes bobbed on the pond, and a 24 piece brass band played.

The fireworks were set off near the western shore of the pond, while a replica of Admiral Dewey's flagship, the

"Olympia" at the Battle of Manila Bay, was displayed to represent a "modern warship under fire." The spectators were treated to a wonderful display that lit up the sky, threw into relief the graceful shade trees that rimmed the pond, and shimmered in multi-colored splendor on the water in front. The closing pyrotechnic display featured a central monogram, Framingham 1700 -1900; one side bore a likeness of Michael Simpson, while the other displayed Colonel Moses Edgell. Stephen Herring noted that the Bicentennial ended "in a crescendo of patriotic fervor."

The crowds dispersed, wending their happy way home and the pleasant recollections remained, but there were few if any reminders of the festivities. But look carefully - just past the falls on Central Street on the west bank of the Mill Pond, near where the fireworks were set up, one still remains, right here in Saxonville --- Centennial Place!

#### Sources:

Herring Stephen. Framingham: An American Town.  
Framingham Evening News - Bicentennial Edition.  
Framingham Gazette.



Memorial of the Bicentennial Celebration of the Incorporation of the Town of Framingham, Massachusetts, June 1900.  
George Clapp, Printer.

## *Discover Saxonville - A Day in Pinefield*

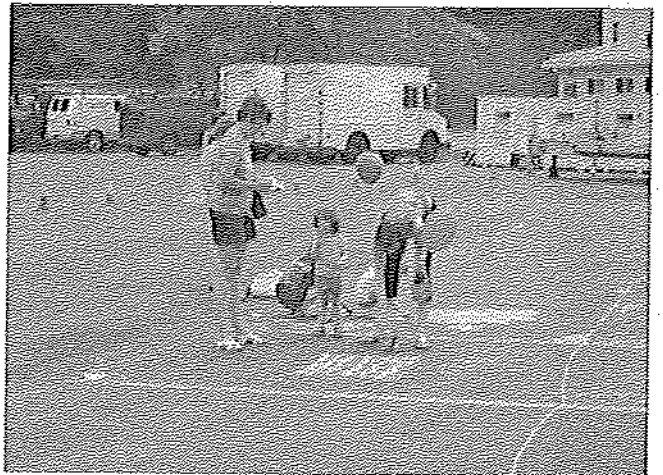
On June 11<sup>th</sup>, a very hot late Spring day, Friends of Saxonville held its 5<sup>th</sup> Discover Saxonville event. This year's event focused on the Pinefield area, and was a collaboration with the Framingham Public Library's "Going Places" Summer Reading Program kickoff. Hundreds of families turned out despite the heat to take part in the Town Truck Round-up, which was assembled by Town of Framingham Department of Public Works volunteers.

Libby Franck charmed young audiences with two storytelling sessions at the newly opened Amazing Things Art Center. Improvisational jazz was also featured at the Center. Discounted lunch specials were offered by Three Gorges, Dino's Pizza and Oriental Pearl.

Several businesses participated in the Saxonville Beautification Contest, filling garden planters and decorating entrances with their creative designs: Ace Hardware, Advanced Gems & Jewelry, Affordable Luxuries, Amazing Things Art Center, Circle of Friends, Dino's Pizza, Hometowne Hotdogs, McAuliffe Branch Library, Murphy's Automotive, Saxonville Post Office, Reflections Beauty Parlor and Pawsitively Lindas. Hometowne Hot Dogs was declared the winner and received a free two-year business membership to Friends of Saxonville.

Many folks donated items to our 'community yard sale' and several families braved the heat to enter the Chalk It Up sidewalk chalk art contest. The winning family, with their Peace design pictured at right, were Tim, Matt and Colleen McDonald.

A special thanks go to the sponsors who made this event possible: Framingham Cooperative Bank, Patterson & Gerry CPAs, Middlesex Savings Bank, the Danforth Museum, Pat Walker and Kathy Foran of Realty Executives.



# Shop Sax

Saturday

November 5th

12 noon – 6 pm

St. George's Hall  
80 School Street  
(Route 126)  
Saxonville

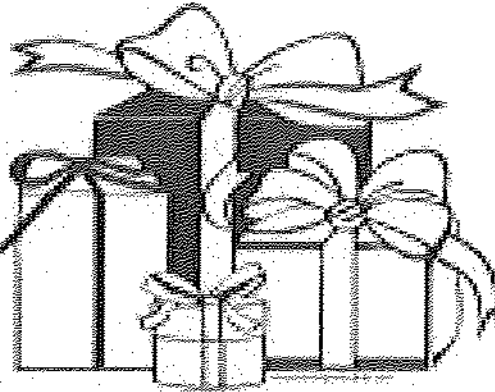


TABLE  
SPACE  
AVAIL-

## Get a Jump on Your Holiday Shopping!

Join Friends of Saxonville for some pre-holiday cheer and shop from a collection of *LOCAL* retailers, crafters, artists and home-based businesses!

Enjoy demonstrations, samples, refreshments and music while choosing from a wide variety of items that will thrill everyone on your list!

All Shoppers are eligible to win a special doorprize!

Admission – suggested donation of \$5 to Friends of Saxonville

Questions? Call Charlene Frary at 508-877-3556 or CFraryRltr@aol.com  
All proceeds benefit Friends of Saxonville

This event is sponsored by:

[framingham.com](http://framingham.com)



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Antiques or Collectibles
508-877-8465

## Conservation Complete!

On June 7th, professional art conservator Rika Smith McNally treated the World War II monument in front of the Athenaeum. The conservation effort was completed as a collaborative effort of the Friends of Saxonville and The Framingham Historical Society and Museum, which presents its exhibit "Toward Victory" at the Edgell Memorial Library. Visit [www.framinghamhistory.org](http://www.framinghamhistory.org) for more information



Pictured, Eagle Scout Jeremy Longden of Framingham assists Rika Smith McNally in removing corrosion from the marker. The plaque was then re-patinated to more accurately reflect its original bronze finish.

Expenses for the conservation of the marker were covered by the Victory Preservation Project, which was funded by Perini Corporation, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority Tourism Grant Program, and MetroWest Homes.

## BAKERS NEEDED!

Friends of Saxonville needs goodies for its refreshment table and bake sale to be held at Shop Sax 5th – November 5th

To donate, please call  
Susan Silva – 508-877-8465

### Please support our business members!

Nexum Development 508-877-1020	7 Central Street <a href="http://www.nexums.com">www.nexums.com</a>
Law Office of Joseph Shields 508-820-2939	600 Worcester Road Suite 501
North Framingham Plaza Gordon Real Estate	508-370-3333 <a href="http://www.gordonre.com">www.gordonre.com</a>
Charlene Frary MetroWest Homes	508-620-8880 <a href="http://www.charlenefrary.com">www.charlenefrary.com</a>
Computer Care Associates Lisa or Jon Shapiro	508-370-8080 <a href="http://www.help4computers.com">www.help4computers.com</a>
Mary Kay Cosmetics Rhona George	508-877-4244 <a href="mailto:rhonank@rcn.com">rhonank@rcn.com</a>
Patterson and Gerry, CPAs 508-875-2367	276 Union Avenue <a href="http://www.pattersonandgerry.com">www.pattersonandgerry.com</a>

Interested in becoming a business member & supporting a local non-profit that works non-stop to improve our neighborhood?  
Visit [www.saxonville.org](http://www.saxonville.org) for additional details.

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Meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending, please contact Charlene Frary at 508-877-3556.