



Friends of Saxonville

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

Spring 2001

FOS Mourns Loss of Leader and Friend

As many of our members know, the Friends of Saxonville and all of Framingham lost a great advocate, leader, and friend when Carol J. Getchell died on March 24, 2001, at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington after a sudden illness.

In addition to Carol's long and distinguished career as principal of the Stapleton School in Saxonville, her work with student teachers from Framingham State College, and her valuable contributions as a member of the Framingham Historical Society, the activity that seemed to occupy most of her time the past several years was her service to the Friends of Saxonville. As a founder and Board member, Carol was a driving force behind the entire group. She was instrumental in bringing about its accomplishments, although she never sought credit or praise for herself. Saxonville was near and dear to Carol's heart, and though Saxonville will sorely miss her, it will long feel her presence, love, and support.

We will dedicate a large part of our next newsletter issue to remembering Carol, and since we know that Carol touched many lives, we



would like to invite submissions from our members. Your recollections might be on a personal or professional level and might include how Carol touched your life or that of the town. We especially invite little-known memories of Carol and those that relate specifically to Saxonville. Photographs of Carol are also welcome and will be returned upon request.

Please send your submission by e-mail to jmaguire@acornworld.net. If you are unable to send it by e-mail, or wish to submit a photograph, you may send it by mail to the FOS address given at the top of this page. Submissions may be edited for clarity and length.

For FOS President Jim Barry's eulogy for Carol, please see page 2.

Discover Saxonville Saturday, June 9

Do you like music, shows, craft fairs, food, history, art, kids' activities, shopping, giveaways, and just all-around fun? Then make your way to Saxonville Center for the next FOS fundraiser — Discover Saxonville — on June 9, 2001, 10:00 to 4:00, rain or shine. The purpose of this event, besides having fun and celebrating our lovely village, is to raise funds for the restoration of the interior of the Athenaeum.

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Eulogy for Carol Getchell



The following eulogy was offered by FOS President Jim Barry at Carol Getchell's funeral on March 28, 2001, at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Framingham.

Many of you have known Carol for longer than I have, but you didn't have to know Carol for very long to know she was a wonderful woman. She was a wonderful educator, environmentalist, colleague, and friend.

She loved Stapleton School, and her students, and fellow teachers. She loved Saxonville (and Framingham) with its rich history and beautiful environmental treasures. She loved everyone she met ... and we loved her back.

The Friends of Saxonville wouldn't exist without Carol. She was our founder, our Secretary, our record keeper, our supplier of coffee — and that giant blue tin of cookies for Board

meetings. She was the glue that held our group together. In the past several weeks, we've found out just how much she really was doing behind the scenes. And that was just in our group! As you know, she put that same energy and good cheer into many other organizations. We're going to have to work very hard to continue the work she's begun.

I think the one thing I'll remember most about Carol — along with her smile and good cheer — is her optimism. She was a master of gentle persuasion, building a consensus, getting a group moving together to accomplish more than anyone thought possible. Paint the Athenaeum? "Why don't we just do it?" Carol would say. And we did!

She was at her best working quietly behind the scenes. Suggesting, cajoling, prodding — always with that wonderful smile. Of course, usually when she suggested we do something, she'd

end up doing the lion's share of the work herself — without fanfare, but very effectively.

We're saying goodbye to Carol today, but in another sense she's not going away. Anyone whose life Carol touched certainly won't need special reasons to miss her and remember how special she was.

But in the coming years, when we open the renovated Athenaeum hall, Carol will be there; when we dedicate the walking tour of historic Saxonville, Carol will be there; when we plant flowers on the restored Danforth Street Bridge, Carol will be there.

But above all — especially — when we walk the Sudbury River Nature Trail — the Carol Getchell Nature Trail — winding its way along the river behind Carol's Stapleton School, we'll stop for a minute and smile ... Carol will be there.

Notes from 4th Annual Meeting

Our meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of Carol Getchell. President Jim Barry presented his annual report ("A Year of Progress") on the year's accomplishments and activities. Among the highlights mentioned were last spring's Athenaeum fundraiser at the Saxonville Studios, painting the Athenaeum, the Town Meeting resolution in support of the Athenaeum, hiring architect Bernard Goba to guide the Athenaeum's continuing restoration, opening the Nature Trail (recently renamed the Carol Getchell Nature Trail by the Conservation Commission), issuing an RFP for study of the Danforth Bridge, receipt of a matching grant for the bridge, being awarded the Framingham Historical Commission's Certificate of Achievement, and receipt of a substantial donation of common stock.

Architectural Committee Chair Denis Black presented ideas for utilizing the Athenaeum, which include an upstairs function hall plus theater, a downstairs caterer's kitchen, a

library-museum room for the Friends, and a tenant to generate funds for the building's upkeep. Denis shared some of Bernie Goba's drawings which illustrated possible approaches to the building's restoration.



Event Committee Chair Jan Harrington reported on the progress made in planning Discover Saxonville. Jan's report generated much interest and enthusiasm. Read more about the event beginning on page 1.

Deb Cleveland held listeners rapt with a talk on how to acquire Saxonville memorabilia. This was followed by an election of Board members, in which new member Charlene Fray was elected, and Jim Barry and George Dixon were reelected, to three-year terms. The Board invited Cliona McAlister to join for a one-year term.

Courting, Grammie's Style: *A Saxonville Springtime Love Story*

by Cynthia Buscone, who grew up in Saxonville in the 1940s

Nobody had a better laugh than Grammie! How we loved to sit at the kitchen table at 44 School Street and have tea with her. (Our tea, of course, was the leftover tea bag and LOTS of sugar and milk!) Some of our very favorite stories, punctuated by Grammie's laughter, concerned the times Johnny Moloney, our grandfather, and she were courting, and we begged to hear them over and over.

Our grandfather, Pop, had grown up in the very house we were living in. (In fact, nearly-blind old Mr. Murray, who had a farm up off Beacon Street, and whose horse was in nearly the same condition, would stop automatically at the house to sell potatoes because both of them had been used to stopping the wagon there for so many years!) But Grammie, Frances Joudrie, was a new girl in town. She had worked long and hard in a lobster canning factory outside River John in Nova Scotia in order to save up the train fare to come to the United States (Saxonville, Massachusetts in particular), live with her aunt on Meadow Street, and get a job at the mill.

Now Grammie was bubbly and fun-loving, and Pop was too, in his way, but far more quiet, with a dry sense of humor. This strong, silent type intrigued Miss Fannie when she first spotted him at a basketball game between the Dennison boys and the Roxbury Carpet team. "Tags!" yelled the Saxonville crowd to those Dennison fans across the court. "Wool pullers!" shrieked the Dennison contingent in response. "And there," chuckled Grammie, "was this tall, silent, smiling boy with a bunch of other fellows, not making a sound! Who was this mystery man?" She soon found out. Johnny was the same age as she. She had not encountered him at the mill because he tended Mr. Simpson's horses and did work around Mr. Simpson's place, but if she timed her progress right, coming home from work, she might encounter him as he walked along Concord Street or School Street on HIS way home from work. And so she did, and so they did, but from what we kids could make out, it was not love at first sight. Grammie, however, persisted.

One day, when the five-o'clock whistle blew, Grammie emerged from the mill and spotted her quarry — the tall, silent acquaintance — some distance ahead of her. Determinedly, she picked up



1882 view of Saxonville Mills, "Mfy's of blankets, woolen robes, worsted & woolen yarns, &c."

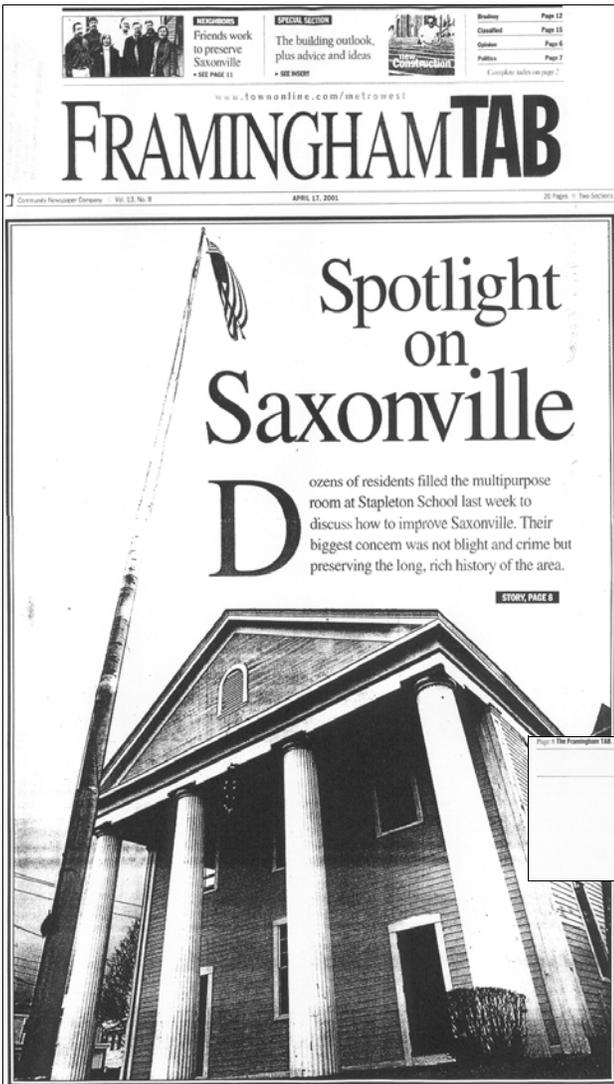
her pace, short legs churning under long skirt. Grammie was really laughing and her eyes were crinkling all up. "What then?" we'd all ask. Pop would keep reading the newspaper in the living room.

"Well," Grammie chuckled, "I hustled along and caught right up and started talking about all that had gone on at the mill that day and anything else I could think of, and I talked all the way to the Crossing, and all the way up School Street, but all of a sudden the young man didn't stop at 44 School Street or even at the steps to St. George's Church. He turned to go up Hamilton Street, and when he turned, I was horrified! It wasn't Johnny at all! It was one of his friends, who proceeded to say, "And what will Johnny Moloney think when I tell him this?!"

Now Grammie's shoulders were really shaking, she was laughing so hard. "Tell us the other one! Tell us the other one!" we'd urge, while from the living room Pop's newspaper rattled.

"Well," Grammie sipped her tea and smiled yet again, "it was a wonderful warm spring day, rather like today, and we were hot in the mill, and Maria Carey and I had spring fever. We had rolled up our sleeves and we were sort of edging toward the mill windows, which were open looking over the falls. Everybody was finding an excuse to go near the windows for a breath of fresh air. All of a sudden we saw a canoe pull onto the

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Friends of Saxonville Featured in Framingham Tab

On April 17, 2001, *The Framingham Tab* featured the work of the Friends of Saxonville on its front page and on two pages inside the main section, in addition to the front page of the Neighbors section. The article was accompanied by photos of the exterior and interior of the Athenaeum, as well as snapshots of our hard-working Architectural Committee, the Nature Trail, and the fire station.

A *Tab* reporter had attended the FOS annual meeting on April 10, and the article included highlights from the meeting and quotes from members.

It gave an overview of the group's history and also detailed its current

projects, such as Discover Saxonville, the Nature Trail, the Danforth Street Bridge, the Historic Walk and, of course, the lovely Athenaeum.

COVER STORY
Welcome to Saxonville
A neighborhood on the move

Saxonville Love Story

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river from the park side, where the Barney is," she clarified, just checking to make sure she had us all properly spellbound. "When the canoe pulled closer, I could see it was Johnny Moloney, all dolled up in white flannels, showing off for all of us stuck in the mill!" Now her whole body was giggling, but she kept her laughter from spilling entirely over until she delivered her punch line. "And then, right in front of all of us, the canoe rocked and rolled over, and Johnny pitched into the river, white flannels and all!"

Her laugh bubbled and rippled and cascaded, and we kids laughed at the story and laughed because Grammie was laughing. "My grandparents, teenagers in love!" I marveled.

"All right, that's enough now," said Grammie, wiping her eyes and smoothing her dress. "Finish up your tea." And from deep in the living room, on the couch behind the newspaper, we heard Pop chuckling.



Discover Saxonville Fundraiser on June 9

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What?

Discover Saxonville will be made up of four feature areas: 1) programs and entertainment, 2) craft fair at the State Lumber parking lot, 3) Nature Trail and guided walks, and 4) merchant activities and offerings.

After John Kahn, chair of Framingham's Board of Selectmen, officially opens the event, the many and varied programs will begin. There will be plenty of **activities for kids**, such as storytelling at the McAuliffe Library and the Pumpnickel Puppets. There will also be several **musical performances**, including two bands playing at Liberty Music, a barbershop quartet on the steps of Saxony Barber Shop, the St. George's Church choir, and a High School musical group playing songs in a wide range of styles. For motor enthusiasts of all kinds, there will be a **motorcycle display**, **antique automobiles**, and a **vintage fire truck**. Among the many activities being offered by participating merchants will be a **dog show** at Pawsitively Linda's (Bring your favorite canine!) and **open art studios** at the Saxonville Studios in the lovely and historic Saxonville mill. Of course, the FOS will also host some programs, including an **historic talk** presented by noted Framingham historian Steve Herring. In addition, Bernard Goba, the architect working on a study of the **Athenaeum** restoration, will be on hand to chat and answer questions. There will be **hourly raffles** in various locations ... the list of programs and entertainment goes on and on! Did we hear someone say food? Jim Egan and the Town of Framingham Department of Buildings and Grounds have been



working with us to provide hot dogs, pizza, pretzels, popcorn, and beverages. There will also be a bake sale organized by the FOS.

Where?

The event will cover the area from St. George's Church and the North Framingham (Walgreen's) Plaza through McGrath Square in the center of Saxonville to Pinefield Plaza and the McAuliffe Branch of the Framingham Public Library. Parking will be available in many locations, such as Pinefield Plaza on Water Street, Edwards Church and the Stapleton School on Elm Street, and the High School on A Street. Participating merchants will be marked by yellow and green balloons.

How?

The event will be organized somewhat like Boston's First Night, where people purchase a button to experience the full event. The buttons will be on sale at the

State Lumber and Pinefield Plaza parking lots. Also available at these locations will be an event program designed to be a guide for the event, a keepsake, and a business directory for future use. The program will include an event map, a schedule of programs and entertainment, maps of the Nature Trail and the Historic Walk, and a guide to local businesses, chiefly in Saxonville.

Come one, come all! Save the date and spread the word! The Discover Saxonville committee is working hard to prepare a memorable event that everyone can enjoy. Join the fun and contribute to a worthy cause at the same time! See you there!

Happy (Fiscal) New Year to the Danforth St. Bridge!!

The Friends of Saxonville has had several important days in its short history, but the first of May this year could be our biggest yet. Besides being the first day of our new fiscal year, it also marked some landmark progress for us! In particular, it marks the day that \$396,000 for bridge restoration and beautification was assured. This is the culmination of over a year of hard work by Kathy Bartolini and Donna Jacobs of the Town Planning Department. THANK YOU Kathy and Donna! Also, the financial ball was put into motion by a

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FOS Treasurer's Report

Fiscal Year 2000-2001

submitted by George Dixon, Treasurer

Financial Activities this Year:

Assets and Holdings

Citizen's Bank Checking Account	\$ 2,326.78
Charles Schwab Money Market Acct	\$15,522.72
290 shares Microsoft @ \$67.66	\$19,621.40

Total Value **\$37,470.90**

Outstanding Obligations

Pledged to the Town of Framingham for the Danforth Street Bridge	\$20,000.00
Remaining on Letter of Agreement with Bernard Goba Architect	\$ 7,000.00

Total Obligations **\$27,000.00**

Income

Dues & Contributions	\$3,425.00
Fund Raising Income	\$2,098.50
Memorial Gifts	\$4,693.00
Total Income	\$10,216.50

Expenses

Administrative	\$899.85
Fund Raising	\$2,663.96
Job Expense	\$2,956.44
Athenaeum -	\$2,594.58
Nature Trail -	\$361.86

Total Expenses **\$6,520.25**

Net Income for the Year **\$3,696.25**

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courageous pledge of \$20,000 by your Board of Directors. A large vote of thanks also goes to your Town and Federal tax dollars. Let's make it a project that we can all be proud of!

May 1 also marks the day the Town consummated its contract with Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers of Natick to begin the evaluation and planning for the bridge. We can expect them to begin almost immediately. If you have any thoughts on how this work should proceed, please forward them to us or discuss them with George Dixon who is leading this effort.



Letters to the Editor

The last newsletter was just great. I loved it! "The story within a story." It was ... two and a half years ago when I first heard this lovely story ["Growing Up in Saxonville: An Oral History," Winter 2001]. I had been talking to Alice Kessler Shull and she told me she was going to Los Angeles to visit her mother. I gave her a navy blue baseball cap with "Saxonville" printed on the front. Along with the ball cap, I gave her an x-large tee shirt with the Athenaeum printed on it. I asked Mrs. Shull to give these two items to Carl Crafts. The next time I saw Alice she informed me that Mr. Crafts was extremely pleased with the gifts. The first thing Carl did was to put the ball cap on — "Saxonville." From a friend of the Friends of Saxonville, keep up the good work,

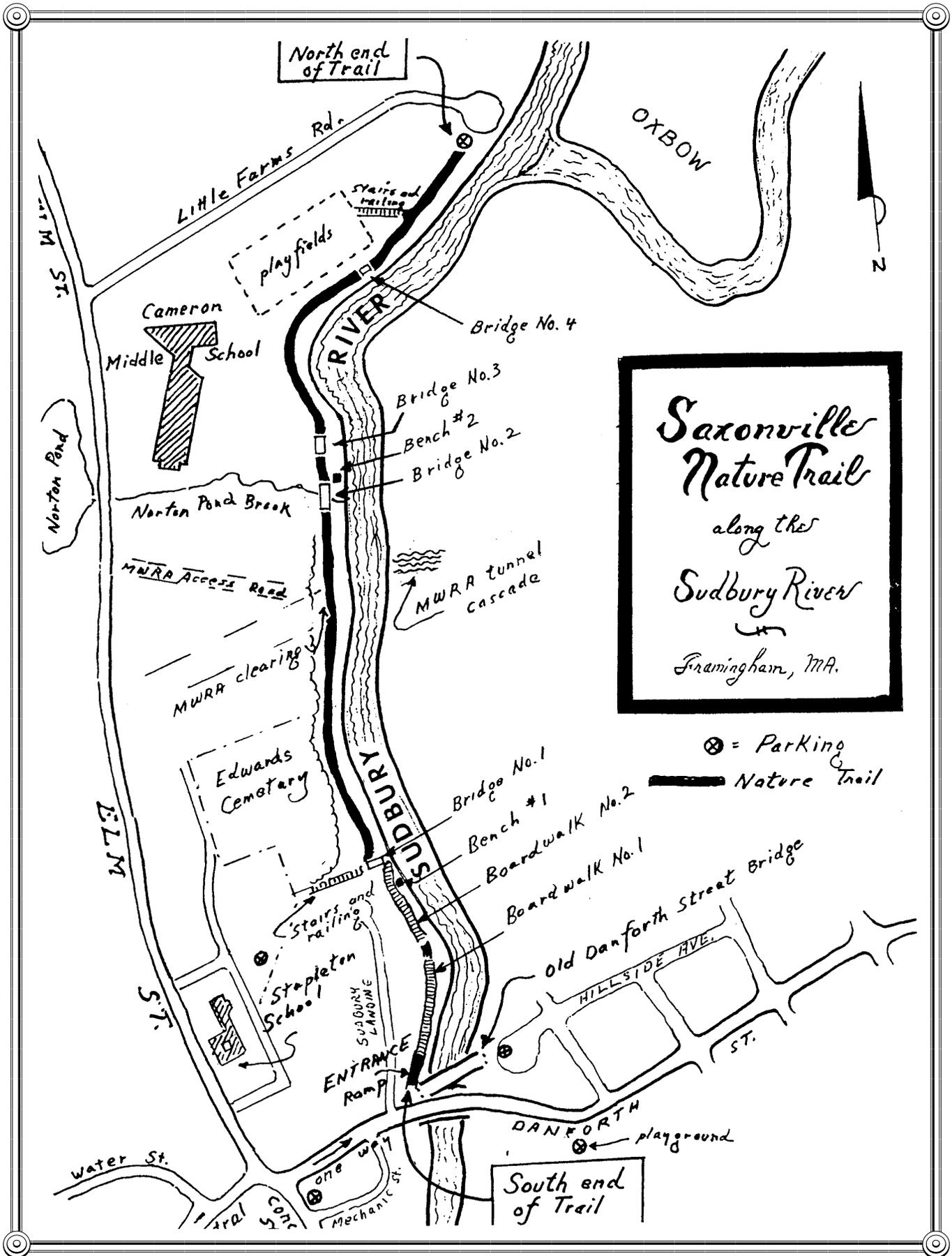
Bill Dyan
Framingham, MA

Hopefully the snow will melt and mud dry up soon so I can enjoy [the Saxonville Nature Trail]. I both live and work in the Saxonville area, and sometimes either walk or bicycle to work to my office on Old Connecticut Path. I'm really excited about the town's Rail Trail project!! I hope I'll be able to make it to the annual meeting.

Thank you again.

Sharon Machlis
Framingham, MA

We love to receive mail from our readers, so please drop us a line by e-mail at jmaguire@acornworld.net or by mail at P.O. Box 3236, Framingham, MA 01705-3236.



Please note: the trail has recently been renamed the Carol Getchell Nature Trail.