



# Friends of Saxonville



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

Summer 2008

## *New Signs for Saxonville*

Submitted By David Longden, President

Our village of Saxonville is full of “Signs” this year.

The signs of Summer have been all around us, and the signs of Autumn are beginning to show themselves. We see that Signs of Change are evident in the road construction we have endured, in the new colors on the Athenaeum and in the rebuilding of the shopping center on School Street. More changes are on the way, as plans are in the works for giving the old State Lumber property a facelift and a new purpose.

But there are more signs to come. Sometime this Fall, residents and visitors to our village of Saxonville will notice new road signs, welcoming visitors to our village and directing them towards places of interest. These signs are being provided by the Friends of Saxonville, with help from a Massachusetts Turnpike Authority Tourism Grant.

Two new signs, stating “Welcome to Historic Saxonville” will be located along the roads that enter Saxonville from the north and the west. One sign will be located on Water Street, right next to the Sudbury River, across from Pinefield Shopping Center. The other sign will be located on Elm Street, at the top of the hill near the aqueduct crossing.

Both signs will be about 2 ft by 5 ft in size, green in color with gold lettering and carved from wood.

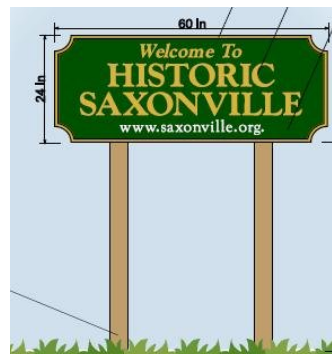
In addition to the new “Welcome” signs, there will also be a new directional sign on the corner of Danforth and Concord Streets. This sign will state “Nature Trail and Historic Bridge” with an arrow pointing toward Danforth Street. This new sign will help our residents and visitors to locate the old Danforth Street Bridge and the Carol Getchell Nature Trail.

The Friends of Saxonville hope that these road signs, together with our new tourism brochure, will increase the interest in our village and help others enjoy it as we do.

A special thanks goes to George Dixon for his work on this signage project.

### Inside this issue:

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- New Tourism Brochure – your personal copy!
- CRT Work Day – September 20
- Snackin’ in Saxonville – September 20
- Name Those Bandmembers!



## *The Ogden Inn*

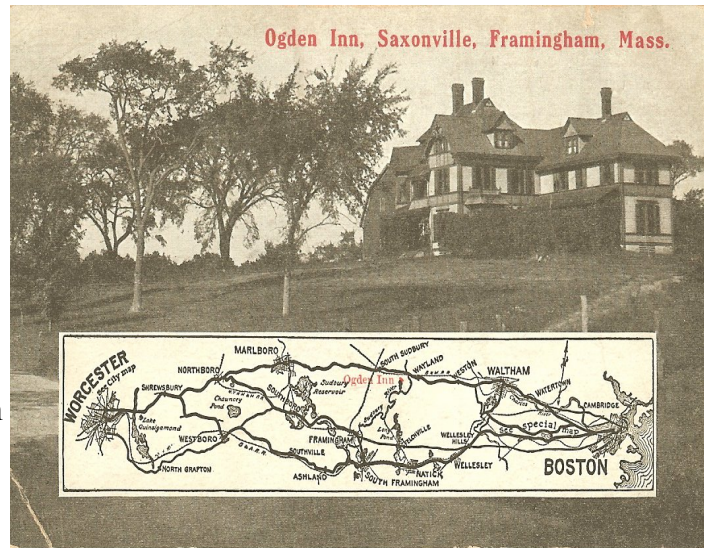
submitted by Robert B. Santone

I acquired a postcard in June 2005 showing a large house with a map below. The map, showing the Routes between Worcester and Boston, was marked with a red dot placing the Ogden Inn about midway between the two cities. The dot was printed just above a wiggly line for the Sudbury River and looked to be just at the north end of Heard Pond in Wayland, which is all wetland. Obviously the red dot was printed over the black map and the two must not have been properly aligned. So where is – or where was – the Ogden Inn?

On the back of the card – which was not posted – it said “OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND Automobile Tourists and pleasure seekers will find the OGDEN INN a most delightful resting spot between Boston and Worcester. The dinners are served from Products raised on the OGDEN FARM. Give us a trial and be convinced. F.F. & G.A. Hotchkiss, Prop.”. So, the search began.

I looked up “Ogden Inn” on Google and found nothing that matched. I sent a scan of the postcard to Kevin Swope at the Framingham Historical Society and Museum (FHSM) but he found nothing. I looked in the 1920 Federal Census and found a Frank A. (age 58, born Canada, occupation grocer) and a Georgia A. Hotchkiss (age 48, born Mass) but living at 89 Elm Street in Saxonville. Her occupation was “Prop.Inn”. I did a drive-by and 87 Elm Street was a small home close to the road with white columns. There was no 89 Elm Street.

I told this to Kevin and he said the Town re-numbered the houses along Elm Street some years back. Then I remembered the “Green Acres” house that was razed in 1970 to make way for a new school – Cameron Middle School – which sits on the site today. Roger Heinen brought in some old newspaper articles to the FHSM and one reported a 1957 Christmas Eve fire that swept through the barn adjacent to the house which had an illustrious history as the place where Joe Lewis trained in 1940 in preparation for his fight with Al McCoy on December 16 of that year. A corner of that barn can be seen just to the left of the Inn on the postcard.



A picture in “The News” article of 1970 shows a picture of Green Acres (formerly the Ogden Inn) confirming they are one and the same house. It also gives a brief history stating that Georgia A. Hotchkiss bought the 1869 era house and barn from Frank E. Simpson in 1908.

So, the question has been answered and what looks to be a somewhat rare and interesting postcard dating to about 1910 has revealed a bit of local history. My thanks for the help of Kevin Swope and Roger Heinen.





## Fall Work Day

September 20, 2008

(Rain date is Sunday, September 30)

9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Join us for a day of trail-clearing and clean-up on the Cochituate Rail Trail!

Co-sponsored by REI.

For details visit [www.crtrail.org](http://www.crtrail.org)



Saxonville Jr. Legion Band

### Identify the Band Members!

“The Saxonville Jr. Legion Band, sponsored by Saxonville Post 256, American Legion, attired in blue and gold is considered the most efficient and colorful Junior Band in its district. The band in full complement and novelty feature is available to clubs and lodges for parade and fine concert work.”

Know any of the members? If so –drop us a line!



*Sample menu items from local restaurants...*

*Exceptional raffle items*

*Guided walking tour of historic mill village*

*Mini historical exhibit - musical antique fire truck*

*Fun for all ages!*

*An end-of-summer re-connection with neighbors...*

# Snackin' in Saxonville!

Presented by Friends of Saxonville - [www.saxonville.org](http://www.saxonville.org)

*All proceeds benefit Friends of Saxonville, a local non-profit organization with a 10-year history of serving Saxonville's historic, cultural and environmental interests.*

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



Saturday

September 20th

3-6 pm

*(rain date - September 21)*

Corner of Concord and School Streets  
Frammingham (former State Lumber Prop)

\$10/adult - \$3/child (under 8 yrs)

## Board of Directors Friends of Saxonville

David Longden, President  
Brett Peruzzi, Vice President & Webmaster  
George Dixon, Treasurer  
Charlene Frary, Clerk  
Jan Harrington  
Susan Silva  
John Stasik  
Scott Stirling

Meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending, please contact Charlene Frary at 508-371-4361

VISIT US ON THE WEB!  
WWW.SAXONVILLE.ORG

Friends of Saxonville  
PO BOX 3236  
Framingham, MA 01705

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## Friends of Saxonville Membership Form

(detach and return to Friends of Saxonville, PO BOX 3236, Framingham, MA 01705)

The mission of the Friends of Saxonville is to educate the public about the special identity of Saxonville, an historic neighborhood of Framingham, Massachusetts, and to preserve, enhance and protect its cultural, environmental and historical qualities.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRIBUTION \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Minimum annual dues are \$20) I am interested in:  
\_\_\_ ATHENAEUM \_\_\_ NATURE TRAIL \_\_\_ FUNDRAISING \_\_\_ RAIL TRAIL \_\_\_ DANFORTH BRIDGE