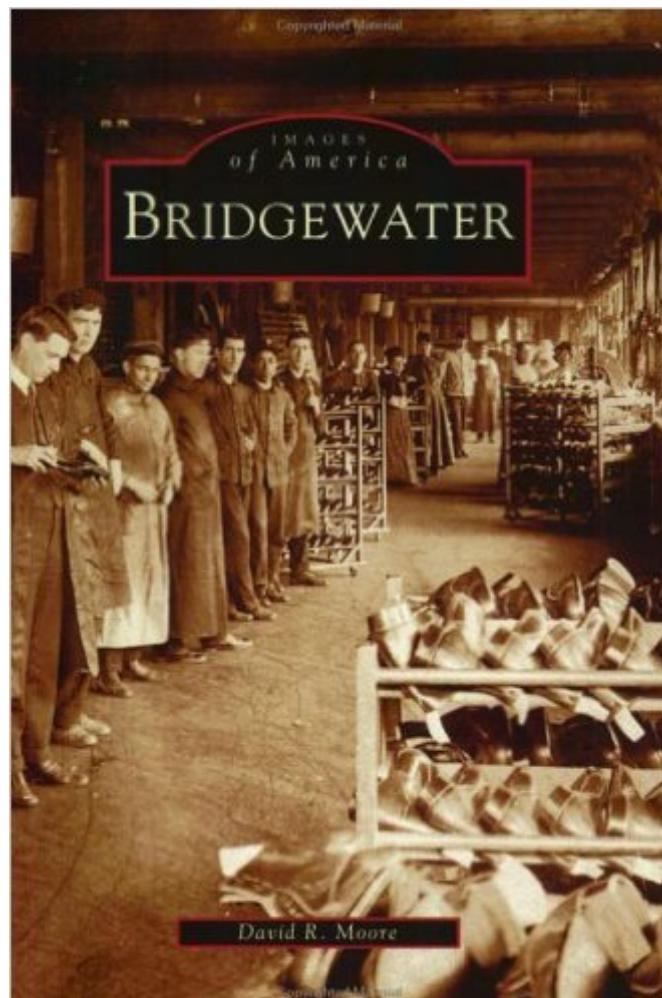


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# Bridgewater (MA) (Images Of America)



## **Synopsis**

Not long after the Pilgrims came ashore, Bridgewater became the first inland settlement to branch out from the Plymouth Colony, incorporating in 1656. Its fertile soil and bountiful rivers provided for a rich agricultural community. As the Industrial Revolution forced farmers into factories, Bridgewater experienced rapid social and economic growth and change. Iron, shoe, and paper manufacturing flourished, and the railroad brought European immigrants in search of the American Dream. In Bridgewater, vintage images tell the stories of the Bridgewater Academy, the normal school, the changes in and around the common, the business pursuits of local proprietors, and the spiritual and civic life of Bridgewater residents.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I thoroughly recommend this small book of early photographs of my hometown, Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Massachusetts. Many (if not most) of the landscape has changed so drastically since most of these pictures were taken that one would hardly know the place. With "Images of Bridgewater, MA", I've finally, at long last, been able to locate and see many old houses which, in my own lifetime, have met with the wrecker's ball. If, for no other reason, the book shows how beautiful a town Bridgewater. Bridgewater and Duxbury were the first two outposts from Plymouth Plantation, so I mourn the loss of many of the early buildings pictured in this book, Massachusetts was once the quintessential New England town. With this book, one can see what happens when random disregard for what went before becomes the rule of the day. Thanks. I enjoy having it.

I received this book for Christmas. Couldn't put it down - even with the distraction of presents ! We live in my great-grandparents house so it was amazing to see the view from our front lawn down Broad Street in quite a few pictures. I learned so much about our town. My great-grandfather owned a bakery downtown in the early 1900's, so it was fascinating to look at the old pictures around the common. Also learned a lot about the town's history - and so many of my mother's stories make more sense now.

This book is a collection of black and white photographs taken around Bridgewater primarily in the early to mid 1900's. Each photo is accompanied by a few sentences telling about the photo and a bit of related history. This brings me to my one complaint about the book. I would have liked more text and more history. But the pictures are wonderful and well worth the price. Having grown up in Bridgewater it was a lot of fun thumbing through this book. It was interesting to see a place I lived so much of my life long before I was ever born, and to see how much the town has changed. Though it wasn't always for the better. Obviously if you're not from Bridgewater or Southeastern Massachusetts this book will probably hold little interest for you. But if you are and you have any interest in local history. I would highly recommend it.

Being from Bridgewater it was a an eye opener regarding growth. Amazing to find out little things like all the tin roofs in town were from Rogers Tin Shop, which is now the bank parking lot.

Made me long for the old Bridgewater, but I still enjoyed being transported in time with terrific, never-seen-before photos and captions. ☺☺☺

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