The early Native American trails are marked on the 1699 Josiah Temple map. It shows the South Path and the Old Connecticut Path. The Native Americans (Nipmucks) used these paths for hunting, fishing and trade. Because they had less fixed and established settlements these paths were mostly used for travel. Once the settlers came they used the trails to establish fixed homesteads and markets along the routes of the trails.

Knox Cannon Trail

From November 1775 to January 1776, Henry Knox secretly moved heavy cannon and artillery captured from the British at Fort Ticonderoga in New York to the Continental camps outside Boston (Cambridge). Framingham was part of the Knox Trail. From Marlborough, the cannon were transported down Nixon Road to Edmands Road and then Grove Street to be concealed in the Pike Row neighborhood (including Belnap Road) on January 24, 1776. The bulk of the artillery remained in Framingham possibly for weeks. In February 1776 is the first record of some of the artillery being deployed to the Boston area from their hiding place in Framingham.