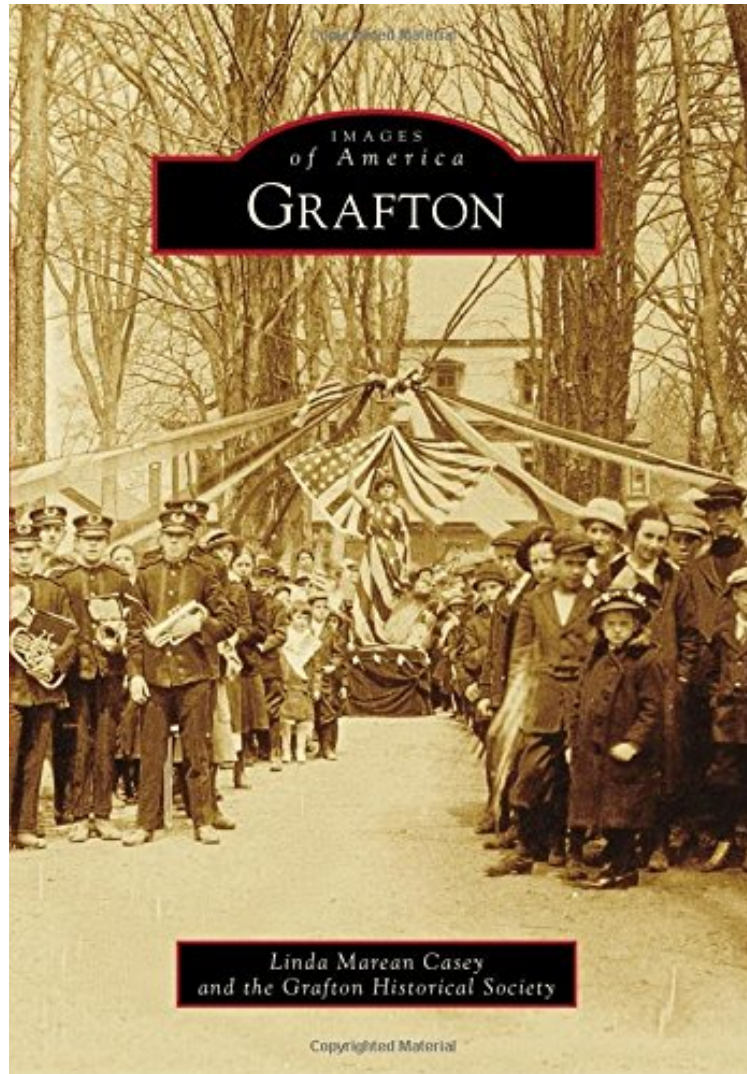


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## Grafton (Images of America)

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**Linda Marean Casey, Grafton Historical Society : Grafton (Images of America)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Grafton (Images of America):

Nestled in the hills 38 miles west of Boston, the area that would become Grafton originally belonged to the Nipmuc Indians. In the mid-1600s, John Eliot, a Puritan missionary, traveled throughout Massachusetts converting the natives to Christianity. He created a series of praying Indian villages, including Hassanamesit. In 1728, most of Hassanamesit

was purchased by a group of investors, and in 1735 it was incorporated as the town of Grafton. By the early 19th century, Grafton was a national leader in leather tanning and shoe production. Textile mills appeared along the rivers, attracting emigrant workers from Canada and Europe. Three geographic areas evolved, each with its own identity: Grafton Center, North Grafton, and South Grafton. Today, residents celebrate the differences and salute the forces that brought them together to form one united town. Grafton is the birthplace of the famous Willard clock makers Simon, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Aaron whose home and clock shop are now the Willard House and Clock Museum. Grafton is the birthplace of Robert Bailey Thomas, the founder, editor, and publisher of the Old Farmers Almanac. Native Jerome Wheelock invented a steam valve system, revolutionizing transportation worldwide. Grafton is also the childhood home of noted American poet Frank O'Hara.

About the Author Linda Marean Casey is the museum director of the Grafton Historical Society and served for seven years as its president. The society, incorporated in 1964, has collected and preserved this collection of photographs that tells the history of Grafton.