

TIMELINE FOR SHARON

~1635 to 2015~

- 1635** A crude shelter was built for travelers on an old Indian Trail (Old Post Road)
- 1637** Dorchester proprietors opened a new grant which included area of Pole Plain
- 1657** First settler built Wainman's Ordinary, a tavern and shelter on Old Post Road
- 1675** King Philip and his Sachems met in local cave to plan strategy for an uprising
- 1680** Billings Tavern opened at site of land of present day Shaw's Supermarket
- 1693** First mail carried on Old Post Road, the first highway connecting the colonies

- 1700** Main Street, now known as North and South Main streets, was laid out
- 1711** West Cemetery, first burial ground in Pole Plain, now Sharon, was established
- 1717** Ebenezer Billings died; buried at the West Cemetery, oldest grave in Sharon
- 1740** First Parish, Second Precinct of Stoughton, called Stoughtonham , established
- 1741** Rev. Philip Curtis came to Sharon as its first minister; remained for 55 years
- 1760** Deborah Samson born in Plympton , MA
- 1765** First Parish, Second Precinct, named Stoughtonham, became incorporated as the District of Stoughtonham (now Sharon)
- 1765** District School System established in Stoughtonham
- 1773** Production of cannon from Lake Massapoag begins
- 1775** Stoughtonham becomes a full-fledged town by an enabling act passed by Massachusetts Gen'l Court; can now elect its own representative to Gen'l Court
- 1775** First town officers elected; First Selectmen were Swift, Randall and Richards
- 1776** First cannon forged at the Stoughtonham Furnace fortifies Dorchester Heights
- 1776** Declaration of Independence accepted by Town
- 1782** Deborah Samson enlists in Army as Robert Shurtleiff
- 1783** Stoughtonham takes SHARON as its permanent name
- 1783** First Town Meeting as Town of Sharon held
- 1784** Deborah Sampson marries Benjamin Gannett, Jr. of Sharon

- 1787 U. S. Constitution ratified**
- 1797 Town's first minister, the Rev. Philip Curtis dies; he ministered 55 years**
- 1803 Stage Coach service to Boston established**
- 1813 First Baptist Church of Sharon organized**
- 1819 Sharon's first Post Office opens at Cobb's Tavern**
- 1821 The Christian Society (First Congregational Church of Sharon) established**
- 1827 Deborah Samson Gannett dies; buried at Rock Ridge Cemetery**
- 1835 Railroad Service comes to Sharon after completion of Canton Viaduct**
- 1862 Sharon sends first contingent of men to Civil War; total of 146; 18 lost their lives**
- 1877 First High School (Stoughtonham Institute) opened on Billings Street**
- 1881 Fifty-eight registered voters "voted that a building be erected for a townhouse"**
- 1883 First copy of Sharon Advocate, Volume I , No.1 was printed; selling at 5 cents**
- 1884 New Town House (Town Hall) completed and a dedication held**
- 1886 Antiquarian Committee formed consisting of those interested in Town's history**
- 1887 Public Library opens in Sharon's Town House**
- 1887 Lothrop Manufacturing Company destroyed by fire**
- 1891 Formal opening of Sharon Sanitarium for Pulmonary Diseases**
- 1897 Fortnightly Club of Sharon, Inc. organized**
- 1899 High Street School opens**
- 1900 The Sharon Street Railway (Trolley Cars) established**
- 1901 Dr. Walter A. Griffin became Resident Director of Sharon Sanitarium**
- 1903 McElroy's Lakeview Hotel, Beach Street, destroyed by fire**
- 1903 Sharon's first Historical Society chartered; holds its first meeting**
- 1904 Sharon Sanitarium name changed to Sharon Sanitorium which means "to heal"**
- 1906 Massapoag Lake House, a 100-room hotel, destroyed by fire**
- 1906 Our Lady of Sorrows becomes a Parish of Catholic Church**

- 1907** Burkhart's Ice House at Lake Massapoag burned
- 1909** Town voted to build a new High School on Pleasant Street
- 1911** Sharon Public Library moved to Post Office Square
- 1912** Hervey T.B. Derry named first full-time officer and Police Chief
- 1912** Sharon Cooperative Bank was established
- 1913** Tudor Farm Resort at Wolomolopoag Pond destroyed by fire
- 1913** Sharon's first Boy Scout Troop organized *(not confirmed)*
- 1914** New Sharon Public Library opened on North Main Street
- 1914** Morrell Park behind Pleasant Street School given to the Town
- 1914** Sharon's first Girl Scout Troop organized
- 1919** Mann's Mill on Billings Street destroyed by fire
- 1920** Sharon Inn, South Main Street, taken by Town for school property
- 1921** Town votes to construct Wilber School
- 1921** Charles R. Wilber American Legion Post #106 chartered
- 1922** Moose Hill Bird Sanctuary opened
- 1923** Public Beach laid out at Beach Street
- 1923** Sharon's First Historical Society disbanded; collection of items given to Town
- 1926** The Boston Ice Company overlooking Lake Massapoag destroyed by fire
- 1929** Sharon Town Forest authorized with 101 acres set aside along Moose Hill Pkwy
- 1929** Entire extension to Wilber School opens as Sharon High School
- 1930** First Planning Board established
- 1931** Original Sunset Lodge Hotel destroyed by fire
- 1932** Three teen-agers in a car killed by train at Depot Street railroad crossing
- 1932** Crescent Ridge Dairy established by Malby V. Parrish
- 1934** McMillen's Variety Store, Pond Street, obtained permit to sell beer & wine (1 yr)
- 1935** Singer's Inn on Massapoag Avenue destroyed by fire
- 1936** First meeting of membership of Jewish Community Center of Sharon

- 1937 The German dirigible "*Hindenburg*" flies over Sharon en route to Lakehurst, N.J.**
- 1937 New bridge constructed over railroad tracks at Depot Street & Upland Road**
- 1938 Devastating "Hurricane of '38" hits N.E., including Sharon; teenager killed**
- 1941 War Declared; students hear President Roosevelt's announcement in auditorium**
- 1941 Rotary Club of Sharon Chartered**
- 1942 Temple Adath Sharon established**
- 1945 Dunn's Village, Route One, becomes Raider's Village**
- 1945 World War II ends; church bells ring; fire whistle blows; excitement in "Square"**
- 1945 Veterans' Memorial Park established encompassing area from Ames St. to Lake**
- 1945 Girl Scout House moved from Square to Station St. land donated by Dr. Griffin**
- 1946 Arthur I. Boyden V.F.W. Post 7238 chartered**
- 1947 Closed Sanitorium property sold to Norwood Hospital**
- 1950 Kendall Family purchases old Sanitorium property on Everett Street**
- 1951 Cottage Street Elementary School opens**
- 1952 New Sharon Heights Plaza opens on South Main Street**
- 1954 Two Hurricanes: Edna & Carol within short period of time**
- 1955 Hurricane Diane washed out several Sharon streets due to extremely heavy rain**
- 1955 Heights Elementary School opens on South Main Street**
- 1956 First organizational meeting of Evangelical Baptist Church**
- 1956 Sharon Credit Union Incorporated**
- 1957 Last High School Class graduated from old Sharon High School on So. Main St.**
- 1957 Kendall Whaling Museum opens on site of former Sharon Sanitorium**
- 1958 New High School on Pond Street dedicated; first class graduates from new H.S.**
- 1958 First membership meeting of Temple Sinai**
- 1958 Sharon's Conservation Commission established**
- 1958 East Elementary School opens**

- 1959 Ames Street Playground renamed Dr. Walter A. Griffin Playground**
- 1960 100,000 Square Foot Zoning voted by Town and overturned by Court**
- 1965 Sharon celebrates its 200th Anniversary of Incorporation as Stoughtonham**
- 1965 Northeast Blackout effects 30 million for 13 ½ hours, including Sharon**
- 1966 Claim of UFO sighting in Sharon on April 19th**
- 1966 New Middle School opens on Mountain Street**
- 1966 Pettee Block in Post Office Square destroyed by fire**
- 1967 Metco Program inaugurated in Sharon schools**
- 1967 Town votes to purchase Sunset Lodge property for a recreational center**
- 1968 David I. Clifton appointed Sharon's First Recreation Director**
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- 1970 Sharon Historical Commission and Historic District Commission established**
- 1971 Borderland State Park established at Sharon -Easton Town Line**
- 1972 Proposal to establish representative town meeting defeated**
- 1974 Cobb's Tavern named to National Register of Historic Places**
- 1974 Town votes to buy Sacred Heart School property**
- 1976 Sharon celebrates the nation's Bicentennial**
- 1976 Doctor Walter A. Griffin dies at age 102**
- 1977 April Fool's Day Snow Storm leaves 24" of snow in Boston-Sharon area**
- 1977 Jewish War Veterans of America, Post 735, chartered**
- 1977 Twenty-nine Sharon streets designated as Scenic Roads**
- 1978 Blizzard of Seventy-Eight dropped approximately 42 inches of snow in Sharon**
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- 1980 Green Manor, formerly Sharon Spring Hotel, Carvins, Cormans, destroyed by fire**
- 1980 Stoneholm on Ames Street named to National Register of Historic Places**
- 1981 Sharon High School Auditorium renamed in honor of Arthur E. Collins**

- 1981 Lakeside Summer Concert Series begins at new bandstand overlooking the Lake**
- 1982 May snowstorm causes power loss and major damage to trees**
- 1982 Sharon High Homecoming I for Classes 1935 to 1944**
- 1982 New Sharon Police Station and Dept. of Public Works Building dedicated**
- 1982 Bendinelli's Variety Store established in 1925, closes**
- 1984 Stoughtonham Furnace named to National Register of Historic Places**
- 1985 Mountain Street Landfill closed**
- 1985 Sharon High Homecoming II for SHS Classes 1945 to 1957**
- 1986 Sharon Advocate is sold by the Reeve Family.**
- 1987 New traffic lights and change in configuration of Post Office Square**
- 1988 Sharon's First Family Week inaugurated**
- 1989 Deborah Samson statue unveiled at Sharon Public Library**

- 1990 Henry W. Kendall wins Nobel Prize in Physics**
- 1991 Cobb's Tavern named Sharon's Historic District #2**
- 1991 Operation Desert Storm began; special rally in the Square**
- 1993 Ground Breaking for Islamic Center of New England on Chase Drive**
- 1995 First Annual "Square Jam" at Post Office Square**
- 1995 Town votes to prohibit smoking in outdoor recreation areas; made national news**
- 1995 First Annual First Night Celebration takes place at many venues**
- 1996 First Congregational Church of Sharon celebrates its 175th Anniversary**
- 1996 Olympic Flame passes through Sharon**
- 1997 April Fool's Day snowstorm leaves over 2 feet of snow**
- 1997 Ground Breaking for Sharon Historical Society's Museum on High Street**
- 1997 Borderland State Park named to National Register of Historic Places**
- 1998 Sharon High Homecoming III for SHS Classes 1920 to 1957**
- 1999 Sharon Historical Society's Yellow Schoolhouse Museum opens**

2000 The Twenty-First Century begins

2001 Sharon native, Michael Rothberg, killed in 9/11 bombing of World Trade Center

2002 New bridge on Depot Street dedicated to Daniel J. Dabreu, KIA in Viet Nam

2006 Sharon Historical Society, Inc celebrates 25th Anniversary of its founding

2006 Our Lady of Sorrows Church celebrates its 100th Anniversary

2008 Microburst cut path one mile wide uprooting trees as it blew through Sharon

2009 Wilber School Apartments opens; placed on Nat'l Register of Historic Places

2010 Yankee Kennels' Barn, North Main Street, destroyed by fire

2011 Rotary Club of Sharon celebrates its 70th Anniversary

2011 First Annual "Honor Veterans Day" with celebration & displays in P.O. Square

2011 Ladder #1, a 1923 Stewart Fire Truck returns to Sharon

2011 Halloween Snow Storm hits Sharon causing much damage

2011 Sharon High School honored as a Blue Ribbon School

2012 Fortnightly Club of Sharon, Inc., celebrates its 115th Anniversary

2012 Sharon High's Football Team wins Eastern MA, Div. II Super Bowl Championship

2012 Sharon High Homecoming IV for SHS Classes 1935 to 1960

2013 Opening of Sharon's Police and Fire Museum, 1 School Street

2013 Dedication of Monument honoring James A. Keating KIA in World War II

2013 Sharon named "No.1 Best Small Town to Live in America" by "Money" magazine

2014 First Baptist Church of Sharon celebrates its 200th Anniversary

2014 Sharon Public Library celebrates its 100th Anniversary

2014 East Elementary one of two Blue Ribbon schools honored in Massachusetts

2015 January 1st, the Town of Sharon begins a year-long celebration of the 250th Anniversary of its Incorporation with "First Day" festivities in Post Office Square

2015 January 26th & 27th Nor'easter leaves close to 30" of snow in Sharon

2015 February 1st & 2nd Blizzard of historical significance leaves about 20" of snow

2015 Weather bureau states between January and March a record amount of snow totaling 114 inches fell in this area

2015 Winter of January through April was the third coldest ever recorded in our area

2015 April 12th Arts & Music Festival presented by Sharon Creative Arts Association

2015 April 26th Sharon Historical Society Walking Tour of Rock Ridge Cemetery

2015 May 3rd Sharon Historical Society Historical Bike Ride led by Rev. Steve Alspach

- 2015 250th Anniversary Bob-a-Thon at Lake Massapoag - May 16th**
- 2015 Sharon Historical Society Walking tours of Post Office Sq. Area, June 6th & 7th**
- 2015 Sharon Garden Club Tour of Sharon Houses - June 20th**
- 2015 250th Anniversary Ball at Herb Chambers Dealership, Route One - June 20th**
- 2015 Church Bells ring in celebration of 250th anniversary of Incorporation-June 21st**
- 2015 Annual celebration of Independence Day with festivities at Lake Massapoag**
- 2015 First Annual Golden Oldies Gathering for those who graduated or attended Sharon High School 50 or more years ago - September 17th**
- 2015 Money Magazine votes Sharon as the Third Best Small Town in America**
- 2015 Celebration of "Light Up the Lake" fun night at Lake Massapoag - September 19th**
- 2015 250th Anniversary Parade following red, white, blue line - September 20th**
- 2015 250th Anniversary Celebration at Sharon Historical Society's Open House and Antique Car/Truck Display - October 4th**
- 2015 250th Anniversary Celebration Bonfire at Lake Massapoag - Conclusion of Year-long 250th Anniversary Celebration - October 24th**
- 2015 Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church-Sunday, November 22nd**
- 2015 250th Anniversary Celebration Commemorative/History Book published - 500 books arrived December 17th**

Last Update: December 18, 2015

April 5, 2017

***Compiled by Shirley (Harris) Schofield
Sharon Historical Society, Inc.***