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 Shurtleff
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 Wolomoloopoag 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

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

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

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

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