

## History of

# Hamilton Police Department

Today, 2016, the Hamilton Police Department consists of: Chief of Police, Russell M. Stevens; Lieutenant, Scott Janes; Sergeants: Stephen Tranpanier, Stephen Walsh, and Karen Wallace; Detective, Joe Achadinha; Patrolmen: Brian Shaw, Matthew Donovan, Kent Richards, Michael Wetson, Andrew Neill, Michael Girolimon, Jeffrey Cross; and Gena Bretellia; and Christine Larcom, the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police. There is one constable, Richard Flynn, appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Hamilton built its current police station in 2007. It is part of the Hamilton Public Safety Building, which also houses the fire department and the Emergency Communications Center.<sup>59</sup>

In the police station are: a Chief's office, a reception desk, an armory, an evidence room, a large officer locker room, a briefing room, an office for 3 sergeants, an office for the patrolmen, and separate bathrooms

At the back of the station, there is a booking area that is accessible from both the vehicle garage and the station. When bringing an individual of interest to the station, the cruiser enters the garage and the detained person is brought into the booking area. In this protected area there are 3 holding cells: male, female and juvenile (*each has toilet and sink*). The entire area has tv coverage. Massachusetts law (MGL 263)

requires prisoners to be segregated by gender and juvenile (7-17 years). There also is an interview room. At the reception desk, there is a breathalyzer, finger printer and an identification camera.<sup>8</sup>

The 2016 Police Department budget was \$1,534,198, an increase of 5.2% from 2015 actual. 1,458,554<sup>63</sup>

Massachusetts General Law (MGL), Part 1, Title VII, Chapter 41, Section 98 establishes the "Powers and Duties" of Hamilton's police officers. The current Hamilton by-law, with regard to police enforcement, was last updated May 5, 1998.<sup>55</sup>

The Hamilton Emergency Communications Center (ECC), a computer based phone system, handles all service and emergency calls from residents, alarms and calls from other communities. On duty all day every day, ECC personnel have state of the art equipment, including mapping, cell phone information and several other features. Hamilton's Police Chief directs the ECC, however it remains a separate department<sup>3</sup> working with the town's police and fire departments, and its ambulance service.

Beauport Ambulance Service provides ambulance service, which it began in 2013. Its vehicles are stationed at the Hamilton Emergency Center on Bay Road.

A 2016 study of FBI crime statistics for Massachusetts towns and cities ranks Hamilton as one of the safest towns in the state. The study evaluated the number of reported violent crimes (*aggravated assault, murder, rape, and robbery*) and property crimes (*burglary, arson, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft*) in each municipality. Hamilton is the 30<sup>th</sup> safest of 100 towns with populations more than 8,000.<sup>83</sup>

The Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission, in 2012, fully accredited the Hamilton Police Department, a distinction given to just 51 Massachusetts communities (*as of 2016*). An accredited department meets more than 300 standards for facilities, operations and procedures.

How did all this come about?

### First office in meetinghouse

Until breaking away from the Town of Ipswich in 1793, the Hamlet's constables and watchmen used a room in the basement of the meetinghouse (*church*) as their watch house (*it also was where the selectmen held meetings*). This practice continued after Hamilton became a separate town.

Just after 100 years of having been a town, Hamilton voters, in 1897, agreed to build a "town house" (*town hall*) on Main Street (*now Bay Road*). The building was erected in the town center: the area between the meetinghouse and Bridge Street.

A room to the right of the front door served as the Constables Office.<sup>1</sup> At the time, there were 6 part-time constables. For law-breakers, a small jail cell was in the basement. Prisoners were held here before being taken to the jail in Ipswich. It is not known when the Police Department stopped using the basement jail cell. (*It is now used to store building maintenance supplies.*)

The constable/police office was in the town hall until March 1941, when the Federal Government required there be a room in the building where Old Age Assistance (OAA) applicants could be interviewed privately.<sup>47</sup> The selectmen moved the police office to a store next to the pharmacy (*now Connolly's Pharmacy*) on the corner of Main Street and Railroad Avenue.<sup>32</sup> In addition to an officer on duty during the day, and an officer was on duty from 5 pm until midnight. The town's Rationing Board also was at the police office.<sup>33</sup>

The station was here until 1947, when the selectmen moved it to 2 rooms on the second floor of the depot Hamilton Hardware store building (*now the Talbot's building*), the former location of the American Legion.<sup>9</sup> The larger of the two rooms served as an office and the smaller room was for equipment storage. (*Note: the office desk on display in the foyer of the Hamilton Public Safety Building was used in the depot building office.*)<sup>85</sup>

The station's location at the depot provided police availability in the most thickly settled and business district of the town. However, the narrow stairway to the second floor caused access problems. Further, there still was not a holding cell.<sup>9</sup> Those arrested were directly brought, for booking, to the Beverly police station.<sup>85</sup>

In 1958, Hamilton built a combination police and fire station on Main Street, across from the Asbury Street intersection.<sup>43</sup> The police station had a two holding cells; later, the department built a third cell for juveniles.<sup>85</sup> Other department needs soon led to using the juvenile cell to meet needs other than holding teenagers. In 1989, computer equipment was in the cell and also the prisoner booking area.<sup>87</sup>

In 1960, the telephone company closed the exchange on Railroad Ave., which had been handling police and fire emergency calls. To replace this service, Hamilton established an Emergency Communications Center (ECC) at the police station. The ECC handled calls and alarms for both Hamilton and Wenham, using telephones and radios for police and fire frequencies. There was no 911.

By 2000, the ECC was answering an average of nearly a thousand calls per month for the Hamilton Police Department.<sup>56</sup> A decade later, the number was nearly 4,000/mon.<sup>88</sup>

The police remained at the Bay Road station until 2007, when the town built a Public Safety Building for the police and fire stations, as well as the ECC.<sup>59</sup>



**Office desk**, on display in the foyer of the Hamilton Public Safety Building, was first used in the depot building office. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



**Hamilton Police Department** occupies the left section of the Hamilton Emergency Center, built in 2008. Fire Department is in right section and garage to far right (*not shown*).  
Photo, Hamilton Emergency Center, 2014

**Hamilton Public Safety Building**, on Bay Road, has police station (*left side*) and fire station (*right side*), and Emergency Communications Center (*center*). Lobby has reception desks for each department. Built in 2007, the HPSB is the 6<sup>th</sup> location for the Police Department.



**Police Department reception area**, Photo, J. Hauck, 2016.



**1793** -- Hamilton's constables first station was in basement of First Congregational Church meetinghouse. Photo, 1910, Hamilton Historical Society.



**1941** – Police worked out of a store beside Connolly's Pharmacy, at the corner of Main Street and Railroad Avenue. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society.

**Hamilton's Police Station ... leased space in several buildings before having its own structure.**



**1947** – Hardware store building at the depot had police offices on second floor. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



**1897** -- Constables had an office to the right of entrance to new Hamilton town hall. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society.



**1958** – Police Department was in building next to library on Bay Road. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society.

## Constables in the beginning

Today (2016), constables are recommended by the police chief, and appointed by the selectmen, for a 1-year term. Their sole duty is to serve court documents upon a party involved in civil or criminal litigation with the State, District or Superior Courts or the U.S. Federal District or Superior Courts.<sup>4</sup>

Originally, constables had many duties. They collected taxes. The selectmen gave each constable an amount they were to obtain from each town resident. Collections were made twice a year. The constable brought the taxes to the town's treasurer and reported, to the selectmen, those residents that did not pay their taxes.<sup>7</sup> As late as 1874, Hamilton's constables collected taxes, and fines.<sup>2</sup>

The constable also warned people, who the selectmen declared as undesirables, to immediately leave the town. The town reimbursed the constables for taking care of tramps; this included tickets they bought, so these "out-of-towners" could leave town.<sup>2</sup>

In the early 1800s, Hamilton's part-time constable roster was 2 or 3. However, in 1896, there were an all-time high of 6. Their total compensation was \$75.<sup>67</sup> The population, at the time was about 1,500.

As in England, the main qualification for being a colonial constable was "that he be of sufficient estate," i.e., a landowner. The constable had to be of good character and an accepted town resident.



Asbury Grove police station, built in the late 19th century, no longer remains. It was a small, two-story building opposite the dining hall. There now is a garden on the site of the old station.<sup>55</sup> As the number of visitors decreased in the 20th century, there was no longer a need for police supervision. By the 1940s the Grove's superintendent and other residents were granted the status, from the Hamilton Police Department, to be "special police." This gave them legal control over any wrongdoing.<sup>5</sup> The Hamilton Police Department now has responsibility for the Grove.  
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society.

The constables were in charge of the watch, to see that all disturbances and disorders in the night were prevented or suppressed; to examine all persons walking abroad after ten o'clock of their business and whither they were going, and, in case such persons gave no reasonable satisfaction, then to secure them until the next morning and to bring them to judge.

Watchmen brought to the constable people they found disorderly or acting in a suspicious manner. If the watchman saw any apparent common danger, which they could not prevent or stop, they sounded an alarm, usually the ringing of a bell.

Every man, from 16 to 60 years of age, was required to serve his turn, as a watchman, also called a nightwalker and a wakeman. They were not paid. The night watches consisted of three tours of two men. The watchmen walked about the inhabited parts of the town to prevent any danger by fire, and to see that good order was kept.

Other services of constables included serving subpoenas for court appearances, and delivering tax notices, eviction notices, and judges' notices. A significant duty of the constables notifying all residents of the annual town meeting and special town meetings. They mailed a post card to each voter in the town at least 3 days before the time appointed for a meeting.<sup>21</sup> 1931 was the last year that the department is reported to have done this.<sup>75</sup>

The earliest mention of a constable in the town's annual reports was in 1847: Nathaniel B. Butler was a constable and also the auditor.<sup>11</sup>

The Wenham-Hamilton Times, on Mar. 14, 1901, reported that ballot-fixing occurred at the town hall, "One of the bright young men of the town fixed the ballots in the cellar of the town hall," crossing out names of two constables and substituting others.<sup>1</sup>

This revelation did not cause a change in how constables were chosen. In the following years there were calls for a change. At the 1940 Annual Town Meeting, the moderator initially ruled that a motion to discontinue the election of constables and have them appointed by the selectmen passed by voice vote. His decision was questioned. A standing vote showed the motion failed, of 75 to 67.<sup>31, 2</sup> The election of Hamilton constables ended in 1951.<sup>36, 37, 2</sup>

## Police department began in 1898

Although, in 1838, a bill passed in the General Court allowed towns to appoint police officers with all the powers of constables, except the serving and executing any civil process, Hamilton did not have a police officer until 1898: Charles T. Litchfield was the town's first police officer.<sup>4</sup> Litchfield, in addition to being a police officer, was the town clerk, for many years, the Pound Keeper, Tramp Officer, Keeper of the lockup (*jail in the basement*), and the janitor.<sup>84</sup>

In 1903, the town's bylaws gave the selectmen control of the Police Department, and authority to make, "from time to time, such rules and regulations for the government, disposition and management of the police as they may deem expedient."<sup>16</sup> They appointed all members of the police force.

There was neither special education nor training required for being a police officer. In general, the requirements were to be strong and a man. All members of Hamilton's Police Department, until ✓1947, were on part-time service.<sup>34</sup> That year, the selectmen appointed Edward H. Frederick, who had joined the department in 1927, to be the full-time Police Chief.<sup>64</sup> At the time, there also were 10 part-time officers. The chief worked every day, except Sunday, from early morning to late in the day. The part-time officers worked 16 to 20 hrs./wk.<sup>85</sup>

A second full-time officer, Sgt. Lester (Let) D. Charles, was appointed in 1956. He served from 1949 to 1976.<sup>8</sup> In 1957, there were only 2 full-time officers and 5 part-time officers.<sup>58</sup> An additional officer was added in 1958,<sup>43</sup> and another in 1959.<sup>77</sup> By 2002, there were: 15 full-time officers, 14 reserve officers, and a full-time secretary for the Police Department.<sup>57</sup> This was the most officers to date.<sup>10</sup>

Reserve officers assist with special events; they work shifts when full-time officers are ill or on vacation; they augment the force in emergencies and they perform many other vital functions.

Hamilton first had reserve officers in 1942: they were called auxiliary officers. Police Chief Frederick trained 25 men to assist the Civilian Defense (CD) Committee during blackouts. They had armbands, whistles, flashlights, and nightsticks. Later, the town issues the Hamilton Police Auxiliary officers uniforms and they were trained in medical care, mass casualty response, weapons handling, and police work.<sup>33</sup>

In 1996, the Hamilton Auxiliary Police unit had 14 officers. The auxiliary volunteered 1,886 hours to the town. The average cost to the taxpayer was 80 ¢/hr. Individual and department training, shooting, riding with the full-time officers in the cruisers and ambulance and directing traffic and crowd control at civic functions were the year's activities.<sup>53</sup> Hamilton's auxiliary force was disbanded in mid 1997.<sup>8</sup>

Robert Poole, who joined the department as a reserve officer in 1955, became Hamilton's first detective in 1959.<sup>85</sup> Initially, the position mainly did follow up investigation of crimes. Now, the position works with state and federal agencies handling the examination of current crime scenes and associated evidence, and of ongoing, long-term investigations.

The Police Department ✓did not have a full-time clerk until 1980, when the town appointed Joan Fuller to this duty. Previously, the chief kept written records of the Department.<sup>90</sup> Having a full-time clerk did not

last long: in 1981, Fuller became a Reserve Police Officer.<sup>89</sup> The department returned to having a part-time clerk.

The 1997 Annual Report mentions a part-time clerk/stenographer.<sup>54</sup> Later this became a part-time secretary. The town hired the first full-time administrative assistant, Myrna Doran, in 2002.<sup>57</sup> She began as a part-time employee in 1991.<sup>50</sup>

The first women to be police officers were Mary Frear and Fay Mathewson. Both were elected in 1921, one year after women won the right to vote.<sup>2</sup> In 2016, the department has two full-time female officers (*Sgt. Karen Wallace and Reserve Officer Gena Bretellia.*)

Since late 1970s, the department has had a Deer Officer, who assists people when their car hits a deer and arranges for the animal to be removed. Drivers must notify the Massachusetts Environmental Police within 24 hours of an accident involving a deer.

Many of Hamilton's police force have a family history of being members of the force. Examples of this "blue blood" relationship, with regard to officers in 2016, are:

Kent Richards, who became a reserves officer in 1995 and a full-time officer in 2001 is the grandson of Orman Richards, who was a part-time officer from 1954 to 1976; and,

Sgt. Steve (*Trep*) Trepanier, whose father, Clarence (*Nepo*) Trepanier, became a part-time regular officer in 1951, preceding his son who began as a reserve officer in 1984. (*Note: The nickname "Nepo" comes officer Trepanier's middle name, Napoleon, which also was his grandfather's first name.*)

Robert W. Poole, who was the Chief from 1975 to 1996 and joined the department in 1954. His father, Alfred T. Poole, was the Chief from 1916 to 1924 and joined the Department in 1901 as a constable.

Today, to become a police officer, the candidate has to be: a US citizen (*or naturalized before time of appointment*); 21 to 35 years old; a non-smoker; physically fit; good medical and psychological health; have no felony convictions; official resident in the state; and have a valid drivers license.<sup>5</sup>

For educational requirements, recruits must have, at minimum, a US high school diploma or GED equivalent. However, anyone with a college degree, such as an associate's or a bachelor's degree, will be favorably considered. Additionally, for candidates who enter the force with a high school diploma and would like to continue their education, the state offers a unique program. The Police Career Incentive Pay Program (*PCIPP*) offers federal funds for police officers

who want to earn a college degree. Alternatively, the same program offers funds to current college students who'd like to pursue a career as a police officer.<sup>5</sup>

Established in 1976, the Hamilton Police Benevolent Association cooperates with the town government to create pay rates, work hours and other conditions of employment for all full-time officers, inspectors, sergeants and lieutenants of the Police Department. The first two-year contract included a clause assuring the Board of Selectmen the right to manage the Police Department and also a no strike clause.<sup>86</sup>

Hamilton Police Relief Association, formed in 1966,<sup>85</sup> is a non-profit organization that manages a pension fund for the spouse and children of retired officers, who died from natural causes. The association, which also assists officers and their families in cases of prolonged illness and injuries, accepts taxable donations.

The Association, annually, on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day, hosts a Police Memorial Service at the Hamilton Cemetery. Department officers march to a memorial monument that has engraved names of deceased officers. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation that designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week.

### First chief in 1916

Not having the authority to select constables may be the reason the selectmen did not appoint a chief. However, the constables chose an acting chief. Then in 1913, on the list of town officers, Joseph Merrill was officially listed as "Chief of Police."<sup>20</sup>

The 1916 by-laws established, "The selectmen shall appoint a Chief of Police who shall serve during their pleasure. He shall receive complaints against all persons violating any law in the town, prosecute offenders, and attend in behalf of the town the trial of offenders. He shall enforce all orders, regulations and by-laws of the town and shall obey and execute all lawful orders and commands of the selectmen. He shall keep a record of all offences committed and of all prosecutions. The Chief of Police shall receive such compensation as the selectmen determine. in case the office becomes vacant the selectmen shall appoint a successor."<sup>23</sup>

There have been only 7 Hamilton police chiefs. Edward H. Frederick was the chief for 35 years. He was a member of the force for 48 years.

MGL Chap.41, Sec. 97A, enacted in 1930, gives a strong chief authority to establish policies without first consulting the board of selectmen and allows the chief to assign officers to duties. Hamilton Selectmen, in ✓1987, appointed Robert W. Poole to be the town's first "strong police chief."<sup>8</sup>

## Hamilton Police Chiefs

Name	Years
Russell M. Stevens	2009-current
Walter D. Cullen	1996-2007
Robert W. Poole	1975-1996
Edward H. Frederick	1940-1975
Arthur Southwick	1924-1940
Alfred T. Poole	1916-1924
Joseph Merrill	1903-1916

In 2009, Hamilton had its first police chief, who had not been a previous member of the force. The selectmen chose Lt. Russell Stevens, a 12-year veteran of the Connecticut State Police, to replace former chief Walter D. Cullen.<sup>4</sup>

In ✓1985, the town established the position of a lieutenant to be in command of the Police Department, in the absence of the Police Chief. The department's first lieutenant, George Rioux, was appointed in 1986.<sup>91</sup> He joined the department in 1968<sup>92</sup> and retired in 1992.<sup>51</sup> Robert A. Nyland became the next lieutenant and following his retirement Scott Janes, in 2009, became a lieutenant. He joined the force in 1984, became a full-time officer in 1994 and became a sergeant in 2000.

### Uniforms began 1907

In the beginning, the town's law enforcement officers, watchmen and constables, had very little to distinguish them from the ordinary public. The watchmen only carried, as required by regulations, a 3-ft. staff. Constables had a badge and a short nightstick (*aka billy club*).

In 1907, Hamilton approved having a uniformed police officer.<sup>19</sup> The first uniformed officer was in 1908. There were 5 constables and a police officer.<sup>19</sup> By 1914, there were 5 uniformed officers. The town issued them police coats, custodian helmets, badges, billys, handcuffs and flashlights. The department had a record book, roll-top desk, a rope, hammer, and brush.<sup>21</sup> The town owned all the uniforms and equipment. 1915 was the last mention to helmets, in the town's annual reports.<sup>22</sup>

With the turnover of police officers, different size coats and helmets were required. In 1921, Hamilton began renting its police uniforms<sup>24</sup> However, in 1930, it returned to purchasing them.<sup>28</sup>

By 1941, the town was buying uniforms and supplies for auxiliary fire and police departments, air-raid wardens, and first aid rescue squads. Voters approved \$1,800 for these purchases.<sup>32</sup>



**Hamilton  
Police Officer,  
2016**

- Service cap with badge
- Complete uniform
- Badge
- Special shoes
- Protective vest
- Duty belt with:
- Extendable nightstick
- Two-way radio
- Flashlight
- Handcuffs
- Automatic pistol
- Extra ammo clips
- Pepper spray



**Hamilton  
Police Officer,  
1913**

- Service helmet
- Jacket
- Badge
- Nightstick
- Flashlight
- Whistle



**Badges, left to right, 18??-19??, 19??-2012, current.**  
Photo, Hamilton Police Dept., 2016

**Hamilton Police Uniforms  
and patches greatly changed ...  
but badge back to  
original design.**



**Duty belt holds** handcuffs, extra magazines, an extendable baton, pepper spray, flashlight, weapon and compact radio, Photo, J. Hauck 2016.



Armored vests became part of the uniform for Hamilton police officers in the early 1970s. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



Sixteen years later, 1957, Hamilton voters accepted MGL Ch. 40, Sec. 6B authorizing the payment of uniforms purchased by police officers and firemen.<sup>42</sup> The Act was passed in 1947.

In 2016, full-time officers receive \$800 a year for clothing allowance and \$600 for clothes cleaning. Initially, they receive \$1,200 to buy clothing.<sup>8</sup>

Officer uniforms have greatly changed since the early 1900s. For many years, officers wore the same blue, thick-wool, thigh-length coat the entire year. Officers now have summer and winter shirts, pants, jackets and coats; rain and snow gear; special shoes; dress caps; duty belts and straps; base-layer options, including moisture-wicking fabrics that let the skin breathe underneath body armor, as well as more insulating options to help keep officer warm in cold weather; safety vests; and armored vests.

Police jackets and shirts first had shoulder patches in ✓1965. The first seal had the Massachusetts state seal that had a banner with the Latin motto, "Ense petit placidam sub Libertate quietem" (*By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty.*)

The next two patches featured the town's connection to "4 star" General George S. Patton and to horses. The next patch, introduced in ✓1990, had the town seal that has a profile of Alexander Hamilton, for whom the town was named, the date when the town was established and the name "Alex. Hamilton." In 1992, the patch was slightly changed when voters changed the name on the seal from "Alex." to "Alexander."<sup>51</sup>

The wearing of armored vests, by Hamilton police, began in the early 1970s. They wore a quilted nylon vest that had pockets in which there were steel plates. Called the Barrier Vest, it was sold by Smith & Wesson.<sup>85</sup>

A part of an officer's uniform that has not changed often is the badge: there have been only 3 designs. In 2012, Police Chief Stevens changed badge design that is worn above the left pocket of the shirt or jacket. The current design is very similar to the original badge of 1907. The change was made when the department was fully accredited by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission.<sup>10</sup>

## No pistols until 1920s

Hamilton officers have been carrying firearms, while on duty, since the 1920s. At first, there were no requirements nor training for carrying a firearm.<sup>85</sup> Now, an officer has to qualify with standards set by the Massachusetts Police Training Council and hold a valid Class "A" unrestricted License to Carry Firearms.

Until 19??, the officers purchased their weapons, at their expense. The town began paying for the weapons, leaving the choice of the firearm to each

officer.<sup>xx</sup> Most bought an 8-round, .22-caliber Iver Johnson revolver. However, officer Clarence Trepnier carried lightweight, low recoil .32 semi-automatic .32 Browning pistol;<sup>85</sup> and Chief Edward Frederick carried a 6-round, .38-cal., snub-nose, Colt Police Positive.<sup>10</sup>

Standardization of the police revolver began in 1960, when the department required each, member of the patrol force to be armed, when on duty, with a .38-caliber revolver. This was the required revolver until 1990. That year, the department switched from revolvers to automatics, specifically the semi-automatic, 12-round, .40-caliber Beretta M96.<sup>10</sup>

In 2010, officers were issued a 15-round, .40-cal. Glock pistol, model 22. The department bought all the weapons with funds from the sale, to a Massachusetts dealer, of a large number of weapons confiscated by the department during previous years.<sup>10</sup>

Also in 2010, the department removed all automatic weapons from its armory. The fully automatic Colt AR 15 rifles (6) were replaced with .223-cal. Remington magazine-fed rifles (6).<sup>10</sup>

In addition to the holstered Glock pistol, Hamilton officers carry, on their leather duty belts, handcuffs, extra magazines, an extendable baton, pepper spray, flashlight, and compact radio.

Having a radio on their duty belt allows officers to once again patrol on foot. In 2010, the Hamilton police reinstated walking patrols. While on active duty in cruisers, all officers are required to leave the vehicles and walk the downtown business area for an hour, thereby showing a police presence and becoming more engaged with the community.<sup>8</sup>

## First cruiser in 1947

For many years, Hamilton's population was largely in an area called the "town center," an area from Bridge Street to just beyond the meetinghouse at the corner of Farms Road (*now Cutler Road*) and Main Street (*now Bay Road*). Constables walked the area.

When train service came to Hamilton, in 1862, the area surrounding the depot quickly became very populated. For many years, constable and police patrol was done on foot. Then, beginning in the 1930s, officers began using their own cars to respond to calls for assistance outside the depot area.

Town records for the 1800s and early 1900s mention the Police Department hiring a horse and carriage from Arthur C. Cummings and before from Elmer E. Clark.<sup>13</sup> Reasons were for transporting prisoners to Essex and going to outer parts of the town.

In the 1940s, Chief Edward H. Frederick used his personal car as a police cruiser. It was unmarked and had no flashing lights, but had a siren mounted on a front fender.<sup>85</sup> Use of the siren was important in transporting injured people to a doctor or hospital.

Following WW2, the Chief Frederick asked voters to approve the department's purchase of a police car. The selectmen, in 1947, bought a car and had it converted for both cruiser and ambulance work.<sup>34</sup>

The first cruiser/ambulance lasted until 1952. It was replaced by a Ford Ranch Wagon, purchased from the Ipswich Motor Co.<sup>38</sup> From then on, about every 2 years, the department purchased a replacement. However, in 1972, the department bought an Olds Vista Police Cruiser. The slightly raised rear section of the car provided easier access when placing a person on a stretcher in the vehicle.<sup>85</sup>

In 1977, it became mandatory for the town to have trained Emergency Medical Technicians (*EMT*). Further, the town no longer could use its ambulance-cruiser. Under the Safe Streets Act for matching funds, the town bought a completely equipped and approved ambulance. Full-time officers and one reserve officer were EMT-certified.<sup>49</sup> In 1988, the Fire Department formed an Emergency Medical Service group, to assist the Police Department.<sup>79</sup>

Also in 1977, the General Electric Company Good Neighbor fund donated money for the purchase of a two-way radio for the ambulance. The radio allowed direct communication between the ambulance and the hospital.<sup>49</sup>

There was no charge for ambulance service from when it began in 1952, until 1990, when the Police Department started billing for the service. The police chief said, at the time, that these funds would cover all ambulance costs, including training, maintenance, insurance and the purchase of a new ambulance every 6 to 8 years.<sup>69</sup>

The department purchased its last new ambulance in 2007.<sup>59</sup> The following year, 2008, the State revoked Hamilton's license to operate an ambulance. During the final year, the department responded to nearly 300 calls for patient transport.<sup>60</sup> Lyons Ambulance Service, in 2009, began providing ambulance services. The town switched to Beauport Ambulance Service in 2013.<sup>61</sup>

An ambulance is not the only special vehicle required to provide police service in Hamilton. In addition to the 56 miles of accepted public streets, the town also has an extensive network of riding and walking trails.<sup>70</sup> In order to provide police service to the areas only accessible by the trails, the department, in 2000, purchased a Polaris off-road vehicle, specially equipped for transport of injured people. It was purchased with State funds, obtained through a special grant.<sup>8</sup>

In the mid 1970s, to patrol the downtown business area, when weather permitted, police officers rode a bicycle.<sup>85</sup> The Department continues to have a bicycle, but uses it only occasionally.

The Police Department, in 2016, has 6 cruisers. Every day, there are two patrols of the town's streets, with 2 or 3 cruisers on patrol at the same time. Each patrol covers 40 to 60 miles, depending on officer activity.<sup>8</sup> Generally, the Department replaces the cruisers when they reach about 120,000 miles, or, about every 3 years. When cars are kept beyond 120,000 miles, maintenance costs become high.<sup>59</sup>

One of the 6 cruisers is unmarked as a police vehicle. In 1969, the town amended its by-laws adding a provision permitting the Police Department to have an unmarked car.<sup>78</sup>

A year later, ✓1970, radar equipment first came to Hamilton.<sup>46 ??</sup> Police officers placed the unit on the front hood of their vehicle, parked alongside a road. In 1970, officers issued 151 speeding tickets, compared to 124 in 1969.<sup>46</sup> For most streets, the speed limit was 25 mph.

In 1992, a Hamilton police cruiser was equipped with a mobile speed-monitoring, radar system. In 1991, Hamilton turned in the hand-held radar guns, believing the units might pose a health risk from the microwave exposure.<sup>51</sup> Most of the cruisers, 4, have moving radar. The Department first used the mobile speed-monitoring units in 1982.<sup>71</sup>

None of the cruisers have a global positioning unit or an automatic number plate recognition unit. Three of the town's cruisers have mobile computers to assist officers in gathering and recording information.

While nationally video cameras on cruisers are receiving considerable attention, these systems are not used in Hamilton. The Massachusetts's "two-party consent" law makes it a crime to record a conversation or event without pre-notifying the people being recorded (*MGL Ch. 272, par. 99*).

The Hamilton police, in addition to patrolling the town's roads, also are responsible for ensuring the safety of the town's portion of Chebacco Lake.

In 1884, Massachusetts enacted a law allowing selectmen, in a town where there is a harbor, to appoint a harbormaster and an assistant harbormaster, with the harbormasters report to the Chief of Police. The first Harbormaster was Bowden Russell.<sup>85</sup> He was given the principle duty of apprehending jet skis running at excessive speeds.<sup>87</sup>

Hamilton's Harbormaster is responsible for the town's portion of Chebacco Lake. The town, however, has never owned a boat. For assistance, the Harbormaster calls the Essex Harbormaster and the Massachusetts Environmental Police that may be on the lake. The Massachusetts Environmental Police is the former Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Environmental Law Enforcement.



**All-terrain vehicle** allows police officers to access areas of town where there are only dirt trails. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016.



**Ambulance service**, provided by Beauport, assists police and fire departments in emergency medical calls. Photo, Jack Hauck, 2016



**Cruisers**, 2, on duty all day, every day patrol Hamilton's 56 miles of roads. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016.

## Hamilton Police Department Vehicles, 2016,

- Cruisers, 6
- All-terrain vehicle
- Ambulance



**Computer communications** allow officers to access information concerning incidents they investigate. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



**Moving radar** monitors speed of cars approaching cruiser from both front and rear. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016.

Since ✓1989, the police chief has been the Harbormaster. This began as a result of changes made by the State regarding regulations (*MGL Ch. 91, the waterways licensing program*) pertaining to "great ponds."<sup>10</sup> In 2016, the Department's 3 sergeants serve as assistant harbormasters.

### Major communications advancements

Before there were telephones, those looking for an officer went to the station or to a place where the officer worked. People often contacted Police Chief Edward Frederick, at his job on the estate of Constance Williams.

The 1941 Annual Town Report has the first mention of the police station having a telephone. A phone was placed in the police office next to Conway's drug store. The Report said it was "now possible to reach the officer by telephone, without having to depend upon the private telephones of the business places around the square."<sup>32</sup>

Before 1960, telephone operators, at the telephone center on Railroad Avenue, handled all emergency and non-emergency police and fire assistance calls. When a resident called for assistance, the operator would call a police officer at home.<sup>1</sup>

If the call came during times while an officer was "on-duty," on the corner of Railroad Avenue and Main Street, the operator would ring a buzzer, which sounded at the train depot. There was also a light that hung over the intersection of Bay Road and Railroad Avenue, which was activated. The officer would call, using the nearest phone, or walk to the telephone office to get the information.<sup>3</sup>

If an officer were not at the corner, the telephone operator would call the Beverly police station. The Beverly radio dispatcher would radio "car 45," the number designated for the Hamilton cruiser.<sup>3</sup>

In 1953, Hamilton police received portable radios. Charles Gagnon, a State-qualified radio expert, supervised the installation of the first two-way radio in a Hamilton cruiser. It was tuned, until 1959, to the Beverly Police Department frequency.<sup>2</sup>

The officer on street duty also had a portable radio. The size of a cereal box, and weighing about 2 pounds, the radio hung on a shoulder strap. It could only receive messages.<sup>85</sup> The current two-way, lightweight radios, which were first acquired in 2005, replaced the portable radios acquired in 1995.<sup>58</sup>

In 1960, upon the arrival of a dial tone to the Hamilton and Wenham area, the town officials knew that the Railroad Avenue telephone office would be closing. This presented the problem of who would answer the police and fire calls. Robert "Bob" Porter, a Wenham resident and New England Telephone executive, became an integral part of the solution. He gave technical advice, when the two towns de-

cidated to set up an emergency communications center staffed by civilians.<sup>84</sup>

At that time, the ECC was operated under a regional agreement between the towns of Hamilton and Wenham. The ECC was a separate department, with its own department head, known as the Chief Dispatcher.<sup>84</sup> The first department head was Police Chief Walter D. Cullen.<sup>56</sup>

The Hamilton Police and Fire Chiefs and the Wenham Police and Fire Chiefs, as well as the two DPW directors, worked closely with the ECC's Chief Dispatcher. Thus, each department participated in the day-to-day operations of the center. The towns were years ahead of their time in this decision.<sup>3</sup>

The first people hired to staff the emergency center were the same telephone operators who had been employed by the telephone company and were already familiar with the communications between the police and fire departments.<sup>84</sup> The ECC office was on the second floor of the 'newly' built Hamilton Police and Fire Station. The small room was soon expanded from its initial floor space.<sup>3</sup>

In 1978, the Emergency Center moved to the former kitchen. Up-to-date equipment was installed in the larger room.<sup>3</sup> While sufficient for handling local communications, the Emergency Center lacked the equipment to interact with other towns when emergencies required more resources than those available to Hamilton and Wenham.

In the early 1970's, a series of large-scale incidents occurred in area cities that highlighted the inability of police officers from many responding agencies from communicating with one another on scene. It was this lack of interoperability that prompted the need for one radio system that could be utilized by all Boston-area law enforcement agencies. As a result, the Boston Area Police Emergency Radio Network (*BAPER*N) was conceived and implemented.<sup>3</sup>

The inability to exchange information was felt in Hamilton and Wenham during an incident involving multiple North Shore communities and agencies. As a result, Hamilton Police Chief Walter Cullen and Wenham Police Chief Peter Carnes requested funding to purchase a system that would add the *BAPER*N frequencies.<sup>3</sup>

In 1994, Hamilton and Wenham joined *BAPER*N. Other towns covered by the *BAPER*N are: Beverly, Danvers, Salem, Peabody, Middleton, Manchester, Ipswich, Gloucester, Rockport, and Essex.

The Hamilton communications center became a control point for the North District of *BAPER*N. During this update, new consoles and radios were purchased for the Emergency Center. Approximately during the same time, Massachusetts State 9-1-1 installed "Enhanced 9-1-1" which gave a read-out of the location of the call. This included the address and phone number of the call's origin.<sup>3</sup>

2000 was the first full year of operation, at the ECC, for a computer aided dispatch system. The CAD integrates the response of the separate public safety services (*police, fire and EMS*) into a centralized dispatch and database control system.<sup>56</sup> Today's ECC monitoring system has 8 radio frequencies viewable on a single computer monitor, which shows the name and address of the caller or alarm.

In 2007, the new and current Hamilton Public Safety Building was erected. A majority of existing equipment was moved from the old Police and Fire Station into the new Emergency Communications room.<sup>3, 59</sup>

During the transition, State 9-1-1 did a complete upgrade to the 9-1-1 system; adding a full computer based phone system including mapping, cell phone information and several other features. A State 9-1-1 grant in 2008-2009 let the Hamilton Police Department replace the radios that were purchased in 1994. A second grant in 2009-2010 allowed for the replacement of the old antennas. At the completion of that project the Communications Center is outfitted with state of the art and up to date (if not ahead its time) equipment.<sup>3</sup>

In July 2013, the Wenham rescinded from the agreement between Hamilton and Wenham to operate as a two-town regional Communications Center. Wenham opted to join the Essex County Regional Dispatch Center, operating under the Direction of the Essex County Sheriff's Department, on the site of the Essex County House of Corrections in Middleton.<sup>3</sup>

Currently (2016), the Hamilton Police Chief directs the Hamilton Communications Center; however it remains a separate department.<sup>3</sup>

For communications, an officer now (2016) on patrol has the cruiser radio, a duty-belt portable radio and a cell-phone.<sup>8</sup> Having both the cruiser and duty-belt radios allows the officer to be in contact with the ECC at all times; the cell phone provides s not

### Ensuring a safe environment

The basic duty of the police ... upholding a safe environment for the residents of Hamilton ... has not changed since a constable was first appointed. However, the challenges to providing such protection have greatly increased and expanded. As times change, laws also change, new laws are passed, and previous laws cancelled.

Hamilton's police, in 1907, began the Department's first arrest book. It is a large, 6-column ledger; however, it has only a few pages, for it was abandoned a few years later. It lists names, dates, and various offences like fights, vagrancies, wife beatings, gambling, and drunkenness.<sup>2</sup>

It was not until 1914 that the Annual Town Report provided information about crimes in Hamilton. Po-

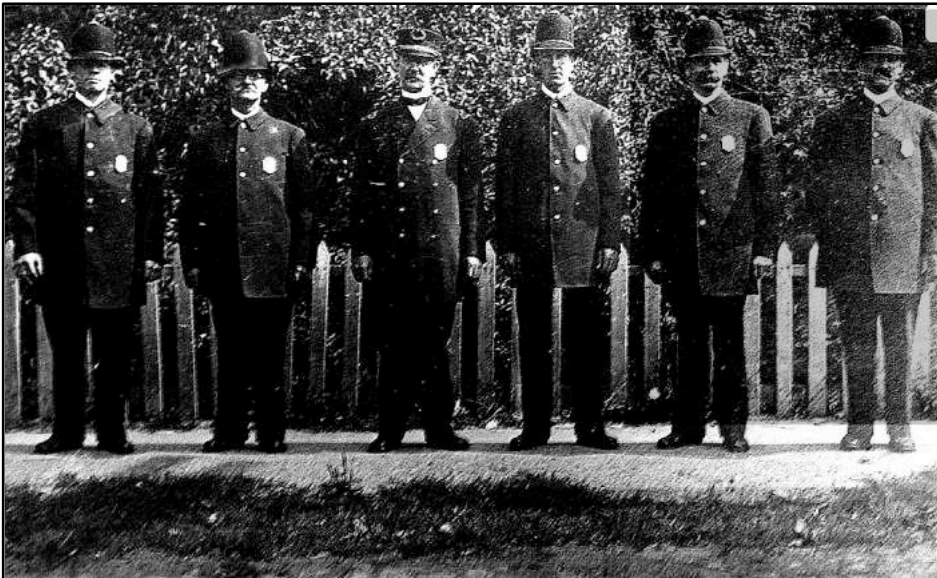
lice Chief Joseph Merrill issued the first full report of the Police Department. His report covered Apr. 28 to Dec. 31, 1913.<sup>1</sup> There were 29 arrests; all adults; 13 nonresidents; 19 people were brought to the police station and 14 were for drunkenness.<sup>20</sup> The Department investigated 107 complaints.

Police Department reports for the decades following show how the duties of the town's officers have evolved and the number of incidents increased.

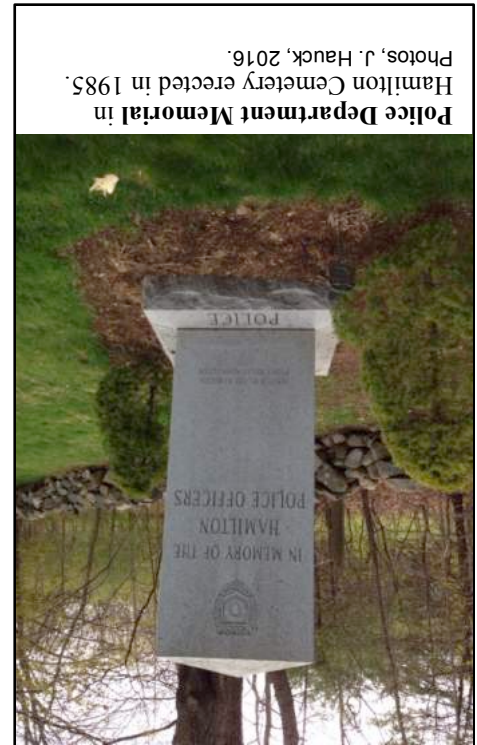
During the 1950s, total arrests each year ranged from a low of 32 in 1950<sup>36</sup> to a high of 53 in 1956.<sup>76</sup> The number of incidents in 1950 was just over 300 and in 1956 the number was 100% higher. The previous year, 1955, the Department handled more than 600 incidents.<sup>51</sup>

### Comparison of Crimes

Incidents	2015	1915
Animal calls	350	2
Capias	0	2
Crimes against persons	19	2
Crimes against property	93	5
Crimes against society	81	12
Defective sidewalks	0	1
Drunkenness	0	1
Evading carfare	0	2
Itinerant persons ordered to leave town	0	17
Lewdness	0	1
Liquor seizures	0	1
Lost children restored	0	2
Medical calls	408	0
Motor vehicle accidents investigated	80	0
Motor vehicle arrests	44	0
Motor vehicle citations warnings	311	0
Motor vehicle criminal complaints	110	0
Motor vehicle parking tickets	42	0
Motor vehicle stops	1,003	0
Operating motor vehicle under Influence	7	0
Liquor law violation	0	1
Total arrests	149	30
Total service calls	22,404	75



**1913 officers**, left to right, Alvin Perley, Charles Smith, Chief Joseph Merrill, Leroy Dodge, Alfred Poole, Oscar Wood. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society.



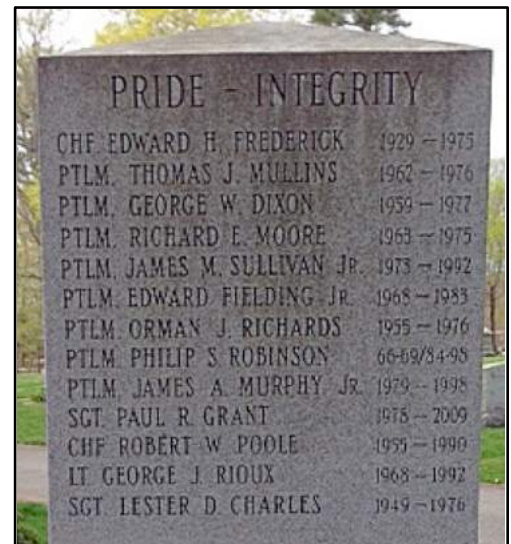
Police Department Memorial in Hamilton Cemetery erected in 1985. Photos, J. Hauck, 2016.

## Basic duty of the police ...

upholding a safe environment for residents of Hamilton ...  
has not changed since a constable was first appointed.



**2016 officers**, on parade, annual Police Memorial Day, at Hamilton Cemetery. Photo, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, 2016



**Names of former officers** who have died are on back of the Hamilton Police Memorial. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

In 1970, Hamilton's burgeoning population was very evident in the crimes reported by the Police Department. There were 270 arrests; 151 speeding tickets, 224 summons served, and 24 crime classifications.<sup>46</sup> The population in 1970 was about 6,400: 130% above the town's 1950 population.

Up to 1976, the annual Police Department report, for the most part, had lists of the various incidents handled by the officers. From then on, a different format began which provides an analysis and overview of the Department's activities. One such overview, in 1982, concerned the number of persons (127) assisted who locked themselves out of cars. People were locking their vehicles to help prevent their being stolen.<sup>71</sup>

The 1990s saw several new crime statistics. There were, in 1991, 43 operating under the influence (*drugs and alcohol*) citations; 81 reported vandalisms; and 79 juvenile incidents.<sup>50</sup>

The "cold facts and figures" are still gathered, but they are only available at the police station.

At the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Police Department responded to more than 145 categories of service calls. There were 209 arrests and 1,113 motor vehicles citations.<sup>56</sup>

In 2007, the Police Department logged 17,840 interactions with the public. There were 12,674 calls for service, including alarms, ambulance runs, animal calls, disturbance calls, fire incidents, motor Vehicle related incidents, crimes against property, services rendered, arrests, and summonses.<sup>59</sup>

With so many types of crimes, today's police officer must keep aware of changes in laws. To address this challenge, chief Walter D. Cullen, in 1990, reorganized the Department to have officers responsible for specific areas, including traffic and safety, juvenile, medical and evidence. He also established a 3-man investigative unit, consisting of the prosecutor, drug investigator and crime scene technician. This unit was responsible for the follow-up investigation of all criminal activity. All of these duties were in addition to the officers' main performance as patrolmen.<sup>69</sup>

?? what now

### Eviction

Such large numbers of crime classifications is a long way from when Hamilton constables were on duty in the late 1700s. At the top of their small list of crimes was illegal residence in the town. In 1794, the officers were charged with issuing 'warning out' orders. Such eviction by fiat cleansed the community of social and economic liabilities, and undesirables of all types, and was used throughout New England.

Hamilton's warning-out warrants contain few clues as to why they were issued. They are dated Jan. 6

and Feb. 19 of 1794, from which dates those warned -- dozens of them -- had two weeks to pack and go. The Jan. 6 warning instructs constables to put "all persons not citizens" on notice that they were to "depart" the town. The Feb. 19 order simply applies the order to warn to a list of persons who, like those in the first, are identified by non-Hamilton addresses.<sup>2</sup>

Resisting the warnings would have meant facing Hamilton first constables, Charles Tuttle and Colonel Robert Dodge. Little is known of Tuttle. Colonel Dodge, at the age of 50 in 1794, had a record of fighting the revolution with distinction and another 30 years of life before him, including as a state senator.

Hamilton found one of its own on the *receiving* end of a warning out in 1808, when town meeting resolved to "procure a man to go to Damariscotta [Maine] to see if Thomas Lamson was warned out." Whatever the circumstances were that brought the town to that decision remains a story yet to be retold; perhaps Lamson was simply not a bona fide resident of Damariscotta.<sup>2</sup> (*Jonathan Lamson was a member of the original board of selectmen, and the Lamson family has served Hamilton in a variety of capacities throughout its history.*)

Tramps would often visit homes and ask for food and work. By 1900, they were a major concern, in Hamilton, A night watchman, at the train depot, waited "with dog and shotgun" to warn away tramps riding the rails.<sup>2</sup>

In 1904, George T. Litchfield became Hamilton's first designated Tramp Officer; he also was Keeper of the Lockup.<sup>2, 17</sup> He issued 205 tramp permits, in 1904. Of these, 82 went to tramps "born in the United States," and 123 went to tramps from "foreign countries."<sup>2</sup>

In 1920, the police officers ordered 24 itinerant people to leave town.<sup>66</sup> The last time this action was reported was 1926: 22 were ordered to leave.<sup>27</sup>

Hamilton Police Chief Arthur Southwick, in 1923, categorized the out-of-town itinerants into tramps and gypsies: of those arrested, 72 were gypsies and 8 were tramps. In subsequent years, as the number of out-of-towners grew, police differentiated between tramps, gypsies, and vagrants.<sup>25, 2</sup>

Non-resident arrests, in 1930, were 35, compared to 14 resident arrests. This level of arrests, i.e., 30-50, remained in the '50s, 60s and 70s.

### Alcohol

Before prohibition (1920), Hamilton often flip-flopped on the issue. One year, voters wanted alcohol to be legal; another year, illegal; and then legal again. Often, the votes were by very close margins.

In pre-prohibition dry years, Hamilton constables were assisted in keeping the law by 'liquor committee specials', 'liquor spotters,' and the "Law and Order

League." Wet years simply meant one less law to enforce. In dry years, drinking went underground.<sup>2</sup>

The first mention of drunk driving was in 1928: 2 arrests.<sup>73</sup> Nationally, prohibition ended in 1931: Hamilton police made 4 arrests for driving under the influence of liquor.<sup>75</sup> When Hamilton repealed prohibition, in 1933, the police again made only 4 arrests for driving under the influence of liquor and drunk.<sup>82</sup>

In 1936, three years after the repeal of Prohibition, a statewide election showed Hamilton wanted to legalize alcohol, but with restrictions. It approved private consumption only; public drinking places were prohibited. Furthermore, it legalized wine and malt beverages only. The vote broke down as: 550 to 398 against legalizing the sale of *all* alcoholic beverages, with 225 blanks; 480 to 449 in favor of legalizing the sale of wine and malt beverages only, with 244 blanks; and 484 to 455 in favor of package stores (*in favor of selling but not serving*), with 234 blanks.<sup>30</sup>

There was a spike in drunk driving arrests, 78, in 1982.<sup>71</sup> A 2005 Massachusetts State law (*MGL, Part 1, Title XIV, Ch. 90, Sec. 24*) forcibly increased the penalty for drunk driving: First offense: up to 30 months in jail, \$500-5,000 fine, and 1-year license suspension. Since then, DUIs for alcohol have significantly decreased.<sup>8</sup>

In 1973, the Department purchased a breathalyzer machine, using a \$1,000 grant through the Massachusetts Safe Street Act. Previously, officers took possible offenders for testing to Beverly and Danvers.<sup>48</sup> In 1988, the Department replaced this unit and, in 2000, the Massachusetts Highway Safety Bureau provided funds for the Driving While Intoxicated Patrol to buy a new breathalyzer.<sup>56</sup>

### **Murder**

In reading the Hamilton Annual Reports for the 1800s, one might think there were no murders in the town. But, there were murders. Austin Brown, a Hamilton farmer and selectman, wrote in his diary of bodies found in Hamilton's woodlots, swamps, ponds, and the Miles River meadow. These often were of out-of-towners.<sup>2</sup>

The first mention of a murder is in the 1908 Annual Report. However, the reference was to a man, Charles L. Tucker, who was not a town resident, for the murder of Mabel Page, also not a town resident, committed in Weston.<sup>19</sup>

Two bodies were found in 1921, according to Hamilton police records.<sup>2</sup> The annual report does not mention this murder.

A human skull was found, in April 1990, near Chebacco Road. The Hamilton police investigated the crime, in conjunction with other local, state and federal authorities. More bones and an emerald broach were found. A forensic specialist identified

the remains as those of a woman; the broach was identified as belonging to Joan Webster, of New Jersey, a 25-year old Harvard graduate student. She was last seen at Logan Airport in 1981. Her murder remains unsolved.<sup>69</sup>

The last reported murder in Hamilton was in 2005. A daughter, age 43, killed her 82-year mother, at their home on School Street. She was sentenced to life in prison.<sup>7</sup>

Since its beginning, Hamilton has not had a police officer killed, while on duty.

### **By-ways**

Ensuring the safety of people traveling on sidewalks and roadways has long been a duty of the police. In 1903, the town bylaws stated "no person shall suffer his building to shed water upon any street or sidewalk in the town, to the injury or inconvenience of passengers. No person, being the owner, keeper, or having the custody of any horse, cow or other animal, shall permit or suffer the same to pasture, with or without a keeper, upon any street, sidewalk or any public ground in the town, or go at large therein, nor suffer such horse, cow or other animal to go, be or to remain upon any sidewalk in the town."<sup>16</sup>

Speed was first addressed in 1903, when a Hamilton by-law prohibited any horse, whether pulling a carriage or not, from speed exceeding 10 mph. The speed limit also applied to bicycles, tricycles, and "carriages propelled by hand."<sup>16</sup>

In 1924, Hamilton selectmen first recommended that "some type of flashing beacon be located at dangerous street corners," which included the corner of Railroad Avenue and Lois Street, and three corners on Highland Street.<sup>26</sup>

In 1926, voters approved an article, requested by Chief Arthur Southwick, that added new street traffic regulations: no driving to the left of a white line or a traffic signal; no back-ups to the curb or sidewalk, except when loading or unloading; no street parking unless 'near' to a curb or sidewalk; no standing with the left side of a vehicle to a curb or sidewalk; no stopping or standing within 20 ft. of a public corner; and no stopping and obstructing the road unless forced to by an accident.<sup>27</sup>

By 1930, motor vehicle accidents were a major problem: 49 were reported. By the 1960s, this type of incident was in the high 70s. By 1990, the number reached 145, a number also reported in 2000.<sup>56</sup>

In 1974 the town surveyed its high-traffic streets in order to place speed signs on them,<sup>49</sup> as required by a new state law, MGL Ch. 90, sec. 18, Establishing posted limits. During 1979, several streets were legally posted with speed signs.<sup>93</sup>



## **Bastardy**

As late as 1933, Hamilton's police made an arrest based upon a colonial common law for bastardy, when a woman charged a man to be father of her illegitimate child.<sup>82</sup> The first reported case, in Hamilton, was in 1918.<sup>65</sup>

## **Disorderly house**

In 1926, officers made 14 arrests for "Gaming on the Lord's Day," MGL Ch 136, Sec. 18. This was, by far, the most arrests for any offense.<sup>27</sup> Also in 1926, an officer made an arrest for "Keeping a disorderly house," MGL Ch. 272, Sec. 53a.<sup>64</sup> Those arrested were charged with maintaining a house that "perpetuated crimes against common decency, such as prostitution and illegal gambling "<sup>27</sup>

## **Desertion**

An unusual arrest made in 1946 was of a man, who had deserted from the navy. It was unusual in that WW2 was over and there hadn't been any desertion arrests during the war. This was the second arrest for desertion: the first was in 1928.

The police, however, have made arrests of military personnel for being AWOL (*away without leave*): the most recent being in 1973. National "be on the lookout" (*BOLO*) communications alert the Department about AWOLs.

## **Drugs**

The first reference to drugs in Hamilton's Annual Reports was in 1960. The school's Director of Pupil Personnel Service mentioned "Television's increasing influences in the widespread use of alcohol and drugs."<sup>44</sup>

Three years later, 1963, the Police Department report first lists the crime of "possession of harmful drugs:" there were 2 arrests.<sup>45</sup> In 2013, Hamilton's police issued 26 marijuana citations.<sup>61</sup> Just 2 years later, there were only 3 marijuana citations.<sup>63</sup>

## **Robbery**

Handling crimes against property always have been a large duty for the town's officers. These crimes include home, vehicle and business robberies.

Protecting businesses in the Railroad Avenue district was a nightly duty for the Police Department. A patrolman, carrying a watchman's clock, checked every door for being locked. The following morning, the police chief checked the clock's report strip to verify the night's patrol.

A first for Hamilton was the 19?? bank robbery. During the night, robbers entered through hole in roof of the ?? Beverly National Bank on Railroad Avenue. However, once inside they were unable to open the safe and fled.<sup>8</sup> **ever caught ??** in 1986, BNB built the bank .

Two years later, in February 1990, armed robbers took money from the Salem Five Cents Savings Bank on Bay Road. The thief, who stole \$12,000, left his wallet with his license on the bank counter. He was subsequently arrested by New Jersey State Police in Ocean City, NJ, on information entered into Law Enforcement Agency Processing System/ National Crime Intervention Center (*LEAPS/NCIC*) computer.<sup>69</sup>

## **Noise**

Massachusetts has long had a common-law against "keeping a disorderly house." The crime is often brought against a homeowner or tenant due to a loud or disruptive party or gathering.

At the 1827 town meeting record; it was decided, by open vote, to return to Robert Annabel, Jr., a fine he had paid for "keeping a disorderly house."<sup>2</sup>

Until 1999, Hamilton did not establish the level at which noise becomes "loud."<sup>81</sup> The first noise by-Law came about after many citizens requested something be done to control noise generated by businesses within the town.<sup>2</sup> In 2015, voters approved an amendment to the noise bylaw.<sup>63</sup> The change codified at what distance a sound must be heard for an infraction to have occurred, grants an officer the ability to issue a citation or verbal warning.

## **Kidnapping**

Hamilton had its first reported kidnapping in November 2015. A former babysitter took a 2-yr. old girl from her Lincoln Avenue home. The child later was found sitting on a street in Rowley. The 21-yr. old abductor was arrested in Topsfield.<sup>6</sup>

## **Assault**

The first recorded assault in Hamilton appears in the 1811 town meeting record: on May 16. Stephen Brown, Jr. assaulted Nicholas Woodbury, a town fence viewer. There now are new categories of assault. The abuse prevention law (*MGL. CH. 209A*), created in 1990, provides protection against people with whom a person has specific close relationships. The harassment prevention law (*MGL Ch.*), created in 2010, does not require any special relationship with the other person. All officers receive comprehensive domestic abuse retraining to prepare them for handling these very sensitive issues.

In Hamilton, such crimes are reported as "crimes against persons." In 1992, 35 incidents involving domestic disturbance:<sup>52</sup> there were 67 in 1993.<sup>51</sup> Domestic abuse call always results in an arrest. When a child is involved, child services is called in.<sup>8</sup>

The major criminal caseload (30%) continues to be crime against property and individuals, which includes larceny, vandalism, and assaults. Traffic related enforcement issues and motor vehicle crash

investigation similarly accounts for about 30% of the activity. The remaining 40% of the incidents are for alarm responses, ambulance runs, animal calls, general assistance, transports and family disturbances and many other public service activities.

### Assistance for major incidents

Though armed with only a club and often alone, when a constable saw a crime, Massachusetts law let him deputize by-standers (*posse comitatus*), who were to take orders without question, including, when necessary, chasing a suspect.<sup>2</sup> However, there are no records of such events occurring in the town.

Now, the Chief can call for emergency assistance from the State Police when incidents require police attention beyond what the Hamilton Police Department can provide.

In addition to the State Police, the Department can, during times of disasters and major emergencies, call upon an agency created during the presidency of John F. Kennedy. He began a program for every state to have a secure facility (*bunker*) built to ensure continuity of state government following a nuclear attack. This became the Massachusetts Civil Defense Agency. In 1991, the MCDA became the

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (*MEMA*). Headquartered in Framingham, MEMA coordinates Federal, State, local, and private resources throughout Massachusetts.

Also available to the Hamilton Police Department is the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council. NEMLEC provides 28 southeastern Mass. law enforcement agencies with small-specialized units. The units include a SWAT team, K9 handlers, search and rescue experts, negotiators and emergency medics. As part of NEMLEC, which Hamilton joined in 19??, the Police Department commits resources to assist other members.

The Hamilton Police Department works closely with NEMLEC in its STARS program (*School Threat Assessment and Response System*).<sup>10</sup> The program works to enhance school safety and security.

The issue of school safety was addressed in 1999, when the Police Department created a School Safety Officer. Responsible for coordinating a number of tasks, the officer partners with school administrators and staff, parents and the children to ensure that students feel comfortable and safe.

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