

HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF
THE MARBLEHEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT

by
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1649 - Town of Marblehead incorporated; Town constable elected to enforce the laws.

- A town ordinance was passed forbidding any strangers to set up wooden staging or flakes without town permission or face court action in Salem. The town then set up a fee of 10 shillings per year for strangers to use flakes. By 1658, Marblehead forbids the “felling of trees” by strangers.
- The town stocks were to be mended.

1650- Town crier appointed to ring a nine p.m. curfew bell.

1655 – A town ordinance was passed closing in all swine or face a 5 shilling fine for each swine neglected. This was a “serious” enforcement problem as town meetings in 1656, 1660, 1662, 1670,1671, and 1674 dealt with the stray swine in town.

1660 - First murder mentioned: Edmund Nicholson at sea.

- Problems caused town meeting to call for enforcement of boat makers placing an identifying mark on each barrel in town.

1665 – Most of the laws which required the services of the constables were fines for stray animals, trespassers, collection of town monies, fees, and fines, and occasional drunks being taken to Salem court. If there were major crimes or felonies, the police officials from the Salem court were summoned to Marblehead.

1673 – The town passed a strict ordinance dealing with dead animals left in the streets. Any dead cow, dog, cat, or swine within thirty “poles” of a house had to be buried or carried to sea within twenty-four hours or face a 10 shilling fine.

1674 – Town meeting had to deal with rowdy behavior as a 12 pence fine was imposed for “offensively and disorderly behavior” at town

meeting.

1675 – Marblehead imposed a 2 shilling 6 pence fine for galloping horses
“to prevent hurt to children ...unless of extreme necessity”.

1677 - Murder of Indians by the Women of Marblehead.

- Town ordinance required a curfew bell to be rung each evening.
- Juvenile problems came to the attention of the town and the town meeting action ordered Ensign Norman and John Brimblecombe “to looke after the youth and boyes on the Lord’s Dayes that they behave themselves well and orderly.”

1720 – Criminal activities or fines had increased and the number of town constables increased from two to five elected individuals. It must have been time consuming because some townspeople who were elected refused to serve and were fined five pounds to discharge their duty.

1730 – Anti-inoculation riot in Marblehead

1770 – William Bacon’s apprentice was sentenced to the House of Corrections for being a “disorderly and stubborn servant”. James Barter was in court accused of slander.

1773 – Peter Colman was summoned before Justice Nathan Bowen for profanity against John Dixey

1774 – “Small Pox War” in Marblehead. Mobs of estimated 800 to 1000 men broke windows in night riots, threatened recovered patients from the Cat Island at the Town Wharf, and later freed two men (John Watts and John Guillard) from Salem Jail who had been accused of burning the Essex (Pox) Hospital on Cat Island. The total loss from these riots of January, February, and March 1774 was over 2,000 pounds in currency. John Clark was whipped for stealing contaminated clothing from Pox Island Hospital.

1769 - Michael Corbett with three seamen were accused and tried in Boston for the killing of British Naval Lieutenant Henry Gibson Panton at sea. Corbett and others on the “Pitt Packet”

resisted impressment from the British crew of the “HMS Rose”. Corbett threw a harpoon that killed Lieut. Panton. The American crew was defended by John Adams and James Otis and was discharged with a verdict of “Justifiable Homicide”.

1786 – Sage Coombs Murder by her husband at the Leggs Hill area. Again Salem authorities were used in the summons and arrest.

1818 – Elizabeth B. Phillips Murder by her husband on Washington Street

1830 – Col. Benjamin Selman of Marblehead held for three months for the murder of Captain Joseph White in Salem. Selman was released when Richard Crowninshield and Knapp brothers (Joseph and Frank) of Salem were found to be the real murderers.

1831 – A robbery of eighty-three dollars from the offices of Cass and Brown was reported. This case went unsolved despite the offer of numerous rewards

1833 – The visit of President Andrew Jackson to Marblehead on June 26, required no police protection. Only the chief parade marshals and accompanying militia units provided the presidential safety.

- August 1833 provided some excitement over \$115 worth of counterfeit National Grand Bank (Marblehead) notes passed in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
- An unidentified body washed up on the “eastern shore” of Marblehead on October 2nd. He appeared to have been in the waters for sometime as the head and feet were “washed off”. Constable J.C. Blaney was in charge of the case.

1834 – Alcohol and gambling violations were assessed against ten Marblehead licensed retailers and merchants in Salem Court (License Law).

1851 – Massachusetts Legislature passed an act granting Boards of Selectmen power to appoint Police officers (May 15, 1851)
- Police Department expenditures for this year: \$90.17 out of the

annual town budget of \$15,551.50

- Case of Lynn women passing counterfeit bills in Marblehead
- First listing of Special Police: William H. Coats, Rea Nourse, Moses Cash, Charles Chase, Henry B. Winslow, Joseph Hyam, William S. Roundy, and Nathaniel P. Bliss

1853 – BIRTH OF THE MARBLEHEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT:

On 11 April 1853 on a petition of Captain Samuel Gregory and seventy other citizens the Board of Selectmen appointed the first Police Chief, Adoniram C. Orne, as the head of an “efficient Police” for the “purpose of carrying into effect the “Liquor Law”. His Deputy was Henry B. Winslow who served “when called into ordinary service” and was paid 50 cents for each duty.

- Conflict between Druggist F. D. Rogers and Chief Adoniram C. Orne over Blue Law Violation (selling medicated candies on a Sunday).

1854 – The Board of Selectmen appointed Nicholas Pitman as the 2nd Chief. From this point on until Civil Service, all Police Chiefs and officers served at the pleasure of the board. Each board received petitions for Chief after an election and many times the entire force was discharged and a force was appointed based upon the political votes of the board.

- The Board gave instruction to the force about the July 4th celebrations: “...Voted said constables and police be vigilant in their duty, but not exorbitant”.

1855 – Frank Goodwin appointed “Chief of Police” by Selectmen as “Keeper of Lockup or Watch House”.

- Case of Augustus Brown for throwing stones at the Marblehead and Salem omnibus
- Charles Grieve Murder by a juvenile bully

1856 – A new chief, John Dixey was appointed, “with the power of a constable” with compensation at seventy-five dollars a year. Another officer, Nathaniel P. Bliss, was also appointed.

- A lockup provided “ in (the) basement of Old Town House for use of police” (Town Meeting Records 1856). Concern over the increase of crime in the town caused discussion about police

protection.

- Town Meeting approved \$200 for one year for police funds
- Town Warrant Article: “To see if the town will authorize such additional expense as may be necessary to establish a more efficient police for the purpose of preserving the public peace and keeping better order in the public streets of the Town, particularly in the nighttime.” Discussion led to a vote of indefinite postponement and the subject referred to the Board of Selectmen “at their discretion adding police, as they may deem expedient.” (Town Meeting Record, March 11, 1856)
- On 11 April 1856, the Selectmen ordered “That the Policemen, hereafter to be chosen, be instructed to use their full power in keeping Order in Town and especially in preventing those who congregate upon the sidewalks from seating on doorsteps and blocking up sidewalks.”
- 3 June 1856, in anticipation of the July 3rd celebration, the Board ordered “That the Chief of Police be, and he is hereby instructed, to keep the Streets, through which the procession is to pass, free from Carriages, Horses and all other obstructions”. For each summer event, town meeting, or election, the Board appointed “Special Police” officers.

1857 - John Goodwin 2nd was re-appointed “Chief of Police with the assistance of Calvin K. Brown. This time (April 17, 1857) the Board issued the following printed announcement: Hereby give notice that the laws against obstructing Sidewalks, Passageways, or Entrances to Churches, Stores, Dwellings Houses, or other buildings, and the laws relating to profane and indecent language and disorderly conduct in the Streets, and all other Municipal Regulations, will be strictly and impartially enforced. All citizens, it is hoped, will recognize and respect the rights, privileges, and conveniences of the people, and refraining from the commission of offenses against common order and quiet, will aid the officers in their endeavors to secure an observance of the laws and maintenance of the public peace.

- Harris Frank Silver Murder at Wharf area by visiting sailors

1860 – The Police Department increased to a Chief and three officers supplemented by special police. The instructions to police

officers were added to with the provision that “required officers to visit every Bowling Saloon at least once a week” and to report to the Town Liquor Agent anyone who had “...too infrequent use of intoxicating liquors”.

- On May 10, 1860 the Board voted “That the Town furnish, Each Officer a pair of handcuffs to those unprovided”.

1861 – Police Department expenditures were \$215.25 out of a town budget of \$23,297.02. In January 1861, the Board ordered “That the Police be instructed to prohibit, strictly, the coasting on sleds over hills and sidewalks”.

1862 – The police would be furnished with “key and irons”. Just this year, the board granted the Chief permission to appoint all Special Police officers.

1863- On April 11th, the Board of Selectmen appointed William C. Bowler as “Police Chief.” The force was ordered to strictly enforce the “Dog Law” as well as previous mandated regulations.

- Case of Catherine Hill found dead under mysterious circumstances.

1864 – The Board voted “That the Chief of Police be and, is hereby requested to instruct the Police, if they refuse to enforce the law as required, it will be considered a sufficient cause for removal”.

1865 – William Tucker 3rd was appointed “Chief of Police”. A “Night Watch” was established for the Town.

1866 – Thomas Foss was appointed “Chief of Police” with compensation at \$500 a year. The Night Watch was divided into two parts with two officers to watch alternative nights.

1867 – Samuel Foss was appointed “Chief of Police” and was given in addition to “Keeper of the Lockup”, the position as “Truant Officer”.

1869 –John S. Atkins was appointed “Chief of Police” and the Board ordered “...That the playing of base ball on the Commons be forbidden.”

- The force was assigned to patrol the streets on Saturday nights until 12 o'clock and on all other nights until 10 o'clock. Officer compensation was set at \$100 a year.

1870 – The Chief of Police was ordered to forbid the “sale or use of Firecrackers and all species of fireworks”.

1872 – The Board appointed a new “Chief of Police”: Michael B. Gregory and three new officers.

- Marblehead voted in the “Beer Question” by 541 to 441 changing dry status of the town to “wet” this year
- Theft at Daniel H. Wilkins’ Shop by Salem vandals
- Chief Gregory’s pursuit at sea of assailants
- Repairs to the Lockup
- Local youth named Alley shot and wounded by Chief Gregory
- \$500 reward offered for arsonist in the Quiner Building Fire on Front Street

1873 – Special Police Officers were appointed to these locations: Town Hall, the Neck, the Farms, the Depot, the Lower Section of town, Town Proper, the Ferry, and Fort Sewall.

- Numerous petty crimes, alcohol violations, and broken windows plague police officers.
- Chief Gregory requested “a leave of absence” and Francis A. Osgood was appointed the new “Chief of Police”.
- Smuggling case at Marblehead Neck
- The Marblehead Messenger’s editorials demanded payment for police on annual salary rather than being called to duty.

1874 – Police instructions remained the same with this addition: “The law against fast driving is also to be enforced”. The compensation for the Chief was \$50 per month and for an Officer was \$40 per month.

- Rash of store burglaries occurred.

1875 – \$500 reward offered for the arrest and conviction of person or persons who set fire to the Columbian Building on April 25, 1874.

- First mention of many licenses granted for the selling of liquor in town and “common victualler” licenses approved by the Board

of Selectmen.

- Board of Health declared the Lockup as being in “unclean condition”.
- June 19th, the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen was authorized to purchase a dozen police badges. John S. Atkins was named the new “Chief of Police” in 1875.

1876 – The Reform Club requested that the saloons in town be closed at a set time on February 22nd. The board ordered them closed for the entire day.

- More minor crimes and robberies disturb the town.

1877 - After the Great Fire of 1877, which destroyed the business district, a large number of special police officers were named.

- Horace W. C. Sweet, an undertaker, was appointed a special officer “for the prevention of cruelty to animals”.
- Many juvenile crimes reported.
- William Sinclair 2nd was appointed Chief of Police.

1878 – The Board appointed one of the board, Ebenezer A. Pitman, Jr. to serve as “Chief of Police”. The minutes give no reasons and this use of Pitman as an unpaid chief continued for almost four years. John S. Atkins, who had served as Chief was named “Keeper of the Lockup”.

1879 - \$100 reward for the individual who set fire to Franklin Reynolds’ barn was offered.

- July 27 Visitors from pleasure vessel “Phenix” terrorized town with fights, damage, and thefts. Marbleheaders led by Chief Pitman captured the troublemakers and when items were thrown from the departing vessel, the Marbleheaders “rocked ‘em” injuring many passengers.

1880 – Special Officers were now assigned to more locations: the Reading Room at Abbot Hall, the Lyceum Hall, and Devereux Station as well as Sunday Police to enforce the peace on that day. Four officers were assigned for three months in June to enforce the laws of sale of liquors and the “Sunday Law”.

1881, 2 May – William Frank Hathaway Murder by parties unknown

- 1882 - William Stacey was elected “Chief”, but declined. There was no election for “Keeper of the Lockup” that year. Officer Henry W. Spear was appointed “Captain” on 29 June.
- The Board banned the “sale and use of Toy Metallic cartridge pistols ...and ordered strict enforcement of the gambling and lotteries laws”.
- 1883 – Special Police were assigned to the “Peabody Camp” on the Neck and to Clifton area.
- Officers were ordered to enforce laws about “coasting and the throwing of snowballs”.
- 1884 – Citizens petitioned that Henry W. Spear be appointed Chief, but the election was “laid on the table”. William Sinclair was appointed “Captain” of Police.
- 1885 – William Sinclair was appointed by the Board as “Chief of Police”. The annual compensation for Chief was \$200 and for Regular Police was \$100 with special police “in outlying districts \$2 a day when ordered on duty”.
- Mr. William Sawyer brutally assaulted by Lawrence Kiely, Michael Martin, and Hugh Collins. Court action taken; no convictions.
 - The Law and Order League (a reform organization) worked with police officers on liquor seizures.
- 1886 – A “Home Rule” (No Rum Shop) Party captured the entire slate of town officers in the local election.
- Henry W. Spear was appointed “Chief of Police”. In June he was ordered to have “a bottle of 2 ½ percent beer analyzed by the State Assayer The ‘active “ force was comprised a chief and two patrolmen.
 - Alleged attempted murder of Benjamin Sweet by William H. Standley in the “Barnegat” section of town. Officer Giles used own revolver to arrest Standley.
 - With the demand for tougher enforcement of laws by the Law and Order League, the Selectmen on July 5th appointed Benjamin F. Brown 3rd as “Chief of Police.” When Chief Brown took over, he received \$18 a month in wages and the patrolmen received \$3.00 a month. The pay that year was raised to \$35 a

month.

- Minor riot in business district by forty individuals when the entire police force was at Lawrence court for a trial.

1887 – Chief Brown was appointed “Probation Officer”. The compensation for the Chief was \$50 per month and for a Patrolman was \$40 per month. In addition, the officers “were to have the Court Fees”.

- Daniel Callahan shot Chief Brown in March 1886. The life of the chief was saved by his heavy coat and suspenders, which slowed up the bullet. Callahan was tried, convicted and sentenced to six years at the State Prison.

1888 – For the first time in the Selectmen minutes, an officer was discharged from service upon the recommendation of the Chief.

- A telephone was installed at the Police Station, no longer called “the Lockup” for \$68 per year.
- Police were ordered to “stop the playing of base ball games in streets as the rear of the railroad was set off for the games”.
- Vacation time was granted to police through request of Chief Brown. Force was increased: chief plus six men
- Second major fire destroyed the business district again in December 1888. Police patrolled for looters.

1889 – The chief pay was at \$11.00 a week and the regular patrolman pay was set at \$10.50 a week.

- Police ordered to enforce dog laws: “dogs not to run at large for three months; not restrained to be killed”.

1890 – Benjamin J. Russell appointed “Chief of Police”.

- A desk was purchased for the Police Station and the Chief was allowed to purchase two pairs of handcuffs and two pairs of “twisters”.
- Police ordered to keep passageway clear of teams at the Depot steps.
- Two officers: Spear and Doliber, were suspended without pay subject to a hearing. Doliber was discharged and Spear reinstated. The Board voted “to inform the Chief of Police that unless there is more efficiency shown on the police force that will (be) a change made”
- September 1890, one officer was moved to night duty and the Chief

(while on vacation) was ordered to day duty.

- November 1890 the Board, upon a study, reduced the force by one more officer. Officer Quinn was discharged. The telephone was removed from the station.

1891 – The chief reported Officer Spear for “drunkenness”. Spear was discharged. The same evening, Chief Russell was himself discharged and Captain Broughton placed temporarily in charge of the force. Within two weeks, another officer (William H. Frost) was discharged for “disobedience of orders”.

- Benjamin F. Brown 3rd was re-appointed “Chief of Police”.
- The compensation was \$60 per month for Chief and \$50 per month for a patrolman.
- Police were allowed to keep their witness fees if at court out-of-town
- Telephone was placed back at the police station.

1892 – Horace Broughton, the new “Chief of Police” was compensated at the rate of \$60 per month and each of the four patrolmen at \$50 per month.

- Police vacation one week without pay.
- Maverick Street Murder

1893 – Vacation time could be taken if officer supplied a substitute subject to approval of Chief and Chairman of Board of Selectmen.

- Hundred-dollar reward offered for arsonist.
- Special officers assigned to Grader Beach, Lynn & Boston RR, Mugford Hall, Gregory Building, Eastern Yacht Club, Wharves, and Forest River Mills.

1894 – Officer Eleazer E. Atwood became Chief defeating Horace Broughton for the position.

- Special officers assigned to Armory and Summer Clifton duty
- Labor dispute in Marblehead added to police patrols.

1895 – Vacation for one week without loss of pay.

- Special Officer George Haynes calmed a group of visiting Indians (in a circus parade) from rioting

- 1896 – Police involved in medical assistance: stretchers placed in police station for emergency use.
- Dispute between Chief Atwood and Trial Justice William Nutting over the police using other courts.
 - Special officer assigned to Almshouse. Police force increased to five officers.
 - Complaints of noise in harbor. Marblehead police ordered to control the situation.
- 1898 – Newspaper article accused officers of neglect of duty. Board hearing rejects charges. Major police investigation.
- Clock placed in the police station.
 - Benjamin F. Brown returned as Chief for third time.
 - Helmets purchased for police officers.
- 1899 – Clinton Foss appointed Chief; resigned five months later. Charges of poor management.
- Horace Broughton returned as Chief.
- 1900 – Air guns were outlawed in Marblehead.
- Special officer assigned to Parker Factory.
 - Clifton Sub-Station purchased to give shelter to patrolmen.
- 1901 – Autos governed by same law as bicycles and speed limit set at 10 m.p.h.
- 1902 – John B. Litchman became “Chief of Police” with a force of four patrolmen. The Board voted “That members of the Police be notified not to visit club rooms when on or off duty”.
- Police regulations published.
 - Police station renovated.
 - Matron appointed to handle female prisoners.
 - Special officer assigned to Methodist Church.
- 1903 – Chief Litchman resigned. Benjamin F. Brown appointed Chief for fourth time.
- A town ambulance was purchased through the efforts of former Chief John B. Litchman. The horse-drawn wagon was housed at James Eustis Stables on Pond Street. Arthur Upton

who lived on Green Street was the driver for many years.

1904 – Attorney Edward O'Brien appointed legal counsel to Police Department.

- Stuart F. McClearn was appointed Police Chief.

1905 –Purchase of 6 new police belts for officers and additional stretchers for ambulance.

- First fatal automobile accident (BYC, State Street Wharf)
- Card system used to maintain arrest records

1906 – James F. Frost appointed Police Chief.

- New police badges purchased.
- Chief given permission to grant gun licenses for concealed weapons, but officers still officially unarmed.
- Special officer assigned to Tedesco Country Club.
- Chief Frost takes charge against Officer Burns

1907 -Chief John B. Litchman died in office while in Boston at age 54. Selectman John F. Stevens appointed Acting Chief.

- Officer Fred O. M. Shattuck appointed Chief.
- Town meeting rejected new police station article.
- Court hearings in police station discontinued.

1908 – Desk officer (in absence of Chief) placed in charge of duty officers.

- Eight Colt revolvers purchased for Police use.
- Police vacation of two weeks.
- Average patrolman pay was \$18.00 a week.

1909 – Conflict over a confidential report between Chief Shattuck and the Board of Selectmen.

- Fred W. Trasher appointed Chief.
- First motorcycle purchased to control speeding. Officer S. Irving Chapman was the first to operate the bike.

1910 – Seven .38 Colt revolvers purchased.

- First demand for civil service for Marblehead police.

- 1911 – Holdup on Maple Street of a hack driver. Marblehead police used a private automobile to response to the telephone call.
- Sunday Blue Law enforcement.
 - Atlantic Avenue to Ocean Street made one way to traffic.
 - Stabbing of George Pierce by William O' Brien in "Shipyard" section of the town.
 - A Boston temperance and anti-gambling organization pushed for arrest and seizure of gambling machines in six Marblehead stores.
 - Chief Trasher resigned and John F. Williams was appointed "Chief of Police".
- 1912 – Renovated Police Station in Old Town House under Chief John F. Williams. Temporary headquarters were on the first floor of the United Spanish War Veteran Building on State Street.
- Chief Williams and Officer S. Irving Chapman arrested a wanted criminal named Ernest Brouillette for theft.
 - Motorboat muffler law enforced because of harbor noise complaints.
- 1913 – Investigation into purchase of police call boxes.
- Petty thefts plague town.
 - Richtman-Officer Augustus Hazel Hearing over harassment.
- 1914 – Laura Guild Murder by a rejected suitor on Rockaway Avenue.
- A "pulomotor" with a forty minute oxygen tank was purchased.
- 1915 – Police Patrol Box System established, cost \$2595 (Gamewell Company contract)
- New police motorcycle purchased for \$75.00
- 1916 – Traffic Rules voted by Town Meeting action (Town Meeting Book 12, p. 167)
- Chief Williams resigned after several weeks of leave and Frank W. Goodwin appointed Chief.
 - Fingerprint equipment purchased.
 - Pre-war scare at Burgess-Curtis Airplane factory.
 - First motorized ambulance purchased for \$600.
 - Officer Reuben A. Paine was seriously wounded by William Aery

- 1917- Patrol Box System extended for an additional \$400
- \$1700 voted for an automobile for use by police
 - Seventy special police officers were appointed during W.W. I
 - First police car Model R, Reo five seater, was purchased for \$1700.
- 1918 – Chief Goodwin was only person qualified to drive the police car.
- Influenza Epidemic caused the High School to be used as a hospital.
A police officer was assigned there and the ambulance was maintained by the police.
 - Nov 3 Arson Fire at Burgess Airplane Plant #2
- 1919 – Fred Trasher appointed Chief again
- New police hats replaced old style helmets
- 1920 – Police officers granted one day off in ten working days
- February Blizzard paralyzed the town.
- 1921 – All automobiles required to have headlights.
- Chief Trasher and twelve officers provided security for Vice President Calvin Coolidge at CYC.
- 1922 – Police ordered to watch old Lafayette Street gravel pit for “dumpers”, stopped peddlers from shouting wares on streets, and stop ice cream peddlers from ring their bells on Sunday.
- “Great Rooster Raid” involving town officials and police officials.
- 1923 – First “traffic beacon” purchased
- Liability coverage extended to police officers.
 - Police coverage for American Legion Convention in Marblehead.
 - Bootlegger battle with Officers Maurice Lee and Benjamin Doliber.
- 1924 – Officer S. Irving “Duffy” Chapman appointed “Chief of Police”. He served until January 1945.
- 1925 - More police coverage for President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge.
- 1927 - Thomas G. Sweet appointed the first Lieutenant on the force and placed in charge of the night patrol.

1928 – Warren E. Stone appointed dog officer.

1929 – All police cars carried plates marked “MPD”

- Bids for police boat posted. Eastern Yacht Club boat “Swordfish” was purchased and outfitted for use in summer 1930.

1930, May 9 - Marblehead Police Relief Association established

- 1st Marblehead Police Relief Ball held
- Police Boat services first provided
- Officer George P. Kelley shot in alcohol seizure raid at Wyman’s Cove.
- Civil Service granted to Marblehead Police officers and Chief,
- Riot gun purchased for the force.

1931- Lieutenant Sweet made first full time ”Captain” on the Marblehead force.

- Plane crash off Half Way Rock (one fatality).

1932 - Officer George P. Kelley died from wounds received in line of duty

- Daniel Dewitt, a local citizen, nearly hit by bullet near Sewall School
- Insurance coverage provided to police officers.
- Blackmail letters against town officials.

1933 – Marblehead went “wet” (first time since 1885).

1934 – Reserve Officers no longer appointed. “Permanent Intermittent Officers” now named.

- Radio equipment in cars.
- Thompson Sub-Machine purchased.

1935 – First use of teletype system

1937 – Contributory retirement system placed in effect.

1938 – New Police Signal System established as well as a new “Prowl” car was purchased.

- Hurricane hit Marblehead; police on duty throughout the storm.

1939 – Spotlights added to police cars.

1941- Due to shortage of police officers, firemen assisted with ambulance calls.

- Police officers required to take first aid courses and target practice.
- Two way radio system installed.
- Sixty-one reserve police officers were appointed.

1942 - Special Auxiliary Police Unit created under Air Raid wardens and Civil Defense.

1942-43 Four regular officers taken into military service. Special officers called up to relieve wartime vacancies.

1944 – A town committee was created at the Town Meeting to consider a new police station.

1945 – Thomas G. Sweet appointed Acting Chief. Maurice H. Lee replaced Sweet as Chief upon retirement.

1946 - Samuel H. Bradish appointed Chief. He served until 1959.

- P. Alvin Stacey appointed “Police Radio Technician”.

1947 June – Marblehead Auxiliary Police Association (a voluntary in-paid force) was created (under Civil Defense laws) with its first commander, Thomas Glancey. Kenneth H. Martin (1948-1951) followed him.

- Resuscitator purchased.

1948 – Plane Crash on Elm Street

1950, 25 November - Beryl Atherton Murder Case on Sewall Street by party or parties unknown

- Safety patrol program started using older school children at crosswalks.

1951 –Town Meeting this year approved the following:

An annuity was allowed for Edna Paine, widow of retired Officer Reuben Paine, at Town Meeting

\$1,000 was voted for new uniforms for 1952

\$10,000 was voted for a new police boat

\$100 was voted for one officer to be trained at the State Police School.

An article calling for the Board of Selectmen to appoint a five-citizen committee to recommend the need, location, design and cost for a new police station. The appropriation for the station was postponed.

Acceptance of Chapter 147, G. L. giving police officers two days off out of seven days

- First mention of Traffic Supervisors

1951- Marblehead Special Auxiliary Police Unit re-created by Chief Samuel Bradish under Chapter 639, Massachusetts Acts of 1950. The commander was Stephen Duly followed by Leonard B. Almy.

1952 – Marblehead was awarded “Pedestrian Award for 1951” by the Massachusetts Register of Motor Vehicles Rudolf F. King and the American Automobile Association for a perfect safety record.

- August 14 - The new police boat “Stacey Clark” was launched at Graves Boatyards off Beacon Street. This was the first time that a police vessel had been launched in Marblehead. This thirty-three foot Carl Arber designed long mahogany boat with a 120 horse-powered engine. The police crew was made up of Officers William Goodwin and Kenneth Eldridge.

1953 – A special police building study committee recommended (4 to 1) in a report to the Marblehead 1954 March Town Meeting that a new station be built off Village Street for a cost of \$87,000. The location was on town land on the southwest side of Village Street to the northwest of the railroad bed. The report sited a lack of proper working and file storage space, unsanitary cell lockup area in the Old Town House basement and a lack of shelter for the motor vehicles (two cruisers and two motorcycles) and town ambulance. The minority report agreed on the design, but felt that the station was “not needed at this time as many other capital expenditures faced the voters”.

- The department consisted of Chief, Captain, Sergeant, twenty permanent patrolmen, seven reserves or intermittent police.
- September 18 – First nine o’clock curfew imposed by the Board of Selectmen for all youth under sixteen years of age. Because of

“acts of vandalism (broken park bubblers and benches) and minor breaks, this curfew was in place “until further notice from the town fathers”. Violators were picked up, driven to the station for a lecture and turned over to their parents. The curfew was announced by the ringing of the Abbot Hall bell and a blast from the fire station whistle on School Street.

- Discussion by PTA of hiring five policewomen to direct traffic near schools. Concern over \$2500 costs plus benefits.

1954 - Further acts of juvenile vandalism (at Grace Oliver’s Beach, Gas House Beach, Redd’s Pond, and Fort Sewall) and robberies (night-time robberies at the Atlantic Avenue Fish Market, Clifton Toggery Shop Maddie’s Sail Loft and attempted robberies at Gordon’s Stationary Store and The Atlantic restaurant) within two weeks caused the curfew to be imposed again.

1955 – A teletype was purchased

1956 – Creation of a rank of Special Investigator

- Creation of a role of Truant Officer with Clem Rodgers being appointed

1958 – Officer John O. Wolfgram was shot at by a drunken citizen

1959 – Chief Bradish retired. Captain Howard Magee appointed Acting Chief.

1960 - George Girard appointed Chief.

- Town Meeting appropriated \$120,000 for a new police station on Gerry Street. Another article to have it located on School Street was defeated.
- Arrest of Edward Underwood, a forger, in Marblehead

1961 – New Police Headquarters opened on Gerry Street

- Series of breaks and robberies in the town

1965 – Connors Murder on Atlantic Avenue

1967 – A pistol range was added to the police station.

- 1968 – Major conflagration at Lead Mill Building.
- 1969- Major storms closed traffic to Marblehead. Police services on constant demand.
– Grievance procedures were further established under Section 4, Chapter 43B Town Bylaws
- 1970 – Trained narcotics investigators
- 1971 – Thelen Murder-Suicide on Pleasant Street
- Career incentive pay allowed for police officers
- 1972 – Height and weight requirements set for police entrance applicants.
- 1973 – Rev. James Powers of the Star of the Sea appointed to serve as Police Chaplain
- 1974 – Mary E. Richards Murder by her husband on Atlantic Avenue
- Civil service appointments delayed due to questions on federal grant hiring.
- Composite workups introduced.
- 1975 – Small fire at Police Headquarters. Limited damage.
- Further Civil Service exam problems when lieutenant exams were given.
- 1976 - Concept of the “modular” ambulance established
- Officer Carl Varrel injured in a serious accident. He remained on the force until 1988.
- 1977 – Police Night Differential Program created
- New recording system purchased
- 1978 – Major blizzard closed the town . Police services taxed to the limit.
- 1979 – Collective Bargaining for police accepted
- 1981 – Ambulance services by the police would continue without fees.
There was a town meeting article to establish a fee structure

and mention of a move the services to a private ambulance company. The article defeated.

-Chief Girard retired and Selectmen asked for town warrant article removing position of Chief from Civil Service. Captain Richard Russell appointed Acting Chief. Town meeting rejected this article.

1982 - Lieut. John Palmer appointed Police Chief.

1983 – BAPERN Radio System and new tape to tape recording system fully operational

1984 – Police paid ambulance fee service established; a new defibrillator added to emergency equipment.

- New roof for the Police station was voted at \$84,000

1986 – In-house computer added to the Department

1987 – A pilot bike program was placed in effect. Funds, however, led to it being dropped.

1987 – Move to ban smoking in the Police Station led by Officer Craig Cole. Thirteen officers out of a department of forty-two smoked. A petition of twenty-five officers requested the smoking ban. The Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen became involved.

1988 - Fred P. Brown Murder by his son on Haley Road

- A Law Enforcement Trust Fund was created with \$6,407.69.

1989 - “Officer Phil” Safety Program in Grades K-4; “Buckle Up Bear” Program introduced; “Conversations with Officer Dave” children’s safety programs on MHTV-9 continued

- Ambulance Services went from basic to enhanced training with 16 EMTs trained

- Hate crime: desecration of Temple Emanu-el and North Shore Jewish Community Center (arrest of three individuals)

- Moves were suggested to cut ambulance services and harbor police in order to cut police spending. Chief Palmer opposed. The point was presented that ambulance assistance calls were

thinning the midnight shift of the four officers on duty.

- 1989 – The Cresap Report (a private consulting study firm) on Marblehead Town Government and its operation recommended cutting the police department from forty-three officers to a force of twenty-one officers and six civilian dispatchers. The report brought a great deal of debate and criticism.
- 1990 – Police Boat “Stacey Clark” transferred to control of Harbor and Waters Board (twelve hour patrols). Budget cuts under Proposition 2 ½ allowed two new cruisers to be purchased instead the three allowed at the last Town Meeting.
- 1990 – Marion Conrad was the first female officer appointed to Superior officer status.
- 1992 - Selectman George Alsberg recommended another study firm (cost of \$10,000) to review police operations in Marblehead. The Board of Selectmen reacted with criticism to the one-man suggestion. The compromise came in 1993 with a compromise proposal that the Board itself review the police operations.
- 1994 – A series of housebreaks committed with homeowners present took place throughout Marblehead. An investigation and a final chase led to the arrest of Kenneth Testa.
- 1995 –Police Station and Wire Inspectors Buildings were changed by Town Meeting vote of \$605,500.00
- Purchase of bulletproof vests approved by Town Meeting: \$15,469.
 - E-911 emergency dispatch operations established
 - Town By-Law established a fine for parents whose homes were used for teenage alcohol parties.
 - Labor Day – Police were busy with the arson fire at Penni’s Supermarket which placed the old section of the town in danger. An arrest was made within a short period of time.
 - Town Meeting rejected a Board of Selectmen article proposing the elimination of the civil service exam for police chief. The voters used a secret ballot at the meeting. This article would

have allowed the Board to appoint the chief. The voters agreed with the Police Association fight to defeat this proposal.

- 1996 – D. A. R. E. Program to educate youth about alcohol and drug abuse was implemented under state grants
- Use of police bicycle police officers to patrol business districts, beaches, and parks.
 - “Park and Walk” Program created to allow parked cruisers to be at use of officers on “beat” in business districts
- 1997 – Animal Control Department became a division of the Police Department. Betsey Tufts was appointed a special police officer to run the Animal Control program.
- 1999 – Police Department involved in three United States Department of Justice grants dealing with issues of teenage drinking, computer mapping (notebook computers) and violence prevention education.
- A police community sub-station was opened in the basement of the Old Town House under a \$42,000 grant. This area was manned by police officers throughout the busy summer season.
- 2000 – Chief Palmer retired and Captain James R. Carney appointed Police Chief.
- 2001- Rabbi Jonas Goldberg of Temple Sinai appointed Police Chaplain.
- School Resource Officer program, Senior Citizen Police Academy, and TRIAD program established.
- 2002 – Suspicious package incident on Pleasant Street
- Suspicious white powder incident
- 2003 – April 11th :150th Anniversary of the first Marblehead Police Chief and officers appointed. Celebration of the modern police department.
- Gregory Building Fire

