

SOUTHBRIDGE HISTORY

Year	Month	Date	E V E N T
1801			Poll Parish
1801			Oak Ridge Cemetary
1801			Congregational Church of Southbridge founded and located to Elm Street in 1821
1814			Globe Manufacturing Company incorporated. Manufacturers of cotton, woolen yarn.
1816	Jan-31	31	At parish meeting it was voted "to accept the territory give to us by the last court's committee for a town by the name of 'Southbridge'".
1816	Feb-15	15th	Incorporation of the town of Southbridge
1816	May		1 Rev George Angell was installed as the first pastor of the First Baptist Church later to be known as Central Baptist Church. There were 123 petitioners. George Angell later founded the Rescue League for Animals
1818			Russell Harrington Cutlery Company founded by Henry Harrington
1821			Columbian Cotton Mill built
1824			Power Looms installed after much opposition from handweavers
1825			Acqueduct Company (1st) organized. Water supplied from spring in rear of 399 Main Street
1826	October		Lyceum established for holding discussions and debates - the first in the state
1827			Hartwell Pharmacy established by Samuel Hartwell, corner of Main and Central
1828			Flooding takes out a dam on the Quinebaug taking a 2-story machine shop with it
1829			Total abstinence society formed after the temperance soceity 1827 failed
1831			Acqueduct Company (2nd) organized. Water supplied from spring in rear of Armand Senecal House at 23 South Street
1831			Hamilton Woolen Company commenced manufacturing in the Globe Village area
1833			William Beecher, Jeweler makes the first spectacles - the genesis of the Americn Optical Company which has four employees
1834			Methodist Church established
1837			Town Hall (first) built at a cost of \$3,809.78 which also housed the high school on on the second floor.
1840			Holdridge Ammidown and Jairus Putney bought William Beecher's buisness. In 1842, the business became known as Ammidown and Son to change to Ammidown and Company in 1850. Beecher returned to the company
1840			Mass celebrated by Rev. James Fitton of Worcester, in a house on Brick Row formerly owned by Hamilton Woolen Co.
1844			Edwards Company started by John and Jacob Edwards, reputed to be the first department store in the United States.
1848	June	22	Southbridge Savings Bank incorporated
1848			A & M Tool & Die Co., began and moved to Mill Street in 1957
1853	May-01	1st	St. Peter's Catholic Church dedicated. Church burnt December 20th, 1999.
1862	Mar-14	14	Joseph Hannon Civil War Volunteer first to lose his life in battle
1863	November	14	CA Dresser and Central Baptist buildings burnt
1865			Southbridge Village Aqueduct Company organized and took over the rights of the second Aqueduct Company
1871	May	26th	First District Court was established by an act of the legislature - to take effect August 1st, 1871. The Honorable Clark Jillson was the first standing justice and FW Botham and Elisha Philips, both of Southbridge, were the two special justices.
1874			Ammidown Building built
1875			JJ Delehanty & Co opened at 858 Main Street - the Alden building. Changed to Frangelicas in 2000
1877			Felix Gatineau emmigrated from Canada to Southbridge
1878			
1879			Southbridge Water Supply Company established
1880	February		Telephone system introduced
1880			YMCA built on corner of Main and Elm Streets CHECK
1881			Southbridge Roofing Company started by Arthur E Proulx's father
1886	spring		flooding
1886			Hamilton Mills strike
1887			Street lighting introduced
1888	March	12	Greatest snow storm in the region
1888	July	4	Town Hall cornerstone laid, cost to be between \$90,000 and \$100,000.

1893		YMCA building built at corner of Main and Elm at CHECK
1900		McKinstry Ice company commenced operation with a horse and wagon delivery
1901		Quinebaug Historical Society commence their lecture series and published papers
1906		Ralph Robbins general store located from 1924 at 323 Main St - Art Deco
1907		Industrial fair at Town Hall
1908		David Lenti Men and Women's Clothing store at Elm Street. Closed July 4, 1982
1908 November		Sacred Heart Church (L'Eglise Du Sacre-Coeur) built on Charlton Street
1912		Albanian Orthodox Church (St. Nicholas) built on Morris Street
1916		Mary E Wells High School corner of Main and Marcy Streets
1916 July	2nd	Notre Dame Parish Church, Main street dedicated.
1916 July	2nd	Centennial celebrations (3 day event) on the founding of Southbridge
1917 June		Red Cross - the Southbridge branch was formally set up to help in the war effort
1918		Cohasse Country Club founded at Eastford Road
1920		JJ Morris started precision optical supplies and moved into 394 Elm Street in 1941
1923 August	27	Southbridge Evening News published its first daily issue
1923		Police Station refurbished from the former Main Street School
1924 June	24	Romanian Orthodox Church (St. Michael's) founded.
1930		Pilsudski Polish-American Club built at Ballard Court on land bought from the Hamilton Woolen Company
1930		Harrington Memorial Hospital is built with funding from Charles D Harrington (\$150,000) and \$50,000 by donations from the comm
1930		Vincent Oil Company established
1933		Harrington Cutlery merged with John Russell Company of Turners Falls Cutlery
1936 March		Flood
1936		Flood
1937 December	31	Felix Gatineau died in Southbridge
1938 August		World War 1 Memorial on Elm Street dedicated after huge parade
1938 September	22	Floods
1945		Tri Community Chamber of Commerce including Southbridge, Sturbridge Charlton
1946		Airport opened
1955 March	20	WESO Radio station founded
1955 August	19	Flood precipitated by Hurricane Diane
1957		Children's Room added to the ground floor of the Jacob Edwards Library.
1957 March	1	Boniface Tool & Die Co opened by the brothers John, Vincent and Lawrence Moved to Corner of Foster and North Street (Central Mills building) October 1959.
1959		Ames Discount Department Store located on Mill Street
1960 November		Southbridge High School, Cole Avenue opened Mary E Wells school became the Junior High for grades 6 through 8
1966 May 20-29		Sesquicentennial Celebrations - Southbridge's 175th Birthday
1966		Jacob Edwards Library opens its addition at the Foster Street side to the building
1971 September	17	Maci - CA Dresser House fire. One man killed when he jumped from the building
1987		Hamilton Mills buildings burnt
2000 February	1	Clayton H Lane, Resident Engineer at the Westville Dam project, died
2000		Savers CoOperative Bank changes its name to Savers Bank Buys the Ammidown building as the new HQ for Savers
2000 May	7th	Jacob Edwards Library re-opens to the public having closed for one month to facilitate the removal from the temporary quarters in the lower level of town hall
2000 November		Felix Gatineau Statue moved further back

unity