

**For Immediate Release: 1/18/19**

Sharon Historical Society & Museum  
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**Curators' Tour of "Sharon Cures: Centuries of Medicine in One Small Town" on January 26, 2019**

**Sharon, CT:** On Saturday, January 26 at 2 pm the Sharon Historical Society & Museum will host a free public guided tour of their new three room exhibit entitled "**Sharon Cures: Centuries of Medicine in One Small Town**" with Co-Curators Marge Smith and Susan Shepard.

It tells the amazing history of medicine in Sharon from 1738 when the town was founded in the unsettled part of colonial Connecticut to today's Sharon Hospital in words, photos, and objects from the 18<sup>th</sup> century through today. Visitors can learn about the very first doctors and their methods. The stunning story of Sharon fighting its way through a small pox epidemic in 1784 using controversial small pox inoculations is told in documents and illustrations. An 1830's doctor's ledger of his daily calls and patient treatments is on display. Dr. William Coley, now recognized as the Father of Cancer Immunotherapy, was a Sharon resident. His life's work was preserved by his daughter Helen Nauts of Sharon, founder of the Cancer Research Institute. Their compelling story is revealed in the exhibit. Contents of the 1900 medical bag of Sharon Hospital's founder, Dr. Jerome Chaffee, are on display along with common quack medicines that people were using and doctors were fighting against. Dr. Josephine Evarts became the first woman doctor at the hospital in the 1930s and was a medical force to be reckoned with throughout the Northwest Corner until her death in 1983. Tributes and anecdotes from her patients and their families are shared in the exhibit. Visitors will also learn about the founders of the Sharon Clinic in 1947, including Dr. Robert Noble who was also part of the 1956 Nobel Prize-winning team of Drs. Cournand and Richards, and the impact that all the Clinic doctors had on their patients for decades. Today, the medical industry is the largest employer in Sharon, but the story of its evolution has never been told before in one place.

Dr. Malcolm Brown of Sharon said, "I had a very strongly positive reaction to the exhibit. I am hoping to see it again on Saturday the 26th."

Smith and Shepard, award-winning curators and area historians, developed the exhibit from the Sharon Historical Society collections, extensive research in original town documents and with advice from Connecticut medical specialists.

The Sharon Historical Society & Museum, is located at 18 Main Street, Sharon, CT.  
For directions call (860) 364-5688, visit [www.sharonhist.org](http://www.sharonhist.org) or *The Sharon Historical Society* on Facebook. Regular museum hours are Wednesday through Friday Noon to 4 pm and Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm.

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