

Worcester Historical Society

2020 Membership Newsletter

Visit us at www.worcesterhistorical.org and Like us on Facebook

John Falter, Worcester's Famous Illustrator

American artist John Falter (1910-1982) had a long and successful career as an illustrator and artist, first in advertising, then in magazines and books, and finally as a painter. He completed over 120 covers for The Saturday Evening Post and designed recruiting posters for the Navy during World War II.

Falter was born in Nebraska and worked in New York and Philadelphia, but from 1957 to 1967 he owned the historic farm known as Crow Hill on Bethel Road in Worcester. Several of his magazine covers featured scenes from Worcester, including the house at Crow Hill (below) and the 4th grade classroom in the old Worcester School (right).

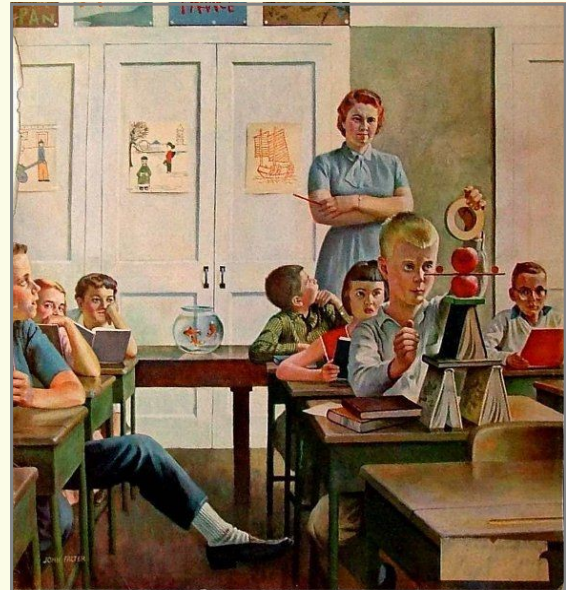


"Ice Skating in the Country"

The Saturday Evening Post, Dec. 1, 1971

The house at Crow Hill, which is no longer standing, is shown in the background.

Of the inspiration for his work, Falter wrote, "It has been my hope to record what is probably the last of the great tradition of farming, ... of the domestic life so closely related to it, and of the small bits of peace and serenity that only exist close to nature."



"Johnny Genius"

The Saturday Evening Post, April 4, 1959
Nancy Lobb Markle helped us identify each student.

When board member Leslie Griffin started designing this exhibit, fellow board member Dave Dambly realized that he owned a World War II poster by John Falter. He donated that poster to the Society, and it is included in this exhibit. Sadly, Dave passed away before the exhibit was completed. Friends and family established the David Dambly Memorial Fund to honor his memory. The fund was instrumental in helping us create this exhibit.

Worcester Historic Resource Survey

Did you know that Worcester has close to a dozen historic homes that were standing before the American Revolution? There are even more pre-Revolutionary out-buildings, such as spring houses, as well as nonresidential structures like mile markers and cemeteries. How do we know this? For the past 4 years, a group of dedicated volunteers, including Dianne Cram, Leslie Griffin, Doug Rotondo, and Lisa Gregory, have been at work gathering

Keeping Worcester's History Alive

Worcester Historical Society P.O. Box 112 Worcester, PA 19490

On the web at worcesterhistorical.org

Follow us on Facebook



photographs, dates, and historical data on the historic resources in our community. With technical support from Mary Lou McFarland and Jack Campbell at Heritage Conservancy in Doylestown, they have surveyed about 300 historic structures so far, including homes, barns, outbuildings, bridges, cemeteries, and mile markers, with about 50 more to be finished. The survey is part of an ongoing project by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The work is funded by a grant from Heritage Conservancy, and the photography and documentation has been done by just twelve volunteers. The final product will be a treasure trove of architectural and historical information about Worcester. Survey results will be available at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, at Heritage Conservancy's office in Doylestown, and on the Society's website.

From the 18th-century colonial era, Worcester has simple stone farmhouses as well as elegant Georgian homes that show the influence of both German and English settlers. In the early 19th century, three-story Greek Revival farmhouses were very popular, followed by mid-19th-century homes with Gothic Revival and Italianate features, and finally the ornate Queen Anne homes of the late Victorian era. The early 20th century saw the introduction of modest Craftsman style and Colonial Revival houses. Worcester is fortunate that despite constant development pressure, many of these historic homes have been carefully preserved by their owners.



A typical southeastern Pennsylvania farmhouse, circa 1842. Like this one, many were built of stone covered with plaster.

Preliminary results of this project were showcased at our fall 2019 program. Doug Rotondo and Dianne Cram presented an insightful talk, "Historic Properties of Worcester." The presentation highlighted Worcester's abundant architectural heritage, spanning over 250 years, from the late 17th century to the early 20th century. We hope to post this presentation on our website in the future.

2019 Museum Donations

In 2019 the Society was fortunate to receive many wonderful donations to expand our interpretation of life during Worcester's earlier days.

Letty Schultz donated a glass-door wooden cabinet that she and her late husband, Austin, bought in Schwenksville 100 years ago. We appreciate being able to store our collection of journals and scrapbooks where they are protected from dust but accessible to visitors.

Charles Diliberto donated a World War II Army uniform jacket that belonged to his father. **Carmel Diliberto** donated two life-size dolls that we are using to exhibit items from our children's clothing collection.

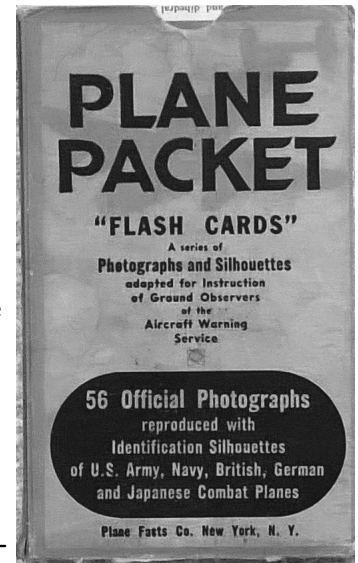
Board member **Dave Dambly** donated a set of World War II plane spotter flash cards from his extensive WWII collection.

Linda Hill Cox donated a wire egg-collecting basket, a redware mold, and a 1929 framed reprint of a local USGS map.

Board member **Mary Jane Rees** donated a linen pouch used by the U.S. Postal Service to deliver small packages.

Wayne Brunt donated a diploma and the commencement program from the class of 1931 at Worcester High School.

Sue Salmon donated several baby dolls that will be used to display our collection of christening gowns.



Join us for these events in 2020!

VISIT THE MUSEUM AT FARMERS UNION HALL 2011 Valley Forge Rd, Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon. Check our website this spring for dates.

SPRING PROGRAM Visit our website in the spring for the date and topic. Farmers Union Hall, 2011 Valley Forge Road.

WHS ANNUAL ANTIQUE & FLEA MARKET Saturday, May 2, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Heyser Field & Worcester Township Community Hall, Fairview Village. For early reservations and vendor info, visit worcester-historical.org or call 610-613-3878.

Worcester Classes of 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990...

If you have a **class reunion** coming up, include a visit to Farmers Union Hall as one of your group activities. Let us know the date, and we will arrange a guided tour of the museum. You will be amazed at how wonderful the old place looks!

We have many class photos in our collection, from the late 1800s through the 1980s. Visitors are welcome to look through them any time.

Memorial Funds

From time to time WHS is the recipient of memorial funds established by the families of long-time volunteers or board members of the Society. We deeply appreciate the generosity of these families in designating the Society as the recipient of memorial funds in honor of their loved ones.

The Board of Directors uses these funds for an exhibit or project that was of particular significance to the person being remembered. Exhibits that have been created with these funds include the one-room schoolhouse exhibit, the Worcester school photo collection, the Wogglebug exhibit, and most recently the John Falter exhibit.

Board Member News

We wish departing Board member and librarian **Leslie Griffin** well in her new home in Georgia. Leslie's extensive contributions include cataloging all of Worcester's cemeteries, organizing and managing the Society's collection of photographs and documents, tracing the genealogy of many of Worcester's families, researching Worcester's early schools, and designing several of our exhibits. We will miss her steady presence on Saturday mornings at the museum and her extensive knowledge of Worcester's history and family lineages.

Last year we were saddened by the passing of Board member **Dave Dambly**, a Meadowood resident who was an enthusiastic photographer at our programs and events. Thanks to Dave's dedication and expertise, we have many fine photographs of Worcester's historic structures as part of our Historic Resource Survey. Dave's wit and wisdom during our Saturday mornings at the Hall will be greatly missed.

On a happier note, in November we welcomed **Dianne Cram** to our Board. Dianne is a former curator and administrator at Peter Wentz Farmstead. She serves on the Schuylkill Township Historical Commission and is a historic architectural consultant for Chester County Historic Preservation Network. Dianne provided us with invaluable assistance and expertise over 10 years ago as we began cataloging our clothing, and she looks forward to continuing this work with our collection.

WHS Antique & Flea Market

Saturday, May 2, 2020, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Worcester Township Community Hall
Heyser Field, Fairview Village

Antiques ~ Crafts ~ Music

Food ~ Bake Sale



*Join us for lunch under the tent and
take home a fresh-baked pie!*

Half spaces are available for nonprofits and
fundraisers.

For vendor information and early reservations,
please call **610-613-3878**.

Our Members Are VIPs!

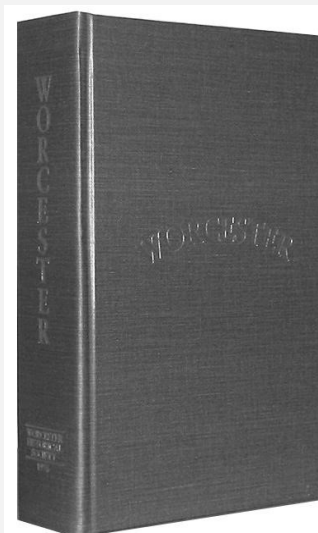
You, our members, are the Society's most important people. Without you, we would not be able to open our museum to the public, or design and build the new exhibits that are such a great attraction in our museum and library.

We want you as a member, so we have some membership gifts for you —

◇ With a **Sustaining Membership** (\$75), visit the museum to pick up a copy of *A History of Worcester Township*, the definitive work on the inns, schools, mills, churches, cemeteries, villages, and historic homes of Worcester.

◇ With a **Lifetime Membership** (\$500), visit the museum to pick up a numbered print of Bill Bourne's iconic painting of Fairview Village at the turn of the 19th century.

Did you know that Worcester had seven one room school houses until 1912 --and all of them are still in use? Find out where they are located, which ones burned and were rebuilt, and what they looked like over 100 years ago. You'll find that, and so much more, in *A History of Worcester Township*!



Thanks for Joining Us at Our Holiday Open House!

It was great to see so many members and first-time guests at our 2019 Holiday Open House at Farmers Union Hall. We thank Bustard's Christmas Trees for the donation of a lovely fir tree. Greens, vintage holiday decorations, and a tasty gingerbread house version of the Dutchie Church were provided by our board members. Commemorative Dutchie Church ornaments were popular and sold out quickly. Mark your calendars now to join us on the first Saturday in December 2020!



Thank you to our 2019 Business Sponsors!

AJR Environmental, Inc.

Ambler Savings Bank

Bourne Graphics, Inc.

Bravo Pizza

Chambers Associates, Inc.

Collegeville Do It Best

Dan Moore Tree Service

David Brothers Bean Road Nursery

Frog Hollow Racquet Club

Meadowood Senior Living

Miller Pump Systems

North Penn Gulf

O&F Farms, Inc.

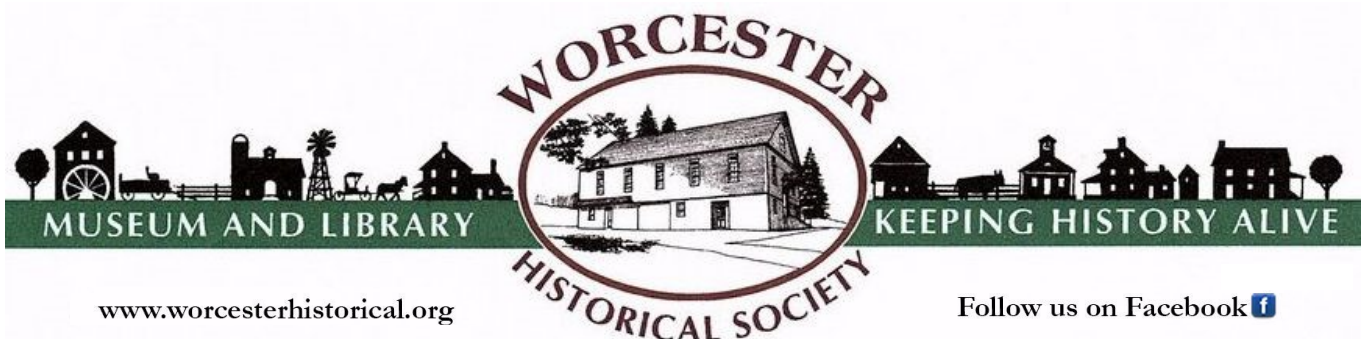
Risher Van Horn

R.L. Williams, Jr. Funeral Home, Inc.

Zacharias Creek Side Café

To be a Business Sponsor in 2020, contact us at info@worcesterhistorical.org or 610-316-7287.

WORCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 112
WORCESTER, PA 19490



www.worcesterhistorical.org

Follow us on Facebook 