

# Worcester Historical Society

## 2022 Membership Newsletter

Visit us at [www.worcesterhistorical.org](http://www.worcesterhistorical.org) and  
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

### Christmas Open House

The Worcester Historical Society was pleased to host our annual Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 4th from 1-4 pm. This marked forty-four years (we missed last year because of Covid) where we have presented a Christmas Open House to the community. This year was exceptional as we had one of the largest turnouts in memory. The Farmers' Union Hall was beautifully decorated by many volunteers and Bustard's again donated an outstanding spruce tree as the centerpiece. Board members and volunteers provided information and tours of the upstairs and the downstairs Farm Museum and Library. We also received many promises of Worcester origin donations to enhance our displays as well as always welcome cash donations.

We want to thank Worcester Township managers and staff and our corporate sponsors for safe-guarding our history.

The Museum is closed for now but will reopen again on Sunday afternoon, March 27 from 2-4 pm for a joint presentation with the Montco Registrar of Deeds. Stay tuned to our website and FB page for further details. All are invited!



### Our Meadowood Connection

The Society has had a unique relationship with Meadowood for decades. Many Meadowood residents are members of WHS. In October, 2021 the Society welcomed Meadowood to tour the Museum and library. Our museum is within walking distance of the community.

In February of 2021, Meadowood invited WHS to present "Early Buildings Survey of Worcester" to the residents. Bill Bourne, Meadowood resident and past president of the WHS, continues to showcase Worcester's with his new neighbors. Alan Bozorth, another Meadowood resident and current Society board member, along with Bill, coordinate various presentations and events for residents involving the Historical Society. Meadowood remains a valued corporate sponsor.

*Keeping Worcester's History Alive*

On the web at [worcesterhistorical.org](http://worcesterhistorical.org)

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## What's In Your Attic?

All across our country there are hundreds of small community museums, like Worcester Historical Society, all with a purpose to preserve and perpetuate the history and culture of our locales. In a sense, these museums are the "attics of America" with collections accumulated across generations, decades and centuries that tell the stories of towns and farms, individuals and families, industry and organizations, schools and churches – all aspects of our history. As with all attics, some objects that accumulate in our museums may be of little value or have no relevance to our community's history. Responsible museums, again like Worcester Historical Society, have established mission statements and collection policies that help set boundaries for what is appropriate to accept into our collections. The mission of Worcester Historical Society is ...to promote the acquisition, preservation and interpretation of historic resources representing the history of the township and immediate surrounds.

We welcome donations of objects that have a direct relevance to various aspects of Worcester's history. For instance, Worcester was a farming community and all farms had a variety of agricultural equipment. An example would be a 1890s McCormick harvester used throughout the country, but also on a Worcester farm. It was mass produced in Illinois. We would add it to the museum. However, a Heebner thresher not only belonged to a Worcester farmer but was manufactured right here as well and is much more valuable to the museum collection. Space permitting, we would keep both, but we are a small museum and if necessary, we would offer the McCormick harvester to another museum. And that old quilt that was purchased at an antiques sale beyond our region may be lovely, but the true treasure will be the quilt that we know was made by a Worcester resident. These are just examples of the types of objects that are of great importance to Worcester's history.

So, as you clean out your attics please keep us in mind. We consider the following criteria for accepting donations for the museum:

- **Provenance** – Did the object belong to a resident of Worcester Township?
- **Age** – Is the object true to the time period?
- **Origin** – Was the object made in or near Worcester?
- **Rarity** – Is the object unique, one-of-a-kind or unique to the area?
- **Relevance** - Does the object relate to a person, event or location near Worcester?

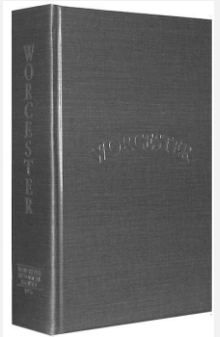
- **Condition** – Is the object intact, in good or fair condition, and is it suitable for exhibit?

Please let us know if you have anything that you would like to donate, we will be happy to help you to evaluate your treasures and either accept them for Worcester Historical Society or perhaps we can suggest a more appropriate museum. Contact Dianne Cram, Collections Manager at 610-917-9635 or [dianneecram@comcast.net](mailto:dianneecram@comcast.net)

### Membership

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. Do you know about the WW I & II monuments and the soldiers and sailors who died in these



wars? You'll find that, and so much more, in *A History of Worcester Township* which you can also purchase for \$50.



## Corporate Sponsors

Our outreach and response by local companies has continued through the pandemic and has brought a wonderful response of solidarity. We want to thank these sponsors for their interest in preserving Worcester's Historical past and future.

### Thank you! to our 2021 Corporate Sponsors

AJR Environmental, Inc.  
Allen Country Store  
Ambler Savings Bank  
Bechtel Kitchens  
Bourne Graphics  
Bravo Pizza  
Chambers Associates, Inc.  
Dan Moore Tree Service  
David Brothers Bean Rd Nursery  
e3 Technical Solutions  
Frog Hollow Racquet Club  
Meadowood Senior Living  
Merrymead Farm  
Miller Pump Systems  
North Penn Auto Service  
O & F Farms  
Rischer Van Horn Florist  
R.L. Williams Funeral Home, Inc.  
The Grand Fromage  
Wehrung's Lumber & Home Ctr  
Worcester Beverage  
Zacharias Creek Side Cafe

## Social Media

In 2021 the Society, with the invaluable assistance of E3 Solutions, a corporate sponsor and Worcester company, revitalized our website and social media platforms. This has resulted in a much more "user-friendly" product with integration of FB, Instagram and other media platforms and users. We look forward to completing additional enhancements with E3 Solutions in 2022.

In 2021 we started a new blog series entitled "Did You Know" to keep residents informed of underreported or forgotten historical events and places. First in the series was the WW I & WWII monuments and their history. This was followed by brief, individual biographies of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in both wars. Just tap "blog" on the website; Worcesterhistorical.org or our Facebook page. In 2022, we intend to explore additional, little know or forgotten facts that you will find of interest.



Farmers Union Hall Open House, 2021

## Winter/Spring Calendar for 2022

The Worcester Historical Society, in partnership with the Montco Registrar of Deeds, presents "**Worcester Land Deeds & Your House History**" on Sunday, March 27 from 2-4 pm at the Farmers Union Hall and Museum. The presentation will focus on early deeds in Worcester and their interpretation. This will be followed by a "Deed History" of ten properties selected from the Worcester Historic Properties Survey. All are invited and come prepared with your questions!!

Annual Antique Fair and Flea Market to be held on May 7 from 8 am to 2 pm at the Worcester Township Hall in Fairview Village. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please check our website for further details.



Farmers Union Hall Sign on Valley Forge Rd, 2021

The Museum and Hall will be open on Saturday, May 14 from 9-12 am and every Saturday through September. Stop by and visit; there is something for all ages.

## 100 Years Ago - 1921

Dedication of the WW I Monument in front of Worcester School, 1921



Pictured by the monument are John Fox, principal of Worcester School and Nathaniel Metz, Civil War veteran. Worcester Book page 341 and WHS website under Blog.

### Other news from 100 years ago

From the pages of the "Montgomery Transcript", the local newspaper of the day. In February, Worcester Schools were closed due to "the epidemic of Scarlet Fever and all school buildings will be fumigated". In March, coal thieves were caught stealing coal from the High School. In July, a local farmer was chastised for not keeping his pig pen sanitary as residents were complaining of pungent odors during the warm summer. Also in July, there was an outbreak of Tuberculosis among John Heebner's prime cows. Twenty-one cows were put down. The main talking points in 1921 also concerned the poor condition of the roads and bridges plus the lack of electric poles along the Skippack Pike. Residents had wired their houses in anticipation of electricity but there were no poles to hold the electric lines.

## Memorial Funds


Recently WHS has been the recipient of several memorial funds established by the families of long time volunteers and board members of the Society. We deeply appreciate their generosity in designating the Society as the recipient of 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 map display in the library, the one-room schoolhouse exhibit, the John Falter exhibit, the "Wogglebug" Trolley exhibit and the Worcester school photo collection.



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