

# Worcester Historical Society

## 2023 Membership Newsletter

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### A Busy Year in Review

This has been a productive year for the Society, from projects undertaken to museum tours. We started in March with our annual meeting featuring a joint presentation with Jeanne Sorg, Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds, and WHS Board Members. Entitled “Worcester Land Deeds and Your House History”, the presentation focused on how to read historic deeds and integrated selected properties from the “Worcester Historic Properties Survey”.

The Historic Properties Survey documents historic houses, barns, out-buildings, root cellars and ice houses, to name a few, in Worcester post 1940. The survey is about 4/5ths finished with over 300 resources surveyed. The work is funded by a grant from Heritage Conservancy with the photography and documentation completed by our Society Board Members. The final project will be a wealth of knowledge about our community history. Survey results will be available at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), at Heritage Conservancy’s office in Doylestown, and on the Society’s website. The PHMC is the official history agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They are responsible for the collection, conservation, and interpretation of Pennsylvania’s historic heritage.



Deed Program, March 2022



John Peirce Painting, donated Fall 2022

### Our Members and Sponsors

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 those 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 is 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 Trolley exhibit, the Falter exhibit, and of course the recent addition of the Schweiker Murals.

We are also supported by more than twenty local businesses that represent many different professions and services that are invaluable not only for their donations, but for their advice on how we can improve what we do, support the Dutchie Church, etc.

Finally, we are blessed with a loyal base of individual and family members whose volunteer and financial support are important to our success and future.

*Keeping Worcester's History Alive*

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

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## Caring for our Treasures

### PRESERVATION - CONSERVATION - RESTORATION

These words are familiar lingo to all museum professionals caring for the treasures found in museums around the world, and no less so in small community based museums such as Worcester Historical Society.

Our mission is the PRESERVATION of all objects in our collections preferably in their original condition, or if the object is not in pristine condition, then to ensure that no further deterioration will occur.

To maintain the highest level of preservation we use CONSERVATION practices and materials that will protect objects from light, dirt, pests, moisture, or simply from being handled incorrectly. As an example, we are careful that objects on exhibit are protected from light damage by use of conservation materials, UV filters and simple window shades. A great number of items in our collection are not exhibited but rather in storage, and it is equally important to utilize conservation methods and quality materials for storing delicate antiques. Organic materials, wood, paper and textiles require dry, acid-free conditions, and it is vital that archival quality boxes and packing materials are used. One of the most important considerations is to store organic materials in an acid-free container. Cardboard boxes made from pulp wood will quickly cause permanent stains and deterioration of textiles and paper. With exacting emphasis on preserving and by practicing good conservation methods, we should never need to be concerned with RESTORATION - that last resort that may be required to repair or replace portions of an object after damage has occurred.

Worcester Historical Society has been fortunate to have received grant funding in 2022 from the Rittenhouse Questers, a locally based chapter of the National Questers Organization. This money enabled us to purchase a variety of archival quality storage boxes, in varying sizes, to permanently and safely store objects. We will be transferring our oldest and



Rittenhouse Questers Grant Presentation

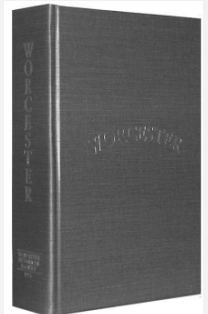
most unique treasures to these boxes, including the 18th and early 19th century land grants, deeds, and indentures all pertaining to Worcester. Our quilts and much of the early clothing will also be placed in safe keeping. We are very grateful to the Rittenhouse Questers and to the PA State Questers, for the matching funds that made it possible to purchase some very needed storage boxes.

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** (\$100), 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 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 2022 Corporate Sponsors

AJR Environmental, Inc.  
Allen Country Store  
Ambler Savings Bank  
Bechtel Kitchens  
Bradford Woodworking  
Bustard Christmas Trees  
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

## Board Members

We want to acknowledge the service of two, long-time board members who retired in 2022. Mary Jane Rees will remain a member of the Society as she has been since its founding in 1976. Along with her late husband, Jay, who served as President for three years, she has been an individual with irreplaceable skills.

We also want to acknowledge the retirement of long-time member Jerry McDonnell, husband of board member Pat McDonnell, who helped out with engineering and property issues.

We wish to welcome Dan Kinnamon, a Life Member since 2018 and Merck retiree. Dan is an avid Revolutionary War Re-enactor and has supported us in Saturday morning museum tours.

## Christmas Open House 2022

On Saturday, December 3rd, the Society welcomed many members, guests, and sight-seers to our annual Open House at the Farmers Union Hall. Guests came from as far as Florida and California. Upon entering the Hall, guests were greeted by a donated Bustard's Christmas Spruce decorated in the tradition of the last century.

The highlight of the open house was the unveiling of two, restored 4' x 8' murals from the Schweiker estate donated by Kelly and John Adesso. Painted in 1958 by local artist John Peirce, the two murals depict whimsical, pastoral scenes of Worcester.

We want to thank the Christine and Lawrence Smith Family Charitable Trust, the Dave Dambly Memorial Fund, and the Mitre Box in Lansdale for the restoration.



Christmas Open House

## Donation funded Improvements

In July, the Worcester Historical Society undertook a number of significant improvements to the Covered Wagon Shed. This included a new metal roof, constructed by local carpenters, with roofing material donated by Wehrung's Lumber & Home Center in Collegeville. It was decided that a cupola and weathervane would be a good addition to the new roof. Thanks to the financial support of the Van Nuys Foundation, and local craftsman Brad Smith, the Wagon Shed is now complete.



Wagon Shed with Cupola Addition

## 125 Years Ago - 1898

### Farmers Union Hall

125 years ago marks the start of construction of a hall by the Farmers Union Club. It was to be a space where ideas on farming could easily be exchanged. According to the minutes of the *Montgomery Transcript*, the land was to be purchased for \$100 or less if possible. The building was to be 40' x 70', two stories high, with a skeleton cornice. The first story was to be devoted to stabling horses, creating room for about 48 steeds. The description of construction is true to the building as it stands today. The estimated cost was \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Check out our blog at [worcesterhistorical.org/blog](http://worcesterhistorical.org/blog) for more interesting facts.



## Upcoming Events

The Museum at the Farmers Union Hall will be open new hours this year; the second and fourth Saturday of each month, from 9 am to noon, starting April 29th through September. Stop by and visit; there is something for all ages.


Annual Antique and Flea Market to be held on May 6th 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.

Our Spring meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 26, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, at the Farmers Union Hall. The title of our program is "The Roads of Worcester Township from Anders to Zacharias" and will discuss the history of Worcester roads and their future, with plenty of great, old photos and maps. This will be a joint presentation between the Society and Worcester Township. Please check our website at [www.worcesterhistorical.org](http://www.worcesterhistorical.org) for more details or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WorcesterHistoricalSocietyPA>

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