**Forewaord to Fern Fergusons Book Three**

Fern Ferguson was the preeminent local historian of the Towns of Worcester and Decatur. When he died in 1977, he bequeathed seventeen loose-leaf volumes of stories, articles, photographs and family histories to the safekeeping of the Worcester Historical Society. This monumental lifework, gathered mainly during retirement years at his *Fernwood* home on the southeast corner of Alvord and Brooker Hollow Roads in East Worcester, remains the most comprehensive and colorful account of the heritage of those two towns.

The Historical Society accepted the responsibility of making this invaluable information available to posterity, in part because of its obvious importance to the community and in part because it is otherwise inaccessible and irreplaceable. The near loss of the volumes during the Worcester Great Fire of 1994 lent impetus to the effort.

This Book Three follows previous publications in 2003 and 2005 and contains the fourth of Ferguson's seventeen volumes. The Society's officers and trustees extend their appreciation once again to Marilyn E. Dufresne, the Worcester Town Historian and long-serving Society Vice-President and Trustee, for her tireless efforts to assemble, edit and publish this series of books on their behalf. They hope and believe that the books will be an enduring legacy to the community.

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Champion/Warner home/Pilgrim Holiness Church

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Egbert Snyder home/store/family/farm

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Frederick Miller family

George W. Ellis

Gustin family

Gott family

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EW schools/Ray Tyler/teachers

District schools – Harrington – Alvord- Mud Lake

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Rockefeller Blacksmith and Wagon Shop

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Lt.Col. Arnold D. Blair/Blair family

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EW families camping on Otsego Lake

Emory Babcock stores

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Methodists and Baptists – Champion mill in

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North Road and Calcutta photos

Early History of East Worcester by Warren Boorn

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Gustin Building/EW National Bank

Steam engines in EW

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Peter Payne house – Cyclone of 1887

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EW Water Company

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Hay rake photos

Large railroad segment – A&S poster – EW station – early engines and bridges -- local photos – the Dante station – Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen – Daniel T. Gott, Jr.

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Fancher farm/Calcutta

Calcutta History by Robert A. Spencer

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Businesses and businessmen of Worcester 1882

Birney Goodenough

Town of Worcester death records 1818-1916

1824 hurricane kills 4, wounds 4

Old Congregational Churchyard removals

(George B. Crippen letter)

Town officers 1876

Lewis E. Waterman

Decatur hotel

Searches, deeds and mortgages Rockefeller, Scripture, Diefendorf

D&H first coal and passenger trains

Frederick Miller – D&H RR builder

Elizabeth Miller – last woman D&H telegrapher

Eli Denny

A. Diefendorf

Capt. William Wallace Bass

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EW Water Suit; Shafer v. Snow; Wor Times 1882

Worcester Times notes 1876

1849 merchant daybook

Todd-Knapp hotel

Ely-Thurber-Babcock notes

Bigelow hotel

D.C. Post/Post & Hall store

Decoration Day 1904

Pensioners 1840

Dr. Tallman – Burgoyne drummer boy

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EW “hub” of town 1870; EW House

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Trains from EW

Cornet Band 1873

Early Settlers of EW by Warren L. Boorn 1922

Recollections of Worcester by W.G. Queal 1886

History Notes from Early American Cards

George Clark's Land 1877 by “F.”

Worcester history from 1738 settlements; first

settlement; many other “firsts” etc.

Early settlement notes

David I. Eckerson

McKinley-Bryan election 1896

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Hadsell's mill burned 1906

Goin' Hop Picking by Ira Sherman

John A. Hudson/Hudson family

Jabez Clark/Indians 1768 (1904 article)

Bela Johnson

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Hand-drawn map; cemeteries, schools, churches

Hotchkins' History of Town of Maryland; index

of names, locations, historical notes

Masons; Charity Lodge #114 1803 (info 1959)

E.L. Mead

Worcester Methodist Church by Rev. Ernest Gage

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Worcester Methodist pastor list 1883-1960

Decatur Methodist pastor list 1876-1922

EW Methodist embroidered spread 1894

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Worcester Masons

Chesebro & Howe hotel; Brighton

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Worcester businessmen 1859 and 1875

Worcester Times notes 1875, 1882, 1889, 1890

1875 Wor Times-Schenevus Monitor feud

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Charlotteville newspapers

WFF notes about early settlers