

INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1970

Informational meeting at Worcester Inn Jan. 17

Steering committee chosen to begin organizational efforts

Flash Wright first Pres; Bernard Cerra VP; Evelyn Parshall Sec; Dorothy Schofield Treas

Provisional charter later in 1970

VamBuren Lamb first Curator; moved his genealogical library from Summit; more space
Dibble Memorial Library

Serve entire SE Otsego County

Met at churches, school, Grange, Woman's Club

Fledgling museum in rented space in Knapp Building (old post office/Elm Store)

Incorporated, permanent charter June 29, 1973

Purchased museum and building June 17, 1977 \$20,000

Meeting rooms, displays, storage, safe, Victorian room, kitchen, library, items for sale
300+ members

Disastrous fire May 2-3, 1994

Destroys upper floor; storage, Victorian room, Town History Collection

Many items on first floor and basement saved; much water damage

Heroic efforts by members, bystanders to rescue items while fire being fought

Many invaluable items in old post office safe

NYSHA technical experts dry out items, save from ruin

Great recovery and reconstruction within 2-3 years

Led by Pres Gynger O'Connor; has served 25+ years beginning 1978

Assistance from bequests, Robinson-Broadhurst

Present officers Gynger O'Connor Pres; Marilyn Dufresne VP; Norma Ralph Sec;

Mary Teller Treas; Trustees Tony Barbera, Lucy Conroe, Larry DeLong,

Richie Dee Horne, Winnie Lehenbauer, Barbara McCabe, Nancy Milavec, Ken

Nash, Walt Thompson

Resources

Worcester Times, Worcester Town Meetings on microfilm; microfilm reader

Full library of Worcester and Otsego County resource materials; maps, atlases

Card file of Town of Worcester cemetery burials

Genealogical files of many local families

Scrapbooks and clippings

Internet connection to historical resources

Safe storage for historical and display materials

Local museum open except during winter; agricultural exhibit

Sales area for books, maps, post cards, posters, memorabilia

Town of Worcester Historian Office

Schedule of meetings and programs; newsletter

Tours of historic houses and buildings

Historic preservation; Hall District schoolhouse

Historic signage on I-88, in Worcester hamlet

Info on National Historic District (1975)

Current major projects

Works of Wm Fern Ferguson

Historic/cultural park for Worcester hamlet

Appeal to meet future needs
New members of all ages and backgrounds
Volunteers as officers and trustees
Curator and librarian
Writers and researchers; newsletter editor
Program presenters
Staffing at museum for summer months
Technical help with building and park project
Modern computer; web designer; webmaster
Money and dues

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOME WORCESTER RESOURCES

Town of Worcester History 1953
Bicentennial History 1997
Officers of the Town of Worcester 1964
Works of Wm. Fern Ferguson (originals and published copies)
Tri Valley: Cobleskill to Colliersville 2002
DAR Cemetery Records by Ida Flint Shafer 1935
Here's to You, Worcester Schools 1989
Select Schools history 1932; school papers by Johnson and Cooley
Worcester Central School handbook, yearbook, newsletters
Histories of South Worcester Leola Gibbs 1940; Howson Hartley 1970, 1990
Wright on the Line
Church histories; EW Methodists and Baptists
 Worcester Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists
 SW Becker Memorial 1968
 Eliot Hill 1997
 Rankin; Orthodox Presbyterians 1936
Fire department histories; Worcester and East Worcester
Great Bear Light and Power Company 1994
Worcester Post Office history 1983
A Visit to Caryl's Store 1958
Tour of Furnaceville 1997
Town of Worcester Comprehensive Plan 2003
Worcester Times 1875-1986
Tri-Valley News
Hometown AD*Vantage
Civil War Stories and Letters of Gen. Delevan Bates
Life and Deeds of Seth Flint 2002 – Ann Walton
Wind on the Stairs – Wheaton Webb
Worcester Sesquicentennial script 1947 – Wheaton Webb
Saturday Evening Post articles; Sherburn Becker, Seth Flint, Jim Konstanty
Diaries: Abraham Becker, Seth Flint, Isaac Atkins; Champion reminiscences
Charley Smith's Girl 1965 – Helen Bevington
Ungentlemanly Acts 2000 - Louise Barnett
Family Histories
 Strain, French, Crippen, Waterman, DeLong
 Servos family in South Worcester (Hartley)
Life of Timothy Murphy
Poetry by Paul Waterman (vanity presses)
Julia Wilcox poetry 1906

SOME PROMINENT WORCESTER HISTORICAL CHARACTERS

Isaac Atkins
Delevan Bates
Abraham Becker/Sherburn Becker/Becker family
Uriah Bigelow/Bigelow family
Chief Joseph Brant
Isaac and Leonard Caryl/Caryl family
John Champion/Champion family
Seth Chase
John Cook
Silas Crippen/Crippen family
Arthur B. Doig
William H. Ely
Ferguson family
Flint family
Seth Flint
Solomon and Abram Garfield/Garfield family
Samuel H. Grant
Julius and Porter Hadsell
Hillis family
Hollenbeck family
Ives family
Bela Johnson
Sir William Johnson
Madame Jumel
Jim Konstanty
William H. Leonard
Napoleon McLaughlen
Multer family
Timothy Murphy
James Robinson/Robinson family
Robert Roseboom
John Peter Russ/Russ family
Christopher Servos/Servos family
Grover Shafer
Harry Shafer
Agnes Smith
James Strain/Strain family
Thurber family
Nathaniel Todd
John Trickey
Lewis Waterman/Waterman family