

Worcester Historical Society

2026 Membership Newsletter

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Celebrating Heritage and Tradition

Commemorating Two Milestones

This year marks two significant anniversaries: the 250th year since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the 50th anniversary of the Worcester Historical Society. The Society's roots and ambitions were shaped by nationwide activities preparing for the Bicentennial. In 1976, Worcester received official recognition as a Bicentennial Community from the US Government, an honor celebrated with the Bicentennial Flag flying over the Worcester elementary school.



A representation of The Bicentennial Flag that flew over Worcester Elementary School.

Honoring the Past and Engaging the Community

In celebration of both the country's 250th anniversary and the Society's 50th anniversary, new initiatives were planned. The Society decided to publish a coloring book featuring the Bicentennial Quilt and to organize a quilt tour throughout the township, beginning with the historic churches.



Worcester Historical Society Coloring Book page example.

Preserving Worcester's Future

We invite you to enjoy both the quilt and the coloring book. Your participation in the Worcester Historical Society programs supports our ongoing efforts to safeguard the township's heritage for future generations. Follow us at our website, Worcesterhistorical.org, or on Facebook, and please become a member!



1976 Worcester Historical Society's quilt ready for travel.

Keeping Worcester's History Alive

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WHS Spring Program

Our spring 2025 program highlighted the military history of the Battle of Philadelphia and the role Worcester played as well as the surrounding area. Author and re-enactor Michael Jesberger shared his knowledge of the Battle of Germantown to an enthusiastic crowd. WHS officers and the slate of board members were also presented and voted in for their new term in office.



Worcester Township Community Day 2025

Worcester Township Community Day was held on Saturday, September 27, at Heebner Park. The WHS portion of the event

was organized by Tom Brunner and Debbie Kavanaugh. Visitors enjoyed live demonstrations by local artisans, including Dan Kinnamon, who showcased traditional leatherworking, and Dianne Cram, who demonstrated historical tape making. Jim Thompson and Alan



Bozarth also engaged with attendees throughout the day. Pictured here is Dan Kinnamon sharing his skills. Dan is the leather repair expert for Valley Forge National Historical Park.

WHS Flea Market

The WHS Annual Flea Market was held on May 5, 2025, at the Fairview Community Center. Shoppers found plenty of treasures, along with hot dogs, BBQ, and homemade baked goods. With perfect weather, everyone enjoyed a great day of shopping, chatting, and eating well. The next Flea Market will take place on Saturday, May 2, 2026. Come shop—or set up as a vendor; it's easy! Details will be available on our website in the coming weeks.



TASIS Visit to Frog Hollow

Historical Background

On November 24, the Worcester Historical Society and the Frog Hollow Racquet Club, located on Weber Road, welcomed Michelle Arslanian, who serves as the Director and Head of Alumni Relations for the American School in Switzerland. The school, situated in Lugano, was founded in 1955 and now enrolls 700 students from around the world.

Connection to Frog Hollow

The American School in Switzerland traces its roots to the Frog Hollow Day School and camp, which operated from 1945 to 1955. Mrs. Mary Crist Fleming, the owner of Frog Hollow, later relocated the school to Switzerland, where it became the country's largest private foreign school. As a point of interest, the creation of the Day Camp after WW II was an attempt to quarantine wealthy children in New York against polio. The thought was clean air and healthy activities would act as a barrier to the disease. The polio vaccine was made available in 1955.

The Visit Experience

During the visit, Michelle Arslanian toured the Farmers Union Hall and was hosted by Harold Conway, the current owner of the tennis club. She explored the facility, including some of the original buildings that remain on the site.

Commemoration

A plaque was presented to Michelle Arslanian to commemorate her visit. In the picture below left to right is Harold Conway, Dan Kinnamon Karen Simeone, Michelle and Jim Thompson.



Curwensville Historical Society Visit

After years of searching, in 2024, WHS and the Montgomery County Museum Curator reached an agreement to lend the Society a Heebner Direct-Geared, One-Horsepower Tread Power. It was built in 1896 by the Worcester family, David Heebner and Sons, in their Lansdale factory. The Tread Power was one of many modern agricultural improvements in the post Civil War Period.

To make room for this addition, we needed to find a home for our existing Tread Power, manufactured by J. Robinson & Sons in Curwensville, PA.

We are pleased to announce that the Curwensville Historical Society has been searching for this exact piece for many years. The Tread Power was donated and relocated last summer.



In August, we took a wonderful trip to north central Pennsylvania to visit the J. Robinson & Son Tread Power that we donated to the Curwensville Historical Society. It now sits in a place of honor in their new museum, which was inaugurated during our visit. We also toured the Clearfield County Historical Society during our trip.

Pictures are from our August visit with a blend of WHS and Curwensville HS members.



Corporate Sponsors

Thank you! to our 2025 Corporate Sponsors

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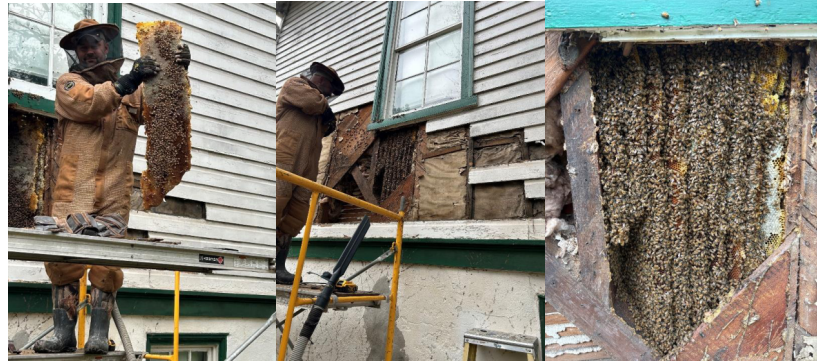
Our outreach efforts have been met with a wonderful show of solidarity from local businesses. We are deeply grateful to these sponsors for their commitment to preserving Worcester's rich historical past and its future.

Buzzing with Good News at the Farmers Union Hall Building and the Worcester Historical Society

Worcester Township teamed up with 4 Brothers Honey to safely remove a thriving honeybee colony from the historic Farmers Union Hall Building. It was estimated that there were 50,000 bees and the hive was 5 years old. They removed 35 gallons of honey and wax.

These pros specialize in live "cut-outs" - gently opening a wall or beam just enough to rescue the entire hive, (bees, honey, and all). The colony is then relocated to a new home where it can keep pollinating and producing honey - just not inside our building.

After the removal, the crew cleaned, insulated, sealed, and repaired the space to make sure the bees don't return. They even stopped back to double-check that everything is quiet. (Huge thanks to 4 Brothers Honey us protect our history and our pollinators.) Worcester is once again bee-free and bee-friendly.



Worcester Elementary School Annual 2025 Visit to the Farmers Union Hall Museum

The Worcester Historical Society held their annual 4th grade tour of the Farmers Union Hall this November 5 & 6. This program has been running for 16 years where the children from Worcester Elementary come visit the museum and learn about life as it was when Worcester was a farming community. On the tour, they learned how to make flax, understood the significance of the Bicentennial Conestoga Wagon, visited our one room schoolhouse and saw our Heebner One-Horsepower Tread Power in motion. Everyone walked away understanding that just because their post office address is Lansdale, Collegeville, Eagleville or Norristown, they ALL live in Worcester! They asked a lot of good questions as well including "Can we bring our parents to tour the museum?"



On Sunday, November 30, the Worcester Historical Society (WHS) hosted its annual Holiday Open House. The event welcomed visitors into a beautifully decorated hall, where Christmas trees reflected different decades in Worcester's history.

Themed Christmas Trees

Each Christmas tree on display was thoughtfully chosen to represent a specific era:

Colonial Feather Tree: A classic colonial feather tree, offering a glimpse into early American holiday traditions.

Late 1700s Tree: Another tree was styled in a manner consistent with the late 1700s, capturing the spirit of that period.

World War I Tree: This tree featured an article about the famous Christmas Eve truce, during which soldiers from both sides of the trenches paused the fighting to celebrate the holiday together.

1940s Tree: A tree representing the 1940s, reflecting the decorations and traditions of that decade.

All-Natural Tree: An environmentally inspired tree adorned with vegetation native to Worcester, showcasing local natural resources.

1960s Aluminum Tree: A genuine aluminum tree from the 1960s, complete with a color wheel, highlighted the era's unique holiday style.

In addition to the themed trees, the display included information about the "Evergleam" brand and the evolution of artificial Christmas trees. This exhibit traced the development of artificial trees and their increasing popularity over time.

The use of artificial trees allowed the WHS to keep the display available for visitors on the second and fourth Saturdays in December and January, ensuring more opportunities for the community to enjoy the festive and educational exhibit.



A Worcester Historical Society Presentation

**Sunday March 22, 2026 from 2 to 4 PM at the
Farmers Union Hall**

**Military historian, re-enactor and lecturer, Michael Jesberger,
will talk about Central Montgomery County during the
Revolutionary War. All are welcome!**

**This is part of our our 50 year celebration of the
Worcester Historical Society
and our
Country's 250 Anniversary.**



Worcester Historical Society
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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. Stop by and visit; there is something for all ages.


Annual Antique and Flea Market to be held on May 2nd 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 22nd, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, at the Farmers Union Hall. The title of our program is **“Skippack Pike, a Revolutionary Road”**. Michael Jesberger, military historian, re-enactor, lecturer and tour guide will present details about Central Montgomery and the Revolutionary War. Don't miss it!

Please check our website at www.worcesterhistorical.org for more details or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WorcesterHistoricalSocietyPA>



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