Thank you for being with us on our exciting adventure to preserve the past...to inspire the future. With you, we will continue to preserve Worcester's history...from yesterday...to today...and for tomorrow.

You meet the most interesting people at WHM. People who built Worcester and gave it the character it has today. People like Esther Forbes and Harvey Ball, Major Taylor and Abbie Hoffman. We also meet new people as we bring our history to schools, festivals, civic and cultural groups.

Together, we can honor the city's legacy, celebrate its cultural diversity, and preserve today and tomorrow's history.

It is also no secret that WHM has a fabulous, interactive gallery that is perfect for children of all ages. The Alden Family Gallery is open all year long as is the Rockwell and Booth Galleries with changing exhibits. The Fuller Industrial Gallery is where you will find all of Worcester's firsts such as barbed wire, a corset and even a suit by David Clark Company, a pioneer in air and space crew protective equipment.

Take advantage of all our great exhibits and programs and visit 30 Elm Street and Salisbury Mansion at 40 Highland Street often. Take some time to visit the Research Library and go online to Digital Worcester. We hope that you will spread-the-word and encourage family and friends to become members/donors.

Thanks to your support, we will continue to inspire individuals to experience the wonder of exploration and discovery of Worcester...both inside and outside the museum.
In an unprecedented display of grassroots activism, Worcester County citizens gathered on the grounds of Salisbury Mansion in 1774 to march over and close the court house in protest of the recently passed Coercive Acts. To read more, see Ray Raphael, *The First American Revolution* (2002). The mansion at that time stood at what is now Lincoln Square (the site of the former Boys’ Club); it was moved up the hill to its present location in 1929.

(1) Salisbury Mansion — 40 Highland Street

(2) Hancock House - formerly south corner of Grove and Lexington Streets

After fleeing Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, John Hancock came to this house to await the arrival of his document-filled trunk (left at the Buckman Tavern) and his compatriots before traveling to Philadelphia to attend the Second Continental Congress. This house originally stood on the road to Boston, just south of the Oaks (DAR). The next owner, Governor Levi Lincoln Sr. (1749-1820), served in President Thomas Jefferson’s cabinet and as attorney general of the United States. It was moved to Grove Street by a new owner in 1846. When it was torn down in 1910, the front door of this fine 1741 mansion was placed in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

(3) Rural Cemetery — 180 Grove Street

Isaiah Thomas’s remains, located in the front right corner, were moved from Mechanic Street Burial Ground to Rural Cemetery in 1878. Among the more than 13,000 buried there today, you will find additional Revolutionary-era names as members of numerous local families were reburied there after the cemetery opened in 1838, among them Stephen Salisbury I.

(4) Site of the Second County Court House - 2 Main Street

Outraged citizens closed this court house in 1774 in “the first American Revolution.” It was built in 1750, replacing the original court house, and was subsequently replaced several times by ever-larger structures. The site is now occupied by the former Worcester County Court House at Lincoln Square. The second county court house was relocated and today is a private residence at 6 Massachusetts Avenue.

Isaiah Thomas Tomb and Inscription in Rural Cemetery.

Hancock House on Grove Street c. 1910 & today.

Site today and private residence today.
In May 1775, Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured the British outpost at Fort Ticonderoga, New York. Later that year George Washington sent Henry Knox to bring the nearly 60 cannons from the fort to Boston where they were deployed at Dorchester Heights. Their presence helped force the British to evacuate the city in March 1776. The Knox “train of artillery” passed through many Massachusetts towns, including Worcester. In 1927, a monument was placed at the corner of Highland and Main streets, in front of the former Worcester County Court House.

**(6) ISAIAH THOMAS HOUSE—former vicinity of 2 Main Street**

Under threat of physical harm, Patriot printer Isaiah Thomas (1749-1831) fled Boston in 1775 to set up his press in Worcester. His newspaper, the *Massachusetts Spy*, was the first to report on the fighting in Lexington and Concord. His house, built on upper Main Street, was moved after his death to the rear of the court house lot to make room for construction of a new court house in 1845. The house was torn down in 1923. Fireplace tiles saved from the wreckage are on exhibit in the museum’s Rice Gallery.

*Isaiah Thomas 2nd location and site today.*

**(7) HEYWOOD TAVERN—corner of Elm and Main Streets**

When Patriots occupied the court house to protest the Coercive Acts on September 6, 1774—setting in motion the first American Revolution—Royal officials (judges, justices of the peace, attorneys, and the county sheriff) fled to safety at Daniel Heywood’s Tavern until the events of the day could be resolved. It was later replaced by Bay State House.

*Heywood Tavern as it looked in the 1830s and site today.*

**(8) KING’S ARMS TAVERN—corner Elm and Main Streets**

In 1774—the year of the first American Revolution—the tavern was under the proprietorship of Widow Mary Sternes. Tories met here to draft and sign their 1774 protest. A plaque located at the base of Elm Street notes its Patriot significance: “On his way to take command of the Continental Army at Cambridge George Washington was entertained at this spot then occupied by the Stearns [sic] Tavern, July 1st 1775.”

**(9) DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE—455 Main Street**

The star in front of City Hall marks the spot where, on July 14, 1776, Isaiah Thomas stood on the western porch of Old South Meetinghouse and delivered the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence in Massachusetts. The plan was to read it at Boston but, fearing interception by British patrols occupying the city, it was decided it would be read in Worcester by the distinguished patriot. The marker was placed by the Worcester Society of Antiquity (now Worcester Historical Museum) in 1897.

*Old South church and site today.*
At the convening of the Provincial Congress in October 1774, Worcester representative Timothy Bigelow (1738-1790) proclaimed—at the behest of his constituents—that unless the Massachusetts Charter of 1691 was immediately restored, “you are to consider the people of this province absolved ... from the obligation therein contained” and thus free to rise from the ashes and form a new government. With these words, the people of Worcester effectively declared independence from England two years before the official Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. In 1861, descendants erected a monument in his honor.

Sheriff Gardiner Chandler (1723-1782) was a prominent Tory, active in royalist resistance until threatened with confiscation of his considerable property. (His unrelenting brother John was banished, never to return, and his property seized.) Gardiner built a fine Georgian mansion in 1750 on Nobility Hill, across the street from Old South. When the house was torn down in 1867, a built-in cupboard (“beaufat”) was salvaged and is now installed in the museum’s Rice Gallery.

In addition to visiting WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM, you may wish to visit these other sites. Please check their websites for hours, admission, exhibits, tours, and special events.

**American Antiquarian Society—185 Salisbury Street**
Printer/patriot Isaiah Thomas founded this learned society in 1812. The Society hosts public tours on Wednesday afternoons, which include an up-close view of the press on which he printed news of the Revolution. [www.Americanantiquariansociety.org](http://www.Americanantiquariansociety.org)

**Worcester Art Museum—55 Salisbury Street**
The art museum holds one of the world’s largest collections of Paul Revere silver. The shining star is perhaps the set of silver ordered by Dr. William Paine for his bride Lois Orne of Salem in 1773, the largest single commission of Paul Revere’s career. When Revolution approached, the men were of opposing sympathies. Paul Revere was the consummate patriot. William Paine (1750-1833) served as surgeon for British troops and did not renounce his loyalty to the crown until the outbreak of war in 1812. [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

**The Oaks—140 Lincoln Street**
The Oaks—the Paine family homestead—was under construction when Revolution erupted in Worcester in 1774 and Timothy Paine (1730-1793) was forced to resign his British commission before an angry crowd. Humiliated, he went to live in Malden. He eventually came back and resumed living in his old house (near the Hancock Tavern where Patriots headquartered) while completing The Oaks. In 1914, fifth-generation heirs sold the property to the Daughters of the American Revolution and it has been the Colonel Timothy Bigelow Chapter of the DAR ever since. [www.massdoc.org/tbnamesake.htm](http://www.massdoc.org/tbnamesake.htm)