



# CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

## CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT

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CITY CLERK

### *Historical Highlights of Worcester*

- 1673** First settlement of Plantation of Quinsigamond.
- 1674** First Indian land deed. Purchase price was 12 pounds, 2 coats and 4 yards of cloth for 64 square miles of land.
- 1675** Settlement abandoned because of hostile Indians.
- 1684** Second attempted settlement. Name changed from Plantation of Quinsigamond to Worcester.
- 1702** Settlement again abandoned.
- 1713** First permanent settlement by Jonas Rice.
- 1722** Town of Worcester incorporated.
- 1731** Named shire town of Worcester County.
- 1738** First schoolhouse built at Lincoln Square.
- 1755-58** John Adams taught school here.
- 1763** Old South Meetinghouse built on site of present City Hall.
- 1775** First newspaper printed by Isaiah Thomas. Worcester has had continuous publication of newspaper ever since.
- 1776** Post Office established, first public reading and publication of Declaration of Independence in New England.
- 1783** First stage line opened.
- 1784** Leicester Junior College founded as Leicester Academy.
- 1801** Worcester's first courthouse built.
- 1804** Worcester Bank chartered.
- 1807** Worcester to Boston road opened.
- 1812** American Antiquarian Society founded.
- 1824** Burials in the Common prohibited, Town Hall cornerstone laid, Marquis de Lafayette visits Worcester.
- 1826** Construction of Blackstone Canal started.
- 1828** Blackstone Canal opened.
- 1834** Worcester Academy founded.
- 1835** Boston and Worcester Railroad opened, Fire Department established.
- 1842** Charles Dickens visits Worcester.
- 1843** Holy Cross College founded.
- 1845** First High School built on Walnut Street.
- 1847** First telegraph office opened.
- 1848** Worcester chartered as a city, Levi Lincoln inaugurated as first mayor, Abraham Lincoln gives speech at City Hall.
- 1850** First women's suffrage national convention.
- 1854** Anti-slavery riot, first purchase of land for a public park in the U.S. (Elm Park).
- 1855** William Makepeace Thackeray lectured in Worcester.
- 1858** First annual Music Festival held. An internationally noted event ever since.
- 1859** First inter-collegiate regatta on Lake Quinsigamond.
- 1861** Worcester Horse Street Railroad Company incorporated, Free Public Library opened on Elm Street.
- 1865** Worcester Polytechnic Institute founded.
- 1873** Chamber of Commerce organized.
- 1874** State College at Worcester founded.
- 1879** Telephones first used in Worcester.
- 1883** First use of electricity for street lighting.
- 1887** Clark University and Becker Junior College founded.
- 1893** Horse cars replaced by electric trolleys.
- 1898** Present City Hall dedicated.
- 1904** Assumption College founded.
- 1905** Worcester Junior College founded.
- 1908** Boys Trade School opened.
- 1911** First airplane flight over the city, Girls Trade School opened.

- 1924** First Junior High School built, first radio station in city.
- 1926** Robert H. Goddard launched his first rocket in Auburn, beginning the "Space Age."
- 1932** Lake Quinsigamond Bridge opened by the Prince of Wales.
- 1933** Municipal Auditorium dedicated.
- 1938** Great New England hurricane causes extensive damage.
- 1946** Municipal Airport opened, trolleys replaced by buses. Anna Maria College founded.
- 1947** Plan "E" form of City Government adopted.
- 1948** Cruiser U.S.S. Worcester commissioned.
- 1949** Worcester received All-America City Award.
- 1953** Redevelopment Program started, Tornado strikes Worcester causing heavy damage and 94 fatalities.
- 1954** Formal dedication of Worcester Municipal Airport.
- 1960** All-America City Award received for second time, Worcester Industrial Technical Institute founded.
- 1963** Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission established with headquarters in Worcester, Quinsigamond Community College founded.
- 1964** New Public Library completed.
- 1965** All-America City Award received for third time, Worcester selected as site of New University of Massachusetts Medical School.
- 1966** Extensive redevelopment plan for downtown area adopted.
- 1971** Worcester Center opens as fully enclosed downtown shopping mall and eliminating direct passage from the Common to Washington Square.
- 1980** I-190 opens linking Greendale section with north Worcester County.
- 1981** All-America City Award received for fourth time.
- 1982** Civic center opens with arena seating for 11,500.
- 1983** Sara Robertson begins term as first woman hold Mayor's title.
- 1997** Convention center opens adjacent to civic center.
- 1999** Restored Union Station with twin towers graces downtown skyline. Warehouse fire claims 6 firefighter lives and unites community before national audience.
- 2000** All-America City Award received for fifth time.
- 2001** Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences opens a Worcester campus.