PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM’S

SUMMER FUN

HISTORY HUNT

August 2022
63 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring NY
845-256-4010
The Putnam History Museum invites you to take part in our Summer Fun History Hunt throughout Putnam County this August.

By participating in the PHM’s History Hunt, you accept all responsibility for your own safety. By participating in this event, you hereby release the Putnam History Museum from all liability relating to injuries that may occur during this voluntary activity. By signing below, you also agree to hold the Putnam History Museum entirely free from any liability, including financial responsibility for any injuries occurred, regardless of whether injuries are caused by negligence.

You also acknowledge the risks involved in the History Hunt. These include but are not limited to crossing streets (which we advise to be done at cross walks). You must make every effort to obey safety precautions.

Name:  

Phone Number:  

Email:  

Signature:  

For Children Under 18

Age:  

Child’s Signature:  

Parent or Guardian’s Signature:  

I hereby grant the Putnam History Museum permission to use my likeness in a photograph, video, or other digital media (photo) in any and all of its publications, including web-based publications, without payment or other consideration. Please check one of the options below.

☐ I Agree  

☐ No, you may not use my photographs  

Tennis Club 1892, PHM Archival Collection
Instructions: Follow the clues and take a selfie at the following historical sites, buildings, or markers on a camera or smartphone after learning about Putnam County’s local history! Once you’ve visited a place, you can check off or color in the little summer sun next to it; you can color in the one in this box to practice. Visit at least 10 locations, including the Putnam History Museum. Be sure to share your journey by posting your photos on social media and don’t forget to tag us!

A portrait of a camping party, PHM Archival Collections

Bring your 10 photos to the museum by 4:00 pm on August 31st, 2022 or submit them by email to director@putnamhistorymuseum.org

Upon completion and submission, all participants will be entered to into a random drawing to win the grand prize, which will be awarded on September 1st, 2022. Children 18 and under will receive a participation prize.
This building was once the Foundry Schoolhouse, which was built in 1828 and ran as a school up until 1891. If you were a young child of a West Point Foundry worker, you would sit in this building from nine in the morning until about noon, when there was an hour-long lunch break. Many boys who went to this school would spend their lunch break running dinner to their father, or another man who worked at the foundry, in exchange for 5 cents a day.

After lunch, school would run until 4 pm. Students would memorize multiplication tables, geographic features, and more. At night, boys of 15 would train as apprentices for the foundry. Lucky for you, you don’t have to sit around memorizing facts. You get to go on a summer adventure all around Putnam County. Take a picture in front of this building or inside one of the galleries.

Left: Miss Gordener’s Class, Foundry School. PHM Archival Collections

Below: Sportsmen in the Woods, PHM Archival Collections
The importance of this large waterway to Putnam County history cannot be overstated. The Lenape and Mohicans lived alongside this waterway since 3000 B.C.E. It saw the first Europeans sail its waters in 1607 and it remains to this day a popular site for fishing and sailing.

In the 19th century, residents would often use the ferries across its waters to West Point, down to Garrison, and beyond, for both work and pleasure. Its natural beauty made it a popular subject for painters, who even began an artistic 'school' named after it. We can still enjoy its sights today in part thanks to conservationists in the late 19th century. They helped end harmful logging practices that were negatively affecting the waters' ecosystem. Take a photo next to this waterway.

This building is decorated with the name of a prolific club on Main Street in Cold Spring. The club used the building as their meetinghouse beginning in 1898, but had a far humbler start in the back of Spaulding's Pharmacy. In the late 1800s all the way through the 20th century, local clubs like this one often hosted social gatherings for club members and their friends.

Above is a dance list for a meeting on Easter Monday, 1892, where the owner of this booklet wrote out all the people they danced with. Note the local songs such as "Our Garrison Friends." Take a photo in front of the building, but if you dance be wary of pedestrians!
With easy access for travelers to Hudson River ferries, steamboats, and trains, this building in Garrison’s Landing originally served as a hotel.

Over the years, it was more than just a hotel though - it served as a bar, grille, and as a polling place. Even on election day, the bar in the basement stayed open! Fearing for Prohibition, the owner at the time stocked up on whiskey. He would serve special customers in secret and then dispose of the bottles through holes cut in the river ice. Take a photo by the hotel or by the waterfront here.

This road was marked every mile from New York to Albany in order to facilitate mail delivery, but it predates the stone signs on the side of this dirt road in Garrison. It had its beginnings as a Native American trail. The Indigenous people whose ancestors lived south of Albany to Delaware are called the Leni Lenape, which means “the original people.” The path that later became the road was likely created and maintained by Lenape groups, especially the Wappinger, as well as their Mohican allies to the north.

To have fun, Lenape people played games such as pahsahéman, also known as “the football game.” This game began before the contact period (1609 to 1799) and is still played today. It is like football or soccer, but with a few important differences. There are two teams, one all men and the other all women. Men are only allowed to use their feet and cannot travel with the ball. Women are allowed to use their hands and feet, can travel with the ball, and can tackle any opponent who stands in their way. If the women are losing, they can still have fun by giving the ball to an elderly woman who walks through the goalposts, often helped by the younger women. They know that the men will not try to knock the ball from an elderly woman’s hands. Take a photo next to one of the seven mile markers along this path turned road in Garrison.
This state parkway was completed in 1935, and was meant as a scenic drive to connect New York City to the naturally beautiful areas of the Hudson Highlands. The Hudson Highlands are the series of mountains along the Hudson River, formed by glacial cuts during the Cenozoic Era. While these formations are some of the lowest summits in the Appalachians, their natural beauty made them a muse for the Hudson River School of painters. Even though now most people use it to commute and often speed, the original speed limit was only 35 miles per hour. Families would pile into their cars and go for 'Sunday drives' to admire the greenery. Have someone (who isn’t driving) take a photo of your 'Sunday drive' along this scenic parkway, or in one of the parks along its corridor.

Left: Babe Ruth on the shore of this lake. Below: Men enjoying banjo music, PHIM Archival Collections

PUTNAM VALLEY

This lake in Putnam Valley, accessible from Abele Park, was the site of some of famous New York Yankee Babe Ruth’s favorite spots and a popular area for camping and fishing. During Prohibition, Babe Ruth was attracted to the area’s speakeasies and resorts. Even before Prohibition, people were drawn to Putnam Valley’s scenic camping spots. Take a photo enjoying the lakeside views.
Following the success of Central Park, designed by Fredrick Law Olmstead, many cities around the country began to entertain the idea of public parks. For a long time, there weren’t many public places in American cities, especially not ones that let the visitors enjoy nature. But that didn’t mean there wasn’t a need for them. People longing for sun and fresh air would picnic in cemeteries since it was the only green space that everyone could access. Olmstead designed landscapes that included wide-open green spaces dotted with lakes, trees, and groves. This was a marked difference from previous landscape design, which in Europe had been symmetrical and fenced in. With the large demand, parks in Olmstead’s style gradually became the norm outside of big cities as well, and now most towns have one.

Some parks, like this park in Kent, echo the early cemetery-parks that served as a site for enjoying nature and as a memorial. The park in this clue is also home to a veteran’s museum honoring all men and women who have served in the armed forces. The museum has a large selection of authentic memorabilia spanning from before the American Civil War to present day military operations. Take a photo at this park, or at a similar one in Putnam County.

This mountain and state forest was named after Chief Daniel Nimham, a leader of the Wappinger who stood up for Indigenous land rights and was a captain in the Revolutionary War.

In 1756, while the Wappinger were away fighting in the Seven Years War, members of the Philipse family began an aggressive campaign to claim this land as their own. Chief Nimham took the Philipse to court, attempting to settle the land dispute legally. But despite the strong evidence and testimony in favor of the Wappinger tribe, the judge decided that ruling in favor of the Wappinger would give legal precedent to other land disputes between European settlers and Native Americans. After this final ruling, Chief Nimham and the Wappinger were removed from their ancestral homeland to Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where they joined the Mohicans.

A few years later, while serving as a captain of the Stockbridge Militia (in the Continental Army), Chief Nimham was killed in battle by the British forces. This state forest and mountain are more than a place of recreation, but also a memorial to a valiant leader and revolutionary hero. The descendants of the Wappinger continue to honor his memory as part of the sovereign Native nation The Stockbridge–Munsee Band of Mohicans in Wisconsin.

The Mohicans, Wappingers, and Munsee Lenape joined together to survive land dispossession and colonization. Many Lenape people were removed to Oklahoma and are known today as the Delaware Tribe and the Delaware Nation. Others went to Canada and are known as the Munsee–Delaware Nation and the Delaware Nation at Moravianstown. Despite tremendous hardship, these nations all maintained their sovereignty and rights to self-govern. Take a photo near an entrance to this mountain and state forest or along one of its trails.
Rail was one of the many ways New York City residents traveled to the Hudson Highlands to enjoy nature. Now, this former railroad has turned into a pathway for walking, running, and another one of the great modes of transportation in the 1800’s, biking. In the 1880s bicycling took the nation by storm, and Putnam was no exception. Faster than walking, and more accessible than horse riding, this offered many people a chance to visit their friends, or even just go for a scenic ride. Women especially were enamored by the bicycle, because it allowed them a freedom that they had not experienced before. Take a photo on the trail!

The library you are searching for is the oldest in Putnam County. Interest in libraries began in earnest after the Civil War, and in 1881 a local literary union formed. In the beginning, literary unions functioned less like a library as we know it today, but more like a private study group. Individuals paid dues to remain a member, and they met biweekly on the second floor of an office building. It became public in 1903, and soon after outgrew its housing. The family that gives this library its name donated the funds, and the cornerstone was laid on November 1st, 1913. Take a picture posing like this young woman in the stacks.
This historic marker on Market Road commemorates one of the Putnam County resorts that catered to African American travelers in the early 20th century. African American couple Augustus and Mary Moran ran this resort in the 1920s and 1930s. The Moran’s farm and resort allowed Black travelers, often visiting from the city, a way to vacation in the Hudson Highlands that was safe for them in a deeply segregated and dangerous time. While there, guests would enjoy farm-to-table meals, horseback riding, and a swimming pool. What is the name of the Moran’s resort? Once you identify the name, find the historic maker and take a photo.

Baseball was very popular in Union camps during the Civil War, and when those soldiers came home they spread that love for the game to every town in the nation. For example, veterans from Cold Spring’s 6th Heavy Artillery Regiment brought home with them a newfound understanding and passion for the game, which quickly spread. On August 10, 1865, Cold Spring residents established the Undercliff Base Ball Club of Cold Spring, which became an early member of the nation’s first official baseball organization, the National Association of Base Ball Players (NABBP). Similarly, the Patterson Ball Club appears in this newspaper announcement by 1870. Nowadays you can find a baseball field in many parks and a team in almost every school. Take a photo on one of Putnam County’s many baseball fields.

Announcement of the Patterson Baseball Club, 29 October 1870. Putnam County Courier.
In the Milltown cemetery lies some of the earliest ringmasters. Nathan and Seth Howe’s circus careers began in the early 1800s in Brewster. Nathan and Seth had successful circus tours around the county and even overseas, but they returned to Brewster often to rest for the winter. Locals would come during the off-season to see their monkeys, zebra, tigers, elephants, and more, in an area along Route 22 that became known as “Monkey Town.” Around the Howe’s mausoleum you can see a stone circus ring, laid there to commemorate their part in making Southeast and northern Westchester the ‘cradle of the American circus.’ Take a photo by this circus ring.

Beyond just being a place of worship, churches also act as social centers. This church in Southeast, while no longer an active religious site, is still used for public events. It was built in the late 1700s but has since been modified a bit due to a fire in 1830. This church used to house a Presbyterian congregation.

Since it was socially unacceptable for middle class and upper-class women to work, many of them turned their energy and time towards charity and social reform. During the Civil War many women gathered in churches such as this to sew quilts, blankets, and bandages for the soldiers. Take a photo by this historic church.

Top: Photo of church, Daniel Case
Below: A picnic, PHIM Archival Collections