

HUDSON HIGHLANDS

P U T N A M

H I S T O R Y

M U S E U M

WEST POINT FOUNDRY

CORRIDOR OF COMMERCE

History Hunt



The Putnam History Museum invites you to our Corridor of Commerce History Hunt throughout Putnam County

For as long as humans have lived along its banks, the Hudson River has served as a crucial trade route. Indigenous communities like the Lenape and Mohican first utilized its waters to fish and travel on dugout canoes. When the Dutch settlers arrived, they established their two largest cities at either end of it, later named New York City and Albany, and it remained a valuable economic resource into the American Revolution.

As New York City grew and prospered, trade along the Hudson intensified. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 made the Hudson a vital trade link to the expanding West. In addition to transportation, the river and its banks were also utilized for various industries such as ice harvesting, brick making, and stone quarrying. The 1800s saw the dominance of iron manufacturing, shipbuilding, whaling, and brewing. In the following century, high-tech industries such as IBM and DuPont settled in the Hudson Valley.

From the Industrial Revolution to modern day, the Hudson Valley has served as home for industry and innovation within the United States. This History Hunt will bring you on a journey to many of these sites within Putnam County, to explore the ways that our history has a lasting impact on the world around us.

Instructions: Follow the clues and take a picture at the following historical sites, buildings, or markers and learn about Putnam County's local history! Once you've visited a place, you can check off the yellow square next to it. Every location you visit enters you into the random drawing to win a grand prize. The more places you visit, the more likely you are to win! Be sure to share your journey by posting your photos on social media and please tag us #phmhistoryhunt @putnamhistorymuseum.

Bring your photos to the museum by 4:00 pm on August 31st, 2023 or submit them by email to info@putnamhistorymuseum.org.

Upon completion and submission, all participants will be entered into a random drawing to win the grand prize, which will be awarded on September 1, 2023. Children 18 and under will receive a participation prize.

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: For Children Under 18

Phone Number: Age:

Email: Child's Signature:

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

Photo Sources Include:

Putnam History Museum Collections, Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition, Empire State Trail, Michael Herrick, Donna Massaro, C.C. Sabathia, Daniel Chase, Pixabay, Town of Carmel, MTA Metro-North, and Tilly Foster Farm Educational Institute.

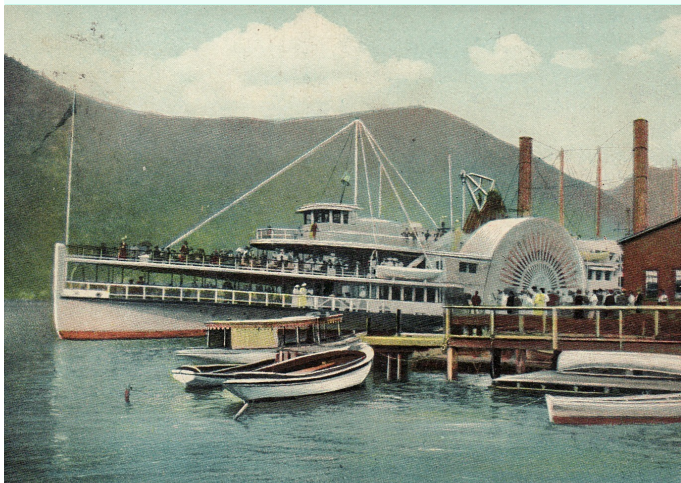


This historic building was a part of a greater foundry complex that helped build the first American-made locomotive, the Best Friend of Charleston. The close location to the Hudson River allowed for its goods to be taken all over the world. The remains of this factory have been preserved in Cold Spring, NY under Scenic Hudson since 1996.

Take a picture along the trail or in front of a historical marker.

This railroad corporation was created to continue the use of passenger trains. Passenger service was provided when President Nixon signed the Railroad Passenger Service Act into law in 1970. Six out of 26 railroads had declined to join this corporation in 1970 because of skepticism that it wouldn't last. Today, it still runs through Putnam County.

Take a photo at any of the stations on this railroad line.



Steamboats were a vital source of commerce and transportation on this river for over a century, peaking in popularity between the 1860s-1950s. The most popular steamboats were affiliated with the Hudson River Day Line, which ran passengers between New York City and Albany. The most famous of these boats was the *Mary Powell*, a boat renowned for both style and speed. The Hudson River Day Line prospered through the 1950's, but eventually passenger railroad and automobiles replaced it.

Take a photo anywhere in front of this river.

In the 19th century, Philipstown resident William H. LaDue designed multiple stone train stations on the western side of Putnam County. One of these stations was featured prominently in a 1960s Hollywood film. The building was converted into a theater and still holds productions today.

Take a photo in front of this building.





This state parkway was completed in 1935, and was created 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 most people now 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.

Take a photo at any point along this parkway.

On April 25, 1831, this railroad was chartered in response to a need for a railroad line to connect 23rd Street to Harlem, since the steamboat industry was declining. This railroad witnessed rapid growth and by 1852, it had arrived at Brewster's station. Eventually, it grew to cover a distance of 131 miles, reaching Chatham, NY, and facilitating the expansion of mining and dairy businesses in Brewster. Nowadays, it operates under the MTA Metro-North.

Take a picture at any of the 38 stops along this railroad.



Located off Route 52 in Carmel, this lake, originally known as Shaw's Pond, became a part of the Croton Water supply in 1870. The lake is also home to numerous trout, which has made it a popular destination for recreational fishing, travel, and commerce.

Take a photo at this lake.

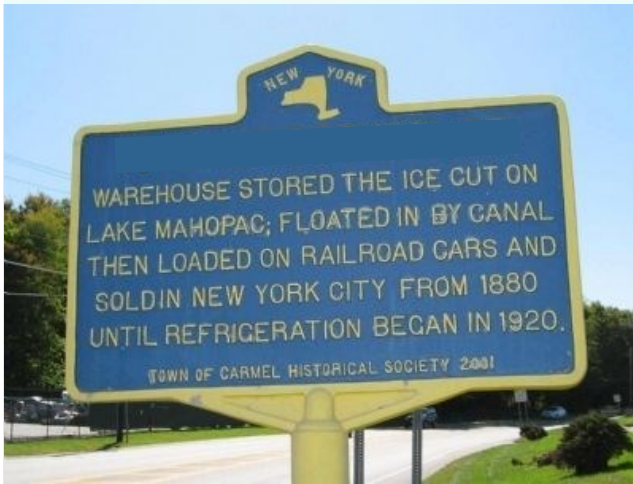
Completed in 1872, this reservoir was named after Captain Ebenezer B___, who built a house and tavern in Kent around 1780. In the reservoir's creation, a village also bearing this family's name, was submerged. During the late 19th century, the population in NYC and southern New York was booming, and demand for water made it so many reservoirs were formed in Putnam County out of the Croton River.

Take a picture by this reservoir.



This building in Mahopac was utilized as a boarding house back in 1851. After it was destroyed by fire in 1869, Nathan Thompson reconstructed it into a larger hotel. Later on, Emerson Clarke bought the property in 1883 and expanded it to accommodate up to 400 guests. This hotel primarily served individuals who arrived via steamboats departing from Lake Mahopac, including traders, sailors, and manual labor workers.

Take a picture next to the historical marker.



This was the largest building in Putnam County during the 1800s to early 1900s due to the ice harvesting industrial boom. Ice houses provided people with the ice they needed to preserve food before the invention of electricity. Founded by John J. and Edward Felter along with John G. Perry in 1831, this company had facilities across the Hudson River and on lakes from the Catskills to Albany, making the Hudson River Valley the largest producer of ice in the area. The house stored ice cut on Lake Mahopac from 1880-1920.

Take a picture in front of the historical marker.

Built in the spring of 1872, this modern café in Mahopac was the first building constructed for the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad branch. This line serviced freight and passengers from Golden's Bridge to Grand Central Terminal for more than 50 years.

Take a picture in front of this cafe.



This aptly named park was once the small Mahopac Airport. There was first talk of bringing an airport to Putnam County as early as 1928, but the Mahopac Airport likely did not open until 1946. The runway here was unpaved, and it served for training new pilots how to fly. Colonel Joan 'Johnnie' Adkins, later Pantatelli, took her first solo flight on her journey to get her pilot's license here in 1946. She was the first pilot to do so at this airport.

Take a photo at this park.

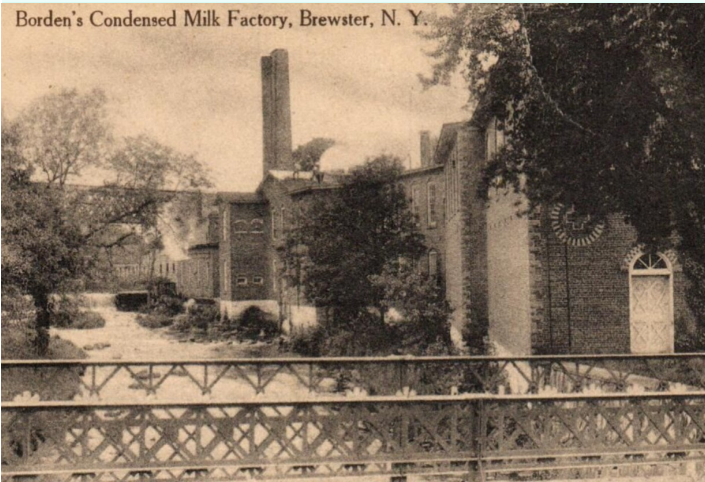
This museum in Brewster holds a collection of artifacts from the Tilly Foster Mine. The mine was located in Southeast, Putnam County. The iron mined there was shipped all across the country and was used to create railroads and steamboats. The mine closed in 1897 following an infamous mine collapse that caused the death of 13 workers.

Take a photo inside or outside of this museum.



In 1864, Gail Borden constructed a milk condenser in Brewster. The Borden factory site had a source of waterpower, proximity to productive dairy farms, and a railroad to major distribution centers. These attributes lent to the factory's productivity and efficiency. In 1935, the building was ravaged by fire. Today, only part of the main factory building and a small outbuilding remain.

Take a photo by this former factory.



This trailway follows the portion of the former New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad. This mountainous trail was vital in connecting New York industry to New England. Massive feats of engineering were needed to ensure that the freight trains could surpass the mountainous elevations.

Take a picture at any point along this trail.



This farm is located on Route 312 in Brewster, NY. It was purchased by Edward Benedict to run a dairy business in 1943. Today, it serves as a farm museum and restaurant that educates on Putnam County's rich farming history. Dairy farms from Putnam County such as this would have supplied the local area and New York City with much needed milk and other dairy products.

Take a picture at the farm, restaurant, or museum.

Be sure to share your journey by posting your photos on social media and tag us!



@putnamhistorymuseum



Putnam History Museum



www.putnamhistorymuseum.org

(845) 265 - 4010

63 Chestnut Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516

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