

# PHM 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## MORE THAN JUST A BUILDING

Dear PHM Supporters,

Thank you! Your ongoing support of the Putnam History Museum has enabled us to provide our community and visitors alike with another exciting year of public history programming, research assistance, and experiences.

It is due to your ongoing support, that we were able to serve over 1,000 visitors through exhibitions, education programs, and our research library.

As we head into spring, stay tuned for the reopening of the museum, featuring the opening of the second phase of our *History of the Women of Putnam County* exhibition, with a special focus on the Women's Suffrage Movement.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. We hope to see you soon!

Best Regards,

Preston Pittman, *Board Chair*

Cassie Ward, *Executive Director*



### LIBRARY

Library and research volunteers Jan Thatcher, Jane Silver Timm, Bob Polastre, and Michael Schlachter assisted with over 75 outside research requests, as well as innumerable internal requests.

Some of the research topics included:

- ◆ West Point Foundry
- ◆ Bear Mountain Bridge
- ◆ Boscobel
- ◆ NYC Aqueduct
- ◆ Women's Suffrage
- ◆ Genealogy



### EXHIBITIONS

In April 2019, the museum opened the exhibition *Do Not Forget Me: A Brief History of Women in Putnam County*.



### NEW STAFF

In September, the PHM welcomed Cassie Ward as the new Executive Director of the organization. Cassie has over 10 years of public history experience—including working several years with the National Park Service, and most recently with the New Castle Historical Society and Horace Greeley House Museum in Westchester.

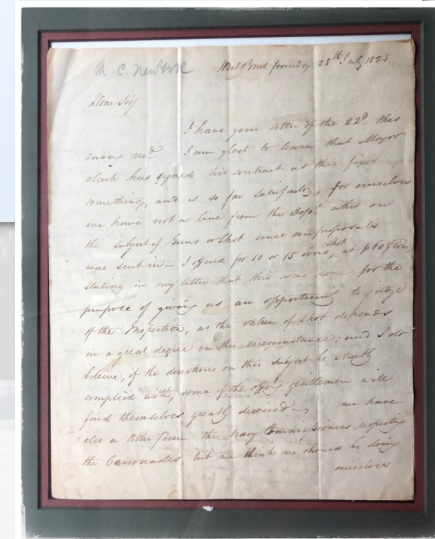
*Travel Channel star and "Mysteries at the Museum" host Don Wildman with Cassie Ward on a recent visit to the Putnam History Museum.*

### COLLECTIONS

The museum acquired 16 historic documents and artifacts from 19 donors.

One of the most important acquisitions of the year included an 1825 letter written by West Point Foundry's Gouverneur Kemble to General J. Mason. This is one of the earliest correspondences we have found that link the nations early 19th century foundries. We thank Steven Walton, T. Arron Kotlensky, Preston Pittman, and Mark Forlow for this donation.

PHM Collections Manager John Duncan continued to digitize the PHM's collection with the assistance of PHM's many volunteers. All digitized images and finding aids are available at [putnamhistorymuseum.org](http://putnamhistorymuseum.org).



### GRANTS

PHM Business & Finance Manager Catherine Platt and Contract Grant Writer Rachel Ornstein secured 8 grants for the PHM in 2019, totaling an additional \$11,000 in funding for everything from community programming and exhibition creation to archival supplies and technology upgrades. A special thank you to our Grant Funders!

### PUBLIC PROGRAMMING & EDUCATION

In 2019, PHM welcomed over 500 visitors to various lectures, history hikes, and field trips. Our lectures covered a range of topics including Women's Suffrage and the Star-Spangled Banner. We launched a popular "Mappy-Hour" Series, welcoming several new people to the museum; and we worked with over 20 students on their Annual Jean Saunders history projects.



## HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

### April

- Sat. 4/4 – Local History Trivia Night at the Hubbard Lodge
- Sat. 4/18 - Women of Putnam County Exhibition Opening

### May

- Sat. 5/9 – Mother's Day Weekend Activities at the Museum.

### July

- Sat. 7/18 – Annual Lawn Party

### October

- Sat. 10/3 – History of Recreation & Leisure in Putnam County Exhibition Opening

### November

- Sun. 11/22 – PHM Thanksgiving Service & Dinner

### Did you know?

The Putnam History Museum (originally called the Putnam County Historical Society), was established in 1906, making it the oldest non-profit organization in Putnam County. Today, we have over 400 active supporters and continue to fulfill our original mission of preserving and sharing the history of Putnam County, the Hudson Highlands, Philipstown, and the West Point Foundry. Thank you for being a part of our story!