



2025



LOCAL HISTORY HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

**20+ great gifts
that prove
local history matters!**



As we head into the holiday season, the Putnam County Historian's Office has curated a gift guide celebrating local history and supporting our historical societies, non-profits, and museums. Inside, you'll find unique gifts ranging from books and tote bags to bracelets, mugs, and—perhaps most important—membership packages that help sustain these organizations in their mission to preserve Putnam County's rich past.



Putnam County Historian's Office

The Putnam County Historian's Office is proud to republish *Willitt C. Jewell's Putnam County*—originally written during World War II and first printed in 1946 within Southeastern New York. This new edition features an introduction, updated annotations, and more than 200 additional photographs, maps, and archival materials drawn from the Jewell Collections and local historical repositories.

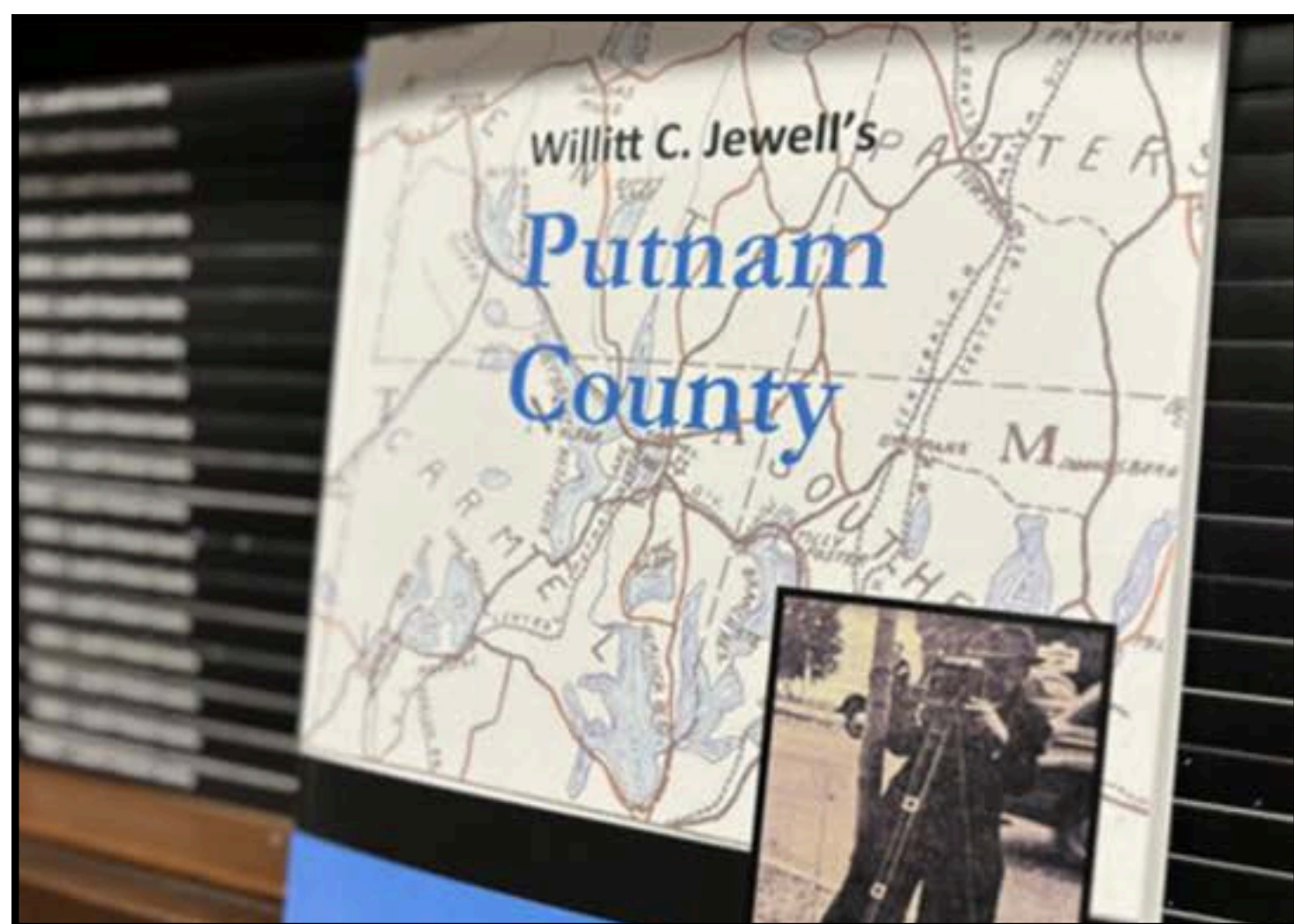
Building on William S. Pelletreau's 1886 county history, Jewell chronicles Putnam County from the early 20th century through World War II. He explores emerging technologies, the development of local institutions and industries, the rise of summer-home communities, and provides an unparalleled account of the home front during WWII. Notably, this was the first published county history to include the story of Sybil Ludington's ride. (\$30, plus S&H)

A History Super Sale!

In honor of Putnam County's 2012 Bicentennial, the Bicentennial Committee launched a special publishing project that brought together county government officials, legislators, department heads, and a number of local authors and historians. Each contributor provided chapters that documented their respective areas of expertise, creating a rich and varied portrait of Putnam County.

Over the course of more than a year, Putnam County Legislator Richard Othmer and Bicentennial Liaison Krista Butler, Brian K. Austin, and others worked tirelessly to compile and edit the volume in celebration of the county's 200th birthday. The result is a distinctive collection of stories that bear witness to the many changes experienced by the nation, local government, and the people of Putnam County—culminating in the historic milestone marked by the Bicentennial. (\$15, plus S&H)

Visit putnamcountyny.com/county-historian



Above: Willitt C. Jewell's book; Below: From the book, an early 20th century postcard view of Lake Gleneida



Putnam County Historian's Office

Limited Edition Sybil Ludington Tote Bag

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution with this exclusive tote bag from the Putnam County Historian's Office—designed for history enthusiasts and admirers of Putnam County's own heroine, Sybil Ludington.

Featuring custom artwork inspired by Sybil's legendary ride, this 100% cotton reusable tote (16.9" W × 11.8" H × 7.8" D) includes a reinforced bottom panel and ample room for everyday essentials. Show your Revolutionary spirit and carry a piece of local history wherever you go. (\$28, plus S&H)

For pricing and online orders, scan the QR Code below or visit shoppingputnamcountyny.com/historian/



For a limited time, the Putnam County Historian's Office is offering an online store, hosted through an external commerce platform where credit cards are accepted.

These items—along with a limited selection of books featured in our gift guide—are available for purchase while supplies last. Please note: A \$1.95 Forte service fee applies to online transactions. You can save the shipping and service fee by purchasing in person with check or cash, please contact the Historian's Office for more details: 845-808-1420 or email historian@putnamcountyny.gov.

For pricing and online orders, scan the QR code or visit: shoppingputnamcountyny.com/historian/

Visit putnamcountyny.com/county-historian

Boscobel House & Gardens



Photo: Nimbus Photography

Located in the heart of the Hudson Valley, Boscobel is one of America's most beautiful places, with 68 acres of stunning grounds, iconic Hudson River views, a woodland trail, and period and pollinator-friendly gardens.

Boscobel offers grounds admission and lively public programs that explore history, design, and nature.

“Insider” guided Historic House Museum tours are available for guests to experience Boscobel during its ongoing restoration. Call ahead or visit boscobel.org to book.

“Insider” guided Historic House Museum tours are available for guests to experience Boscobel during its ongoing restoration. Call ahead or visit boscobel.org to book.

Hours of operation change throughout the year. Please visit boscobel.org for the most current information. Note: Children are always welcome!

This holiday season, Boscobel is promoting their Partner Level Membership (\$150).

Partner-level membership at Boscobel opens the door to a year-round cultural home for Putnam County residents—a place to gather, learn, and celebrate together.

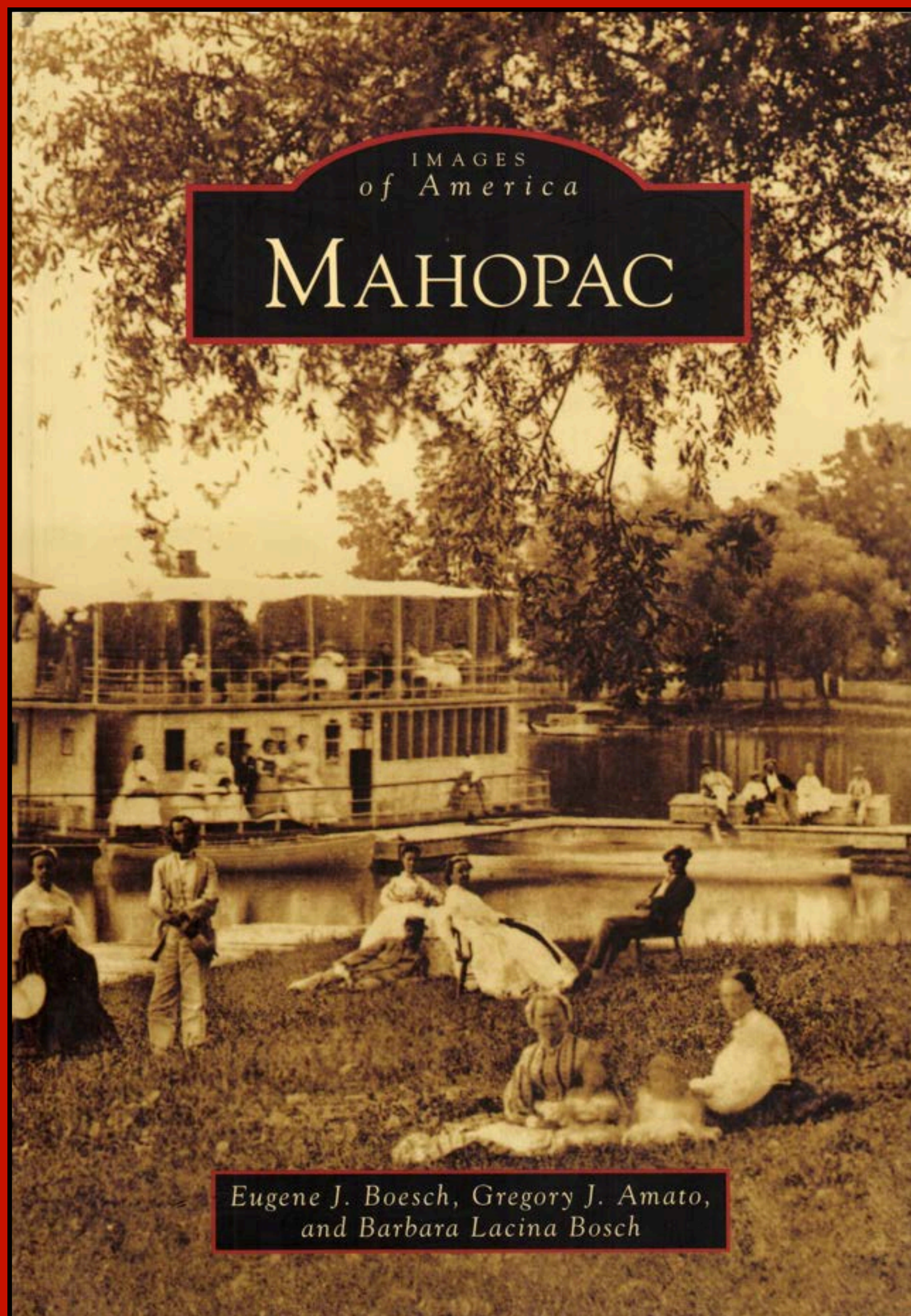
Enjoy unlimited access for four to our grounds and gallery exhibitions, generous Museum Shop savings, and up to four complimentary Guided House Tour tickets. Partner members also receive invitations to members-only programs, free or discounted admission to select events, and reciprocal privileges at more than 1,000 museums nationwide. As a community anchor, Boscobel hosts beloved seasonal traditions—including the July 4th Celebrate Independence Concert, Big Band Night, and the Chamber Music Festival—all of which Partner members enjoy at a discount. Membership also includes a subscription to The Hudson River Valley Review, flexible one- or two-year enrollment options, and full access to the Woodland Trail of Discovery and its link to Constitution Marsh, with parking always included.



Visit Boscobel.org

Boscobel's breathtaking river view

Town of Carmel Historical Society



Limited quantities
available through the
County Historian's
Office. Scan QR, call or
email for more
information.

Drawing from the archives of the Carmel Historical Society, the Putnam County Historian's Office, and private collections, *Mahopac* offers a vivid look at the town's evolving identity and enduring place in New York's history.

Expertly written and published in 2012 by Town of Carmel Historical Society members Eugene Boesch, the late Gregory J. Amato, and Barbara Lachina Bosch, this work covers the early settlement around Lake Mahopac and stresses its role in the American Revolution. The hamlet grew into a regional producer of farm goods before transforming into a popular vacation destination known for its grand hotels, boardinghouses, and scenic lakes. The arrival of the railroad in 1872 made Mahopac an easy escape for New Yorkers seeking fresh air and recreation.

Visit on facebook: Town of Carmel Historical Society

Constitution Island Association

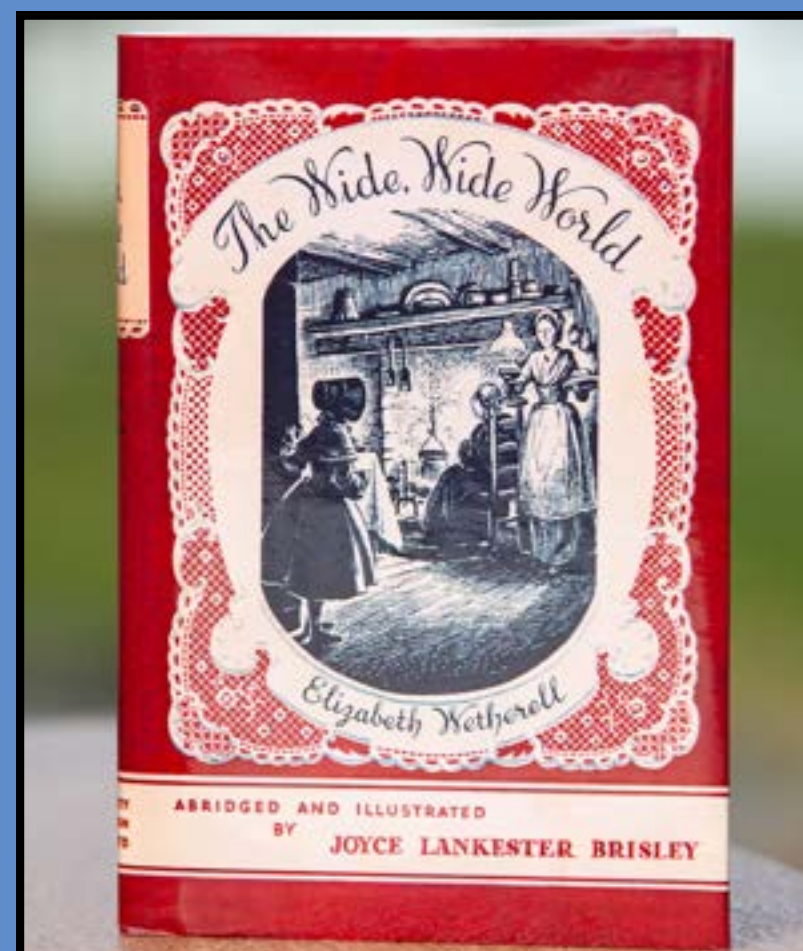
Constitution Island and the Warner House were gifted to the United States on September 4, 1908, to become part of the U.S. Military Academy's reservation at West Point. Although administered by West Point, the island is geographically part of Putnam County, New York. For decades prior, the island had been home to sisters Anna and Susan Warner—celebrated 19th-century authors whose works were widely read in their time.

To preserve their legacy, the Marteleur's Rock Association was founded in 1916 to protect the Warner House and safeguard the family's furnishings, books, and historic objects. In 1925, it was succeeded by the Constitution Island Association, chartered by the New York State Board of Regents.

Today, the Association continues its mission to preserve the Warner collections, honor the island's history and residents, protect Constitution Island, and educate the public about its unique heritage. Since 1916, it has worked closely with the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Army Garrison at West Point to provide meaningful educational and recreational opportunities while celebrating the island's historic, literary, and cultural significance.



One of the most widely read American novels of the nineteenth-century, *The Wide, Wide World* established Susan Warner as the nation's preeminent sentimental novelist.



Bearing Warner's pseudonym Elizabeth Wetherell, the novel traces the maturation of a young girl, Ellen Montgomery, from childhood to adolescence. Though generally valued less for its literary merit than for its historical significance, the work is considered one of the earliest examples of the domestic novel—a genre focused on the lives of ordinary women that became extremely fashionable after 1850.



Shop online: constitutionisland.org



Constitution Island Association

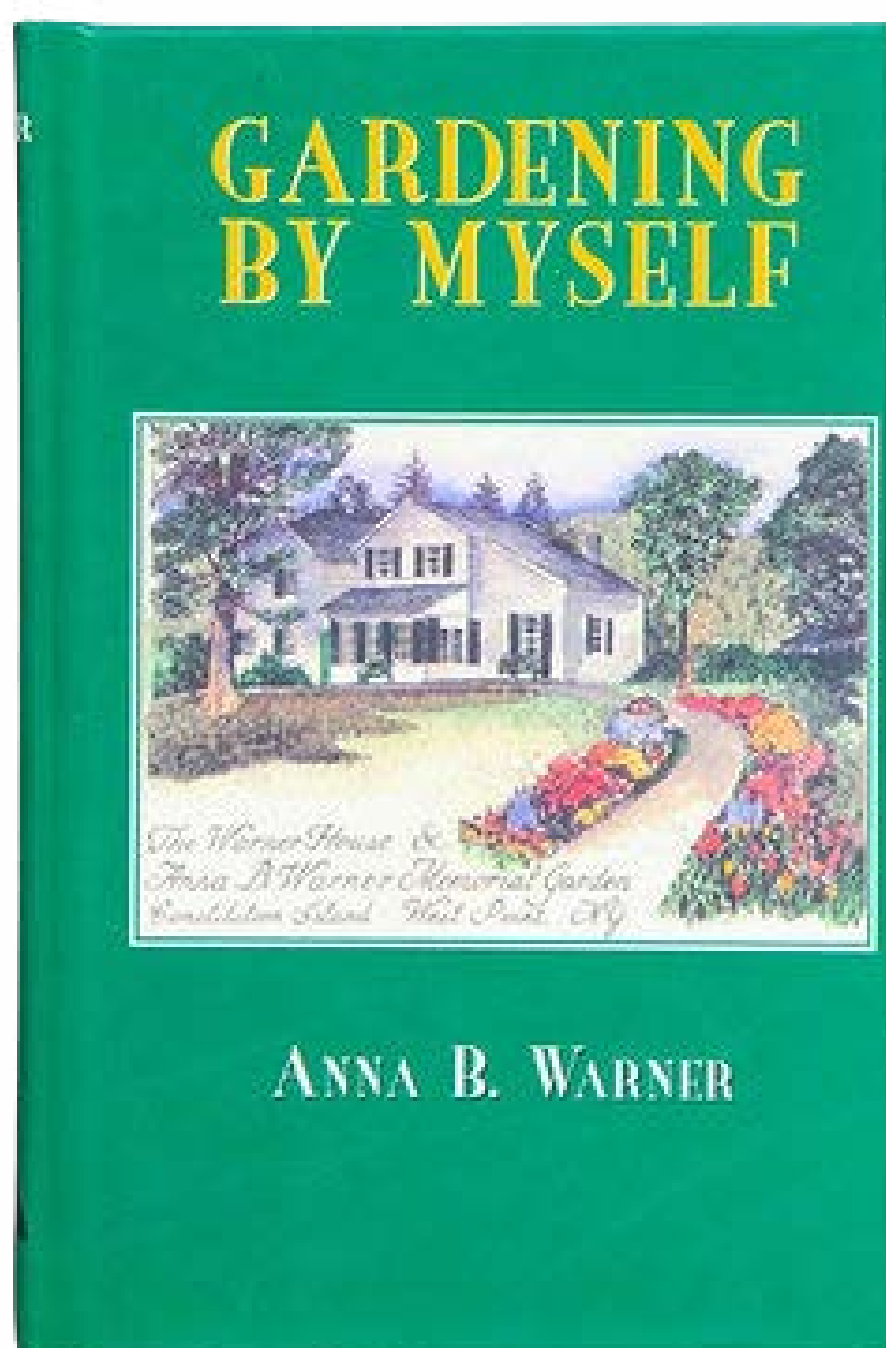
Own a Piece of History

In 1778, midway through the Revolutionary War, American colonists forged an enormous iron chain and stretched it across the Hudson River from West Point to Constitution Island. For five years, this 80-ton “Great Chain” successfully prevented British warships from advancing, protecting the communities of the upper Hudson Valley.

To honor this remarkable achievement, the Constitution Island Association commissioned an exclusive New York City jeweler to create a miniature Great Chain Bracelet. This 8.25" handcrafted piece can be made in sterling silver, 14k gold, or 18k gold. Each bracelet is individually numbered and includes a certificate of authenticity. (Size adjustments available.)



The Great Chain

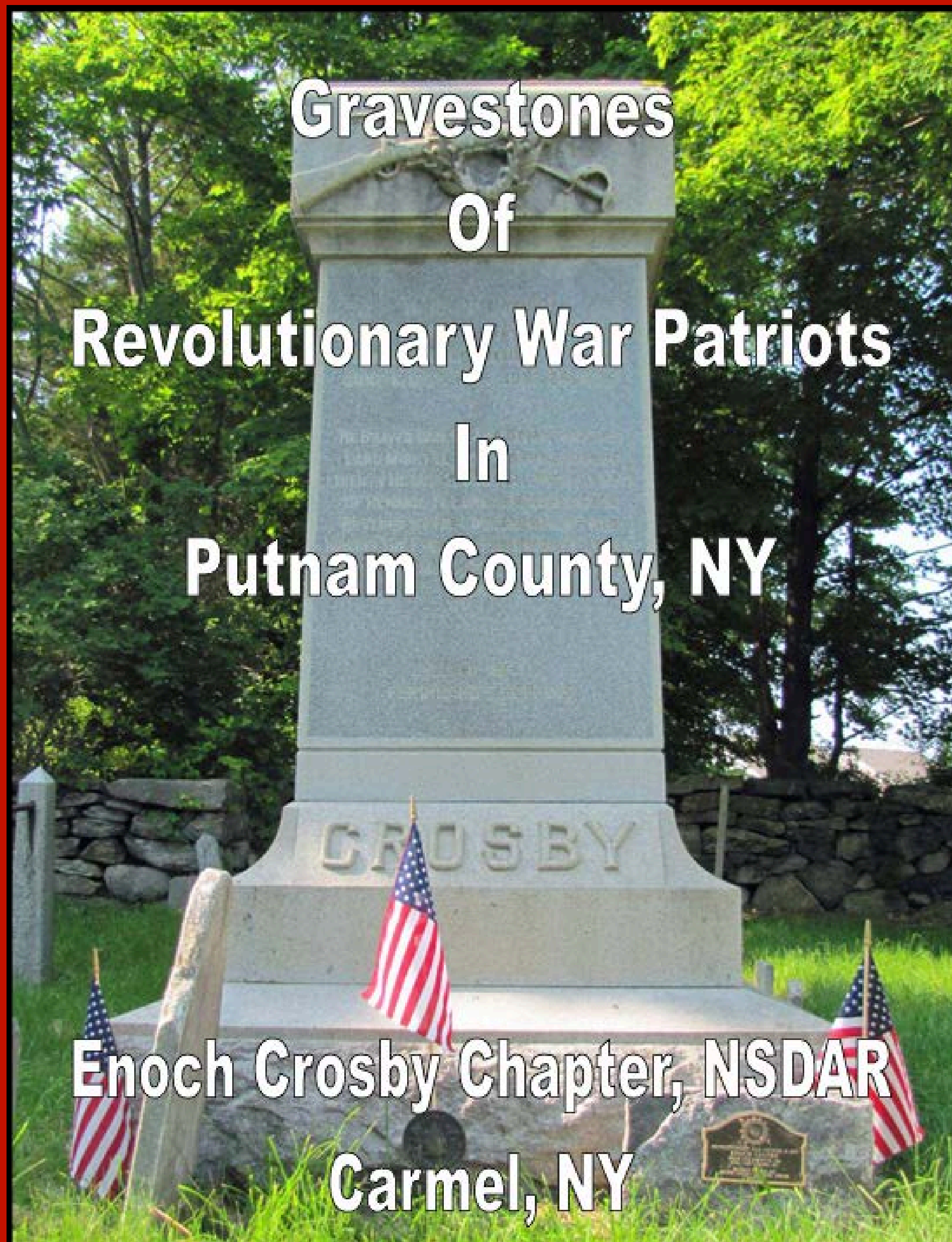


Gardening by Myself:

Published in 1872, this month by month gardening planner is full of very practical gardening ideas by Anna Warner. Anna is now considered a pioneer in home organic flower gardening, in the style of gardening known as the Cottage Garden - an informal planting of all manner of plants, not formal beds. In addition, it is a pleasure to listen to the voice of long ago and get fresh insights. An excerpt from January “I wish everybody had a garden and would work in it himself. The world would grow sweet-tempered at once.”

Shop online: constitutionisland.org

Enoch Crosby Chapter, NSDAR



Gravestones of Revolutionary War Patriots in Putnam County, printed in 2011, was prepared by the Enoch Crosby Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution in celebration of Putnam County's 200th birthday in June, 2012.

This town-by-town book includes patriot grave listings with great detail and color photographs when available. An excellent resource for genealogists and history enthusiasts alike, especially as we head into 2026, the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

To order your copy, email enochcrosbydar@gmail.com (\$20, plus S&H). They accept checks payable to Enoch Crosby Chapter NSDAR.

E-mail: enochcrosbydar@gmail.com



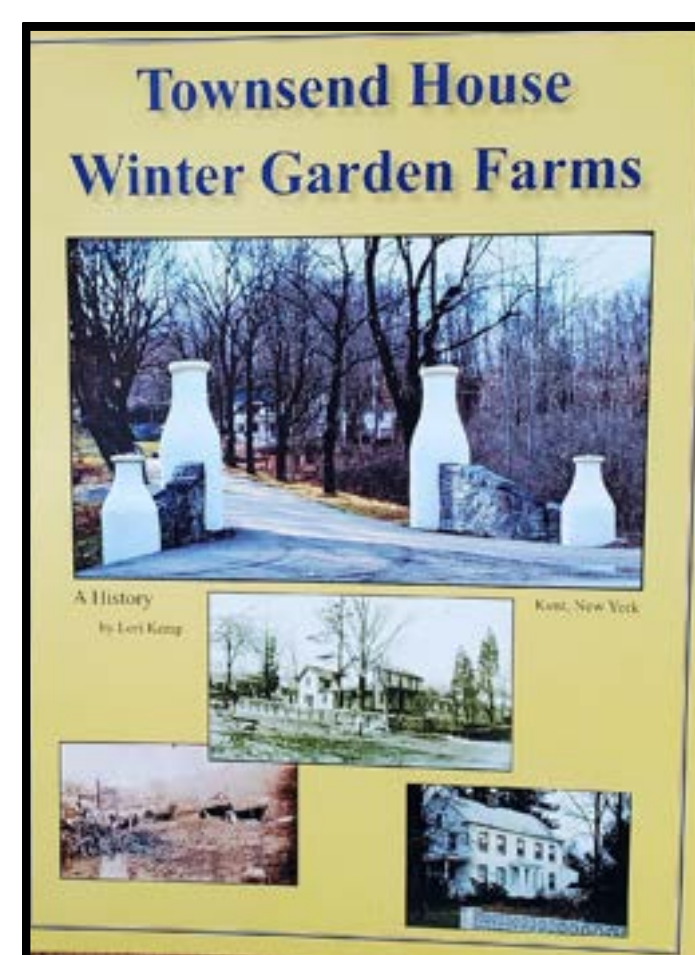
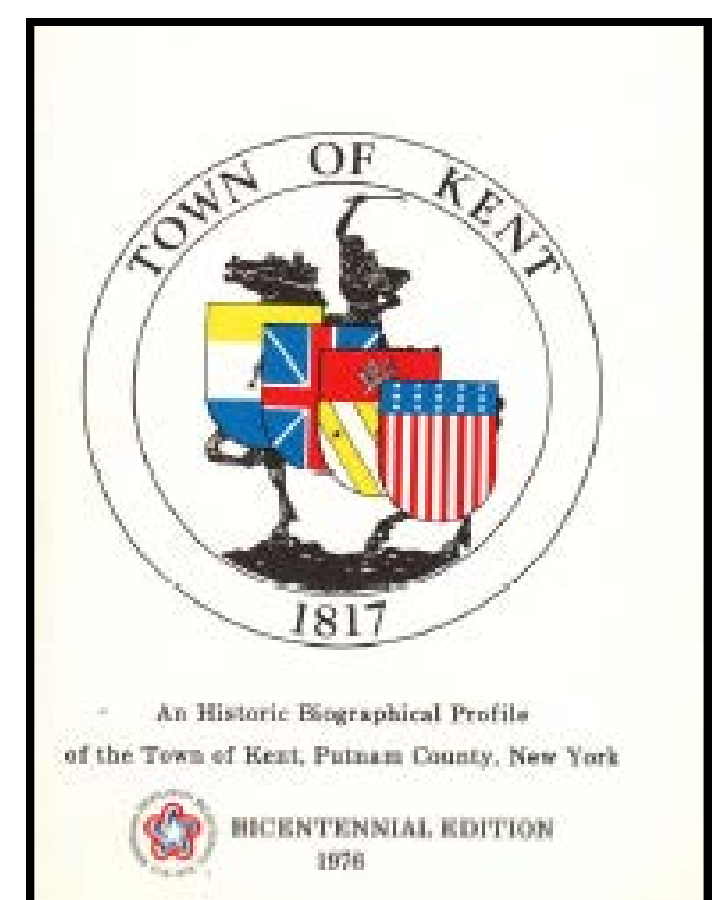
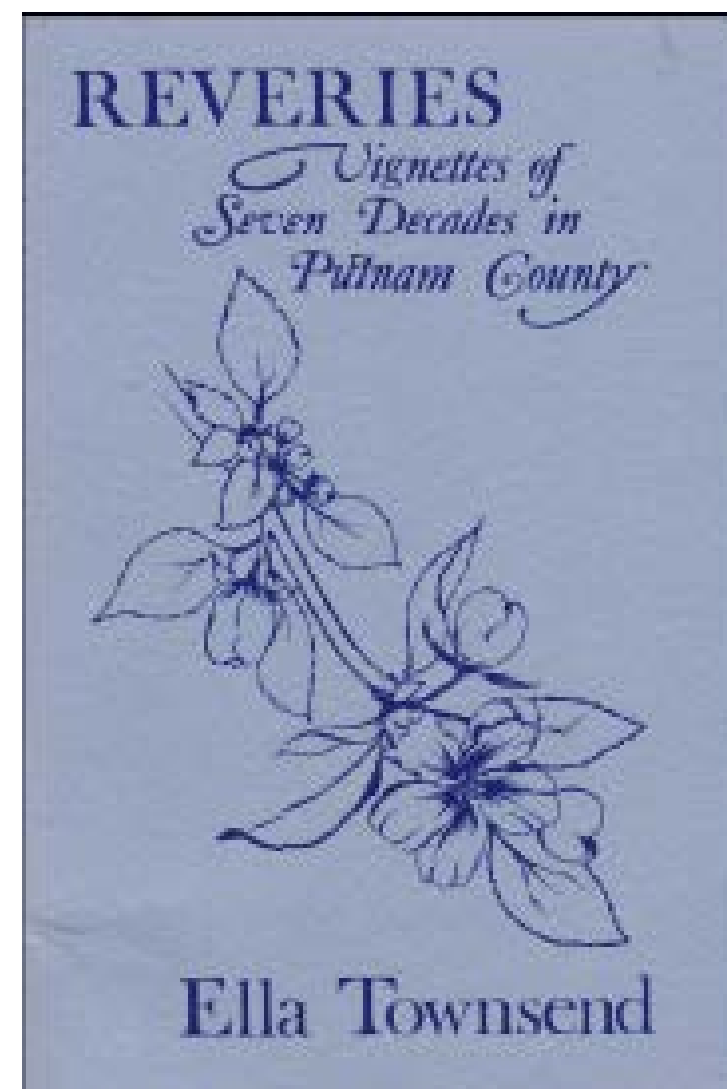
Kent Historical Society

The Kent Historical Society is dedicated to preserving, promoting, and sharing the rich history of the Town of Kent in Putnam County, New York. Through public programs, educational presentations, and community outreach, the Society works to deepen awareness and appreciation of the town's heritage. Their guiding motto is: "Preserving the past in the present for our future."

The Society currently has a limited number of *Reveries: Vignettes of Seven Decades in Putnam County* by Ella Townsend (\$5, plus S&H), a lively collection of traditions, personalities and reflections on Kent culture. Also available and issued for the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial, *Town of Kent: An Historical Biographical Profile of the Town of Kent, Bicentennial Edition* (\$10, plus S&H). Lastly, a limited number of *Townsend House Winter Garden Farms* booklets available—a local history written by Lori Kemp (\$10, plus S&H). To place an order, email kenthistoricalsociety@gmail.com or call 845-225-2481.

Membership packages are available at a variety of levels, from student to senior (65+), beginning at just \$10. The Society welcomes financial contributions to support the care of their historic one-room schoolhouse, as well as in-kind donations for their popular annual tag sale fundraiser—an event not to be missed!

For additional information, visit their Facebook page at [Facebook.com/Kent-Historical-Society](https://www.facebook.com/Kent-Historical-Society) or call 845-225-2481.

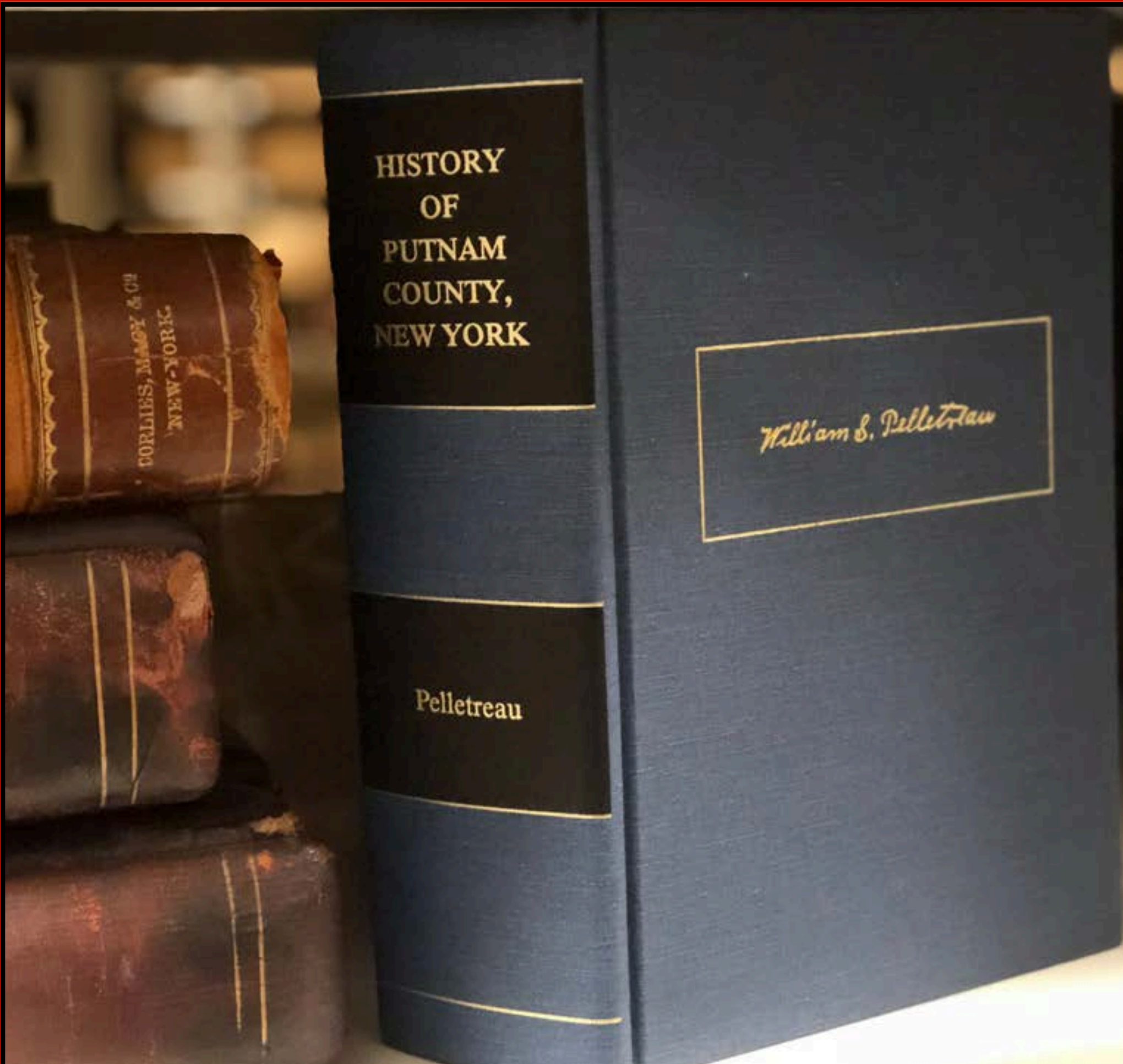


Visit on facebook:
Kent Historical Society, Putnam County, NY





Landmarks Preservation Society of Southeast



Now on holiday sale! The quintessential local history book, *History of Putnam County, New York*, first published and written by William S. Pelletreau in 1886, offered by Landmarks in a reprinted, handsome blue linen hardback book. It features over 780 pages of county history, biographies, portraits and illustrations, and an index of names and subjects. The book is available for \$25 (plus S&H) through the Landmarks Society, and a limited number are available from the County Historian's Office by ordering online (scan QR code) or in-person pick up.



“Landmarks” is an incorporated not-for-profit 501(c)(3) based in Brewster, NY, dedicated to restoring, maintaining, and preserving properties under their ownership. Since 1977, they’ve worked hard to maintain these heritage properties and preserve the cultural identity of Southeast. Their headquarters is located at 43 Oak Street, inside the 1850 Greek revival style residence of the founder of Brewster Village, Walter Brewster. They also own the Doansburg Schoolhouse as well as the 1794 “Old Southeast Church” on Route 22 which is used as a museum and is open to visitors upon request. Many of their properties are available for weddings or special events rental. New members welcome.

Visit www.landmarksse.com





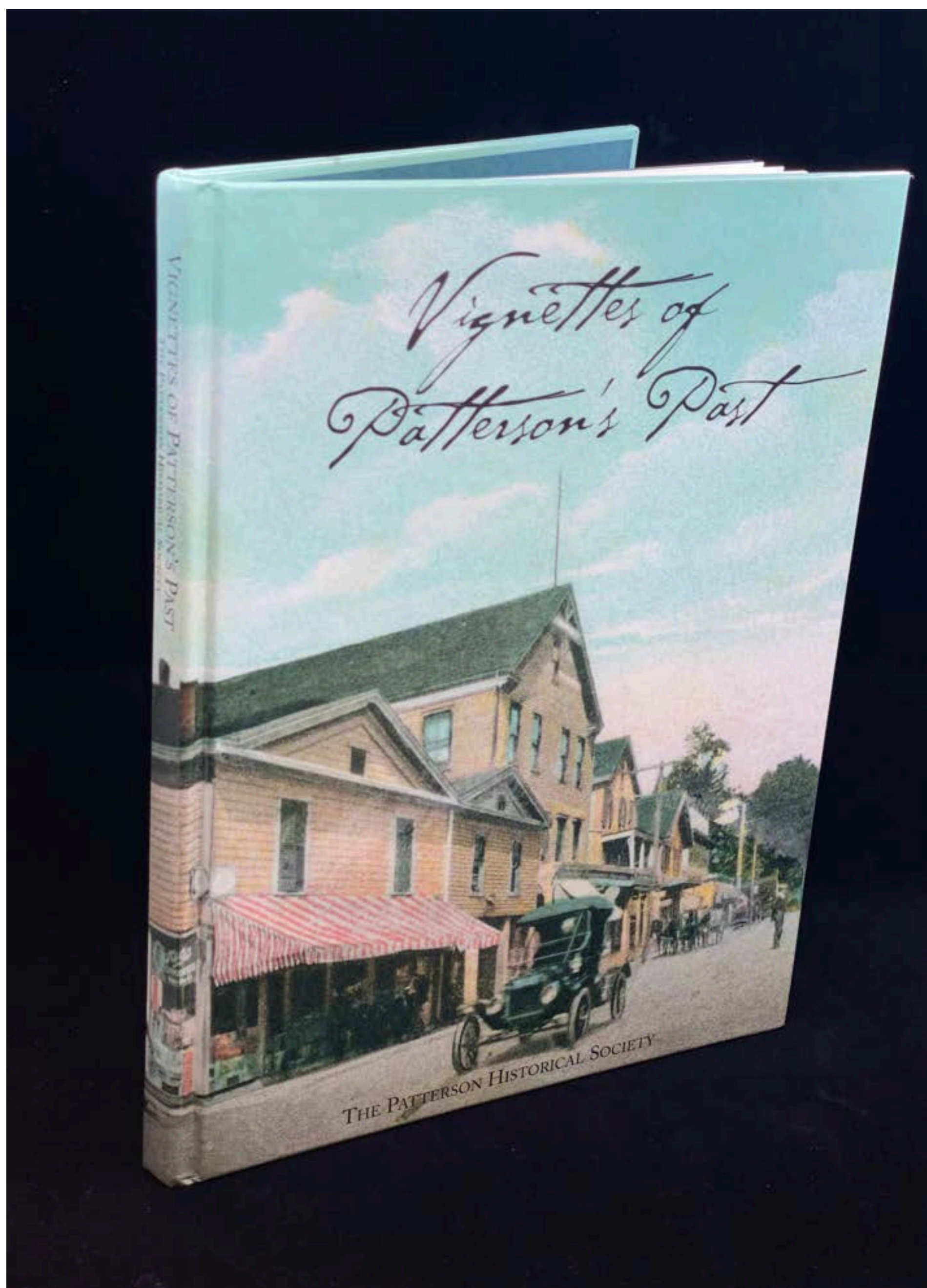
Patterson Historical Society

The Patterson Historical Society collects, preserves, and shares materials related to the history of the Town of Patterson. The Society promotes awareness and a deeper public understanding of Patterson's rich heritage through various programs and public events.

The Society publishes *Vignettes of Patterson's Past*, a beautifully produced hardbound volume featuring maps, photographs, and engaging historical essays (\$35, including S&H). The book may be ordered through the Society's website via PayPal at pattersonhistoricalsociety.org, or by mail at P.O. Box 534, Patterson, NY 12563.

High-resolution digital images or print reproductions of historic photographs from the Society's collection are also available; pricing varies by size and format.

The Patterson Historical Society maintains an exhibit and office at the Patterson Town Hall, located at the intersection of NYS Route 311 and Front Street. Office hours are Tuesdays from 1–7 PM, or by appointment.



Patterson Historical Society achieves their greatest success through dedicated membership and volunteers. They offer membership levels, which are a tax deductible donation.

For more information about the society and upcoming programming, visit pattersonhistoricalsociety.org, email: info@pattersonhistoricalsociety.org or call Ron Taylor, President, 845.319.3071.



visit pattersonhistoricalsociety.org



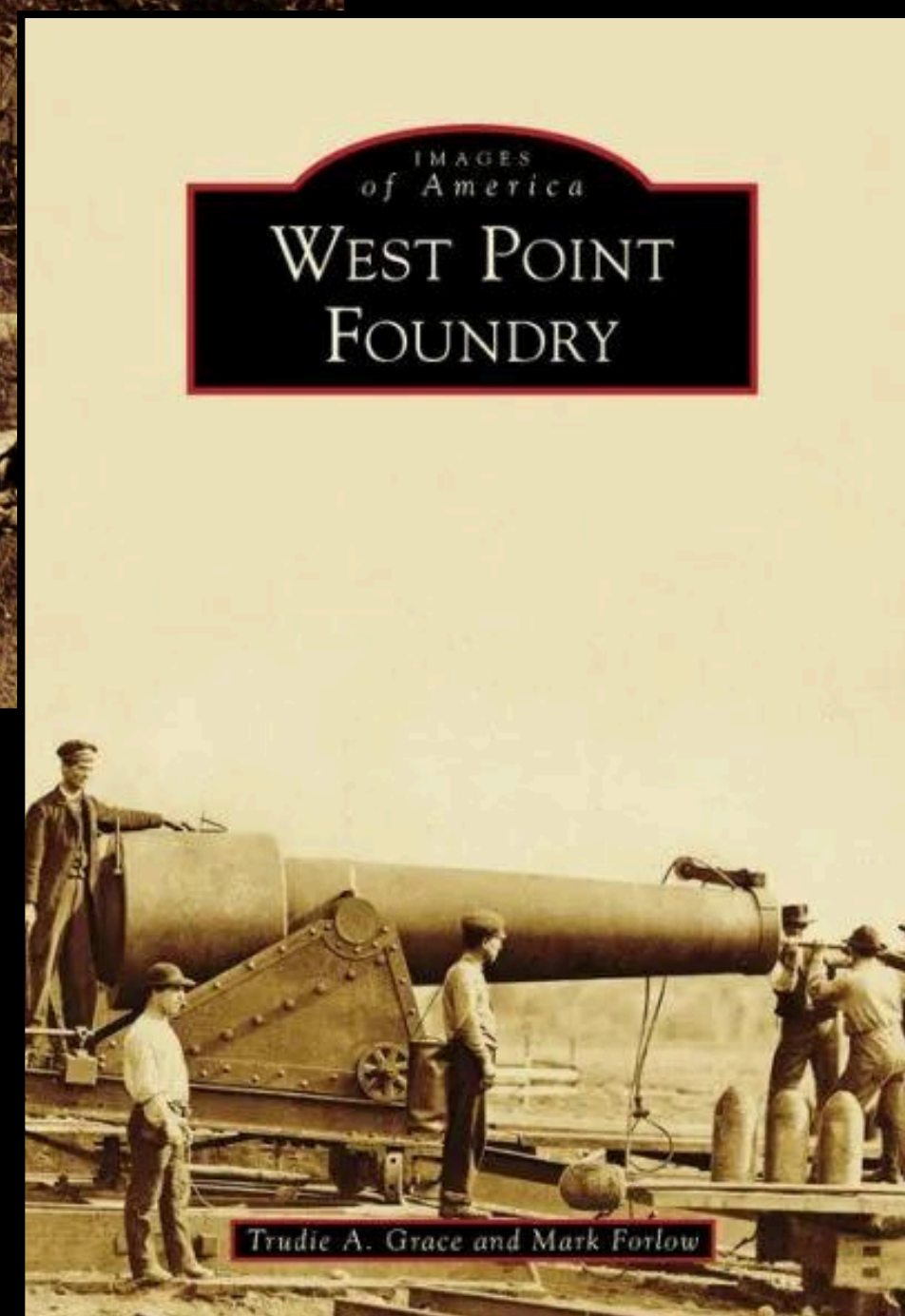
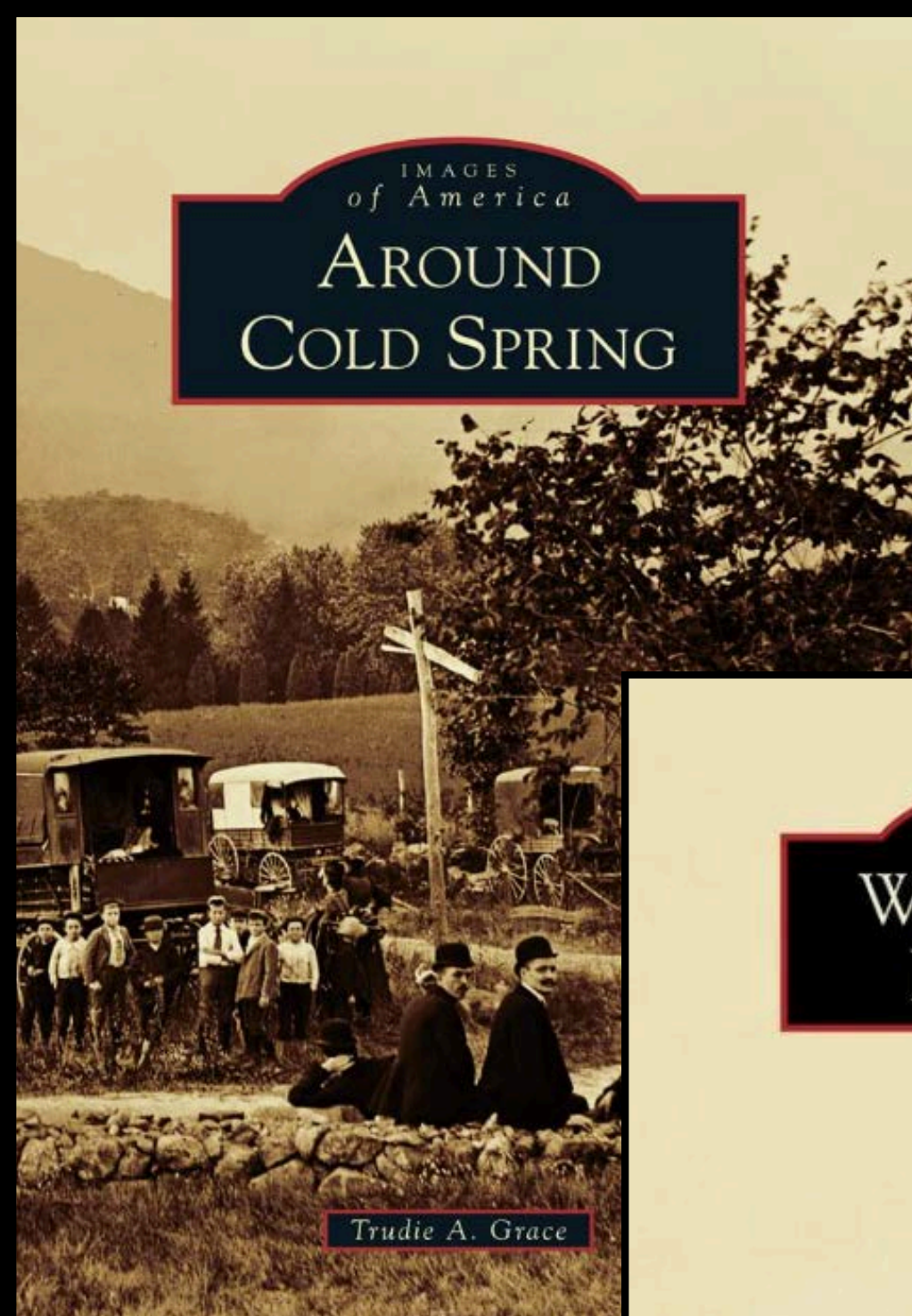
Putnam History Museum

The mission of the Putnam History Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret, and present the history of Putnam County, Philipstown, the West Point Foundry, and the Hudson Highlands. Through exhibitions, lectures, and history hikes, the Museum uses its resources to engage the community with the history of Putnam County, and to foster greater understanding of the role the region has played in the growth of our nation.

Putnam History Museum membership rates begin at \$30 a year and they offer a variety of options – all with great perks. The Museum Store features an array of gift items including T-shirts, postcards, water bottles and a handsome West Point Foundry mug (\$15).

Available book titles include: *Around Cold Spring*, by Trudie A. Grace (\$23.80), *West Point Foundry*, by Trudie A. Grace and Village Historian Mark Forlow (\$23.80), and *Garrison*, by George Whipple III (\$23.80)

There are many other history booklets and pamphlets available at the Museum. Many free of charge. The Putnam History Museum is open Wednesday – Sunday, 12 pm – 4 pm and is located at 63 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, NY, or visit them online.



Visit putnamhistorymuseum.org





Putnam History Museum

2025
Putnam County
Day Award
Recipient

POSTCARD HISTORY SERIES

Garrison



George Carroll Whipple III
Foreword by Mark Forlow and Cassie Ward



Visit putnamhistorymuseum.org



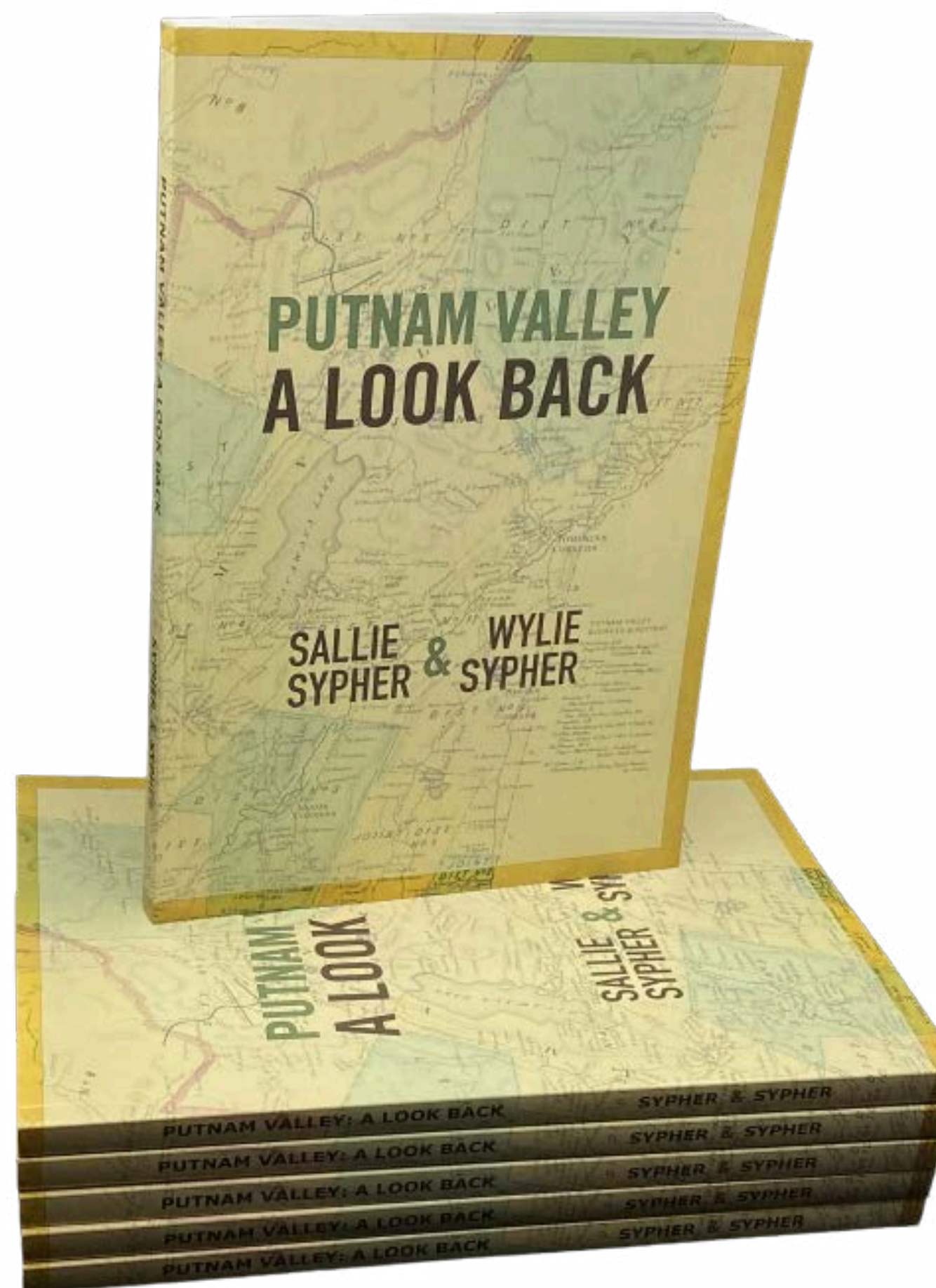


Putnam Valley Historical Society

Historians Sallie and Wylie Sypher offer a fresh and engaging exploration of Putnam Valley's past—from its early days as homeland of the Wappingers to its twenty-first-century identity as a metropolitan suburb. They detail how landlord Beverley Robinson stole Wappinger land (only to lose his own), why Putnam Valley ultimately separated from Philipstown, and how generations of struggling farmers departed in large numbers. They also recount the remarkable tenure of Harry Silleck, who served as town supervisor for nearly fifty years.

The Syphers trace how successive waves of newcomers—first seasonal residents, then year-round settlers—helped revive the community's fortunes while introducing new challenges that continue to shape Putnam Valley's future.

All proceeds of *Putnam Valley: A Look Back* benefit the Putnam Valley Historical Society. To order your copy, and explore membership options, visit putnamvalleyhistory.org.



Exclusively available through Putnam Valley Historical Society: \$25 in person, \$30 online orders

Sundays in December, don't miss the Putnam Valley Historical Society Holiday Boutique! Days/hours of operation:



December 6 & 7, 2025, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

December 13, 2025, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

December 14, 2025, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

301 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley, NY






Visit putnamvalleyhistory.org





Southeast Museum



PUTNAM COUNTY VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I



An Annotated Roll of Servicemembers of
Putnam County, New York, Who Served
in the Great War

RODERICK J. CASSIDY, ESQ.



Don't miss this limited-edition annotated roll of the men and women of Putnam County who served in World War I, based on Surrogate Judge J. Bennett Southard's original Putnam County Service Roll of Honor. Compiled and expanded by local veteran and military historian Roderick J. Cassidy, Esq., this volume represents those who served from every town in Putnam and draws on military records, newspaper archives, and other primary and secondary sources to document local service during the Great War. Featuring 699 entries—including those who made the ultimate sacrifice—this book is an invaluable resource for researchers, genealogists, and history enthusiasts.

Putnam County Veterans of World War I is exclusively available at the Southeast Museum (\$29.99), call 845-279-7500. 100% of proceeds benefit the museum.



Visit southeastmuseum.org



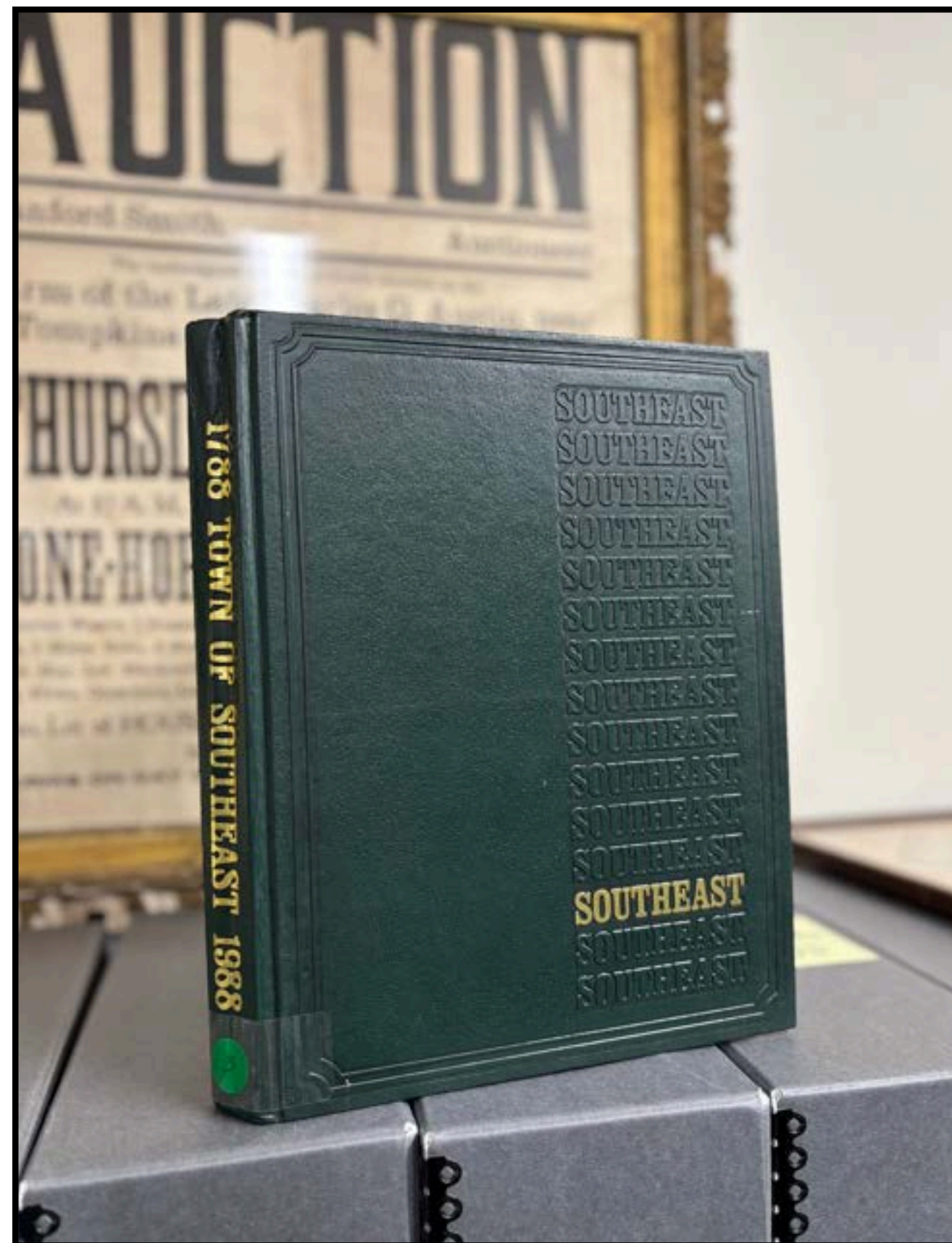
Town of Southeast

Southeast 1788–1988

This vibrant volume brings the rich history of the Town of Southeast to life. Edited by historian Suzanne Truran and former Town Supervisor John Dunford, it traces the community through its many bold eras.

Journey from Southeast's Colonial beginnings to its pioneering railroad years, and through stories of mining disasters, cattle drives, homegrown robber barons, the Borden factory, and the town's wildly entertaining circus days. The book highlights an extraordinary cast of local figures, including Revolutionary War spy Enoch Crosby, village founder Walter Brewster, circus impresario Seth B. Howes, the enigmatic Leatherman, Gilded Age financier Daniel Drew, and trailblazing journalist and suffragist Marjorie Addis, among many others.

The most comprehensive history of Brewster and Southeast to date, this 400-page, handsomely bound hardcover is printed on fine stock and filled with rare photographs—all for just \$35.



A great gift for “old timers” or newcomers! To purchase, visit or contact the Town Clerk's Office: 1360 Route 22, Brewster, NY 10509 • (845) 279-2196

Visit Town Hall





2025



LOCAL
HISTORY
HOLIDAY
GIFT GUIDE

20+ great gifts
that prove
local history matters!

Presented by the Putnam County Historian's Office & Archives
68 Marvin Avenue, Brewster, NY 10509

Public Research:

Monday-Wednesday, 10 am – 2 pm

By appointment

Closed Fridays and Legal Holidays

Contact: 854-808-1420

Email: Historian@putnamcountyny.gov

Web: Putnamcountyny.gov/county-historian



Facebook Putnam Historian
Instagram putnamhistorian



Featuring: Boscobel House & Gardens, Constitution Island Association, Enoch Crosby Chapter
NSDAR, Landmarks Preservation Society of Southeast, Putnam County Historian's Office,
Putnam History Museum, Southeast Museum & the Town of Southeast, and the Historical
Societies of Carmel, Kent, Patterson, and Putnam Valley.

