

Parrott Gun to Return Home to Foundry

BY VIRGINIA CALIFANO

After 152 years, a piece of history will be returning home. An authentic Parrott Gun from the Civil War will soon come back to Putnam County, where it was manufactured. In part as a tribute to the West Point Foundry, the Putnam History Museum will soon use the weapon for all to see. The rifled cannon is currently in restoration, and will come to the museum in October.

Of the 700 Parrott Guns remaining, Cold Spring, a community where many were manufactured, did not have any. Many stand proudly on the battlefields, cemeteries, and outside courthouses across the Western United States. The Putnam History Museum received this Parrott Gun through an anonymous donation from a Rockland family last year.

The museum has dedicated its exhibition space to the Parrott Gun. The exhibition, consisting of maps, photographs, a written history of the foundry, opened in May, and the grand attraction is the M1863 10-pounder Parrott Rifle produced at the Foundry -- will tie the display together.

In this upcoming Phase I of the project, Mark Forlow, Philipstown and Cold Spring historian and author, will bring the room to speed with the Parrott Gun.

The restoration process is moving forward nicely in the rust scale having been removed and molds

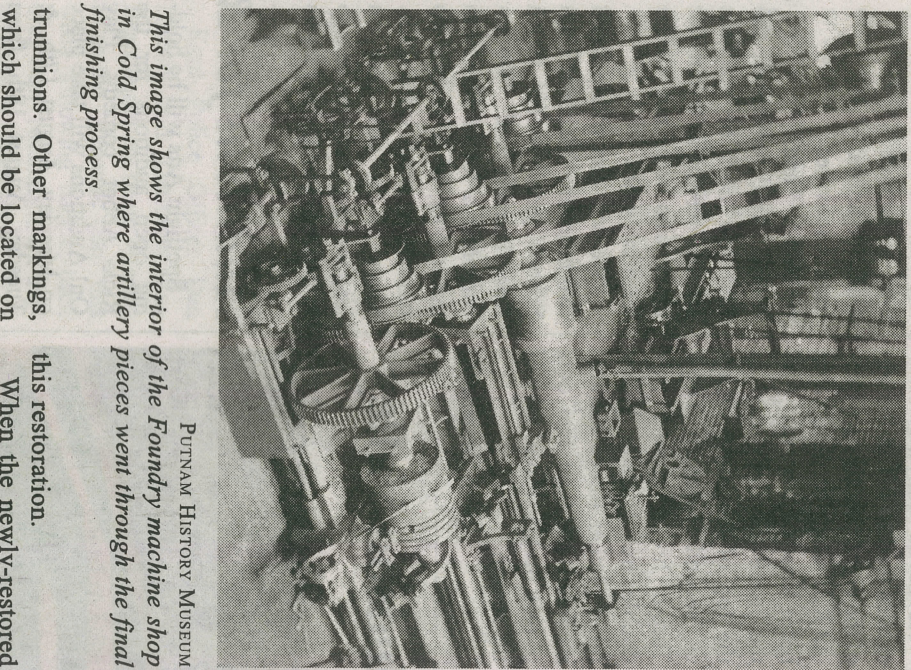


PHOTO PROVIDED
Hanging from a chain hoist, the 10-pounder Parrott rifle appears in rusted and corroded condition at the time it was moved to Cold Spring. Historian Mark Forlow is guiding it.

made of all surviving manufacturing marks," Forlow reported.

The family who donated the historic gun did not know where it came from. It was found covered in mud and was severely damaged by rust, "but was much welcomed nonetheless," Forlow said of the glorious piece of history.

This particular Parrott Gun was of the same type that took part in the historic field battles such as Gettysburg and Antietam by both the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. Forlow reported that only 279 of this model of cannon were manufactured, and just 47 have survived.



PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM
This image shows the interior of the Foundry machine shop in Cold Spring where artillery pieces went through the final finishing process.

The massive powerhouse of a cannon weighs about 900 pounds, and can fire a projectile over a mile and a half at a one-pound powder charge.

The initials R.P.P., for the gun's inventor Robert Parker Parrott, a West Point graduate of 1824, appear on the right trunnion face. The letters US are visible on the top of the tube between the

trunnions. Other markings, which should be located on the muzzle face, have almost completely been corroded. The registry number, weight, ordnance inspector initials, year, and the letters WPF will be recreated with precision and detail during

this restoration. When the newly-restored Parrott Gun makes its way into the Putnam History Museum, it will be a fitting homecoming that portrays the importance of the West Point Foundry to the history of our nation.

Nimham Pow Wow Weekend in Putnam



ERIC GROSS
Native Americans from near and far participated in last year's annual event.

By ERIC GROSS

Native Americans as well as those interested in learning about local history will be in attendance this weekend at the Putnam Veterans Memorial Park in Kent to celebrate the county's 15th annual Daniel Nimham Pow Wow. Gail "Crying Hawk" Tar-

box of Kent, a member of the Nimham Mountain Singers whose determination, desire and love for his people as well as his need to educate future generations about the last chief of the Wappingers Indians—Daniel Nimham—has invited the public to attend.

Traditional Native American dances and chants will

take place throughout the weekend in addition to storytelling and the sale of Native American made merchandise.

GRAMMY/NAMMY, the award winning flutist, will perform while Joseph Firecrow/SkyHunters in Flight Birds of Prey will be in attendance.

The Pow Wow will be held from 10 am to 5 pm on both Saturday and Sunday. Admission and parking are free but any donations made will be forwarded to the Wounded Warriors Project.

The Putnam Park is located along Gypsy Trail Road with the Pow Wow taking place in the upper park.

LIFE-SAVING NEWS FOR WOMEN

What you need to know about cervical cancer screenings...



Ask the Doctor

Navid Mootabar, MD

Chief, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Director, Institute for Robotic & Minimally Invasive Surgery
Northern Westchester Hospital

nwroboticsurgery.org/DrMootabar

Q: What causes cervical cancer?

A: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) causes about 90 percent of all cases. HPV is a sexually transmitted virus that is so common, most people will have it at some point in their lives. Certain strains of HPV can cause changes on a woman's cervix that may result in cervical cancer. Additional risk factors include smoking, extended use of birth control and having many sexual partners.

Did You Know?
Cervical cancer is usually highly curable... when caught early through regular screening.

