

## About Energy Awaits: The Smith-Putnam Wind Turbine and the Beginning of Modern Wind Energy in America

Renewable energy was forever changed when a team of innovators put the first-ever megawatt wind turbine into service on October 19, 1941. This was made possible by the S. Morgan Smith Company. The York-based company is known throughout the world for their hydro turbines and took a chance on this new technology. The turbine would face many challenges throughout its short lifetime, but would be later recognized for being the largest megawatt turbine built for decades.

Thank you to the Blittersdorf Foundation for funding this exhibit and the inventory and rehousing of the Smith-Putnam Wind Turbine Collection.

### LEARN MORE

#### **Want to learn more about the Smith-Putnam Wind Turbine?**

[History of the Smith-Putnam Wind Turbine Webinar](#)

Thursday October 28, 2021 at 7PM

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of its installation, James Manwell, PhD of the University of Massachusetts, will speak about the development of the of the Smith-Putnam wind turbine. To learn more and to register, please [click here](#).

#### **[Journal of York County Heritage | September 2021](#)**

Featured article “‘The True Prophet of Wind-power’: Beauchamp Smith’s Pioneering Effort in Alternative Energy” by Stephen Nicholas Jr. The Journal is available in our gift shop and online store. Click here to purchase <https://sales.yorkhistorycenter.org/GiftShopItem.aspx?I=1406>

The York County History Center houses many records, reports, and even archival footage of the wind turbine. You can find all of those at the Library and Archive. Additionally, check out [WindWorks.org](#) the website of Paul Gipe. He has many detailed articles about the Smith-Putnam wind turbine.

#### **Do you want to read the full versions of any documents mentioned?**

Call or go online to the York County History Center to schedule an appointment in the Library and Archives.

#### **Interested in Wind Energy?**

Visit the [Wind Energy Technologies Office](#). They offer a wealth of information about the present and future of wind energy.

**Want to learn more about the S. Morgan Smith Company?**

The York County History Center holds many photos, business records, and more at the Library and Archives. At the Agricultural and Industrial Museum you can take a walk through the S. Morgan Smith exhibit. It even includes a model of the Smith-Putnam Wind Turbine. Additionally, you can read more with Stephen Nicholas Jr.'s book, *Reinventing the Wheel: The Incredible Story of S. Morgan Smith*.