



# THE PUTNAM VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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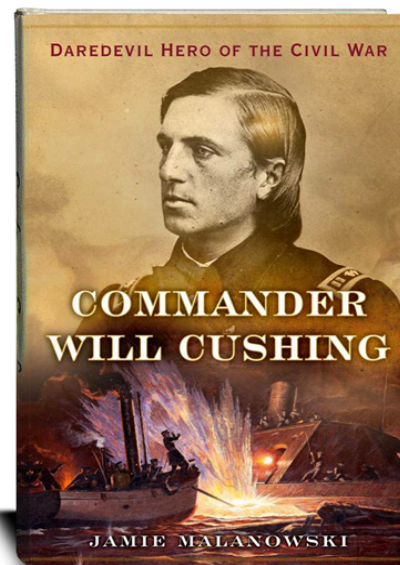
## OUR AMERICAN HISTORY A FREE PROGRAM SERIES - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

### Commander Will Cushing Daredevil Hero of the Civil War

with Historian and Author  
**Jamie Malanowski**

**Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 10:00 am**

In October 1864, the confederate ironclad CSS Albemarle had just sunk two federal warships and damaged seven others, taking control of the Roanoke River and threatening the entire Union blockade. But twenty-one-year-old navy lieutenant William Barker Cushing hatched a daring plan: to attack the fearsome warship with a few dozen men in two small wooden boats. What followed, the close-range torpedoing of the Albemarle and Cushing's harrowing two-day escape downriver from vengeful Rebel posses, is one of the most dramatic individual exploits in American military history.



Tossed out of the Naval Academy for “buffoonery,” Cushing proved himself a prodigy in behind-the-lines warfare. Given command of a small union ship, he performed daring, near-suicidal raids, “cutting out” confederate ships and thwarting blockade runners. With higher commands and larger ships, Cushing's exploits grew bolder, culminating in the sinking of the Albemarle.

In telling Cushing's story, Malanowski paints a vivid, memorable portrait of the army officials, engineers, and politicians scrambling to win the war. But he also goes deeper into the psychology of the daredevil soldier - and what this heroic and tragic figure, who died before his time, can tell us about the ways we remember the *glories of war*.



### **Jamie Malanowski**

A member of the original staff of *Spy*, where he worked for seven years, Jamie has also been an editor at *Time*, *Esquire* and *Playboy*, where he was Managing Editor. Jamie has also written for *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Washington Monthly*, and *The New York Times*, where he was the lead writer for Disunion, the award-winning series about the Civil War. His most recent work, the biography *Commander Will Cushing, Daredevil Hero of the Civil War*, was published by W.W. Norton in October 2014. Jamie is also the author of the novels *Mr. Stupid Goes to Washington* (Birch Lane, 1992) and *The Coup* (Doubleday, 2007); the author of *And the War Came*, a history of the six months that preceded the start of the Civil War (Byliner, 2011); and numerous other books, articles and other works. Jamie lives in Westchester County, NY with his wife and daughters.

**This FREE program will be held at the Putnam Valley Grange Hall  
128 Mill Street ♦ Putnam Valley, NY 10579 at 10:00 am**