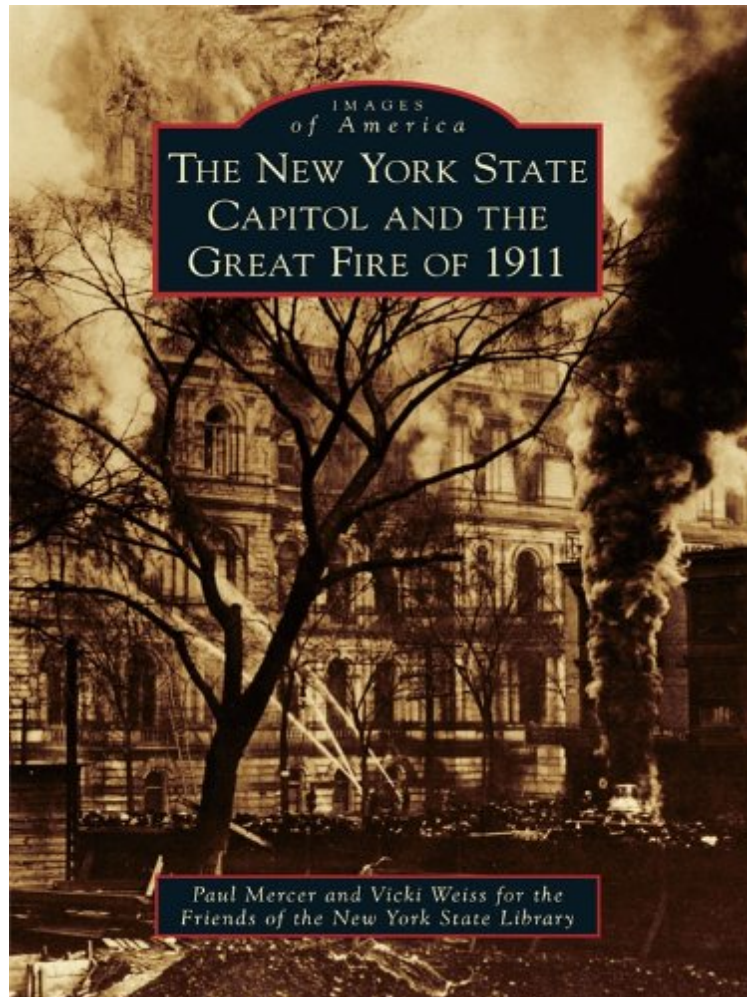


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## The New York State Capitol and the Great Fire of 1911 (Images of America)

*Paul Mercer, Vicki Weiss*

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**Paul Mercer, Vicki Weiss : The New York State Capitol and the Great Fire of 1911 (Images of America)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New York State Capitol and the Great Fire of 1911 (Images of America):

In the early morning hours of March 29, 1911, a fire broke out in the New York State Capitol at Albany. By sunset, the entire western portion of the building had sustained extensive structural damage. Within lay the entire collection of the New York State Library, almost completely reduced to ashes. Founded in 1818, this had been one of the finest research libraries in the country and home to innumerable manuscript and printed rarities. In a particularly bitter irony, the fire struck as the overcrowded library was four months away from moving into new, spacious quarters under

construction across the street. Miraculously there was only one fatality, an elderly watchman, Samuel Abbott, whose body was not recovered until several days later. *Images of America: The New York State Capitol and the Great Fire of 1911* includes recently discovered photographs documenting the construction of the building, beginning in 1867, as well as eyewitness accounts of its destruction.

**About the Author**For the centennial of the fire, coauthors Paul Mercer and Vicki Weiss, of the New York State Library, have culled rare images and documents from the special collections of the modern library, which arose from the ashes of the 1911 fire.