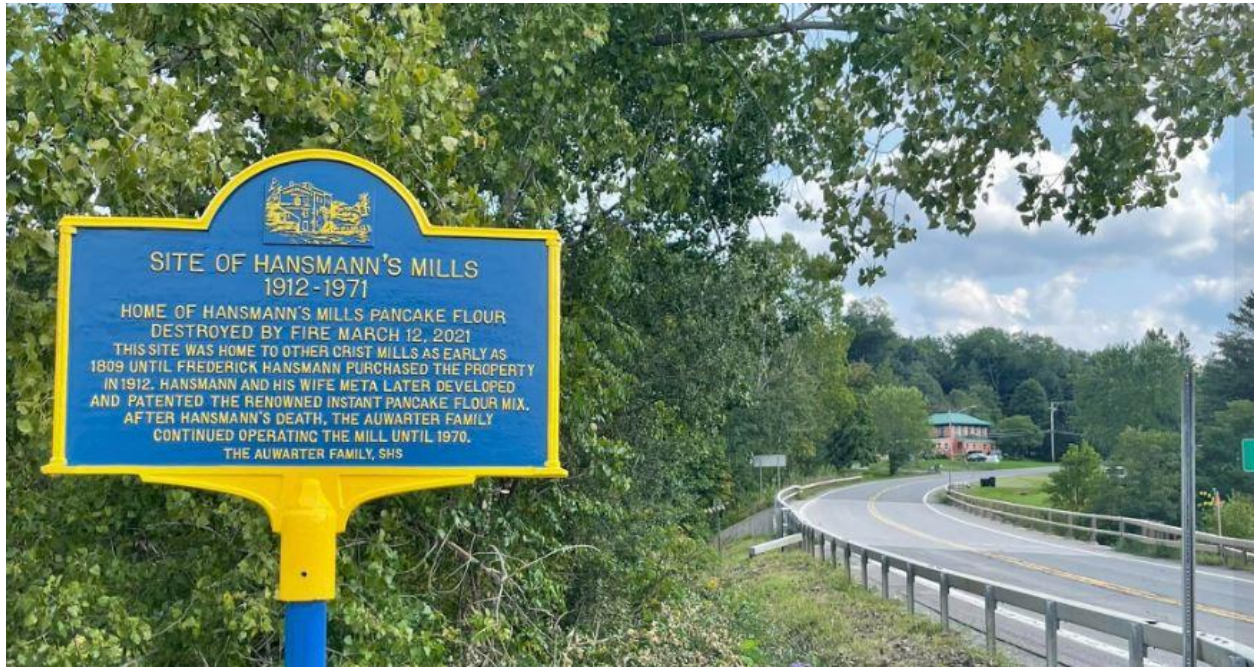


## **Hansmann's Mills Plaque Commemoration** – A compilation

On September 17, 2022, the Town of Smithville, The Smithville Historical Society, and the Auwarter Family gathered to unveil a historical marker at the site of the previous Hansmann's Mills site, located on Route 41 as it crosses the Genegantslet Creek in the hamlet of Smithville Flats.



*Photo courtesy Brian Bernardi*



John Auwarter, John Cammarata , Brian Auwarter, Alison Owens – *photo courtesy Christine Buck*

The text of a newspaper article published by the *Norwich Evening Sun* in 2022 follows:

### Hansmann's Mills Historic Marker Dedicated

John Auwarter remembers how much pride his grandfather, Frederick Hansmann, took in the Hansmann's Mills business and the mill building in Smithville Flats. He remembers working there as a young man for his father and being the one tapped to perform the toughest of duties: chopping ice from under the mill on sub-zero days and working upstairs with hot grain during the blistering summer heat. He was part of all aspects of the mill until he left the business in 1959.

Auwarter, soon to turn ninety, is one of the last to recall working at the mill that developed and produced the Hansmann's Self-Rising Pancake Mix sold in grocery stores throughout the region. His memories intensified on September 17, 2022 when he, family members from across the country, town officials, and guests gathered to honor the mill that was destroyed by fire in 2021.

A program sponsored by the town and the Smithville Historical Society recounted the mill's history as well as the life of Frederick Hansmann. The group then gathered near the site of the old mill on the banks of the Genegantslet Creek where the town highway

department had installed a privately funded historic marker. Smithville Town Supervisor John Cammarata and Mr. Auwarter joined to unveil and dedicate the marker topped with artist Joan Barker's image of the mill. The text on the plaque reads:

*Site of Hansmann's Mills*

*1912-1971*

*Home of Hansmann's Mills Pancake Flour*

*Destroyed by fire March 12, 2021*

*The site was home to other grist mills as early as 1809 until Frederick Hansmann purchased the property in 1912. Hansmann and his wife Meta later developed and patented the renowned instant pancake flour mix. After Hansmann's death, the Auwarter family continued operating the mill until 1970.*

The historic marker is one of two in Smithville to commemorate town icons that no longer stand, the second marking the site of the former Tarbell Farms, home of Tarbell Golden Guernsey Milk.

Further information on the Hansmann's Mills site and its earlier history may be found at these links:

<http://www.smithvillehistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/HANSMANNSMILLS.pdf>

[http://www.smithvillehistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Historical-Photos-of-Hansmann%E2%80%99s-Mill\\_A-1.pdf](http://www.smithvillehistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Historical-Photos-of-Hansmann%E2%80%99s-Mill_A-1.pdf)

[http://www.smithvillehistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Sawmills-On-the-Genegantslet-Creek-in-Chenango-County\\_combined.pdf](http://www.smithvillehistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Sawmills-On-the-Genegantslet-Creek-in-Chenango-County_combined.pdf)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USY2IFg4EJc>