

Hansmann's Mills Commemoration – September 2022

On September 17, 2022, John Auwarter, family members from across the country, town officials, Smithville Historical Society members, and guests gathered to honor Hansmann's Mills, the building that was destroyed by fire in 2021. Auwarter is the grandson of Fred Hansmann, former owner of the mill.

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 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.

