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SEPTEMBER 2019

The Hartranft House



TIDES TO BREAD a story of Southold's Tidal Grist Mills

MATTITUCK INLET GOLDSMITH'S INLET
MILL CREEK DAM POND



calendar of events
& centerfold map tourist guide 



Peconic Bay SHOPPER

...preserving North Fork History

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On the Cover—

In Southold, the 1940 Tercentennial Celebration lasted from Sunday June 30th to July 7th. During that time the whole town participated in the various pre-planned events that featured church services, dedication of the Old House in Cutchogue, the Custer Institute in Southold and the Whitaker Memorial Collection at the Cahoon Memorial Library in Southold.

Additional activities included water races, a breakfast flight of air craft owners to the McMann and Fordham Estates in Greenport, not to mention a grand parade through the village of Southold.

The cover photo taken post-parade shows two iconic Southold homes. In the foreground, a replica of the Barnabas Horton home stands on the front lawn of the then Southold Town Hall (on the corner now is the Southold IGA). The house in the background was the Hartranft house, home to local artist Joseph Hartranft. The house was razed and the corner is now Silversmith Corner with a gazebo and benches for all to enjoy.



1940 Meredith photo of the dedication of the Old House in Cutchogue.

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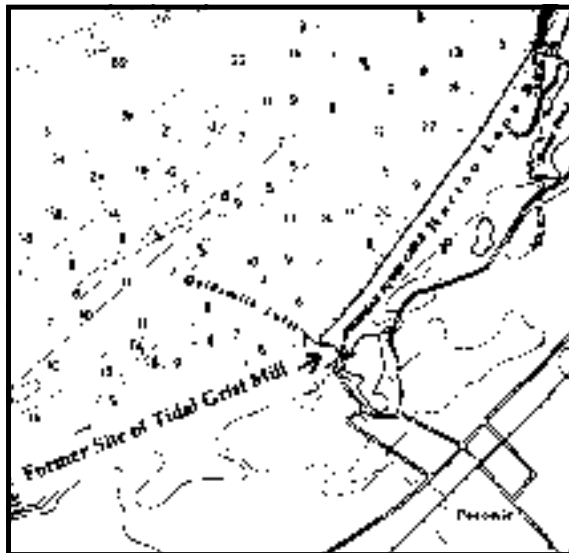
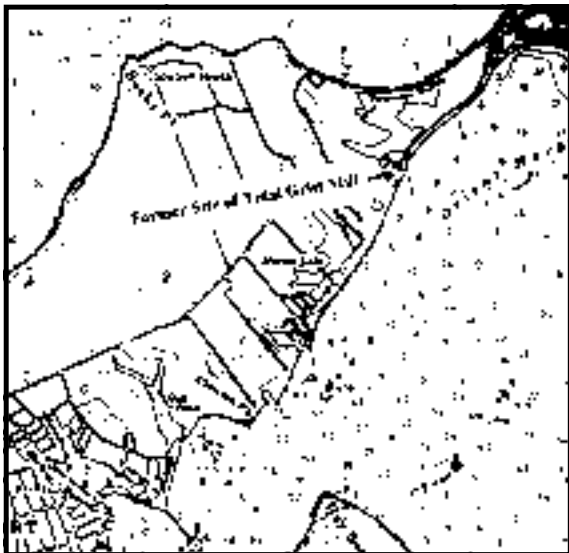
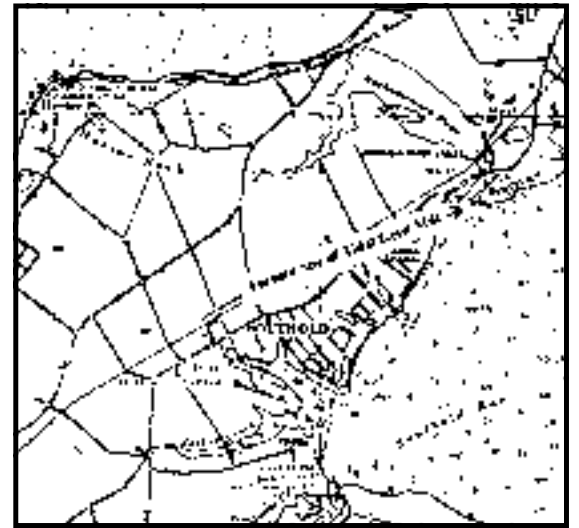
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Tides to Bread — A Story of Southhold's Tidal Grist Mills

MATTITUCK INLET – GOLDSMITH'S INLET – MILL CREEK – DAM POND

History doesn't seem to record as to who the early settler was who looked at the tidal flow in the creeks of Southhold Town and envisioned the converting of that energy into the production of bread. Of course it may have been the wife of the early settler who put the pressure on her husband, "If you want to eat you better find a way to get me flour." History reports that people may have made crude flour as early as 10,000 BC by grinding grains such as barley, rye, and wheat between rocks. It is reported that by "the 1000's BC flour was made by grinding the grain between large flat millstones rotated by animals or slaves. By the 1100's Europeans were using windmills for powering flour mills.

The principal use of flour is, of course, the making of bread or bread related products. Bread is made by mixing the flour with water or milk and baking, and in the early years of our country it was one of the most widely utilized food products available. Bread, because of its ability of providing a person's large share of energy and protein, is often called "the staff of life." History reports that prehistoric people made bread by mixing their hand-ground flour and water, and baking bread using hot rocks. It is reported that Egyptians learned to make yeast bread about 2600 BC. The Greeks learned from the Egyptians who in turn taught the Romans and as a result the techniques of making bread was known throughout Europe by the Middle Ages. As our early settlers came from Europe, surely the need to grind grain for flour in order to make



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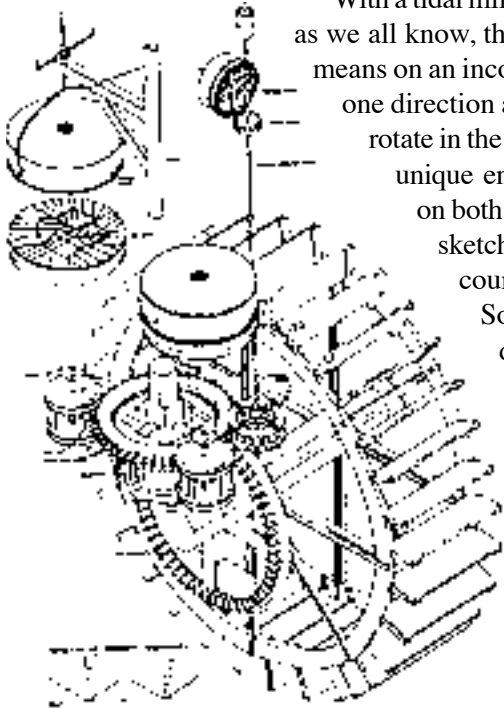
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bread came over with them. What was needed, of course, was the wherewithal to grind the grain to make flour as streams and waterfalls did not exist in the East End of Long Island, hence the idea to use the tides for a power source for grist mills. (Wind powered grist mills were also built within the town.)

Southold Town had tidal grist mills built at the following locations: Mattituck Inlet; Goldsmith's Inlet; Mill Creek in Southold; and Dam Pond in East Marion. These sites were selected because of the large amounts of water storage available that resulted in a significant water flow making the grist mill that much more effective. These storage areas are very obvious when one looks at the maps of the areas – Mattituck Creek for Mattituck Inlet; Goldsmith's Pond for Goldsmith Inlet; the especially large Hashamomuck Pond for Mill Creek; and Dam Pond for the Dam Pond Mill.

HOW A TIDAL GRIST MILL WORKS

Despite a lot of research no records could be found on the accurate details of the inner workings of a tidal grist mill, which is somewhat different than a stream powered grist mill.



With a tidal mill the water flow is different. First of all, as we all know, the tide runs in two directions, and this means on an incoming tide the tide wheel will rotate in one direction and on an outgoing tide the wheel will rotate in the opposite direction. This required some unique engineering if the mill is to be utilized on both incoming and outgoing tides. This is a sketch of the Lefferts Tide Mill Machinery courtesy of the Whitaker Collection of the Southold Library. This detail gives an indication of the grindstones being lifted up and down on an arm and if they are lowered on the inside of the second gear, versus the outside, that would change the direction of the grinding apparatus and thereby compensate for the different direction of the tidal wheel which would occur on the change of tides. Also, the main shaft of the tidal wheel is much longer than shown in this sketch so that all of the

drive equipment could be located inside the mill building.

As near as it can be determined from records and history, all of the Town's tidal grist mills were constructed to work in both directions (incoming and outgoing tides) except the Peconic, or Goldsmith Inlet Mill. This mill employed a unique hinged tidal gate fastened to the bridge and on an incoming tide it floated up and allowed the water to enter the mill pond. At the time of high tide the gate was lowered and pinned against the under side of the bridge. After the tide had fallen enough to make a "head" the mill gate was opened and the outgoing tide flow was diverted through the water wheel sluiceway, and of course, causing the tide wheel to rotate which in turn, through a system of wooden shafts and gears ran the grindstones and produced flour.



The Mattituck Tide Mill, photo courtesy of Mattituck Historical Society

THE MATTITUCK INLET GRIST MILL

Details on the Mattituck Inlet grist mill was taken from information provided by the Mattituck-Laurel Historical Society. The tidal grist mill at this site was built by Richard Cox of Oyster Bay, in 1821 on the west side of Mattituck Creek and included a dam, tide gates and a bridge across the Creek. Richard Cox operated the mill for a number of years and was later joined by his two sons. In 1825 he sold a half interest in the mill to James Worth and in 1833 a quarter interest to Barnabas Horton. Other part owners during this time included Martin Robinson,

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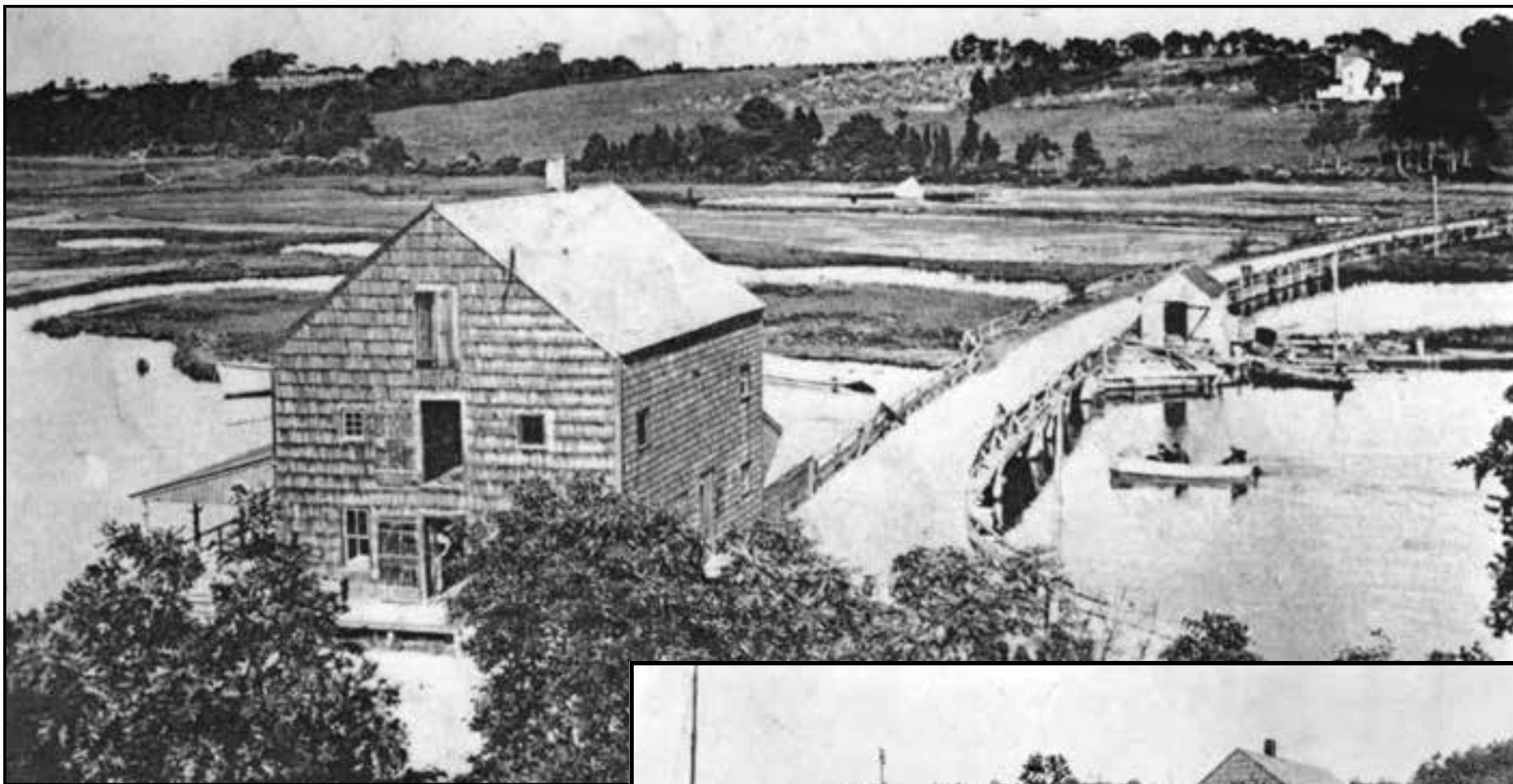
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More views of the Mattituck Tide Mill from PBS archives.



George Cooper, Edward and Walter Terry. Evidently the mill was not an especially lucrative business for Richard Cox as in 1847 he sold the mill to Captain Joshua W. Terry, a retired sea captain. Terry remained the miller until 1902 when he sold it to Yetter & Moore of Riverhead. Yetter & Moore operated the mill for three years before it was converted into the Old Mill Restaurant.

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THE PECONIC OR GOLDSMITH INLET GRIST MILL

Plans for this grist mill commenced in 1836. The estimated construction was estimated not to exceed \$2,000. The money was to be raised by subscription by selling \$10.00 shares. Eighty men of Southold bought one to ten shares and raised \$2,130. It is interesting to note the names of these shareholders which must have included most of the families in Southold. According to the June 1954 Long Island Forum, Mrs. Julie Overton Bell of Peconic has the original list of these subscribers as follows:

H. Case Hutchinson, Asahel Palmer, J. H. Goldsmith, James W. Davids, S. H. Landon, William B. Horton, Ira B. Tuthill, Henry Landon, William D. Cochran, Ephraim Overton, William Booth, David D. Webb, William Wells, Benjamin Goldsmith, Jr., Evertus Hallock, Barnabas Wells, John A. Landon, Daniel Case, I. M. Case, Elisha G. Case, Israel C. Jennings, Danial H. Goldsmith, Martin Goldsmith, Israel Case, Joseph Terry, Wessel Woodhull, Benjamin Case, Benjamin L.

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Penny, Benjamin H. Palmer, S. H. Haines, Youngs Billard, Claudius Woodhull, Daniel H. Goldsmith, Jr., Charles Glover, Jr., William Terry, Jonah Halsey, Charles Glover, Albert P. Terry, A. G. Case, Rensselaer Goldsmith, Moses Case, Ira Corwin, Josiah Albertson, Benjamin P. Tuthill, James Overton, Ezra C. Terry, John Wells, John Wickham, David Carpenter, Rensselaer Horton, William H. Wells, Benjamin Wells, Daniel Webb, James Dorony, Asa Mapes, Isaac Swezy, Barnabas Howell, Augustus Conklin, William Wines, Henry Jennings, David Miller, Silas Moore, Joseph H. Osborn, Platt G. Gould, John C. Wells, Jr., John Clark 3rd, Alanson Hallock, Joshua Horton, William Vail, Warren Richmond, Jr., Ruben Smith, Jr., Joseph P. Wickham, John S. Howell, Barnabas Terry, Jonah H. Tuthill, David Goldsmith, John Buckingham, and Barnabas Osborn.

As stated, the estimate for the construction of the mill was \$2,000. The amount raised by subscription was \$2,130, and the final cost was \$2,100. Wouldn't it be great today if construction project costs came within \$100 of the original estimate and there was \$30 left over from the original funding!

Construction of the mill was started in 1839 and was completed late in 1840. The listing of some of the materials used are especially interesting. These included timbers, stones, boards, bricks, gudgeons (a pivot or socket), and days work and so forth. The workers must have had a good time building this mill as one item is repeated at regular and frequent intervals — 5 gallons of rum. And even with that extra incentive, the project still came within \$30 of the funds available. One of the items listed looks like "saurlaud for damsel". Thought at first they were having a party to go with the rum, but evidently a "damsel" is an attachment to a millstone spindle for shaking of the hopper.

Evidently sometime in 1842 additional work was done on the mill because the accounts show the purchase of yellow pine boards, \$3.18; freight, \$.25; spur wheel, \$10.55; mill stones, \$40; carting of the millstone from Greenport, \$2; two kinds of grease, 16¢. Town tax, \$1.82; school tax, 90¢; road tax, 50¢.

The mill was evidently a good investment because by October 1841 the subscribers received dividends of \$2.12 per share. The mill was later sold to twenty of the original share holders and in 1846 was resold to ten of the original share holders with increase in dividends to \$18 and fourteen years later to \$30.

The first miller was a Cox, probably from the family that was running the Mattituck mill. About 1870 a Terry was the miller and as it was reported



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The “Maculey” high and dry at the mouth of Goldsmith’s Inlet. Photo courtesy of the Rosalind C. Newell collection.

that as he could not keep up with the demand for grinding grain, he put an addition on the building and had a windmill installed to supplement the tidal power. With this addition it was reported that the mill could grind a bushel of grain in one minute. Most of the grain was delivered to the mill by horse-drawn wagons from the local farms, but some arrived on shallow draft schooners that sailed across the Long Island Sound from Connecticut. It is reported that these ships often tied up at the mill dock and waited to have their grain ground before returning across the Sound. According to the book by Rosalind Case Newell, the grain to be ground was dumped into a big hopper on the upper level and then was directed between the two grindstones with the flour

flowing out from a chute below. The ground flour was then guided into bags hooked underneath the chute.

The windmill was completely wrecked in the Thanksgiving gale of 1898 and was never replaced. This storm also grounded the Steamer “MACAULY” right across the entrance to the inlet, effectively blocking the tidal flow. (See photo.) For a few more years miller Terry kept the tidal part of the mill going until he retired in the early 1900’s. After a few more years the mill closed, never to operate again. The wrecked mill existed for many years (see photo) as a location for the local youths to explore and dive into the pond. A sad ending to a unique and historic venture.

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The following prize essay of the Southold High School graduating class of 1908 entitled "The Old Mill" by Rosalind C. Case is a very moving history of the Peconic Mill.

"Nearly sixty-seven years ago on a September day, two young men backed their wagons to the edge of the dock at Greenport and into each a mill-stone was swung from the sailing vessel moored there. They drove to the Sound at Peconic where a power mill was being constructed. The power of the outgoing tide had previously been tested by a temporary bridge and gates. This was found satisfactory, and the completion of a permanent mill was awaiting the arrival of the stones. The building was soon finished and the helpful, industrious life of the mill began. Here in the summer and fall the farmers brought their grain to be ground; but in winter the running tide was choked with ice, and at times the whole inlet was frozen over affording, at the more sheltered places away from the dangerous run of the tide, excellent skating. On bright moonlight nights such jolly crowds of girls and boys trooped up to the inlet and selected the smoothest of the sheltered places. Then what races between experts! What shrieks and falls among the beginners. What laughter at the expense of those to whom the ice seemed to have such an attraction that they were unable to keep away from it! Those cold north and east winds that howled around the mill and froze the inlet, although advantageous to the skaters, were disastrous to the work of the mill. So in the early eighteen seventies the owners decided to utilize this force. An extension was made on the north side, another set of stones brought and put in place, and a great windwheel put up. Through this power, when there was a good wind, a bushel of grain could be ground in a minute.

"It was great fun to go up to the mill and talk with the miller, who looked indeed like the insect of that appellation, covered as he was with the white powder that flew from the grist. The powdery stream from the millstones above flowed into a sink, under which little hooks held the bag while being filled. We children delighted in guiding it into the right place, and carefully scraping in all that gathered around the edges. We were helping the miller a lot! Then when the bag was full he would unfasten and take it away, and how cleverly we small ones could slip the empty bag under as he did it, so that not a speck from the on-flowing stream was spilled. Upstairs two wooden pillars connected with the machinery went round and round, round and round, while we, with a

sudden jump, endeavored to cling to one, considering ourselves accomplished acrobats if we were not thrown off almost before we gained a hold.

"We children bathed in the edges of the Inlet, keeping discreetly far from the deep "swimmin' hole" right by the bridge made by the rush of water at the gates. From our safe retreat we gazed with awe at the stunts of the big boys diving from the bridge. After several years of Inlet bathing we ventured into the Sound with the elders, always first receiving exhortation at home to be careful, not go out far, and look out for sharks! Now came the advance from paddling in the edge to learning to swim. Many were the trials, and many and varied directions from the learned teachers till finally, one day, lo! one found one could swim alone! After this, the goal of ambition was to go in with the rushing tide nearly at its height, under the bridge, and off to the quiet water at the side of the run.

"In the great storm of November 26, 1898, the windwheel was destroyed and was not considered worthwhile to put up another. The wreck of the wheel was left, and one by one the few remaining sticks dropped before the wind till the standard stood alone, recalling but a sorrowful memory of mighty power. The farmers in the vicinity had found it more profitable to raise potatoes and cauliflower than grain. Therefore the amount of work brought to the mill rapidly decreased, till the waterwheel was stopped, to run no more. How lonesome seemed the mill without the cheerful hum of the machinery and the happy splashing of the water that dripped from the revolving wheel. Then too, was missed the kindly miller and no longer flowed the grist that furnished sport for the children and bread for all. The neglected building fell a prey to storms, decay, and destruction-loving persons. The gates were no longer used to hold the tide, and the inlet began to fill with seaweed, the channel with mussel shoals.

"It brings a sigh from the heart to look upon the fallen walls, the once-free wheel imbedded in the sand, the towering standard of the windwheel fallen and broken. Ruin and desolation reigned. The rapid hand of decay is working, and it is feared that some mighty storm and tide will soon sweep the mill forever from sight; but not from memory. For those who feel the romance of the spot are moved by the pathetic ending of the former power and industry. The busy world has outgrown the old mill's work yet it did its part faithfully and well.

"And so, dear old mill, we bid you goodbye. We regret your plight, but remember your power, your help, the happy times you gave us."

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THE MILL CREEK GRIST MILLS

According to what few records that could be located, it appears that this was the site of the earliest grist mills on what was called Tom's Creek in the Town of Southold. Evidently mills were built on both sides of the Creek and it is not clear whether more than one mill was in operation at the site at the same time. It is not surprising that this was a premier location because of the size of the storage area provided by Hashamomuck Pond insuring a sizeable tidal flow and lots of water power for the grist mill. From the Southold Historical Society records there was apparently a water powered grist mill in operation prior to 1656. On the preceding date there is a record of the conveyance of a piece of meadow "on the South side of the water mill at Tom's Creek" to Thomas Benedict who owned practically all of the land along the Eastern shore of the Creek. The dam on which the mill stood is supposed to been located between the present railroad bridge and the highway bridge.

In 1663 John Payne is named in the records as the owner of "The Mill at Tom's Creek." In January of 1667 records indicate that John Payne had sold the mill with several acres of meadow and upland to Captain Nathaniel Sylvester. This sale prompted some controversy with John Young claiming that the land belonged to him. After a review by the Town Fathers they did in fact agree that the mill site belonged to John Young. The final settlement of the affair, in the same year - 1667, resulted in the following letter to Captain Sylvester:

"Sir:

There having taken into consideracon your letter with a mill dam and a parcel of upland containing two acres adjoyning to the mill and dam which is the Towne's proper right. And this upland and dam we are willing to let you have it upon this conditione, that is; to be yours for your owne perticuler usen, so longe as you maintaine a mill sofiticinte to grind corne first for your owne family and next for us before any strangers and when you see cause to let the mill faule, or to alienate to any other person except upon the aforesaid terms. Than what you received from us to returne to us again. This is all at present from your loving friends of Southold.

*Sined in behalfe of the Towne by us; Thomas Mapes,
John Booth, Charles Glover, Bar. Horton, John Bud."*

It not known how long before the above mill "fauled" but records do indicate that a second mill for flouring and carding was built by William Albertson in 1788 and a barn and bridge built further South. This mill stood and supposedly operated for about sixty years. In 1885 the Town constructed a bridge over the Creek and a third mill was put up by Benedict and Hallet. This mill operated until it burned down around 1870.

The fourth and last mill on Mill Creek was built in the early 1670's and was operated by David F. Conklin & Company until 1879 when it was sold to James Allen. Allen advertised that in 1880 he equipped the mill with completely new machinery and the mill would operate every Wednesday. However, in the fall of 1881 the Long Island Traveler carried this notice: "Business at the Mill Creek Flour Mill will close on Saturday, November 12." Thus, after two and one-third centuries, milling at this Creek was abandoned and the mills and dams all disappeared.



Historic Marker erected by Southold Town Historical Committee and Southold-Peconic Civic Association.

Continued on page 21...

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6: ART EXHIBIT AND SALE 1-6pm in the new Harvest Pointe Clubhouse located at 75 Schoolhouse Road, Cutchogue. The show features fine art and photography by Guild members. Guests can also view the new models at the complex. For info call the Clubhouse 631-735-9222 or email Dawn@harvest-pointe.com

CHARCOAL DRAWING CLASS ON TUESDAYS

Subject: Feather, Fur, or Scales on Tuesdays: Sept. 10, 17, 24, and Oct. 1, 1:30-3:30 at the Guild with instructor Lee Harned, former Art Curriculum coordinator at Mattituck High School. Fee \$80 non-member/\$70 member (non-refundable). Checks payable to Old Town Arts & Crafts Guild. *Supply list: #2 pencil, 2 black charcoal pencils, 2 white charcoal pencils, eraser, manual pencil sharpener, small sketchbook 9x12 or 11x14.* To register call the Guild, 631-734-6382, or contact Lee Harned at leearthar@yahoo.com

PRINTMAKING WITHOUT A PRESS AUTUMN SUNDAYS

Taught by Linda Prentiss, instructor at Suffolk Community College, on Sundays, Sept. 22 to Oct. 27 (six sessions) from 2-4pm. \$150 Non-members, \$140 members, (includes materials fee). The Guild is located at 28265 Main Rd. Cutchogue. *Pre-registration required-limited to 10 participants.* For more info go to www.oldtownarts.org, and to register, call the Guild at 631-734-6382 or email Lee Harned at leearthar@yahoo.com

ART IN THE YARD SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Come meet event 1-4pm on the Guild grounds. All welcome.

ANTIQUES FINE ART & CRAFTS FAIR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Join us from 9am-4pm (R/D SUNDAY) Also, Photography, Pottery, Jewelry...

MATTITUCK-LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUMS

18300 Main Rd & Cardinal Dr., Mattituck • 631-298-5248 • mlhistoricalsociety.org

EXHIBIT: September 8, 2pm LADIES OF LIMOGE by Mark MacNish

Collector and curator of the MLHS, Mark MacNish, will talk about the Victorian era craze of china painting in the United States. Lady-like endeavors such as embroidery, music, etc. were considered socially acceptable for women, as was china painting. The history of the china painting fad will be explored and how it helped some woman achieve financial autonomy and independence, a feat that was difficult for a woman to achieve at the time. The lecture will be held at the New Egypt School House. For questions or information: webmaster@mlhistoricalsociety.org or contact event coordinator Mark MacNish at 631-379-7494 or macnish@aol.com.



5K FAMILY WALK/RUN SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8

ELIH Foundation 3rd Annual 5K FAMILY WALK/RUN at 8am. Meet at the Orient Beach State Park, Orient Point, NY. Register at elih.stonybrookmedicine.edu

13TH ANNUAL NORTH FORK FOODIE TOUR SUNDAY SEPT. 8

The 13th Annual North Fork Foodie Tour will include 20 locations representing a wide array of food producers on the North Fork, all providing behind-the-scenes tours of their farms and establishments, 10am to 4pm. The tour is a self-guided tour and provides the opportunity to visit North Fork producers of unique, local, artisanal food, wine and beer. Hear, touch, feel and taste what makes the products, the people that produce them and the North Fork so special. There will be fun, educational and delicious activities for all ages. Tickets \$25pp - children 12 and under free. For info call 631-722-5712 or visit <https://northforkreformsynagogue.org/2019-foodie-tour/>.

STRIPER SHOWDOWN FRIDAY & SATURDAY SEPT. 13 & 14

ELIH Foundation First Annual Fall Striper Showdown will take place at the Port of Egypt, Greenport. Register at elih.stonybrookmedicine.edu

POETRY AT THE NFCT SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14

NFCT and VSOP Projects are partnering to raise money for the NFCT's "Building on Tradition" campaign. Caroline Rothstein will perform Spoken Word Poetry at the Theatre at 8PM. Caroline is an internationally touring and acclaimed writer, poet, and performer. Her work has appeared in Cosmopolitan, Marie Claire, BuzzFeed, NYLON, Narratively, The Forward, Kveller, and elsewhere. She has been featured in The New Yorker, MTV News, Chicago Tribune, CBS Evening News, BuzzFeed News, HuffPost, Mic, and Newsweek. Lady Gaga calls her a "very inspiring woman." Tickets are \$20, and can be purchased on line or by calling 631-298-6328. Tickets will also be available at the door. Proceeds will go to help the NFCT continue to improve our theatre.

HALLOCK STATE PARK PRESERVE SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15

For more info and to reserve a place call (631) 315-5475

Join the Atlantic Marine Conservation Society scientists at 10am to learn about the five pinnipeds (seal species) found in our local waters, the threats that they face during their seasonal time near Long Island, and how we can help them as we share our marine environment. A beach walk and clean-up will follow, weather permitting. Participants ages 6 to 16 will receive a free Beach Stewardship backpack. Sponsored by New York Connect Kids to Parks.

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