

Dr. David Stinebeck

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To the Citizens of Marshfield:

As a longtime scholar of American history, including a book and articles on the colonial New England period, I was impressed when I moved to Marshfield three years ago to discover that a 250-year-old mill here was still operational until the mid-1960s, and that it was in the process of being restored with a combination of funds from different sources. I visited the Mill, and immediately realized that students of all ages could not only learn--when it becomes operational again--about life in the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, but actually participate in the restoration through the efforts of faculty and classes at all grade levels and from various institutions in the Boston area.

In a real sense, Hatch Mill is a more authentic site than either Plimoth Plantation which is a recent recreation or Sturbridge Village which is an imaginary location that never actually existed. Right here in Marshfield, we have an important historical structure that can be made operational with a combination of additional public and private funds, not to mention the in-kind assistance the project continues to receive from many quarters.

Its supporters have so impressed the Massachusetts Historical Commission that they provided two grants and helped to get the site successfully placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It would be a shame if Marshfield were not ultimately able to enjoy this restored historic site and bring additional recognition to this town that lies so close to the original Pilgrim settlements.

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