

CORBETT'S GLEN

One of the most distinctive settings in Monroe County, Corbett's Glen is a treasure of woodland, scenic creek, and waterfalls hidden in a valley behind a massive stone-arched tunnel. It has been the scene of Native American, early industrial, agricultural, and recreational activities for over two hundred years.

The first visitors to the Glen were the Senecas who fished for the abundant salmon and trout and hunted game in the woods.

The Tryon Company who established a residential and commercial community at the head of Irondequoit Bay in 1797 bought the Glen as a source of power for the Tryon saw and grist mills.

Marshfield Parsons, an early settler in Brighton, was the next owner of the property, operating a powder mill on the Creek. A fatal explosion in 1848 caused him to sell out to William Stoneburner. The Glen remained in the Stoneburner family until after 1878. Patrick W. Corbett bought seventeen acres on a land contract in 1890.

Patrick Corbett raised fruit and vegetables on the site, developing a unique irrigation system that used water from Allen's Creek. Sources indicate that he operated one of the largest truck farms in the area.

A change in lifestyle around the turn of the century made possible leisure time for weekend picnics. By 1920 the work week was 47 hours with Saturday half-days the norm for most workers. A Sunday in the country was also made possible by advances in transportation - the invention of the bicycle and convenient mass transit. The Rochester, Syracuse, & Eastern trolley stop #6 was located on Linden Avenue just west of Glen Road

The hospitable Corbetts began opening the Glen for picnics. Visitors coming through the tunnel paid a small fee or left coins in a can nailed to the fence post. Always a rustic site even with the later additions of pavilions for dancing, eating, and drinking, Patrick Corbett provided the space, fresh air, and scenic vistas missing in the crowded city.

After Patrick Corbett's death in 1936, the family continued to operate the picnic ground although a flood in 1942 claimed the bridge over the falls and by the mid-1950s vandals had destroyed the pavilions. Howard and Elaine Meath bought the property in 1956. The Meaths rented out the Glen to groups for special events and later established Camp Hideaway, a day camp for school age children. The latter closed in the 1970s but the private parties continued until neighbors complained. In 1974 the town of Brighton turned down a developer's plans to build 240 apartments and townhouses in the Glen

By 1996, Brighton was determined to create a nature park and keep the land forever wild. With the help of the Genesee Land Trust, the town purchased the land in the Glen in 1999.

The addition of the Farash property on Penfield Road in 2003 provided additional parking spaces and another access point for the park. Leaving the bustle of the busy street, one can walk to the Glen on soft mulched paths that lead to the great meadow and the "postcard falls" to enjoy the tranquil beauty of this place that has lured settlers and visitors for so many years.

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