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The Historic Village at Allaire

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# The Village Star

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	Autumn 2021	
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Special thanks to Michele at Bridal Music NJ for this amazing photo of our Carpenter's Shop. If you have any pictures of Allaire that you would like to submit for inclusion in *The Village Star*, please contact Caroline Peters at [cpeters@allairevillage.org](mailto:cpeters@allairevillage.org), with the subject line *Star Photos*.

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## Letter from the Executive Director: Hance M. Sitkus, CPA

*"The greatest opportunities will come from challenges that force you to expand your mind and search for creative solutions, so welcome difficult challenges as best you can."*

First, let me take this time to offer my sincere condolences to those who may have lost loved ones due to the pandemic. It has been a tumultuous time with so many unprecedented challenges. I continue to hope everyone stays safe and healthy. To our faithful volunteers – onsite or behind the scenes – I offer up a huge thank you! The support of our volunteers, members, patrons, donors, staff, sponsors and you is not only a critical part of keeping our museum alive, but so very much appreciated.

The pandemic closed our museum in March 2020. But our careful and safe planning, resiliency, and creative pivoting allowed us to re-open in July 2020 with a new operating plan. Our re-opening was a two month pilot program. Encouraged by September 2020, the Trustees allowed the village to remain open through the first Christmas at Allaire event in December 2020 and for the Christmas Lantern Tours. Keeping our volunteers, staff, and visitors SAFE was paramount to our re-opening. Even today decisions continue to challenge day to day operations and finances.

In the past 18 months, we've expanded our historical demonstrations and launched new exhibits at the Enameling Building, Row House & Village Museum.

As heart-breaking as this pandemic has been, it led management to re-evaluate our core programs, and look internally at our museum's mission - how it could be best fulfilled. It was back to basics – what are our strengths, our weaknesses? How can we help our community cope and be an outlet from the challenges of a pandemic, while introducing them to the history of our site? The biggest initiatives to have emerged to date has been the constant need and desire to invest in volunteers, grow our education department, and launch an official museum curatorial department.

Our biggest investment will always be in our volunteers – their time, talent, knowledge, and expertise are invaluable.

# The Village Star

## Letter from the Director, cont.

As we continue to grow, please join me in welcoming our newest staff members. Linnea Kuglitsch serves as our Historical Programming Coordinator in the education department. She works closely with Laura Clark. After nearly 65 years, we've finally retained a full-time curator to look after the 20,000+ objects in the museum's collection. Felicity Bennett is a familiar face, but now joins our staff full-time. But that's an awful lot of "stuff" to keep track of! It's hoped that Felicity will receive additional help in the future to tackle both the village building contents/objects, and also the re-open the Village Library on a limited basis. Also, as a first, we've hired Caroline Peters, to head up our Development Department, and Cynthia Dwyer to be our dedicated Chapel/Wedding Coordinator!

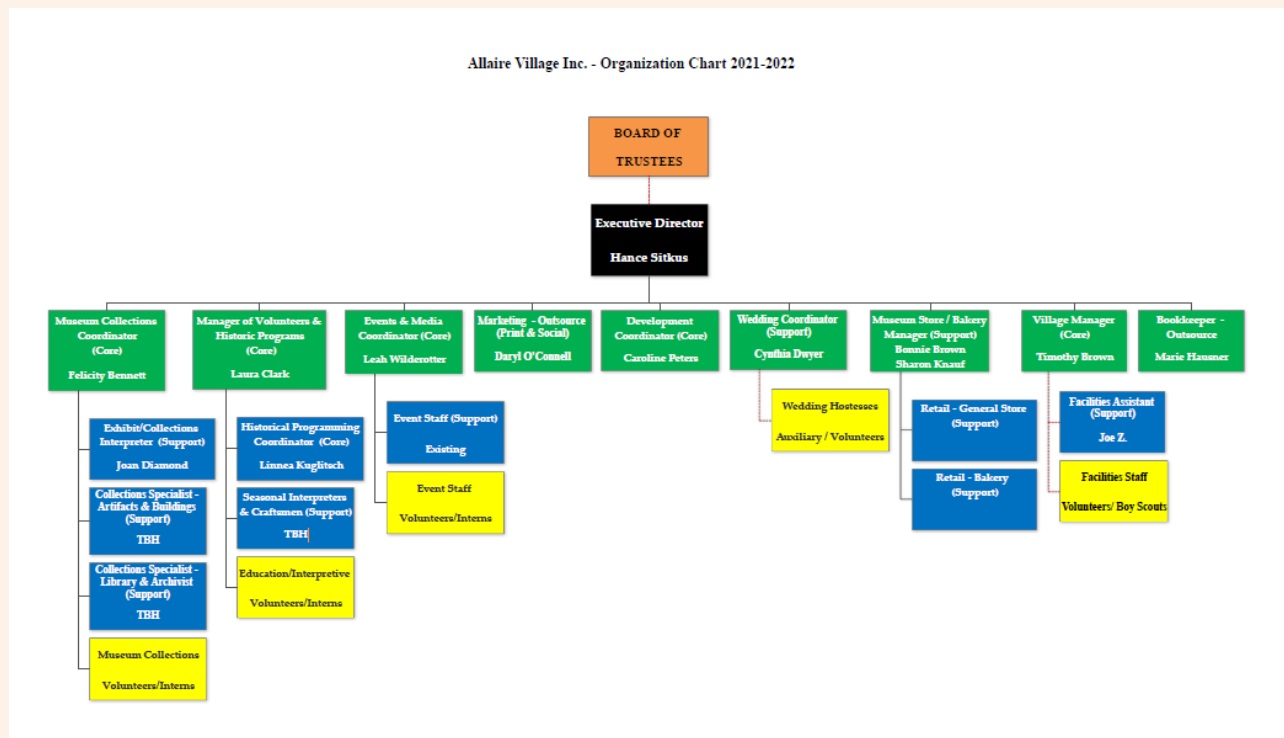
The General Store offers a window of opportunity to show how villagers would have embraced living in a factory town of 1836. Bonnie Brown, our General Store Manager (and familiar face!), has already begun the Store's transformation to weave this history into play. Be sure to bring your Christmas cards to the General Store in December for the special Allaire Christmas cancellation mark. The General Store and Bakery welcome you with a unique stock of merchandise for the holiday shopping season. Treats galore at our Village Bakery, where one gets a warm welcome from manager Sharon Knauf.

Once again, I am VERY grateful to all our volunteers and village staff that have gone above and beyond during these past 18 months. Our events, marketing, and facilities continue to be transformed by Leah Wilderotter, Daryl O'Connell, and Tim Brown. My thanks also to Gina Palmisano and Cindy Srnka who have recently gone on to new opportunities. The Auxiliary continues to give a steady and supporting hand – whether for our chapel, admissions, or fund raising. Be on the lookout for special membership and volunteer reception this Christmas, as well as an exciting upcoming new year!

As for our historic village buildings, preservation is the key word. The Row House & Village Museum recently received a new roof, courtesy of the NJ State Park Service. Allaire Village Inc. undertook a \$65K renovation of the historic Enameling Building, and continues to tackle painting, window, and wood repair on various buildings. The Trustees will be forming a special committee in November 2021 to formulate a capital improvement plan for the historic district and its buildings.

Lastly, I ask for your help. Will you help The Historic Village at Allaire continue to reimagine its signature and community programs and events, grow virtual offerings, and build on the opportunities recently embraced? Become a member and let us build Allaire together to meet programming needs. Let us forge ahead and build a brighter future to portray Allaire's history!

*Hance M. Sitkus, CPA*  
Executive Director, Allaire Village Inc.



*Check out our updated organization chart!*





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# Events at Allaire

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*Thank you to our volunteers for making these special events possible!*

Volunteer  
Marian sports  
her coordinated  
dress and mask  
at this year's  
Apple Fest!



Where would  
we be without  
our volunteers  
to make sure  
Night of  
Frights goes  
(spookily) well!

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## Events Happening This Season:

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General Admission Days: November 5th, 6th, 7th, 14th, and 21st

### November 6th: Election Day in the 1830s

11am-4pm

Experience Election  
Day the Allaire  
way, complete with  
debates and a vote!  
General Admission  
day, \$5/person 3  
years old and up.

### November 13th: Holiday Craft Show

10am-3pm

Come and do some  
holiday shopping  
at Allaire with our  
local crafters!  
\$5/person, with  
over 100 vendors,  
all supporting  
Allaire Village!

### November 20th: Flea Market

8am-2pm

Snag a great deal  
before the holidays!  
\$5/person, children  
under 12 free.  
Allaire Members get  
free admission!

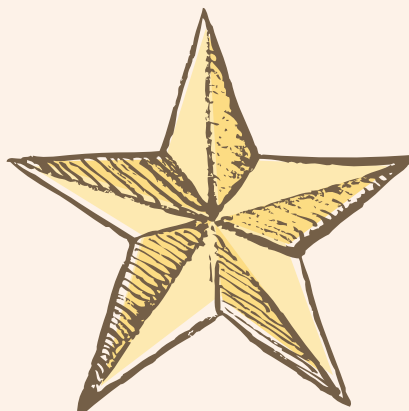
### November 20th: Early 19th Century Thanksgiving

11am-3pm

Come and celebrate  
Thanksgiving, 1830s  
style! Cooking  
demonstrations, and  
an appearance by  
our own Bishop  
Doane. Free  
admission!

Get your tickets for our  
Christmas Lantern Tours! A  
guided walking tour through  
the village, led by candlelight.

\$30/person, advanced  
purchase required via  
Eventbrite. For \$45/person,  
join one of our VIP tours!  
December 4th, 11th, and 18th.



Come celebrate Christmas  
at the Historic Village at  
Allaire, 19th Century style!

\$8/person advanced  
purchase via Eventbrite,  
\$10/person day-of. 2 years  
and under free!

December 5th, 12th, 19th.

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# *Mr. Allaire's Portrait Wall of Announcements*

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## ***Interested in Volunteering?***

Do you have a passion for history and a love for education? A desire to help in your local community museum? If so, please join us as a volunteer! We always have volunteer opportunities available. Our volunteers can learn a new trade or skill, teach the public the history of our site and our trades, or help behind the scenes. Please contact Laura Clark at [lcclark@allairevillage.org](mailto:lcclark@allairevillage.org), (732) 919-3500, ex. 14, to schedule a volunteer orientation!

## ***Memorial Benches: Available at Allaire***

We at Allaire Village are excited to be installing our first round of memorial benches! We would like to thank the family and friends of:

- Ralph Baroska, Esq.
- Thomas M. Sandle
- William A. Krott Sr.
- Evelyn Frostick Kessler Morton
- Vernie Van Dyke
- Kenneth Haines Creveling
- Bill & Rose Geschke
- Jake, Tyler, & Samantha Latshaw
- Sandra Elaine Maison Capro
- Lillian Henrietta Capro Clevenger
- Jane Stanley Capro Vaker

Interested in purchasing a bench to memorialize your loved one? Please contact Caroline at [cpeters@allairevillage.org](mailto:cpeters@allairevillage.org), (732) 919-3500, ex. 13.

## ***Did You Know...***

We received a Preservation Project Award for the Enameling Building from Preservation New Jersey, a statewide member-supported non-profit historic preservation organization. The Enameling Building preservation was funded through a \$15K grant from the 1772 Foundation and capital funds from Allaire Village Inc. We are so happy to win this award and thankful for all the hard work of our staff and donors on the project!

## ***Join as a Member!***

- Join us as a member of Allaire Village to help preserve our site, and receive some exclusive perks to match! These include:
- Complimentary admission to the Village on General Admission days
  - A 10% discount at all Village retail shops, including the online general store
  - Free admission to our Flea Markets
  - Invitations to exclusive members-only events

Interested? Reach out to Caroline Peters at [cpeters@allairevillage.org](mailto:cpeters@allairevillage.org), (732) 919-3500, ex. 13 to learn more!





## GET READY FOR... CHRISTMAS AT ALLAIRE!

### OUR STORIED PAST: CHRISTMAS AT ALLAIRE VILLAGE

By Linnea Kuglitsch, Historical Programming  
Coordinator

The Historic Village at Allaire makes a festive destination no matter the season but it puts on a spectacular face at Christmas time. Beginning in early December, the village transforms from a lively 19th century industrial town to an enchanting showcase of classic early Victorian Christmas celebrations that reflect the rich literary culture of the middle part of the nineteenth century. This season, we welcome you and your loved ones to Allaire Village to experience the images authors painted through mid-nineteenth century literature set the scene for the modern Christmas aesthetic in person. Inspired by period literary pieces such as "The Night Before Christmas" (1822), Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" (1843), and "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" (1816), visitors to the Village will find themselves immersed in a storybook scene that explores the origins and the development of the aesthetics and traditions that gave rise to the Christmas festivities that many of us celebrate today. Folks both young and old will find themselves enchanted with the magical array of seasonal crafts and activities on offer!

Begin your journey at the Visitor Center and Museum, where the industrial origins of the Allaire come into focus as we prepare to explore the holiday spirit. Next, call at the Village Chapel - a hub of philanthropy, spirituality, and festivity among village founder James Allaire and his workers -- to a gentle chorus of voice and harp. Continue down the path and peek into the Foreman's Cottage, where you will see how people that lived in tighter quarters than most modern families found the space to add a Christmas tree. As you wander through the village, look out for the gifts received in "The 12 Nights of Christmas" - a poem popularized in the 1830s and set to the well-known tune later in the century. Hurry down past the millpond to the Manager's House and see why folks in the 19th century dreamed of sugarplums! Watch groups of carolers travel from house to house as you follow the path to the Allaire Residence, where you will be greeted with a scene worthy of iconic American printmakers Currier and Ives, with every room cheerfully decked with evergreen boughs and ribbons. As your visit winds down, conclude your tour with a visit to the General Store or Bakery and prepare for your own holiday celebrations by perusing a wide array of gifts, handicrafts, and sweetmeats prepared by the Village's very own artisans.

Guided lantern tours at Allaire run from 5-8pm on Saturday, December 4th, 11th, and 18th. Tickets (\$45 for VIP tour, \$30 for a General Tour) must be purchased in advance. Christmas at Allaire is offered on Sunday, December 5th, 12th, and 19th, from 12-4pm. Tickets can be purchased in advance (\$8 per person; children 2 & under free) or at the door (\$10).



*Christmas scenes throughout Allaire Village.  
Visit us to see this year's decorations!*





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# SPONSOR CHRISTMAS AT ALLAIRE!

*Have your company name-or the name of a loved one- seen by **THOUSANDS**, all while supporting a local non-profit!*

Three tiers available:

**Bronze:** Our \$200 tier, this covers wreaths on our rowhome doors, as well as wreaths across our mill pond. This cost includes decorations, as well as a centrally-placed, personalized ribbon on your wreath. It ALSO includes two (2) complimentary tickets to our Christmas at Allaire event.

**Silver:** Our \$450 tier, this covers the front doors of our historic buildings. It includes decorations, and a centrally-placed personalized ribbon on your wreath. It ALSO includes four (4) complimentary tickets to Christmas at Allaire.

**Gold:** The \$750+ tier, this covers our most visible spaces in the village. It includes decorations, a personalized ribbon, AND six (6) complimentary tickets to Christmas at Allaire. Some placements include:

2 sleds in the carriage house- (\$750 for one, get both for \$1,400)

Our 12 ft. tree (\$1,2000)

Our ever-popular model train set (\$750)

**Interested?**

**Reach out Caroline at [cpeters@allairevillage.org](mailto:cpeters@allairevillage.org), and we will find the perfect sponsorship for you!**

*Ask about upgrading your complimentary tickets!*



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## Letter from the Editor: Caroline Peters, Development Coordinator

Welcome back to Allaire Village's newsletter, The Village Star! As the village's new Development Coordinator, I am excited to bring a small sampling of Allaire's offerings right to your inbox! For our first issue back, we are highlighting a visitor-favorite season, Fall! As the leaves change and the weather cools, Allaire transforms into an autumnal wonderland. During this season, we welcome thousands of eager visitors to our village, and highlight some of our favorite parts of the season! From apple cider pressing at our Apple Fest, to being spooked at our Night of Frights, we hope to create an autumnal experience that everyone can enjoy!

As always, the continued function and growth of The Historic Village at Allaire is made possible by our dedicated volunteers, who tirelessly donate their time and energy to our cause! Our organization would like to extend an extra-special thanks to:

- Bonnie Brown
- Sue O'Brien
- Daryl & PJ O'Connell

Thank you all so much for your hard work and dedication, our site would not be the same without you!



Our General Store on a beautiful autumn day. Photo courtesy of Michelle at Bridal Music NJ.



## Men's Hats In The 19th Century

An Article by Diane Lingsch, Historian

The well-dressed man in the 19th century would not leave his home without wearing his hat. Hats were worn for many reasons, but mainly for protection from the elements, or conditions at their place of employment. Politics, religion, war, literature of the time, hairstyles, hygienic purposes, and depending on his station in life, for fashionable reasons, were factors which influenced the wearing of hats by men.

A man's mode of transportation was also a factor during the industrial revolution. Riding in a covered carriage while wearing a tall hat, could be detrimental. At a time when machinery, factories and multiple storied buildings were being built, fashions of that period reflected the progressiveness of the times.

Not only were the men's fashions effected by the new found prosperity during this The "Romantic Period", which in the 19th century was from about 1815 – 1840, women's clothing also had a say, so to speak. Fashionable details such as, large voluminous sleeves on dresses, large layered skirts and enormous hats were becoming the norm. The taller the buildings the more exaggerated fashion styles became.

There were some added benefits to wearing a top hat, people could use them as a space to carry items that would not be put into their pocket.





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The popular phrase “keep it under your hat” comes from this period. As an example of men’s haberdashery which had a twofold purpose, mortarboards worn by students who attended university found that their caps were not designed merely for academics, but also to protect them from garbage thrown from the windows above them on their way to class.

The materials that men’s hats were made of varied. Top hats could be made of beaver, silk, straw, etc. In the 1790s silk top hats became popular in England, then were adopted by Americans. Beaver hats were also worn, but were costly. Silk top hats became popular again after the 1830s as beaver became scarce and more expensive.

In Europe between 1830 – 1840 beaver were hunted to extinction

The region of the country where someone lived had a lot to do with the style of men’s hats, along with available materials. In the 18th century felt hats were worn, in particular by Quaker men of Pennsylvania. As many of them were farmers, they could be seen wearing them while working on their farms. Those who went off to fight during the revolutionary war, were said to have worn their “round hat”, which had a low crown, a wide brim and were made of black felt. This hat style was carried over into the 19th century, and is still worn today in those communities populated by the Amish, as well as other religious groups.

Work hats could be made from fabrics such as linen, cotton, leather, straw, even felt.



*Photo, left: A fiddler sports a top hat typical of Allaire Village’s 1830’s interpretation period.*

The following is a list of hats popular or created in the 19th century:

top hats

bowler – 1849 English

derby - The bowler and the derby are the same hat. The derby is named for The Earl of Derby, who was of English royalty. He wore one on a trip to the United States. The name of the Kentucky Derby has its origin here.

boater

fedora

panama

stove pipe – straw 1830s

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## Allaire's Canal System

An Article by Paul Taylor, Allaire Village Trustee

On May 6th, a group of Village Trustees and staff members took an archaeological field trip to the northern reaches of James P. Allaire’s 1830s canal system. The trip was lead by Trustee Paul Taylor, who had been researching the canal system for several years.



*Photo courtesy of Norman Cooperman*

Paul and his wife Marty had been walking the State Park trails for decades and during the covid19 pandemic, had gravitated towards the remoter parts of the trail system. On one section of a trail, there was a shallow depression, about a foot to 18 inches deep and 15’ – 20’ wide, crossing perpendicularly to the direction of the trail. After several more walks on this particular trail, it became obvious



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that the depression was man-made, and during a winter time walk was observed that the depression continued, north and south, as a ditch, 15' to 20' wide: a dry section of Allaire's canal!

Paul had been the Supervisor of the Office of Historic Sites in the State Park Service since 1979, and was familiar with 19th Century canal systems in New Jersey and in other states in the Northeast. In doing research, the only readily available reference to the canal appears in James S. Brown's *Allaire's Lost Empire*, published in 1958. On page 30 and 31, Brown says:

Allaire also had a canal dug between 1831 and 1836 to bring water three miles from the headwaters of the Mingamahone Brook, near Farmingdale, (then called Upper Squankum or Marsh's Bog) to the Works. Leveling of the land was supervised by a Mr. Knight of Morristown, who had directed construction of the new furnace.

Five farms were bought to acquire the right of way for the canal and a large force of men was hired on contract to do the work. Hal Allaire mentions that in 1836 a "culvert or underground passage for water by front row was constructed." This apparently carried water past the front row of houses and into the mill pond.

In 1837, according to the Hal Allaire papers, the canal was used for the first time, supplying water to the new saw mill and screw factory. In 1839, he notes, the canal was deepened at the upper end and extended across the pond and into the furnace to provide a twenty-four foot fall for the furnace wheel.

The use made of the canal still is a matter of disagreement. Some sources contend barges carrying ore from the meadows north of Farmingdale, where much of it was dug, were towed along the canal. But an account in the *Monmouth Inquirer* of October 6, 1836, declared:

"....with other improvements now in progress, there is an extensive and costly canal now being made to lead a plentiful supply of water to the (Howell) works for the manufacturing purposes that are in contemplation."

This, then, seems to be the true explanation and it is supported by one early resident who, in 1925, told Wainwright that the ore was transported by wagon and not on the canal.

On subsequent trips, Paul walked both the northern and southern sections of the dry canal, through the brush. He recommends doing this in a cool season, after a frost, as the leaves will be off the trees, and the numerous ticks would be gone. The southern section is extremely difficult, and is not recommended. The northern section is more passable and several hundred yards long. The canal route is obvious once you recognize it, and leads to where the northern terminus with the Mingamahone Brook was. And this leads also to both a problem and a mystery.



*Photo courtesy of Norman Cooperman*

Mingamahone Brook

Historically, the next major construction project in the immediate area of the junction of Allaire's canal and the Mingamahone Brook was the railroad line which ran between Manasquan, Farmingdale, Freehold and Monmouth Junction, built in the early 1850s. The problem is that the railroad project destroyed all or most of the structure at the junction of the canal and the Mingamahone. And the mystery is just what the northern end of the canal looked like?



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It can be assumed that there was some type of dam structure to create an impoundment / upper mill pond. This would create a body of water to raise the level of the water high enough to flow south through the canal all the way to the Howell Works with enough flow to power the mills there. In the dam there must have been several sluices or gates to control the flow of water into the canal, and to allow for excess water during storms to flow back into the Mingamahone.

Allaire's canal project actually captured the water from two streams; the Mingamahone and Crane Brook. The former is a much larger stream, and drains a watershed that goes well beyond Farmingdale to the northern reaches of the Earle Naval Weapons Station and Rt. 18. Crane Brook presently has a dam and small pond just south of Hurley Pond Road and just north of the area of the northern end of the canal. The dam is fairly modern (est. mid-20th C.), but may be the successor to an earlier one.

What is known is that James Allaire, a successful industrialist, saw the need for more water power for his Howell Works and invested a substantial amount of resources into the engineering and construction of a three-mile-long power canal to supply this additional water. Allaire Village / Howell Works as we know it today could not have functioned without this additional water power and this was a key part of Allaire's plans for the Works.

What can also be deduced from Allaire's Lost Empire is that by 1839, Allaire again invested in his canal to deepen the northern end, and increase the flow and amount of water to his industrial operations. Specifically mentioned is a project to bring water from the Mingamahone to the furnace, and provide a 24 foot head of water for the blowing machines / bellows to create the blast for the furnace. To do this would require either a flume to carry the water across the small valley of the Village

"mill pond, or the elevation of the the mill dam and pond so that water could flow to the head of the bluff near the furnace stack. More mysteries.

The Trustees and staff spent about two hours walking and observing the various sections of the canal, including a hike to the current northern end of the watered section of the canal, on the Green Trail of Allaire State Park. They came away with a better understanding of Allaire's canal system and its importance to the success of his Howell Works.

If you want to explore Allaire's canal system, there are several options. If you want some exercise, have several hours and can hike the five or so miles round trip, you can start at the main parking lot near the Village and walk northwest along the Green Trail. This trail follows the canal for most of it's length. Where the watered section of the canal ends, the Green Trail bends right, to the north. Several hundred yards along this section are two large fallen trees, one across the trail. Take a small connector trail to the left to the former railroad right of way, now the Yellow Trail. Turn left for several hundred yards to a large, though unmarked trail / roadway to the left.

This is the large waterline right-of-way from the Manasquan Reservoir to the water treatment plant on Hospital Road. This road will take you to the Mingamahone Brook, and a little before you get to the Brook, you will cross the shallow depression that started the research project. If you look carefully, there are two unofficial trails, new in the last 6 months, that more or less parallel these dry sections of the canal, slightly to the West If you backtrack and stay on the main road / water line right-of-way, you will come back to the junction with the Yellow Trail.





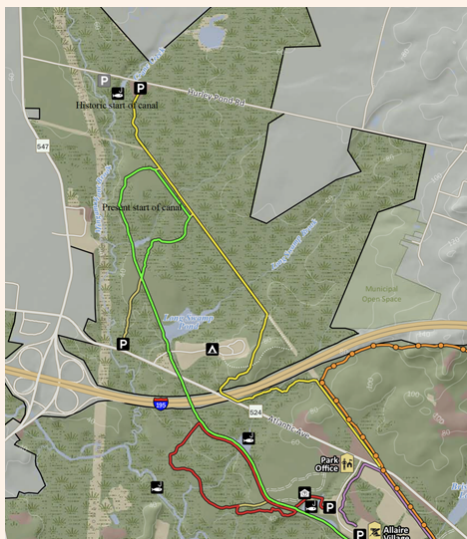
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Turn left at this junction and go a short distance to a fork, where the main Yellow Trail / roadway goes right and the old railroad right-of-way is on the left. Take the railroad right-of-way for several hundred yards and you will come to a sizable stone block bridge over the Mingamahone, and the immediate area of the former canal junction. As you walk towards the bridge, you will see the canal coming in at a sharp angle on your left. It originally went to the north of the railroad and joined the Mingamahone Brook and Crane Creek in the area just to the east of the railroad bridge. The dam on Crane Brook can be observed, but it is not visible from the railroad. You have to get off the railroad right-of-way and walk east a short distance through the brush and look to the north. The present dam sluice has a 5' – 6' drop. As mentioned, off-trail exploration is best done in a cold season because of the foliage and the ticks.

A much shorter access to this area is via the parking area on Hurley Pond Road. In this case, follow the Yellow Trail / waterline access road for about ¼ mile to the junction with the railroad right-of-way, and follow the directions above. Do pick up one of the excellent Allaire State Park trail maps or download it from their website. This shows almost all of the features mentioned, as well as the many other hiking trails in the park. Happy hiking!



*Left: Map of Allaire State Park, highlighting the trails & canal bed linked during this walk.*

## The Historic Village at Allaire

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Village Office open Wednesday-Friday, 9-5

(732) 919-3500

[www.allairevillage.org](http://www.allairevillage.org)

Check out our Facebook page! @TheHistoricVillageAtAllaire



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## *The Village Star*

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### *A Thank You To Our Annual Sponsors & Grantors*



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