



The Historic Village at Allaire

The Village Star

	Winter 2021	
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Our gardens will be blooming soon! 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, with the subject line *Star Photos*.

A First-Hand Account of Allaire Village:

"West of the marsh that girds the seashore, lies an immense sandy plain, scarcely broken by any inequalities and originally covered by a pine and scrub oak forest- a great portion of which has been once, and some of it twice, cut over. There are many square miles on which there is not a human inhabitant, and where the deer, foxes, and rabbits are abundant, and the wolf and bear find a lair to protect their race from extinction. But in many places the echo is awakened by the woodsman's axe and the louder din of the forge hammer. The forest glares with the light of furnace or glass house. In this sandy desert there are found veins of generous soil, which yield compensatory crop of corn and rye to the labours of the husbandman."

- A Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey (1834),



The Historic Village at Allaire

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

First, a special thank you to all our members, donors, volunteers, staff, trustees, sponsors, State Park personnel, and countless others that helped support our village and its operations during these past two years – through a horrific pandemic that still lingers. Please know that we appreciate you and we are here for you now more than ever!

It's an exciting time at The Historic Village at Allaire. This coming season the village will be open Wednesday through Sunday from April to November (special events in December), for five days a week. Never before has the village been open this many hours to the public. It will come alive with craftspeople at our Blacksmith and Carpenter Shops, interpreters at our historic homes, attendants at our exhibition halls, and clerks at our General Store and Bakery. Aside from purchasing unique souvenirs and tasty treats at our retail stores, be sure to check out their new and exciting program initiatives that will be debuting in our 2022 open season. A unique shopping experience awaits!

As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the purchase of the site that would become the Howell Iron Works by James P. Allaire, our museum education and collections staff have been busy on how they can create an immersive and engaging experience for our visitors this season. In trying to get more historically accurate and capture that "moment in time" in our village buildings, we have expanded our museum collections department this year – with interns, volunteers, and two full-time staff members. This is a first in the museums' near 65 year history.

Over the winter, many village buildings have been painted, fixed up, re-staged with historical artifacts and antiques, cleaned, and given some TLC. A special 200th anniversary photo contest and exhibition awaits your eye at the Arthur Brisbane Continuing Education Center, located at the Enameling Building. The Row House & Village Museum (aka Visitor Center) exhibits the Howell Works scrip (money) and garden coins.

Our 200th anniversary "Village Bicentennial Medallion" and monthly village coins – to be released throughout 2022 – were inspired by the Howell Works scrip and coins. The medallions were designed and created by local graphic artist, AnnMarie Freda. Our Museum Education department has been tasked with cultivating new crafts, introducing additional demonstrations, and launching outdoor programs to draw people into the village's unique history and ambiance. Be sure to check out our calendar of special events and EventBrite!

School tours are still rebounding, but our group tour program has been re-imagined to include not only pre-registered school tours groups, but also summer camps, boy and girl scouts, a special home-school days, and a 90 minute guided tour of the village in the afternoons on week-days. Included in the general weekend admission charge will be special "pop-up tours." The "pop-up tours" will dig in and explore a specific village topic – architectural features, what is left of the industrial iron works complex, and more.

Continued →

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Letter from the Director, cont.

The memorial benches have finally been received and our Village Staff and Park Staff are working to get the plaques and benches strategically placed throughout the village. They offer visitors a bit of comfort and respite. Authentic barrel tabletops and chairs will soon be located outside the Bakery beside the Mill Pond. Have you seen the new barrels in the village? They double not only as historical props but garbage cans! A cooper and general workshop area is emerging in the center room of the Carpenter Shop. The Allaire Mansion "Ell" is finally getting water-proofed and a make-over, while a rebuilt ADA ramp off the back of the Manager's House has been scheduled. As we wait for additional outdoor kiosks to be made to display the beautiful artwork of the Manasquan River Group of Artists (of village scenes and buildings that no longer exist), look for three of their paintings to appear at the Allaire Mansion's "Ell" and Enameling Building's Members Lounge. These are valuable historic interpretation resources.

Recently I was contacted to contribute an article about Allaire's "Postal History." The release of this article in March 2022 has led us to re-discover various items in our archives. Recall that Hal Allaire was the post-master for 27 years! Store Manager, Bonnie Brown has re-freshed the post office at the General Store to display some of this unique history we re-discovered.

Hungry? Thirsty? Pilsen Gourmet is back as our food vendor this year and looks to serve patrons and volunteers alike on our new operating schedule. The Bakery has expanded its offering and will be returning to be part of the Flea Market venue once again! The "Hallie Allaire Cookbook," first published by the Auxiliary in the 1960s, has been re-printed and for sale at both the Store and Bakery.

It takes a village to run a village.....repairs, maintenance, and fixing-up is a constant behind the scenes chore. Allaire Village Inc. partners with the State Park Service to do what it can to preserve our 13 historic buildings.

Topping the capital needs list is an exterior restoration of the Chapel (roof and steeple particularly), Enameling Building roof, and Carriage House & Gardener's Cottage restoration (new roof is on, interior renovations to be staged). Replacing the Barn (to create a more usable interpretive and indoor space), rebuilding the Gazebo, and re-decking the Dormitory is also needed. There are lots of dream projects, but practically speaking we need to preserve what we have, first and foremost. Working with the NJ State Park Service to achieve preservation is paramount.

How can you help? Visit Allaire this year in its 200th Anniversary. Book a tour. Become a member of the village. Be a major donor or sponsor one of our historic buildings or dream projects. Share your unique skills and become a volunteer of the village – in our craft guilds, in our homes, at our events, or as part of the Auxiliary. Purchase some of our unique 200th anniversary souvenirs and memorabilia (on shelves in April). However you want to become involved or engaged in The Historic Village at Allaire, please know you are appreciated and we will embrace you as part of the extended Allaire family. We are here for you now more than ever!

It's a privilege and honor for me to guide and serve this wonderful community as we celebrate 200 years of "Allaire."

The historic buildings at Allaire are the most important possession the museum has. It is the center of all that we do and teach. They form the community spirit of Allaire that unites us. Support from our members, donors, and volunteers, allows Allaire Village Inc. to care for these important structures. Nothing makes us prouder than to see a historic structure preserved for generations to come. Contributions that preserve history are contributions that make a lasting impression.



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

2021 Holiday Events at Allaire

Thank you to our volunteers for making our holiday events possible!



Chairman of the Board Raymond O'Grady charms as Allaire Village's Santa!



Foodways Guild Master Kaitlin bakes cookies in our traditional tin oven!

Thank you to all who joined us for our holiday events!

Your attendance supports our mission to keep history alive, and we cannot wait to host you again when we re-open in April of 2022!



Events at Allaire

Allaire's Spring Season is about to begin!

Join us for our Special Event Days

**Indicates Historic Event*

Saturday, March 19th:

Flea Market, 8am-2pm. \$5/person (age 12 and under free!)

Saturday, April 2nd:

2022 Opening Day*, 11am-4pm. \$5/person (age 3 and under free!)

Saturday, April 9th:

Flea Market, 8am-2pm. \$5/person (age 12 and under free!)

Saturday, April 16th:

19th Century Easter Celebration*, 11am-4pm.

Pre-registration: \$8/person; Day-of ticket: \$10/person
(age 3 and under free!)

Saturday, April 23rd:

The Beer Run 5K, 12am-4pm. ONLY for participants age 21+. All attendees must present valid ID for entry. Starting at \$65.95 for 5k+Beer Garden access.

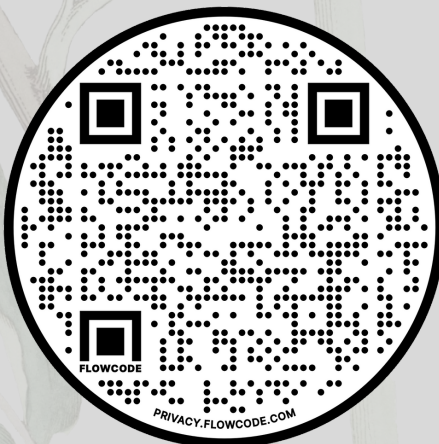
Saturday, April 30th:

Spring Craft Show, 10am-4pm.

\$5/person (age 6 and under free!)

For tickets and more information, check out our Allaire Village Eventbrite Page!

Scan our QR code to see more!



Mr. Allaire's Portrait Wall of Announcements

A HUGE Thanks to Our Holiday Cheer Sponsors:

**Titan Realty LLC
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Hance M. Sitkus, CPA
Charles Brisbane
Pamela S. Coombe
Daryl O'Connell
Lynne Petillo, Esq.
Raymond O'Grady
The Crino Family**

Memorial Benches: Available at Allaire

The purchase of a memorial bench at The Historic Village at Allaire supports our museum's mission, all while providing a space to honor a loved one.

We would like to thank the family and friends of:

**-Dr. Carl and Shirley Restivo
-The Chobert (Luthin) Family
-Donald W. Kunz**

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

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 lclark@allairevillage.org, (732) 919-3500, ex. 14, to schedule a volunteer orientation!

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, (732) 919-3500, ex. 13 to learn more!



Sponsorship Opportunities This Season:

NEW!

Dedication Wreaths Now Available at Allaire Village!

Show your support for Allaire Village this spring by sponsoring our Mill Pond Bridge's "Walk Into Spring" silk floral wreath display!



Sponsorship Includes:

Your name of choice on a keepsake ornament displayed on one of our Walk Into Spring wreaths, AND a featured thank-you in our Quarterly newsletter, The Village Star.

\$125

Don't delay-Limited spots available!

Your tax-deductible donation supports the growth and preservation of The Historic Village at Allaire

*To secure your spot, contact Caroline at cpeters@allairevillage.org,
(732)919-3500 ex. 13
by MARCH 30TH
www.allairevillage.org*

Wreaths on display from April 1st-May 1st



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2021: *A Year at Allaire Village*

Join us in reflecting on last year, and all the fun we had at Allaire!

Thank you to all who came out and visited us at The Historic Village at Allaire this year!



And of course, a special thank-you has to be extended to our volunteers; you help bring Allaire Village to life, and without you, our mission would not be possible! We are so grateful to have you as part of our Allaire community!

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News From the General Store and Bakery: Our Bicentennial Approaches!

By: Bonnie Brown, General Store Manager

2022 marks the 200th year since James P. Allaire established the Howell Iron Works in what is now, Allaire State Park. The entire facility is eager to reopen the doors wide and invite the public to join us in celebrating this momentous event.

In honor of the occasion, the General Store has received a much needed "face lift" and redecorating to prepare for "COVID worn" visitors to celebrate with our volunteers, staff and supporters.

The "Museum Section" of the shop is carrying many of the items that would have been available to the community in the 1800's. Stop by and see our new display of herbal teas, scented eye pillows, sachets and potpourri. We continue to stock beautifully scented candles by Cheerful Giver, one of our long-time New Jersey-based vendors who make it their mission to employ people with disabilities.

Our hand-made soaps by SallyeAnder, a small business in Beacon, New York, use only the best organic ingredients and scents designed to be gentle on everyone's skin. Our amazing collection of Clevenger glass (made in New Jersey) is on display in a rainbow of colors and shapes for every taste. Of course, we continue to feature toys from the 19th century – no electricity needed!

In addition, the Post Office in the store is now ready for its "close-up". From the combination style mailboxes to the clerks window, letter box and Postmasters desk, you can experience a bit of what it's like to step back in time. Our knowledgeable "historical clerks" will also be happy to show you one of the first freight elevators as well as an antique coffee grinder and other artifacts from the later 1800's that you may have encountered on your trip back in time.

Cont. ➔

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News From the General Store & Bakery, cont.

For those fans of our candy counter, fear not, it is still with us and offering some new selections this year. We will also be carrying, chips, ciders, local honey, jams and jellies, and much more. Our collection of enamelware products pays tribute to Mr. Allaire's experiment with producing this kind of cookware in the site's Enameling Building.

As a reminder, all of our volunteers and members receive a 10% discount on all purchases in the General Store and Bakery. Just let our clerks know (come and introduce yourself!) or show us your membership card and we will be delighted to extend this benefit to you and make your shopping experience even better.

Another exciting and new initiative will be our launching of "Beyond the Counter" talks, demonstrations, and workshops on Saturday afternoons throughout the year. Our first talk will be on opening day as our Senior clerk and historian, Miss Phyllis, gives an overview of the store's historical importance to the village and answers any and all of your questions about the building since it was constructed in 1835. Be sure to look for other upcoming "Beyond the Counter" experiences on our Facebook page and Eventbrite.

While you're visiting, please don't forget to stop by the bakery and meet the Manager, Sharon. The bakery will be carrying some old favorites (Black and White cookies, Apple Cider donuts, apple strudels) as well as new products to tempt your taste buds (Toffee Towers, Hot Cross Buns, Carrot Cakes) and much more! On special event days, our interpreter, Miss Sue, will be dispensing some historical wisdom, conducting demonstrations, and offering you tastings and recipes for making your own treats from the 1800's at home.

We can't wait to see you all as this very special year of celebration begins. There will be lots of surprises in store (pun intended) and beautiful commemorative items for purchase which will go to support the organization and insure we can continue to safeguard the history of this site for the next 200 years.



Make sure to visit us at the Bakery and General Store!



The Village Star

Get excited for Opening Day with a NEW sneak peek!

A Day In The Life

By: Linnea Kuglitsch, Historic Programming Coordinator

The day began before sunrise at Allaire Village. As people rose – possibly roused by the Chapel bell – they washed their faces and shaved or styled their hair using a brush and a homemade pomade or commercial hair oils. After pausing, people started downstairs. The first person awake – usually the head of the household – began the challenging task of rekindling the fire, warming the space and preparing for a long day of fireside chores. Men, women, and children gathered downstairs to prepare for their day. Shortly before 6am the bell tolled again, signaling the shift change. Furnace workers grabbed their supper pails and headed to the Howell Iron Works. All around them, the Village came to life. Lanterns were lit in the General Store as the store clerks arrived. Colliers hauled carts full of fresh charcoal in from the woods. Farmers on the six farms adjoining the Village tended to their livestock and inspected their orchards and fields. Ore-raisers worked in the lowlands, driving teams of mules up the slope to deposit their ore at the Bridge.

As the 6am shift of furnace workers came in, they greeted workers returning from the preceding twelve-hour shift – the blast furnace needed constant attention, night and day. Women and children left the row homes alongside the fillers and molders, heading to their own work in the screw factory or to take their lessons in the Village School, which boys and girls attended three days a week.

Other folks remained in their homes, preparing for a day full of cooking, cleaning, childminding, errand-running, or doing paid piece work for other people or to sell in the general store.

Dinner – the main meal of the day – was typically taken between noon and three. Fillers, colliers, and other workers often ate in shifts, ensuring that the labor-intensive process of feeding the furnace or minding the charcoal mounds was not neglected. Many workers took their lunches with them to work in pails designed to keep them hot or cold, but children may have been tasked with delivering fresh food as well.

Many of the families gathered for supper around 6pm—just as the workers on the day shift at the furnace returned to their homes. For people working the day shift, the evening hours were a welcome: people sat around the hearth or kitchen stove, completing small tasks while they rested after a busy day, listening to stories or smoking their pipes. Children played games, helped with household work, minded their siblings, and practiced their lessons. By eight or nine o'clock, the day drew to a close.

Life at Allaire followed this routine six days a week. Things were calmer on Sundays, when the villagers attended services in the Village Chapel. After church, the villagers socialized and traveled back to their homes to attend to the necessities and tasks of the day.



The Village Star

A Thank You To Our Annual Sponsors & Grantors



- New Jersey Historical Commission
- Monmouth County Historical Commission
- New Jersey Economic Development Authority
- New Jersey Arts and Culture Recovery Fund
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The Historic Village at Allaire

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Cynthia Dwyer, Chapel & Wedding Coordinator
Sharon Knauf, Bakery Manager
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Caroline Peters, Development Coordinator
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Village Office open Tuesday-Friday, 9-5

(732) 919-3500

www.allairevillage.org

Check out our Facebook page!

@TheHistoricVillageAtAllaire

State Parks, Forest & Historic Sites: Allaire State Park

Mark Texel, State Historic Sites Administrator

Jenny Felton, Central Regional Superintendent.

Inga Gabliks, Allaire State Park Superintendent