



The Historic Village at Allaire

The Village Star

	Summer 2026	
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A VIEW OF THE GENERAL STORE BY LYNNE ROEMER (CROPPED)

“On Independence Day a bountiful feast was spread for all who came. Fireworks and amusements were provided and the day was made glorious with the ringing of all the bells and firing of cannon.” - Hal Allaire’s notes on Independence Day celebrations hosted at the Howell Iron Works by his father, James P. Allaire.

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A note from the Editor:

Spring was off to a great start with Fairies, Ducks, Vintage Cars, and the Easter Bunny! We're all excited to kick off the summer and celebrate the 250th Anniversary of American Independence!

Felicity Bennett

Museum Collections Manager, Editor



Announcements



Thank you, Reporter Jim Murdoch and News 12 New Jersey, for visiting Allaire Village and taping for an upcoming segment of "Down the Shore". We are so honored. Look for the incredible segment during 4th of July weekend!



Wishlist:

- Holiday inflatables (any holiday, Halloween, Christmas, etc.)
- Batteries (any size)
- Large Dehumidifiers
- Nutcrackers for Display
- Imitation Christmas Trees
- Pottery wheels
- Antique Pickup Truck for display (does not have to be running)
- Rowboat (can be old but must stay afloat)



ON SALE NOW
in the General Store!
Special Edition
Allaire Village
250th T-Shirts!
All proceeds benefit
Everyone History- program
for special needs.



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Letter from the Executive Director

In 2026, the United States of America will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As New Jersey's premier early 19th-century living history museum, we invite you to step into the everyday lives of the people who shaped our early nation. Walk the canal paths and floodplain of the Manasquan River that weaves through the village and continues to define Allaire's history and innovation.

Ironmongers learned from the indigenous peoples to harvest Allaire's natural, yet renewable, resources. After the Revolution, our site played a pivotal role in transforming not only our State but our nation. We had to move from being a British colony with an economy based on mercantilism (exporting our raw materials), to developing our own economy with American ingenuity. Craft trades leaped forward after the Revolution, giving rise to American entrepreneurs who could deliver, for the first time, large quantities of American-made finished goods. Allaire offers the opportunity to explore and re-live this transformation firsthand - an "experience" to learn what it was like for people trying to embrace life in a new nation.

The Revolution happened more than just on a battlefield. Early Americans had the task of harvesting and advancing our new nation onto the world stage, in an age marked by advances in industrialization and mechanization. How did we do it? Come to Allaire this summer and explore the everyday lives and spaces of early Americans both during and after the Revolution. Understand how people navigated uncertainty, found opportunities, and influenced the generations that followed.

Today, rapid advances in technology are reshaping the nature of work. Skilled trades in America face a growing decline in individuals prepared to engage in hands-on careers. However, at The Historic Village at Allaire, the very trade skills we have long preserved are now in high demand. Our educational programs are increasingly called upon to introduce young people to the value and satisfaction of working with their hands. Schools and communities are turning to us to provide experiential learning opportunities that were once commonplace but have largely disappeared.

Explore various crafts and trade demonstrations this summer. View up close our rare American Flag collection that will be on display July 2nd, 3rd, and 5th. Be inspired by our "Allaire Artistry: Celebrating 250 Years of American Art" Allaire Village Artist Showcase and Contest in honor of celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary. Our hope is that visitors leave with a deeper appreciation for the everyday people who helped build not only Allaire, but this country. Our nation's successes were shaped by people navigating their own moment in history, and that realization feels especially relevant today.

**Hance Morton Sitkus, CPA,
Executive Director**



Peter and Linda Allaire Visiting the Village



"Celebrating the Fourth" by Sheila Soyster



"General Store Shoppers" by Janice Collinson



"The Serenade" by Laura Lutz

Some of the artwork currently on display in the Allaire Artist Showcase and Contests, "Allaire Artistry: Celebrating 250 Years of American Art", from June 13th until August 23rd. In the Enameling Building

Select Events at Allaire

Summer Events

General Admission into the Village Saturdays and Sundays.

Allaire Village is open Friday to Sunday on Non-Event days from 11am to 4pm. Village Buildings, Historic Homes, and Retail Shops are open. 19th-century trade demos and tours are available. Admission is \$5 per person ages 4 and up on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free on Fridays. If you are interested in free admission and other perks, check out our membership program. More info available at allairevillage.org, click the "Get Involved" tab!

Add a tour to your general admission for \$3. Friday to Sunday. 90 Minutes starting at 1 pm at the Village Museum or the General Store. Tour availability varies; check ahead of your visit.

Thursday, June 18th:

Allaire Legacy Awards

6pm to 8pm. Register on Eventbrite

Saturday, June 27th:

Annual Allaire 5K Beer Run

Must register online.

Thursday, July 2nd

Antique American Flag Display

Located in the Chapel. Flag display is free of charge. 11am to 4pm each day

Friday, July 3rd

Sunday, July 5th:

Friday, July 3rd:

Free Independence Day Concert

New Jersey National Guard 63rd Army Band
1pm at the gazebo. Bring a lawn chair or blanket

Saturday, July 4th:

Village Closed for Independence Day

Saturday, July 18th:

James P. Allaire's Birthday Celebration

11am-4pm Admission \$5, ages 4 and up

Saturday, July 18th:

Opening the Vault

See museum items in the Allaire Collection up close! Included in admission for James P. Allaire's Birthday. 1pm in Chapel

Sunday, August 23rd:

Allaire Artistry: Celebrating 250 years of

American Art Showcase and Contest Closing

Award Ceremony and Reception. 1pm to 3pm in the Enameling Building

Sunday, August 30th:

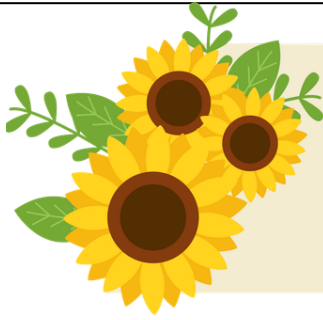
Rolling Iron Antique Auto Show

9am to 2pm

Admission \$5 per car

To see our full calendar of events, purchase vendor spaces or tickets, or to find out more information please visit us online at allairevillage.org.

Select Events at Allaire



Markets and More

Beyond the Counter

Beyond the Counter is an adult craft workshop for ages 16 and older, held monthly from March to September on Sundays from 2 pm to 4 pm in the General Store. Pre-registration on Eventbrite is required, all workshops are \$25 per person. Cost includes supplies. The following are themes for each date:

June 28th - Hexi Quilt Squares

July 19th - Putz Houses

August 16th - Linoleum Block Carving

September 13th - Wheat Weaving

History Kids

History Kids Club is designed for ages 5 through 12. Kids can learn about history through hands-on activities. Held once a month on Sunday from 1 pm to 3 pm. Pre-registration on Eventbrite is required, all workshops are \$12 per person. The following are themes for each date:

July 19th - Make a Printing Press

August 16th - Bog Iron Hunt

September 13th - Tinsmithing

Flea Markets

Saturday, July 11th

Saturday, August 8th

Saturday, September 5th

Saturday, October 3rd

Saturday, November 7th

8am to 2pm each show

\$5 a person ages 11 and up

Rain Dates: Sundays

Craft and Vendor Shows

Saturday, August 22nd - Antique and Vintage Show

Saturday, September 26th - Fall Craft and Vendor Show

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, November 6th, 7th, 8th - Allaire

Auxiliary Stocking Stuffer Sale

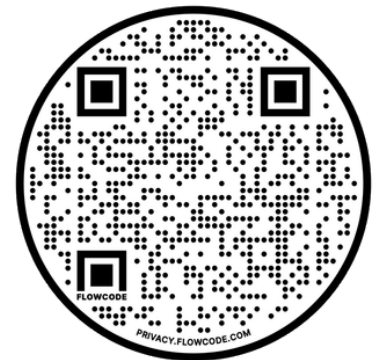
Saturday, November 14th - Holiday Craft and Vendor Show

NEW!

Christmas Flea and Craft Market

Saturday, December 5th

10am to 3pm



Vendor Sign-ups available at Allairevillage.org or
call (732)919-3500 ext 18 for additional
information

*For tickets and more
information, check out our
Allaire Village Eventbrite Page!
Scan our QR code to see more!*



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Snapshots Through Time

Celebrating 200 Years of Photography

By Felicity Bennett, Museum Collections Manager

2026 marks not only the American 250th but also the 200th anniversary of the first photograph. Photography revolutionized the way we documented history. Allaire Village has witnessed every major photography advancement, as shown through the photographs throughout. The information that follows was also used in an exhibition that was on display during the spring and covers an overview of the history of photography.



Joseph Nicéphore Niépce (French, 1765–1833), [View from the Window at Le Gras], 1827. Heliograph on pewter, Gernsheim Collection, <https://www.hrc.utexas.edu/niepce-heliograph/>

The first permanent photograph was taken in 1826, or 200 years ago! Joseph Nicéphore Niépce took the photo from his apartment in Burgundy, France. He used a process called heliography (“sun printing”), which used a pewter plate coated with a light-sensitive material.

The process was very long. The photo’s exposure time was almost 8 hrs! The original photograph is on display at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

Daguerreotypes were the first widely available photographs and were popular from the 1830s to the 1850s. They were invented by Louis Daguerre and made using silver-plated copper and mercury vapor. The exposure time was a few seconds to a few minutes, which made them popular for portraits.



Daguerreotype of James P. Allaire. This was the basis for the portrait on display in the village museum and row house. Allaire Village Collection.

Daguerreotypes had several layers involved, including glass, and often came pre-assembled in a small frame within a leather or velvet case. They are fragile, so they were often taken in a studio or stationary location.

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Ambrotypes were popular around 1850 as a cheaper alternative to daguerreotypes. The image was printed as a negative directly onto a piece of glass that was soaked with a silver chemical solution and still wet when the photo was taken. Exposure times ranged from 5 to 60 seconds.

The image of the ambrotype was a negative on a glass slide. To view the image as a positive, a black backing was put behind the glass. Often, when Ambrotypes are damaged, it is actually the backing that is damaged and can easily be replaced, restoring the image.

Tintypes were popular during the mid to late 1800's. The photo was created as a direct positive on a coated sheet of metal. It was then covered with enamel to preserve the image. Despite the name, the metal used was usually thinly pounded iron. The camera and metal sheets were more portable than ambrotypes and daguerreotypes allowing tintype photographers to travel and capture scenes from the civil war and other distant places.

Most of the photographs we have of the Allaire family are daguerreotypes or tintypes.



The before (left) and after (right) of a restored ambrotype in the Allaire Village collection. The restoration is simple, only requiring something black to be placed behind the photograph. You can see the details on the boy's clothing have been completely restored. Allaire Village Collection.



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Albumen prints were one of the first photographic prints on paper. The paper was coated with egg whites and salt. After drying, it was dipped in a silver solution to make it sensitive to light. It was dried again in a dark environment. A negative was placed on top, then exposed to light until the image appeared, and was quickly washed in a chemical that prevented it from becoming too dark. The negatives used were glass similar to ambrotypes.

With the advent of plastics, flexible film was developed, allowing cameras to hold more than one negative at a time.

The first plastic film used cellulose nitrate or nitrocellulose. The material was lightweight, flexible, and cheap. However, it was also extremely flammable. Nitrate film was introduced in the 1880s and became very popular in the 35mm format for both photography and film. It remained in use until 1951. Nitrate film is also known to decompose unless stored in a very cold climate. When decomposing, it can spontaneously combust. Over 70% of silent films were lost due to fires in film warehouses and storage.

Cellulose acetate film or "Safety Film" was introduced in 1909 as an alternative to the very flammable nitrate film. While used in photography by the 1920s, filmmakers still preferred using nitrate until the 1940s. Safety film, while less flammable, is still chemically unstable.

Most film of this type is susceptible to "vinegar syndrome," where the film will start to break apart and release a gas that smells like vinegar. The syndrome can spread to other negatives quickly so film should be stored separately.

Most modern films now use polyester as their base. However, it is much tougher than acetate film and can break a camera if jammed. For this reason, most movies shot on film still use acetate, while polyester is used for photography.

Photographers experimented with color since the advent of photography. By 1855, some succeeded with the use of special filters. However, most photographers hand-painted over the black and white image with paint or pastels.

Eastman Kodak released the first commercial color film in 1935 that combined 3 dye-emulsion layers onto one base film. Other companies quickly released other color films.

Due to chemical differences between brands, different color films have distinct looks, often tending to be more yellow, green, or blue-tinted. As technology developed, the colors started to be closer to life.

Color film was more expensive and did not produce good results indoors. Most people continued to use black and white film for daily use until the 1960's. In the 1970's, flash and color film both improved, making it cheaper and easier to use. By the end of the 1980's black and white film was rarely used outside of art.

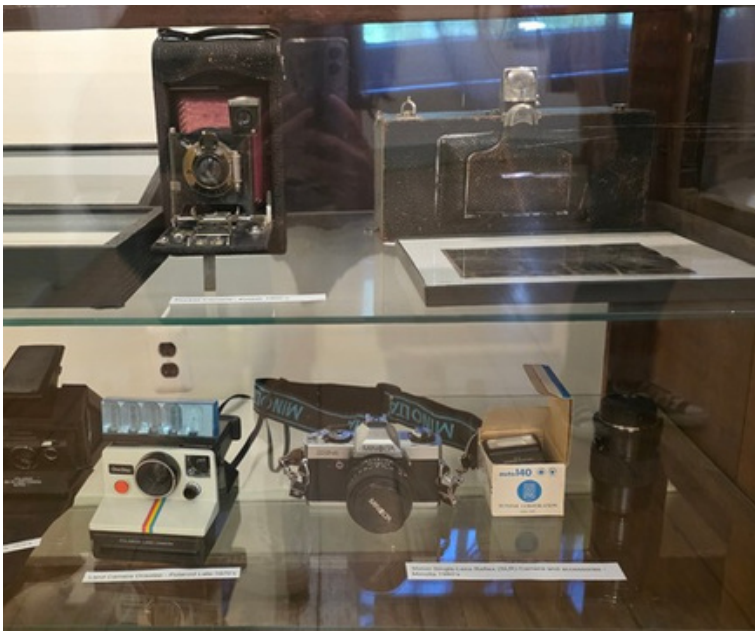


The Historic Village at Allaire

Digital Photography was first invented in the early 1950's, but development for a camera that could be used in everyday life did not begin until the late 1970's.

Digital cameras first entered the market in the late 1980's and early 1990s. While they were easy to use, did not require film or development time, and were portable, they were also very expensive and had a poor image quality compared to film. As computer and digital imaging technology quickly advanced in the 1990's and 2000's, digital cameras quickly became more popular than film.

Today, film has become a novelty amongst photographers, and almost everyone carries a cellphone camera in their pocket.



Photographs of part of the exhibition hosted Spring 2026 in the Enameling Building/Arthur Brisbane Continuing Education Center. The display case showed cameras dating from the early 1900's until the modern 2020's as well as different types of media storage types like polaroid film, flash compact memory cards, and traditional 35mm film.



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Happy Birthday, America!



By Felicity Bennett, Museum Collections Manager

As we enter the summer of our 250th year as a nation, let's take a look at how past generations celebrated the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July.

The first major milestone for the United States of America was the 50th Anniversary in 1826. The event was dubbed "The Jubilee of Independence" by some. The Jubilee was a much smaller celebration than the subsequent anniversaries, but still hosted a variety of national celebrations, such as parades, cannon salutes, and speeches. Veterans from the Revolutionary War were still alive in 1826 and many were honored at parades, events, and public dinners. The Declaration of Independence was read nationwide on the 4th of July. Three of the original Declaration signers were still alive during the Jubilee: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Charles Carroll. They were invited to Washington, D.C. to participate in the celebrations, but all declined due to health. Jefferson and Adams both passed away on July 4th, 1826.

The most interesting Jubilee celebration was in upstate New York, where it was reported that 2,000 pounds of gunpowder would be used to blow up a large rock. There is no evidence that the event ever took place.

A GRAND EXPLOSION.—To answer a double purpose of celebrating the next anniversary of our Independence and making improvements, some of the inhabitants of Ulster county, New-York, intend to charge a rock with *two thousand* pounds of gunpowder, and it is expected that the report of the explosion will be heard over a great part of the New-England States.

Penobscot Journal, Bangor, Maine - Thu, Jun 8, 1826, Page 3

The next major anniversary was the Centennial, or 100th anniversary, in 1876. The Centennial ended up being a much larger celebration. The main event was the Centennial Exposition held in Philadelphia. The Exposition was the first time the official World's Fair was hosted in the United States. Within the 6 months it was open, the Exposition welcomed 10.16 million visitors. In 1876, the population of the United States was about 46 million, meaning that the same amount of people as almost a quarter of the entire country's population attended!

Many important inventions were introduced at the Exposition, including the Telephone, the Sewing Machine, and the Typewriter. 37 countries and 26 states (in 1876, there were only 37 states) had pavilions at the Centennial Exposition to show off their art, inventions, commercial goods, and more.



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President Ulysses S. Grant allowed the original Declaration of Independence to be displayed in Philadelphia for the exposition. The public was shocked by how deteriorated the document had become. The outrage led to the creation of the National Archives and the preservation of the original Declaration document.

New York City held a parade that released 1000 lanterns and hosted fireworks displays. The sculptor of the Statue of Liberty, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, visited New York City and selected the site for the statue. The arm and torch were displayed at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition, while other pieces were displayed in New York City.

At 100 years old, America was still changing and developing. Coming out of the Civil War, there were still issues to be addressed, racial tensions were high, and Women's Rights protests were held in the Capitol and Philadelphia.

The Sesquicentennial or 150th Anniversary was another quiet event. There was another Exposition held in Philadelphia, but due to poor planning and weather, it was not well attended. Even after it opened, many of the buildings were not completed, so there was construction during the Exposition. The highlight event was a boxing match.

Black History Month was created by Carter G. Woodson as "Negro History Week". Woodson was a historian who wanted to highlight the accomplishments of African Americans during the 150th Anniversary. He chose the second week of February as it contained the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The week eventually grew into Black History Month.

Special coinage was created to commemorate the 150th. It was the only time a current acting President was depicted on a coin. The move was controversial and needed special congressional permission.

Although not tied to any particular event, in 1926, Robert H. Goddard launched the first liquid-fueled rocket, advancing space exploration and travel. Space travel would end up playing a larger role in both the Bicentennial and the Semiquincentennial.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1915, by Addison Norton Scurlock
NPGallery, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=80023900>



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The Bicentennial was the most recent celebration marking the 200th anniversary in 1976. The Bicentennial was planned years in advance. Space exploration took center stage as the National Air and Space Museum's new permanent location opened, the Viking 1 space orbiter landed on Mars, and the first Space Shuttle flight.

American Freedom Train tour began in 1975. The train was a traveling exhibit that toured all 48 continental states for a two-year period. The exhibit featured items that showcased American achievements and spirit and included Judy Garland's Ruby Slippers from The Wizard of Oz, a Lunar Rover, and the original Louisiana Purchase document.



America's Freedom Train, Oswego County Today,
<https://oswegocountytoday.com/community/american-freedom-train-exhibit-on-display/>



The blue canton of the Star and Eagle flag. Circa 1850 and flown on ships in the Hudson River. This and other flags are on display annually during Independence Day Weekend at Allaire Village. From the Allaire Village collection.

Several Events took place around the country on the 4th of July, including Large Firework Displays, Tall Ship Parades in the nation's harbors, and Parades including one in Washington D.C. where Johnny Cash served as Grand Marshal. The Crossing of the Delaware was reenacted on November 20 and 21, 1976, as part of the Bicentennial celebration. Since the initial reenactment, the crossing has been reenacted every year at Christmas.

Several Protests occurred, such as the 1973 Boston Oil Party, where protesters reenacted the Boston Tea Party. Protesters wanted a variety of changes, but primarily called for the impeachment of Richard Nixon. Around 10,000 people attended.

This year, we celebrate the Semiquincentennial or 250th anniversary. Several events are planned this year, including fairs, parades, a Grand Prix around the National Mall, and themed sporting events, including the FIFA World Cup games being hosted in the USA. And like the past protests, are planned as well. It's interesting to compare how much of the country and the way we celebrate our anniversary has changed and how it has stayed the same. What do you think the next 50 years will look like?

At Allaire Village, we incorporated the 250th Celebrations in several of our annual events, our antique flag display we host every Independence Day weekend is our pride and joy. We also partnered with RevolutionNJ to celebrate and promote the Semiquincentennial.





The Historic Village at Allaire

Spring Highlights



(left to right) Lynette Allaire, John Allaire, Felicity Bennett, Carole Allaire

Allaire Descendants pay a visit

John, Carole, and Lynette Allaire visited the village and toured the homes. They donated early American and English glass to be displayed in the Allaire Mansion. The glass is part of their larger collection, which ranges from ancient Roman to Medieval to the 19th and early 20th Centuries. The glass pieces donated would have been common around the time of James P. Allaire.



Donated Glass on Display in the Allaire Mansion.

Allaire Village Receives Preservation Award

The Historic Village at Allaire received a Historic Preservation Award from Monmouth County for the restoration of the Allaire Chapel roof. The Chapel is unique as one of the only chapels in the world to have the steeple in the back. The Allaire Chapel remains a community space and hosts several events, weddings, and more throughout the year. We are very thankful for the recognition of all of the hard work the staff, builders, and volunteers put into the space.

We hope the Allaire family had a great time with us and will visit again soon. We also hope that you enjoy the new glass display located in the ell of the Allaire Mansion.



Allaire Village staff members receiving the award during the Monmouth County Historical Commission Awards Ceremony hosted at the Monmouth County Hall of Records on June 1st. (left to right) County Commissioner Erik Anderson, Monmouth County Historical Commissioner Chair Barbara Kolarsick-Harrigan, Alex Capobianco, and Felicity Bennett receiving the award.



The Village Star

A Thank You To Our Annual Sponsors & Grantors



BROADCAST MEDIA • LIVE EVENTS • DIGITAL SOLUTIONS



**Allaire Village Inc. received an operating support grant
from the New Jersey Historical Commission,
a division of the Department of State**

**Allaire Village, Inc. is proud to have received grants
from these generous funders:**

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Estate of Evelyn Frostick Kessler Morton

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New Jersey Cultural Trust

New Jersey Natural Gas

New Jersey State Questers

Notaboat Fund

Sandpiper Questers

The Gant Foundation

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**Allaire Village Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization
licensed by the state of New Jersey to manage and
operate the historic district located within Allaire State
Park. Thank you for your support!**

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