

1851 • WALL TOWNSHIP 175 YEARS • 2026



WALL
CELEBRATES
175
YEARS



A Special Supplement to The Coast Star • Thursday, September 24, 2026

LOOKING
BACK AT
WALL TOWNSHIP

Wall Township officials, historians, residents and fans all join together to celebrate Wall's 175th Anniversary.

This commemorative edition aims to capture highlights of Wall's rich history and also the excitement of this year's celebrations.

To learn more about Wall's history, visit the Old Wall Historical Society on Facebook or in person at 1701 New Bedford Road. Extensive archives are also online at starnewsgroup.com/archives.



STAR NEWS GROUP ARCHIVES

1899 edition of The Coast Star.

COVER PHOTOS:

Top: E. Brooks Morris stands ready to deliver mail. Photo courtesy of the Old Wall Historical Society.

Middle: Lifesaving station members including James Allgor (upper left), David Kittell (upper right) and Mattias Barkalow (upper center). Photo courtesy of the Old Wall Historical Society.

Bottom: Young students gather outside the old New Bedford Schoolhouse. Photo courtesy of the Old Wall Historical Society.

History of the Old Wall Historical Society

The Old Wall Historical Society is a non-profit corporation of the state of New Jersey, County of Monmouth.

The Society's objective is the preservation of the civic and religious history of the area encompassed by the original boundaries of Wall Township when it was incorporated in 1851. In order to accomplish this objective, other purposes and aims will be to preserve, retain, gather, collect and perpetuate pertinent memorabilia: to obtain and maintain a museum; and to make historical information available to the public by writings and exhibits.

The first meetings of the historical society were held in the Allenwood General Store, starting in March 1971. After a short while members met at Margaret Bartlett's house, then in classrooms at Wall High School. In the beginning, the group looked at the abandoned one-room schoolhouse on Woodfield Avenue as a site for headquarters, but it was torn down before negotiations even got started.

As the Bicentennial was fast approaching, the society set out to do their part. The group obtained an 1851 map and superimposed it over a modern map, finding which houses would be eligible for a historical sites plaque. The society members knocked on doors and researched deeds in the archives of Monmouth Courthouse. Boards with the dates each house was built were presented as plaques to the homeowner. The society compiled a book with a short writeup and picture of each house and a drawn map of where to find them.

The society also created a float for the 4th of July Parade. It was decided that the float pertain to the Four Freedoms of the Constitution: Freedom of Press, Religion,



MARK R. SULLIVAN THE COAST STAR

Assembly and Speech. A 3'x3' paper mache "Liberty Bell" that sat at the back of the float. The float displayed an antique printing press with a "printer." A church was depicted from a cut-out shipping box with crepe paper windows and a pew of worshipers. A group of children were seated at a meeting for the right to assembly. And one of the members stood on a soapbox giving a speech from a scroll. All of the children were dressed in period costumes. Many thanks went to Mr. French for lending us the flatbed tractor-trailer.

In 1978, the society applied to the Wall Township Board of Education for use of the "Barkalow House" for meetings with the idea that it could be fixed up. This was contested by Barbara Foote, who wanted it for the Girl Scouts. The challenge went to court; it was decided that the house was in such a state of disrepair that it was not suitable for Scout use.

The Board of Education gave the Old Wall Historical Society one year (January 1980 to January 1981) to open the house as a museum. There was only two front rooms suitable for display.

INCORPORATED MARCH 7, 1971

Founding Members:

Jim Reynolds
Margaret Bartlett
Evelyn Snodgrass
Tove Brunet
Dorothy Newman
Connie Embree
Evelyn Snodgrass
George Allen
Jack Norris
John Herber
June Herbert
Kay Stauffer

PRESIDENTS OF THE OLD WALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1971-1972
James Reynolds

1973
Evelyn Snodgrass

1974
Dot Newman

1975
Margaret Bartlett

1976-1977
De Hearn

1978
Peggy Kerns

1979-1982
De Hearn

1983-1984
Beryl Mount

1985-1990
Lillian Kittell

1990-1999
De Hearn

2000-2001
Lillian Kittell

2002-2003
Betty Laughlin

2004-2006
De Hearn

2007-2010
Fran Bruno

2011—
De Hearn

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The Blansingburg one-room schoolhouse now sits on site at the Old Wall Historical Society museum headquarters at 1701 New Bedford Road, giving visitors young and old a look into what school was like in the 1800s.

SOCIETY

FROM PAGE 2

cupcakes. The monies from the Antique Show allowed the society to obtain matching funding from the Monmouth County Historical Commission for the numerous needed repairs.

A favorite weekends each year was when the Civil War Encampment recreators would come visit the museum. In the 40-plus years the reenactors have changed and so have the members. One group helped the society celebrate our 50th Anniversary with horses, cannons and an army of Civil War reenactors. There was a live band, games and lots of food. A great celebration!

A few of members were quilters and taught others their craft. A quilting rack

was set up in the front room. One quilt was made a year. This was raffled off at the 4th of July Fair. The society also sold homemade strawberry jam and homebaked bread. (Members picked the berries and met at Dot Newman's to cook and can the jam.)

Quilting became popular again in the '90s and the society held a Quilt Show where people brought their quilts for display and to be judged. The judging was by age, design and workmanship. Don Sherman donated racks for the display.

Once a year the society ran an "Antique Road Show" from the front porch. Bill Horr was an antique appraiser. Later, there was a booth at the Antique Show for appraisals. Appraisals later moved to the schoolhouse. Art Cravets, John Weaver, "Muskkrat" Jack and Bob Randolph were ap-

praisers. Bob Randolph came once a year for an afternoon of appraisals.

For years and years, the society tried to produce an herb garden. (There had been one outside the summer kitchen.) A few local nurseries donated herbs. The society members weren't there often enough to maintain it properly and by the end of summer, it would be overgrown with weeds and many plants died.

In the years since its creation, the Old Wall Historical Society has grown to be responsible for the care and upkeep of these three buildings; the original Allgor-Barkalow Homestead, now on the State and National Historic Sites Registry, the Blansingburg One-room Schoolhouse and the Morris-Allgor-Kittell Wheelwright Shop.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OWHS

Garret D. Wall

How did Wall get its name?

Excerpt from the Allgor-Barkalow Homestead Old Wall Historical Society Museum Journal, Volume 5, Number 1- July 1982

When Wall Township was incorporated on March 11, 1851, the new municipality was named in honor of one of New Jersey's most celebrated statesmen of that era, Senator Garret Dorsett Wall, who had died four months earlier.

Garret D. Wall, descendent of one of Monmouth County's earliest settlers, was born in Middletown on March 10, 1783. His father was James Wall, a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, who had participated in the Battle of Monmouth.

When Garret was almost ten years old, his father died and he was sent to live with an uncle, Dr. John G. Wall of Woodbridge. He received a fair education and decided to concentrate on the study of law. At the age of twenty-one he was licensed as an attorney, and immediately began the practice of his profession. He progressed rapidly and, in 1812, was appointed Clerk of the Supreme Court. War with England began that year, however, so he volun-

teered his services in the militia where he became a captain of the Phoenix Infantry Corps, which defended Sandy Hook.

After the war, he served as Quartermaster General of New Jersey from 1815 to 1827. During this time, he also practiced law in the courts of various counties, including Monmouth, and tried many cases at Freehold. He gained a reputation of being a distinguished jury lawyer who was gifted, resourceful, proficient and eloquent.

In 1822 and 1827, Garret Wall was elected to the General Assembly of New Jersey and, in 1829, he was elected Governor of the State by the Legislature.

He declined to serve, however, and later that year was appointed United States District Attorney for New Jersey by President Andrew Jackson. In 1834, he was elected United States Senator and served for six years, during which time he became noted as an orator and statesman. In 1848, he was made a member of the Court of Errors and Appeals, and in that high tribunal he remained until his death on November 22, 1850.

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Meet De Hearn, the Wall Township Historian

Transplant resident of 65 years fell in love with Wall

BY MALLORY BRENNAN
THE COAST STAR

WALL TOWNSHIP — De Hearn bought a home in Wall Township with her husband at just 18 years old in the 1960s. She had grown up in Ocean Township, and made the decision to move a few towns over to raise a family. Now, 65 years later, Hearn works to preserve Wall’s diverse history as the Wall Township Historian.

DE’S WALL BEGINNINGS
Hearn moved to Wall in the 1960s at 18 with her husband, a truck driver, after deciding it would be the perfect place to raise children with some possible affordability at the time.

“I was only 18 when we bought our house,” Hearn told The Coast Star. “All of my cousins were going to Wall Central School, so I was going to a lot of their activities. I decided that was a good place for my girls to go.”

Hearn has always lived in the surrounding area of Wall, having attended Asbury High School and her husband Neptune, but says seeing family members growing up in Wall pushed her to make the move.

“I was kind of coming over and seeing some of my nieces and nephews going through the different schools, and I really thought it’d be a great place to be,” Hearn said.

Fast forward a few years, Hearn was sending the last of her three daughters off to college after spending time at home raising them. Before becoming the Wall Township Historian, a help-wanted sign in a window led to a 32-year jewelry career.

“I was able to stay home with the girls growing up, and when my oldest one went to college, it was kind of necessary that there was more money coming into the house,” Hearn said. “I happened to be in the mall and saw a help wanted sign in a jewelry store.”

Hearn’s grandfather had been a jeweler and passed that love down to herself, she said, and so she began working.

“We were still hand-writing all of the tickets to go on all of the jewelry, and I have very small handwriting,” Hearn said. “It actually came in handy at that time. So, I worked myself up in that Sea Girt jewelry store, and I ended up becoming the manager.”

After Hearn had spent 10 years at the shop, the owner decided his time at the helm was coming to an end. Hearn ended up partnering with another woman she worked alongside to pool money together and take over the spot.

“I had already gone and gotten my GIA, the Gem Institute of America certificate, so I could do appraisals,” Hearn said. “I ended up being at that store for 32 years altogether. It was neat because as my girls got older, a lot of the guys coming into the store were their friends. I knew them enough to help them buy their engagement rings and wedding bands.”

Hearn could be seen by locals in more places than just the jewelry store, when she snagged a seat on the Wall Township Board of Education from 1989 to 1999.



MARK R. SULLIVAN THE COAST STAR

De Hearn, who moved to Wall over 65 years ago, has turned her passion for history into a mission to keep the diverse history of Wall Township alive as Township Historian, also serving as President of the Old Wall Historical Society.

“A friend of mine said that a historical society had opened up, and that it was right up my alley. I love history. We went, and all I know is around my second meeting I was the secretary, and by the fourth meeting, I was vice president.”

“I quit in ‘99 after my first grandchild was born,” Hearn said. “I needed my one day off to be a nanny day. But, I served for three terms. I was able to give my youngest daughter her diploma, that was neat.”

Now, Hearn spends some of her time preserving the vast history of Wall Township and its 175 years of achievements and memories.

JOURNEY TO HISTORIAN
Hearn’s journey to achieving the role of Township Historian began before she was even involved in the Old Wall Historical Society, which she joined in 1975 and now serves as President.

In the mid-1960s, Hearn and other Wall residents took it upon themselves to head to Washington, D.C. in an attempt to get Wall its own zip code.

“A lot of us went down there to try and get our own, one zip code,” Hearn said. “We could not understand why there had to be 8 zip codes for just Wall Township, when we have a lot more of a population than the smaller surrounding towns. Jim Howard (Rep. James J. Howard, (D-NJ), 1965 to 1989) lived right around the corner and we thought maybe we could have some pull.”

Hearn says the request for Wall’s own zip code was turned down; however, most of the folks on the trip ended up becoming a part of the Old Wall Historical Society.

Hearn joined the Old Wall Historical Society in 1975 after her children had gone off on their own, saying she wanted something to take on to fill her free days.

“A friend of mine said that a historical society had opened up, and that it was right up my alley,” Hearn said. “I love history. We went, and all I know is around my second

meeting I was the secretary, and by the fourth meeting, I was vice president.”

The historical society first formed in 1971, and was meeting in members’ homes with no place to call home. Hearn ended up being an integral part in getting the Allgor-Barkalow Homestead into the hands of the historical society in 1981, which now serves as its headquarters at 1701 New Bedford Road.

“Henry Barkalow used to sell tomatoes, asparagus and rhubarb out here,” Hearn said. “My husband loves rhubarb. I would stop and talk to him, and the land the house is on had been bought by the board of education. He had said that the water was turned off once the property was bought, and he had no way to water his plants. So, I went to the board of education.”

After getting the water turned back on for Barkalow’s plants, Hearn said the vacant house on site was being used to store ATV equipment for the board of education.

“I went to a couple of board meetings and said, ‘What about..?’ and ‘Can we..?’ and another organization had also put in a bid to use the building. They were Girl Scouts, but we are a historical society. We ended up in court, and we were the ones who ended up being able to rent out the property,” she said.

After being given one year by the board to get a physical museum up and running as the Barkalow Homestead in 1982, the Old Wall Historical Society has made leaps and bounds in the growth of its museums at the site. For a breakdown on the restoration processes of each building, check out the historical society’s stories throughout this Wall 175th Anniversary section.

Hearn later became Township Historian in 2020 after her years of dedication to the historical society, and after witnessing the growth of Wall Township for 65 years.

“When I moved here to Wall, I think there were 3,000 people in the early 1960s,” Hearn said. “We are up to 30,000-something now. When I moved here, we didn’t even have the high school yet, or the intermediate school. I’ve watched it grow. I really commend the town on all of the open space they’ve preserved, because that will keep us a little bit rural.”

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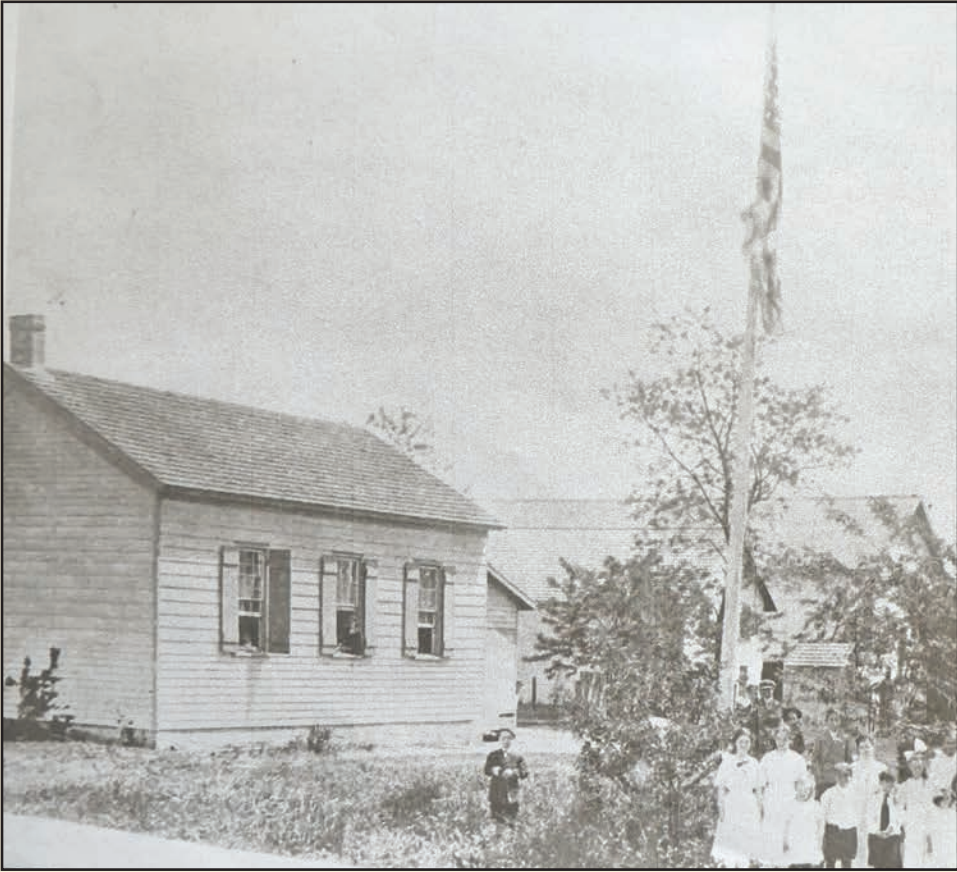


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DEJA VIEW

LOOKING BACK AT WALL SCHOOLS



COURTESY OF THE OLD WALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Photos of the schools of Wall Township are part of the historical records at the Old Wall Historical Society's restored Blansingburg school.

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MARK R. SULLIVAN THE COAST STAR

The Blansingburg Schoolhouse, initially constructed in 1855 on Sea Girt Avenue, now sits at the historical society on New Bedford Road after being moved in 1999.

MARK R. SULLIVAN THE COAST STAR

Inside the schoolhouse are plenty of old-school desks for students, which are often utilized by Wall elementary schoolers on field trips to experience the 1800s through a student's eye.

Blansingburg Schoolhouse restoration takes shape

Excerpt from the Allgor-Barkalow Homestead Old Wall Historical Society Museum Journal

The Blansingburg Schoolhouse was built in 1855 on Sea Girt Avenue (next to Frank Newmam's Feed and Grain Store). This was the first new schoolhouse built in the recently incorporated Township Of Wall.

Blansingburg was the ninth school district in Wall. Dr. Robert Laird was Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Lawrence Low was the teacher and Lawrence Newbury was the trustee. The new school opened in September 1856 with 93 students enrolled.

Originally the building had three windows on the east and west sides, two more windows to the north and two entry doors on the south (one for girls and one for boys). The boys and girls had to play on separate sides of the school, and entered separately. There were two two-seat outhouses next to the schoolhouse.

The teacher taught all eight grades (plus kindergarten). He had to light the pot-bellied stove, clean the blackboards and treat the outhouses. The students read, did math on slates and practiced penmanship with straight pens and inkwells set into each desk.

About 1910, school was becoming mandatory and the classes had grown. The schoolhouse was updated at that time. The building was extended 10 more feet in length; the windows on the west side were removed

and a blackboard installed the length of the room; and women were now teaching in the district.

The school was in use until 1936. By then, the township was growing. New two-room schools were being built in the town. The students from Blansingburg and Allenwood were now attending the new two-story, two-room Allenwood School. New buses transported most of the children from this area.

In 1936, the Newman family bought the schoolhouse (sitting on their property) from the school board for \$200. Several desks were stored in their barn. The building was transformed into a lawn mower repair shop for 63 years. In 1999, the property was to be sold. The Newman family donated the building back to the township. It was moved to its new location on New Bedford Road (next to the Allgor-Barkalow Museum).

The move itself was remarkable. As the building sat on low brick pillars at each of the four corners, the low bed trailer slipped right under the schoolhouse. It was attached to a farm tractor, pulled off the property and started on its 2+ mile journey. The trip took over four hours.

One worker walked in front of the school lifting wires over the roof. The corner of 18th Avenue and New Bedford Road took several short turns to navigate. The historical society had built a block foundation and was ready for the school. It was



COURTESY OF THE OLD WALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Former students of the Blansingburg Schoolhouse reconnected decades later, taking a photo together outside of their old stomping grounds.

slid onto the foundation and secured there.

The porch and double doors had been removed for easier access of riding lawn mowers. The floor was rotted through and there was an inch of grime on everything. But, the tin walls and ceiling and the blackboard were still intact.

First, a set of steps had to be built so people could get into the building. Then, the society ripped up the floor and installed period pine

floors. Members scraped the tin walls, filling two 30-gallon cans with the rust. Part of the ceiling around the chimney had to be replaced. Tin from the closet was used for this project, and replaced the two entry doors. It took four people two months to scrape the blackboard with single edge razor blades. With the help of grants from the Monmouth County Historical Commission, the inside and outside were painted.

Another year and another grant let added the entry porch on the south side. Three years into restoration, the Old Wall Historical Society opened the schoolhouse doors as a museum.

The society found a teacher's desk in an antique shop perfect for our schoolhouse. Period desks were stored in the Newman's barn and donated.

Many more individual desks showed up on the front porch. Donations

were generously brought our way: a pot bellied stove, books, flags, maps, pens and ink. Men and women, who had attended school here as youngsters, came and brought their treasures.....a slate, report cards, certificates, the original hand bell and more.

Jim Reynolds (the first president of the historical society) was retiring to Florida. He was most generous in donating his entire collection of Indian artifacts to the museum. During his visit, he told us that his grandfather was the one who built the addition onto the schoolhouse in the 1910s.

In 2005, the society entertained the first class of second-graders. (This is when they are first introduced to local history at school.) After 70 years, the schoolhouse is filled with the chatter of children.

The "teacher," dressed in her long skirt and apron, rings the bell as the bus pulls away. The boys and girls enter through separate doors as children did in 1856. The boys, sporting suspenders, and the girls, dressed in hand-made pinafores, are role playing for a couple of hours. This includes "making manners" with a curtsy or a bow to the teacher, addressing her as "Ma'am" before answering a question, and rising for the Pledge of Allegiance to the 31-star flag. They do math and spelling on their slates. If time allows, the students read from McGuffrey's Eclectic Reader, from 1907.

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BY DANIELLE HARVEY
SPECIAL TO THE COAST STAR

THE SCHOOL
James P. Allaire, an advocate of free education, established a school in 1822 for the children of his employees at the self-sustaining community he established, known as Howell Iron Works. The school was originally located in a row house located on the border of the property on what was formerly known as "Barracks Field," and near the pre-Allaire Palmer Sawmill circa 1790. In the early 1830s, a chapel was constructed and would become home to the school for many years, until a time when it fell into disrepair, around the mid-1860s. The school was relocated to the second floor of the village bakery until Hal Allaire initiated the restoration of the chapel. The school returned to the chapel in the late 1870s. In the 1850s, the school would be incorporated into the Wall Township School District, and fall under the supervision of Superintendent Dr. Robert Laird. Shortly thereafter, a Sunday School was established and lasted for approximately 20 years, until the early to mid-1870s.

The last record of the school was in 1900. The school utilized the Lancastrian Method, developed and established by Joseph Lancaster, English educator and public education innovator in the early 19th century. This method, also referred to as the monitorial system, was meant to educate large amounts of students at a time, primarily in disadvantaged areas. The method involves having older, more learned students teach younger students under the supervision of an adult educator. The Rev. Thomas Tanser, a teacher at the school near its inception, is credited for having introduced it as the school's method of education. **THE STUDENTS**
The school was originally intended solely for the children of the employees who worked and lived at Howell Iron Works. Education was not a choice, but a requirement for both boys and girls in the village, until the age of 12 years. Children attended school from dawn to dusk, three days a week, and worked three days a week within one of the mills or factories at the Iron Works,



The Schoolhouse at Allaire utilized the Lancastrian Method, a system meant to educate large amounts of students at one time in the 1800s.

with Sunday as a day of rest and reverence. Eventually, the school would expand to include students from outside of the Iron Works, both local children and boarding students. Boarders were charged \$100 per year tuition, and included the children of wealthy families of Allaire business associates. After the age of 12, students could then opt to enter into an apprenticeship at one of the mills or

factories at the Iron Works, at a cost of a \$60 initiation fee. **THE EDUCATORS**
There is record of fifty teachers who educated the students in the school's nearly 80-year existence, to include two members of James P. Allaire's family: a cousin, George D. Allaire, who taught at the school in 1838, and his third son from his first marriage, James P. Allaire, Jr., who taught at the school

from 1861-1862. The Rev. Thomas Tanser, an Episcopalian minister, taught at and resided at Howell Iron Works from 1835 to 1836. It is documented that he received a yearly salary of \$500. He was also the minister of the chapel, and split his time between the Iron Works' Episcopalian Christ Church and St. Peter's Church in Freehold, where he served as rector. The Rev. Thomas Clark served as teacher from 1840 to 1841, at

a time when the school was at its highest enrollment of over 100 students and during its expansion that included local enrollment outside of the Iron Works and boarding students. Thomas B. Woolley served as teacher in 1856, and it is documented that he and his family also lived on the property. The last teacher documented to be paid by James P. Allaire for his services to the school was John Cochrane, who taught in 1842. At this time, the Iron Works was in decline and Mr. Allaire was forced to cease financial support of the school. Hal Allaire, youngest son and heir of James P. Allaire, would continue the school after his father's passing and served as Sunday School superintendent and librarian, and acted as Wall Township Board of Education president. Eliza Peacock, housekeeper and confidant to Hal Allaire, taught at the school from 1875 to 1885, as well as the Sunday School. The archive and library is in possession of one of Ms. Peacock's Sunday School class books in its collection. The last teacher on record was Ezilphion Lane, who served from 1897 until 1900.

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DEJA VIEW

LOOKING BACK AT WALL CHURCHS



COURTESY OF IMAGES OF AMERICA: WALL TOWNSHIP BY RICHARD NAPOLITAN

Wall Church, now located in Spring Lake Heights on Old Mill Road, got its start in 1834, with women having to use a separate entrance than men and sit separately from them inside.



COURTESY OF IMAGES OF AMERICA: WALL TOWNSHIP BY RICHARD NAPOLITAN

Christ Church, located in the Historic Village at Allaire, is believed to have been constructed prior to 1830, and now is fully restored on site.



COURTESY OF IMAGES OF AMERICA: WALL TOWNSHIP BY RICHARD NAPOLITAN

The Glendola Church was constructed on West Hurley Pond Road in 1813, and was moved to the corner of Belmar Boulevard and Allenwood Road.



COURTESY OF IMAGES OF AMERICA: WALL TOWNSHIP BY RICHARD NAPOLITAN

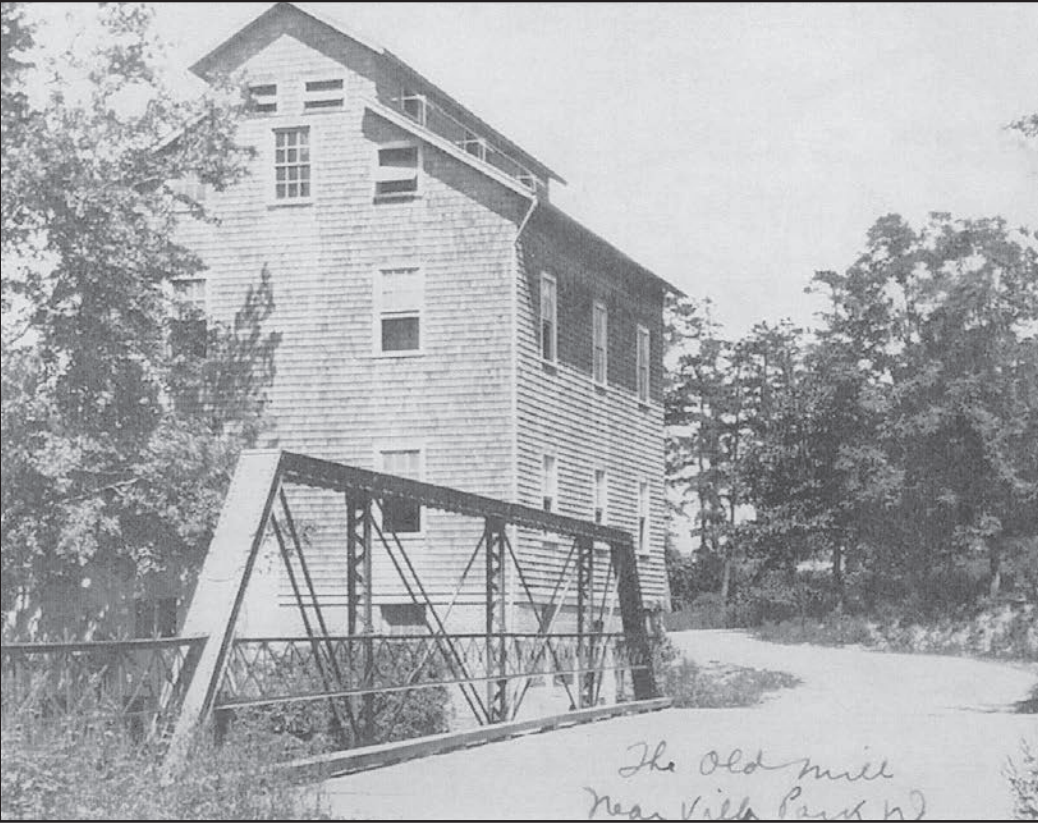
Bearmore Cemetery, Route 35 opposite the old K-mart, looking east toward Spring Lake Heights.

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COURTESY OF IMAGES OF AMERICA: WALL TOWNSHIP BY RICHARD NAPOLITAN

Local farmers brought their grain to the mill, located on Old Mill Road in Spring Lake Heights (so called since 1927) to be ground. The first mill at this location began operating in 1720

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The Allgor-Barkalow Homestead Museum

THE OLD WALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPECIAL TO THE COAST STAR

The Allgor-Barkalow house was built c. 1800. The floor joists are full tree trunks of different widths. (Most of the bark has fallen away but was there in the beginning.) The exterior walls are lined in brick and horse hair. The interior walls and ceilings are lathed and plastered. The wide floor boards throughout are yellow pine, attached with square nails. The 6 over 6 paned windows have the hand blown and rolled glass panes. Only the bottom sash is able to open and needs a stick to hold it up.

The homestead had 2 front parlors, a kitchen and a keeping room on the first floor. Each of the front rooms had an exterior door. One room was used as the New Bedford General Store. The second was the family's parlor. Both had a fireplace, as did the kitchen. The keeping room (off the kitchen and behind the 'general store') would have a small bed for mother to tend to a baby or sick family member; in addition to being used for storage. There was a master bedroom and three smaller bedrooms on the second floor.

By 1830, the house/store was moved 100 feet south on the property so that the building faced River Road (now Belmar Blvd.). At that time the road made a dog-leg turn right in front of the store. It was then that an addition was built to the second floor, adding two more bedrooms. (The bathroom was not added until c. 1920.)

The general store was a stagecoach stop, the post office and a spot for local gossip. The store (and farm) was run by James L. Allgor and his wife Ellen (Smith) Allgor. Mr. Allgor made trips to New York for supplies and special orders for his customers.

Their daughter, Lavnia, married Mathias Barkalow (a local minister). Their grandson, Henry, kept up the farm after his grandparents' death. Bessie Barkalow was the last of the family living in the house. After her death in the 1970's, the house went to the town, and then to the Wall Township Board of Education, its 16 acres to be used for a future grammar school.

The house stood vacant and was showing its age and time of neglect. Henry Barkalow (a great grandnephew of the first Henry) started a garden on the property, selling tomatoes, asparagus, rhubarb, etc., but did not have access to the house. He toted water in large jugs for his garden. His veggies were the best!

In 1978, the Old Wall Historical Society applied to the Board of Education for use of the Barkalow House as meeting headquarters, for a rental



MARK R. SULLIVAN THE COAST STAR

The Allgor-Barkalow Homestead, constructed in 1800, now serves as the headquarters for the Old Wall Historical Society at 1701 New Bedford Road, and simulates a homestead from the era.



fee with an offer to spiff it up. This was challenged by Barbara Foote, who wanted to use the building for the Girl Scouts. The challenge went to court, where it was decided that the house was not suitable for the Scouts. Neither of us knew the extent of the disrepair inside. The Board of Education gave us one year to have the house open as a museum: January 1980 to January 1981.

The mantel in the parlor was laying on the floor, the

wallpaper was peeling from the walls and ceilings, there were bad leaks over the front door and signs of fire near frayed electrical wiring. The electrical repairs that were originally estimated to cost \$300 wound up to be over \$3,000. The work had been approved by Margaret Bartlett but not by the historical society. Funds were at their lowest and not attainable. Again back to court...the bill was paid over time. De Hearn did most of the plaster

repair and everyone volunteered what time they could to scrape wallpaper and a painting party fixed up the two front rooms. Members brought their own antiques for display and the museum was opened in January 1981.

De Hearn recalled an incident from the summer of that year: "One evening, well after dark, I was kneeling while painting the baseboard in the general store when I saw a man peering in the front window. Since there was

no phone in the museum, I picked up my paint laden brush, closed the can of paint, turned off the light, locked the door and headed home. The intruder was going to be 'blue' if I met up with him. I called the police and they found a vagrant living in the outhouse with a pillow, a blanket, a bucket and groceries."

Now that we were in the house, we knew we needed help financially. Thanks to Tove Brunett and Frank Palone, we were able to get \$25,000 from the NJ Historical Commission. First and foremost we needed a new roof. Bob Howd lived a few blocks east on Belmar Blvd. and came to our rescue with a reasonable price for the roof. Ken Dunchee was paid to fix windows, fix the ceiling in the kitchen and add two counter cabinets. He also built the counter and two hutches in the general store using wood from bins left on the property.

For every step forward, we faced a step backward. One very cold day, the hot water pipes in the kitchen froze and burst. Town Hall was across the street and Bea Gassner, the township secretary, seeing what she thought was smoke, thinking the building was on fire, called the fire department and De at her work. It was steam, not smoke coming out the door. By the time De got there to turn the water off, it was a foot deep in the basement. The firemen were able to run a hose and empty most of the water out of the basement. One good thing came of this nightmare. We had been working in the kitchen trying to scrape up three layers of linoleum from the floor, not making much headway, but now it came up in sheets. Also the thin wood veneer on the floor in the 2 front rooms buckled. Dennis Ciritto and De Hearn took up the "modern" floor revealing the original wide-planked pine boards. A light sanding and three coats of polyurethane had them looking new again! Another incident of frozen pipes left the bathroom with a cracked toilet tank holding a solid block of ice. We chiseled out the ice and broke away the tank before it leaked. Disaster averted!

In 1984, OWS received a second \$25,000 grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission which enabled us to install a gas heating system. The fuel line going from the oil tank to the oil burner kept freezing, even with electric heating tape. We were also able to install storm windows throughout the house. The window next to the fireplace in the parlor that was not an original was removed and closed off. Both front doors were replaced. Plaster was removed from the kitchen chimney and

original bricks were polyurethane. The kitchen floor was scraped and painted.

A grant in 1985 went for serious porch repairs, and painting the exterior of the homestead, summer kitchen and outhouse. The smokehouse had sunk 10" to 12" into the ground and had to be lifted. It now has a solid foundation. It was just about this time that Central School was getting a new roof. We scavenged two pickup truckloads of slate and had them installed on the three outbuildings.

One room at a time was refurbished as we could afford the plaster and paint. Flooring on the first floor was very flexible and had to be shored up. The support joists were all different size trees, some of which still had the bark on them. We settled for a forest of lolly columns in our basement to give the floor more stability.

The keeping room was in bad shape, as it was in the north-west corner of the house. After repairs, Lillian Kittell donated money to have shelving built so we could start our genealogy library. Our collection of artifacts was growing.

Steinbach's in Red Bank was remodeling and getting rid of display cases. Lillian and De took the Hearn's truck to see what they could find. Six nice wood and glass cases and 10 mannequins were tightly loaded into the truck, legs and arms were fitted where they could fit. When we stopped for gas in Ocean Township, the attendant seemed to be taking forever. Suddenly the police arrived and ordered us out of the vehicle. The attendant thought there were dead bodies strewn in the back of the truck.

After the Historical Society started restoration on the Wheelwright Shop, our tool display found a new home. The summer kitchen was restored to its origins. The building is unique as the windows slide into the walls. With the front and back doors also open, it would be more comfortable cooking in there, canning and baking particularly. We were donated a beautiful wood burning stove (in pieces) that became the centerpiece of this project.

Not to be forgotten, there is a three-seat outhouse, a brick smokehouse and a pole barn in close proximity to the main building. The pole barn houses several tools and farm equipment found on the property.

With the major work done on all of the buildings, it continues to be an ongoing project to maintain the property.

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Q. WHY IS YOUR HEART IN WALL TOWNSHIP?



“Myself and my husband, Garrett, reside in Wall Township with our three daughters, Bridget, Ryleigh and Cassidy. I previously served on the Wall Township Board of Education, and now serve as the Mayor in Wall Township. I am also a liaison to the recreation department, the Wall Community Alliance for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, the Wall 175th Anniversary Committee, the Monmouth County Library and I chair the Women’s Leadership Committee. My priorities include restoring public trust, developing a fiscally responsible budget, advancing women’s leadership and preventing overdevelopment to preserve the rural character of Wall Township in 2026.”

MAYOR
ERIN MANGAN
Wall Township



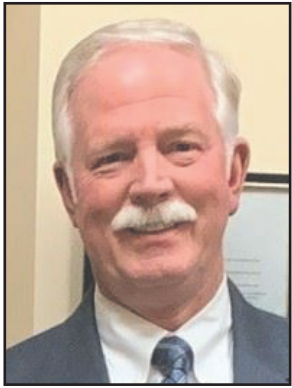
“I was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts and moved to Wall Township 47 years ago, where I still reside. I’m married with four children and seven grandchildren. I have been very active on Wall Township boards and committees for almost 43 years, including the rent stabilization board, the planning board, the West Belmar Gateway, Citizens Committee on Affordable Housing, the board of education, the InfoAge Museums board, the Jersey Shore Chamber of Commerce, environmental advisory board and the Wall Township Committee. I was appointed Mayor of Wall Township in 2018 and am still currently active on the planning board. In my free time, I like to work in my yard and watch my grandchildren.”

DEPUTY MAYOR
TIMOTHY FARRELL
Wall Township



“Myself and my wife Megan have resided in Wall for the past 25 years raising 3 children, who all were successful graduates of the Wall public school system. I currently serve our residents as a Wall Township Committeeman, and also was appointed to serve as deputy mayor in 2025. My goal in serving Wall is to be someone who understands our community, protects our wonderful quality of life and puts residents first.”

COMMITTEEMAN
DANIEL BECHT
Wall Township



“I have lived in Wall Township for over 20 years, have owned and operated the Orender Family Home for Funerals in town since 2003 and currently serve as a Wall Township Committeeman. When I retired from New York City, I moved to Wall Township because of the openness of the town. Let’s face it, where else can you be 50 minutes from New York City, live by the beach, near farms and great golf courses and have your children attend great schools? ”

COMMITTEEMAN
KEVIN ORENDER
Wall Township



“I grew up in Wall Township and graduated from Wall High School in 1983. In 1994, I married my wife, Jennifer “Lokerson” Clayton, and we have been married for over 30 years and have two children, Alexandra and Emily. I proudly served as a Wall Township police officer for 25 years, retiring at the rank of Captain in 2011. I was re-elected to the Wall Township Committee for my second three-year term beginning in 2026, after serving as Mayor in 2025. Committed to Wall Township’s future, I strive to focus on public safety, fiscal responsibility and family values.”

COMMITTEEMAN
TIMOTHY CLAYTON
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INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK R. SULLIVAN

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The magic behind InfoAge:

Volunteers turn their passions into museums

BY FRED CARL
SPECIAL TO THE COAST STAR

WALL TOWNSHIP — Walk through the museums at historic Camp Evans and you might meet someone who spent a career working with radar, a collector who can bring a 70-year-old radio back to life, a computer enthusiast restoring a machine that once filled half a room, a railroad hobbyist building a miniature New Jersey landscape, a firefighter preserving an antique fire engine, or a diver preserving an artifact recovered from a shipwreck.

They have something important in common: they are volunteers. They are the real magic behind the InfoAge Science & History Museums.

InfoAge is unusual because it is not simply a museum containing a collection assembled by a professional staff. It has developed into a consortium of science and history museums and exhibits, many created and operated by independent clubs, associations and groups of volunteers who bring their own collections, knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to Camp Evans.

The arrangement turns a visit to InfoAge into something very different from simply walking past objects in glass cases.

Visitors frequently meet the people who restored the objects, researched their histories or actually worked with similar technology during their careers.

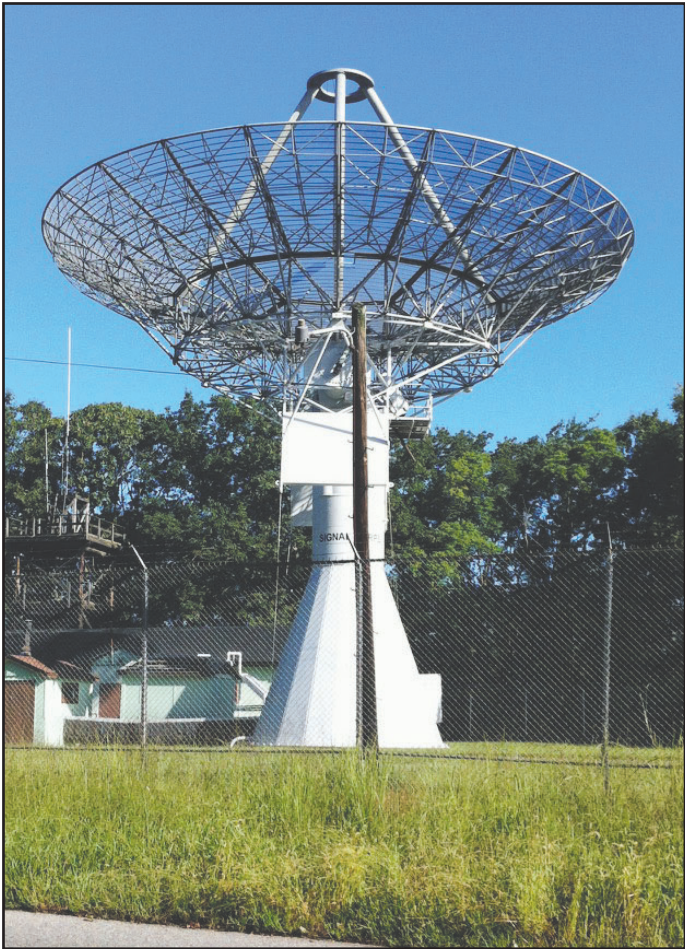
CLUBS BUILD MUSEUMS

The scale of that volunteer partnership is impressive.

Among the organizations that have created, operated or supported museums and exhibits at InfoAge are the Association of Old Crows Garden State Chapter, Computer Deconstruction Laboratory, Garden State Central Model Railroad Club, Military Technology Museum of New Jersey, New Jersey Antique Radio Club, New Jersey Historical Divers Association, Southern Monmouth County Fire Museum Association, Veteran Wireless Operators Association, Vintage Computer Federation, Ocean Monmouth Amateur Radio Club and Quarter Century Wireless Association.

Each brings a different community of specialists to Camp Evans.

Members of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club, for example, operate the Radio Technology Museum and Military Communications



DONNA POULSEN THE COAST STAR

Project Diana Site at InfoAge Science Center was the first dish to bounce radio signals off the Moon; it was the forerunner to the U.S. Space Program.

Exhibit. Visitors can send a telegraph message, try a rotary telephone and explore the development of communications from early wireless through modern technology.

The Vintage Computer Federation operates the Computer History Museum, where computers ranging from early mainframes and minicomputers to the personal computers of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s help tell the extraordinary story of the computer revolution. Its volunteers do more than put old computers on shelves. Members gather at InfoAge to repair and restore vintage machines, sharing their expertise to bring historic computers back to operating condition.

Nearby, volunteers of the Garden State Central Model Railroad Club have created extensive model railroad displays, including a large HO-scale layout representing the anthracite railroad region between New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The railroad exhibit demonstrates another strength of InfoAge: using a hobby people love as a doorway into science, engineering, transportation and communications history.

The New Jersey Historical Divers Association operates the Shipwreck Museum. Its volunteers preserve and interpret artifacts recovered

from the waters off New Jersey, including cannons, diving equipment and objects associated with famous shipwrecks. Their exhibit even includes a conservation laboratory that demonstrates how objects recovered from the sea must be preserved.

The Military Technology Museum of New Jersey brings another kind of volunteer expertise. Its collection includes historic military vehicles, equipment and displays occupying one of the largest museum spaces at InfoAge.

The Association of Old Crows Garden State Chapter helps visitors understand electronic warfare — a particularly appropriate subject at Camp Evans, where generations of Army scientists and engineers worked on communications, radar and electronic defense.

The Southern Monmouth County Fire Museum Association enables visitors to follow the evolution of firefighting over approximately 150 years, from a late-19th-century hand-drawn hose cart to modern fire apparatus. The museum also tells a less familiar story: how military research contributed to advances later used by civilian firefighters, including improved communications and thermal-imaging technology.



MARK R. SULLIVAN THE COAST STAR

Today, the InfoAge Space Exploration Center (ISEC), pictured above, is known in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) circles for its range of hands-on educational and research opportunities.

The Veteran Wireless Operators Association preserves another human story: the radio operators who maintained communications aboard ships, sometimes continuing to transmit distress calls while their vessels were sinking.

Volunteers of the Computer Deconstruction Laboratory operate a working makerspace where activities include 3-D printing, robotics, microcontrollers, CNC machining, woodworking and electronics. They also provide technical support to the broader InfoAge community.

The Ocean Monmouth Amateur Radio Club was critical to the creation of the InfoAge Space Exploration Center (ISEC), helping demonstrate another important feature of the InfoAge story: Organizations do not necessarily work in isolation. Volunteers, clubs, universities, donors and individual specialists have often combined their knowledge and resources to create exhibits that no single organization could have built alone.

MORE THAN COLLECTIONS

What these volunteers contribute cannot be measured simply by counting hours.

They bring knowledge.

A radio collector knows why one vacuum tube changed communications. A computer enthusiast can explain why a machine that looks primitive today was revolutionary 50 years ago. A railroad modeler understands signals, switching and trans-

portation systems. A firefighter can explain how equipment and safety practices have changed. A military vehicle restorer knows what it takes to make an 80-year-old machine operate again.

That knowledge becomes part of the museum.

It also becomes something that can be passed from one generation to another.

That is the InfoAge model at its best: people who love a subject sharing that enthusiasm with someone who may be discovering it for the first time.

Sometimes that visitor is a child.

A youngster may push a button and make a model train move, send a telegraph message, climb aboard a historic vehicle, sit at an old computer, examine a shipwreck artifact or discover that scientists working at Camp Evans once bounced radar signals off the moon.

The volunteer standing nearby can explain not merely what the object is, but why it mattered.

BUILDING A MUSEUM A LITTLE AT A TIME

This volunteer tradition reaches back to InfoAge's beginnings.

When InfoAge celebrated the 15th anniversary of its first exhibit, the organization credited its growth to volunteers who moved the museum forward, "a little step at a time."

Those little steps have accumulated.

InfoAge's first museum and exhibit spaces opened

in the former Marconi Hotel in 2005. Today, tens of thousands of square feet of the historic Camp Evans campus are devoted to museums, exhibits and educational programs, while volunteers continue restoring additional historic space.

That means every restored radio, repaired computer, preserved fire engine, carefully labeled artifact, painted wall, model railroad scene and Saturday afternoon spent explaining an exhibit represents someone's gift of time.

The buildings of Camp Evans provide the setting. The artifacts preserve the evidence.

But the volunteers give the place its life.

They are collectors, engineers, veterans, historians, teachers, firefighters, divers, radio operators, computer specialists, model builders, craftsmen and neighbors. They came together because each cared about something different.

Remarkably, those separate passions have created something much larger.

They have created InfoAge.

And perhaps the most important exhibit these volunteers leave behind cannot be placed inside a display case at all. It is the example they provide to the next generation: Find something worth learning about, preserve it, understand it — and then share what you know with someone else.

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and the years to come!

A wide-angle photograph of the Fountain 9 Mall parking lot. Several cars are parked in the lot. In the background, there are several commercial buildings. On the left, a building with a blue awning has 'BODY20' written on its facade. To the right, a red building has 'OMG!' written on its side. Further right, another building has 'JAMESON & GINGER'S' visible. A sign in the foreground reads 'FOUNTAIN 9 MALL' and '2153'.

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The Morris-Allgor-Kittell Wheelwright Shop restoration

BY THE OLD WALL
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPECIAL TO THE COAST STAR

The wheelwright shop was built by Jackson Morris in 1840. It is one of the oldest existing brick commercial buildings in Monmouth County. Its simple facade, shuttered windows and wide wooden front doors depict an era that has long since vanished.

The building is located on New Bedford Road on what was once the stagecoach route through Wall Township in the 1800s. There was a carriage shop and a general store across the street and a hotel further south. The Morris' house was next to the shop, set back off the road.

Upon the death of Jackson Morris, his son, James, inherited the property, and later sold it to James L Allgor. Soon after, David Kittell, who was married to Mr. Allgor's daughter, Marietta, bought the shop and ran it until 1911.

It was purchased by George Goodrich, who renovated the second floor into two apartments and used the first floor as a garage. There was no running water and it had a separate outhouse. The building remained in this family for three generations.

In 1999, the property was up for sale. The Old Wall Historical Society went to the Wall Township Committee and suggested that the wheelwright shop be turned into a museum. It is one of the four buildings on our township seal and flag. (The other three buildings are already operating as historic museums.)

The township divided the property so that the wheelwright shop is set apart from



MARK R. SULLIVAN THE COAST STAR

The wheelwright shop is one of the oldest existing brick commercial buildings in Monmouth County.

the house. They asked for plans for restoration and gave us a timeline of ten years to restore the building.

The first project was to restore the roof. Help came from John Devlin, a township committeeman, who arranged to have funds donated from the mayor's ball. The lath and plaster walls were deteriorating throughout the building and had to be removed. We got a dumpster and threw debris from the second floor windows.

Electric cords had been run from the main house to the shop and were removed. We had to reinforce and repair stairs to the second floor, replacing second floor framing members at the rear portion of the building as it was no longer attached. The

first floor rear floor had to be lifted, new framing members installed, then original boards replaced. Most of this work was done by Matt Matthews.

Modern electric service was installed by the township as we could not apply for grants for this,

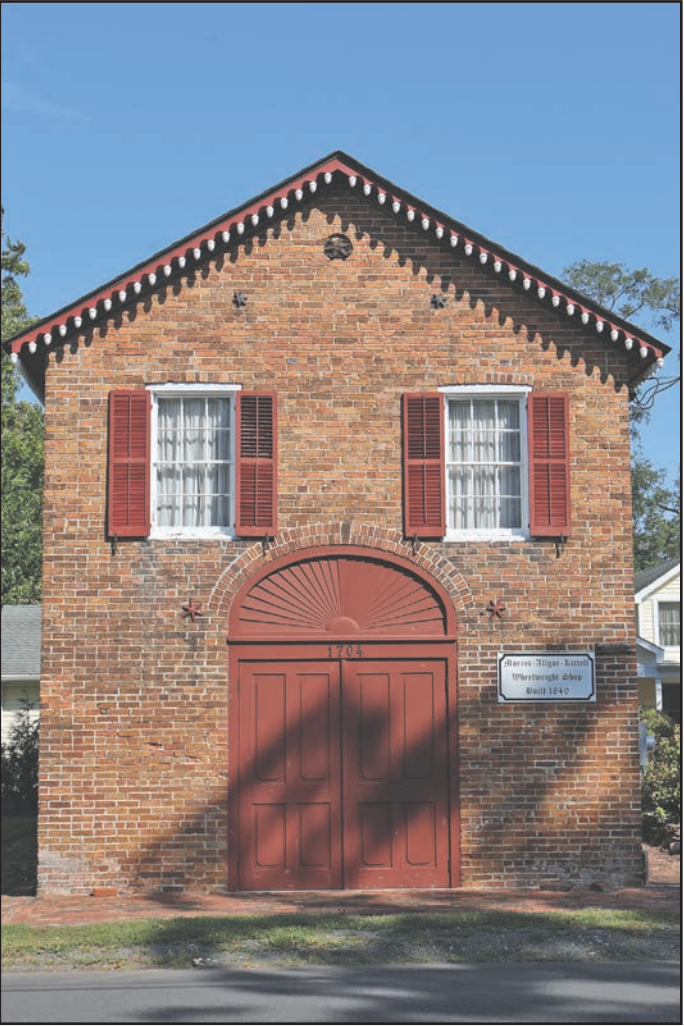
since it was not original to the building. Broken window panes and sashes were replaced and painted. The shutters were removed, repaired, painted and rehung by Matt Matthews.

The main double doors at the front of the building were built by W.F. Sherman and Sons, Manasquan, and hung by John Bruno, an employee whose mother was a devoted member of the society. The side doors and shutters were rebuilt by Matt Matthews.

The brick floor (over 2,000 bricks) in the main room on the first floor was donated and laid by Eagle Scouts. A new apron and paths on either side of the building were also donated and installed by Scouts for their Eagle Projects. The brick walls had to be repointed inside and out.

The soffits and decorative acorn fascia ornamentation and exterior eaves were replaced with work being done by W.F. Sherman and Sons. This was completing our list of to-do's. It took 15 years, not 10. Most of the restoration projects were supplemented with matching grants from the Monmouth County Historical Commission.

The first-floor front room holds our collection of wagon wheels, bellows, small



MARK R. SULLIVAN THE COAST STAR

The building is located on New Bedford Road on what was once the stagecoach route through Wall Township in the 1800s.

forges, workbench and tools. We have also been able to purchase an 1830 Cutter Sleigh for display. The back room has cases of cooper's tools, wainwright (carpenter's) tools, blacksmith tools and shoemaker's tools dating back to the early 1800's.

The second floor has three rooms; the front one is set up with two rope beds, benches and shelves built by Tom Santomauro. There is also a card

table for checkers, a large trunk and carved bird collection (Lawrence McKelvey) to represent living quarters for workers. The back bedroom is ready for a foreman, his wife and infant with a double rope bed, a cradle, a bathtub and a commode. The smaller center room depicts Mr. Kittell's office, including an 1820 desk, chairs, family portraits and marriage certificates.

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The history of the Allaire area

BY HANCE MORTON SITKUS
SPECIAL TO THE COAST STAR

Located in the Wall Township section of Monmouth County on the banks of the Manasquan River, the Allaire area was first inhabited by the Leni Lenape Indians, a Delaware Indian tribe of the Algonquin race. Evidence of former Native American campsites can still be found, particularly along the Manasquan River and on the former Gifford and Kessler farms. Materials found at these locations suggest that the local natives traded extensively with tribes from other sections of the country. The men hunted and fished while the women handled most of the farming chores, raising primarily corn, beans, and squash. Shellfish were gathered from the nearby Atlantic Ocean. The Leni Lenapes were a peaceful tribe and welcomed the first Dutch settlers to the area. They traded with the settlers initially and then sold them hunting rights and, finally, the land itself. The last Native American resident in Allaire, Indian Joe, died in the early 1930s after struggling for years to make a living selling handmade Native American relics. He lived near the entrance to what is now Allaire State Park.

Isaac Palmer and Samuel Swain purchased land in Allaire from the East Jersey Proprietors c. 1750 and operated a sawmill. Ironmongers arrived by 1800 to take advantage of the abundant natural resources in and around Allaire to process iron. These resources included bog-iron ore, timber, water, and oyster shells. According to local legend, an iron forge operated during the Revolutionary War. Williamsburg Forge was

[illegible]

James P. Allaire commissioned this map in 1853, when he contemplated selling the property.

COURTESY OF **IMAGES OF AMERICA: ALLAIRE** BY HANCE MORTON SITKUS

The map above, commissioned by James P. Allaire in 1853, depicts the layout of Howell Works, which the Historic Village at Allaire now works to preserve.

in operation in Allaire c. 1803, and the Monmouth Furnace was running by 1812. By 1820, William Newbold took ownership of the Monmouth Furnace and, in 1822, leased the ironworks to Benjamin Howell of Philadelphia. In that same year, James P. Allaire,

a business acquaintance of Howell, purchased the property. To differentiate it from his Allaire Works in New York City, Allaire called the site Howell Works. During the next 15 years, he intensively developed the ironworks and created a self-suf-

ficient industrial community that boasted more than 300 people during its height in 1836. Today, Historic Allaire Village, named posthumously for its most successful owner and operator, is a memorial to the social thought and planning of the Howell Works

era. This village, with its 13 historic structures, has been preserved to educate visitors on the life and times of those who lived and worked at the Howell Works.

The Howell Works ceased iron production in 1846, paralleling the decline of other

furnaces that once dotted New Jersey's Pine Barrens. James P. Allaire died in 1858, and the village passed first to his wife, Calicia, and then to his son Hal. A Columbia graduate and architect by trade, Hal Allaire for the most part reveled in his father's ancestral holdings and struggled to preserve his father's estate. He waved aside any redevelopment efforts that ambitious businessmen proposed. In 1872, an extension of the Freehold and Jamesburg Agricultural Railroad had been extended to Manasquan, passing through Allaire on the way. The village slowly succumbed to the forces of Mother Nature and was described by local journalists in the late 1800s as being deserted. To generate income from his landholdings, Hal Allaire rented out various homes in the village, allowed William DeLisle to transform the carpenter shop into a restaurant and inn, and created the Allaire Water Supply and Land Company.

Hal Allaire died in 1901, and the property passed to William Harrison. After paying off its back taxes, Harrison sold the Allaire estate to famed Hearst newspaper editor Arthur Brisbane. From 1907 to 1936, Brisbane built a contemporary country home and created a luxurious country estate at Allaire, once consuming close to 10,000 acres. During the Brisbane era, the focal point of Allaire Village was the Allaire Inn, Brisbane's model farm, and the Boy Scouts' Camp Burton. His caretakers occupied the houses in the village, and other buildings were used by various business enterprises. In 1927, Brisbane began

SEE **ALLAIRE** PAGE 23

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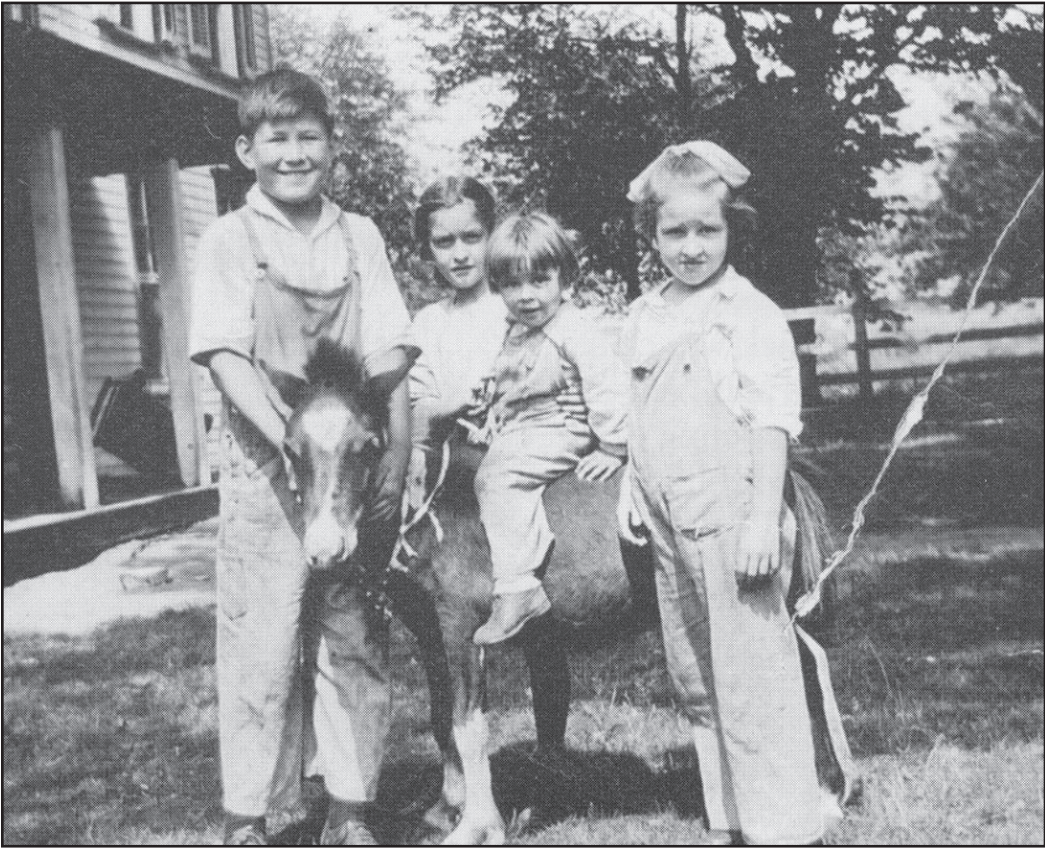
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COURTESY OF IMAGES OF AMERICA: ALLAIRE BY HANCE MORTON SITKUS

Pictured here are Dave Macauley (left) and Ellen Macauley (right) of the Macauley family and two friends, who raised, trained and tended horses for Arthur Brisbane at Allaire.

ALLAIRE
FROM PAGE 20

writing to the Allaire family to learn the history of the property. In 1940, some 1,200 acres of land, including the village, was deeded to the people of the state of New Jersey as a gift from the estate of Arthur Brisbane. This gift of land was designated to be used as a “historical center and forest reservation.” His widow, Phoebe Brisbane, deeded their home in 1944, and it became the Arthur Brisbane Child Treatment Center. Since then, Allaire State Park has more than tripled in size with acquisitions of land through the Green Acres Program. World War II and a lack of restoration funds deterred any resto-

ration of the village and park developments until 1957. The outskirts of Allaire Village was best known for farming, which peaked in the early 20th century. In 1917, four brothers began Kessler Farms, the quintessential truck farm in the Garden State. In operation for nearly 70 years, Kessler Farms was perhaps best known for its spinach. Neighboring Kessler Farms was Thompson’s Dairy Farm and Spring Meadow Golf Course. The land north of Allaire Village was used by a variety of gravel and sand companies in the 19th and 20th centuries before being developed into an airport in 1937 by Ed Brown, a pioneer in local aviation. A racetrack was later built nearby. Allaire has been home to many interesting people and thriving enterprises. Today,

the farms that once bordered Allaire Village are no more. Much of the forests and former farmland is preserved—spared from commercial and real estate development that has erupted all around—in the 3,500-acre Allaire State Park. Allaire Village, now a state-owned historic site, and the New Jersey Museum of Transportation are the focal points of the park. The Manasquan River Reservoir occupies part of the former Kessler Farms. A bike path traverses the former Freehold and Jamesburg Agricultural Railroad right-of-way. Thompson’s Dairy Farm retains some of its former character. Spring Meadow Golf Course and Ed Brown’s airport, now called Monmouth Executive Airport, remain thriving enterprises.



COURTESY OF ALLAIRE VILLAGE
James P. Allaire

The right to regulate

BY CHRIS EGLIN
SPECIAL TO THE COAST STAR

James P. Allaire was known as an innovator and an exceptional businessman which ultimately led to his success. And yet, Allaire had much more that contributed to his success. Unknown to most, J.P. Allaire had ties to a landmark Supreme Court case that dramatically shifted trade policies in the United States. In 1824, the Supreme Court was called on a case that related to previous New Jersey Governor Arron Ogden, and Thomas Gibbons famously being remembered as Gibbons v. Ogden. As partners, Gibbons operated steamboats between New Jersey and New York on a specific route in which the rights were sold to Mr. Ogden. Robert R. Livingston and Robert Fulton, whom Allaire had previously worked for, had established a monopoly by purchasing the rights from the state of New York. Although Ogden and Gibbons initially wanted to break the monopoly, Ogden gave in and settled on paying for the rights. Gibbons then began navigating

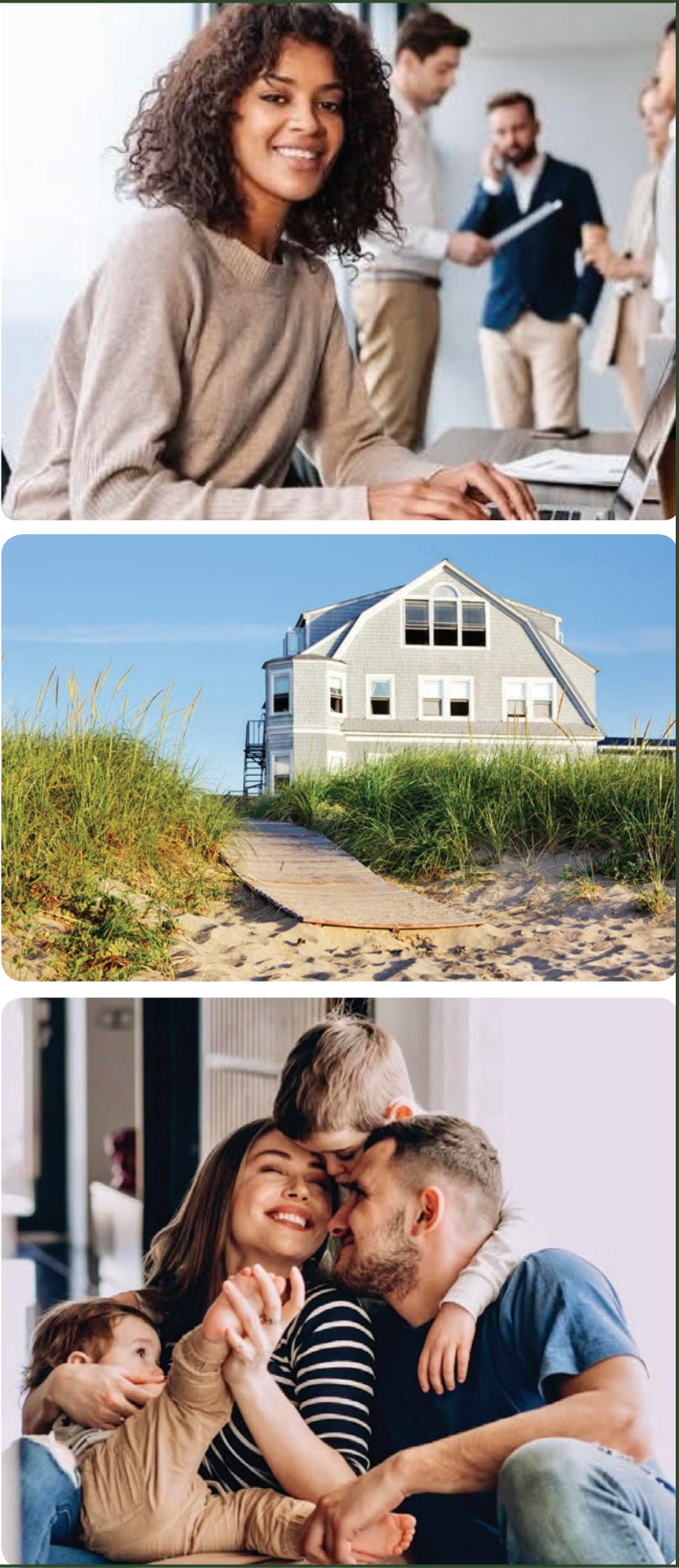
other vessels on Ogden’s route in which Ogden had rightfully purchased from Livingston-Fulton, ultimately infuriating Ogden. This legal battle went to court where Thomas Gibbons had contacted Cornelius Vanderbilt and James P. Allaire in order to devise a plan. Gibbons was certain the courts would rule in his favor and Allaire agreed, giving optimism and energy to his side. This plan would consist of Allaire selling and building vessels such as the Stoudinger and the Thistle while Vanderbilt would sail these between New York and New Jersey, ignoring the policies and disrupting the monopoly. The Supreme Court would conclude that States do not have the power to regulate interstate trade, voiding New York’s law granted to Livingston-Fulton, essentially ending the monopoly. In short, Allaire had supported the fall of the steam-monopoly which gained him notoriety and new investment opportunities. Allaire proves to be a distinguished figure in history once more.

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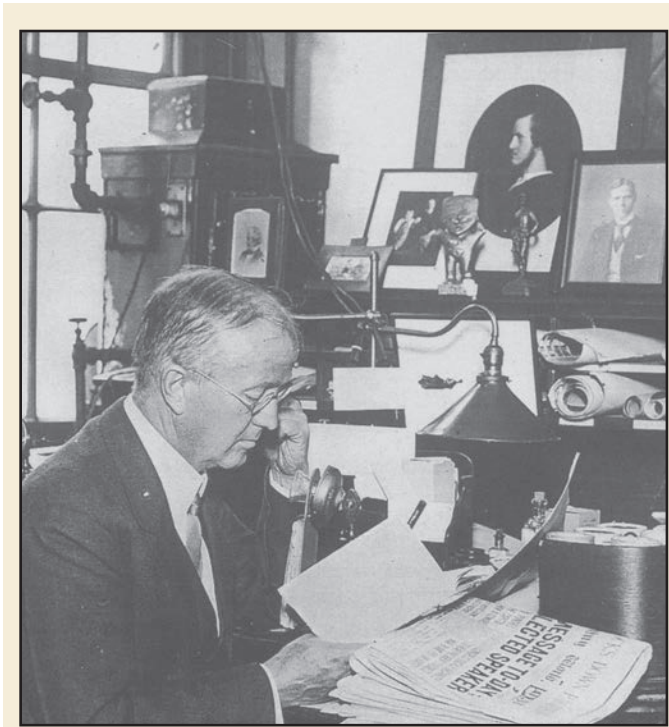
Arthur Brisbane revitalizes Allaire Village

BY HANCE MORTON SITKUS
SPECIAL TO THE COAST STAR

In 1907, on a leisurely drive from his Lakewood mansion, Arthur Brisbane bought Allaire Village from W.J. Harrison for the sum of \$68,000. His purchase included 6,000 acres of the original Allaire family property, including the Howell Works. Allaire Village, a flourishing bog-iron community in the 1830s, was crumbling and nearly deserted by 1907. During Brisbane's ownership of Allaire, he revitalized it, creating a luxurious country estate for himself, his family, and guests to enjoy.

Those who visit Allaire Village today come to appreciate James P. Allaire and his Howell Works but rarely gain an appreciation of Allaire's other prolific owner, Arthur Brisbane, in the 20th century. Brisbane (1864–1936) was admired as one of the world's greatest editors, journalists, and orators. As a muckraker of the Progressive Era, he initiated crusades for improved public schools, labor laws, and reform for prisons, state hospitals, and drug-addiction centers. As an editor, he initiated crusades against crime, boxing, automobile accidents, capital punishment, and Prohibition. He exposed the election fraud of Tammany Hall, attacked the political bosses of major American cities, and condemned political machines in his writings.

By 1923, Brisbane was the highest-paid journalist in the world—\$260,000 a year, equivalent to \$2.5 million a year by today's standards. He was considered to be the executive director of William Randolph Hearst's extensive newspaper empire. He played an active role in the expansion of the Universal News Service and the International



COURTESY OF "IMAGES OF AMERICA: ALLAIRE" BY HANCE MORTON SITKUS
Arthur Brisbane, the highest-paid journalist in 1923, purchased Allaire Village from W.J. Harrison for the sum of \$68,000, then revitalizing the property.

al News Service. Moreover, Brisbane was noted for buying local and national newspapers that were failing, reorganizing them, and then selling them to Hearst. At his death in 1936, the *Daily Times* in Lakewood referred to him as "America's number one all-around newspaperman, for he amuses and instructs more people in a direct relationship than any other man in all of history."

Few realize that Allaire Village would probably have been plowed under or sold for commercial and real estate development if it had not been for Brisbane and his family. The Brisbanes gifted the property that later became the heart of Allaire State Park, including Historic Allaire Village. Through strict land deeds, they set forth the

vision of what Allaire is today—a historic center and forest preserve. His Allaire estate once encompassed close to 10,000 acres and included the property that now comprises Allaire Airport. To maintain this acreage, Brisbane had a number of caretakers that included the Frostick, Macauley, Service and Reynolds families. Of all his real estate holdings, which were quite extensive, Allaire was his favorite. It was here that he liked to vacation and partake in his favorite hobby—horseback riding. It was Allaire that became his final permanent residence.

Arthur Brisbane was born in Buffalo, New York, in 1864, the son of Sara and Albert Brisbane, founder of many utopian communities. Educated in both the United

States and abroad, Brisbane began his journalism career at the age of 19 as a cub reporter for Charles Dana's *New York Sun*. There, he aspired to be the paper's most brilliant news writer by age 20. He served as the paper's London correspondent before assuming command as the evening editor at age 22. Between the ages of 22 and 33, he edited the *Evening Sun* for Charles Dana and the *Evening World* for Joseph Pulitzer.

In 1897, at the age of 33, Brisbane gave up a \$15,000 annual salary with Pulitzer and accepted an \$8,000 salary with William Randolph Hearst. Wanting to try new ideas, he moved over to the Hearst organization and quickly saved Hearst's floundering *New York Evening Journal*. Brisbane made the newspaper appeal to recently arrived immigrants and working people. Reorganizing it to make it different from the morning papers, he employed large type, condensed and illustrated news stories, and took over the editorial page himself.

Within four months, circulation of the *Journal* had grown from 40,000 daily copies to a whopping 640,000 daily copies. With that success came a small fortune to Brisbane. For every increase of 10,000 copies in circulation, Brisbane received a \$1,000 bonus on top of his \$8,000 base salary. Of all the newspapers in the Hearst empire, the *Journal* was the most profitable. Brisbane thought he would only be writing editorials on a temporary basis. However, his union with Hearst and daily editorials lasted until his death in 1936.

BRISBANE AS BENEFACTOR

In the 1920s and 1930s, Arthur Brisbane, wife Phoebe,

and their five children made Allaire their permanent residence. His generosity included allowing various clubs and private organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, to use Allaire Village from 1928 to 1939. His model farm entered its prime in the 1930s. Brisbane was also influential in allowing Allaire Village to be used by Depression programs, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). If it had not been for Brisbane's generosity of allowing various clubs and organizations to use the former village buildings during his ownership, complete devastation or severe damage would have ensued before the state received the property. Through these endeavors, the same 16 buildings that stood when Arthur Brisbane bought Allaire in 1907 were still standing upon his death.

Brisbane's personal real estate holdings during his lifetime were considerable. Believing in the future development of the Jersey Shore as a vacation and beach resort, he owned and developed Arnold and Richmond Avenues, the business center of Point Pleasant Beach. He also owned large estates in Arizona, California, New York, and Florida, as well as Kingscote Mansion in Lakewood, later given to Georgian Court College. Believing Manhattan real estate to be the safest investment in the world, he bought heavily in the upper 50s. He owned property with Hearst, including the Warwick Hotel and parcels around Columbus Circle. He helped finance the building of the Ritz Tower, New York City's first high-rise apartment building.

Brisbane knew the future real estate value of his Allaire property, let alone its

historical value. He sought to protect its development, beginning in the late 1920s. In 1927, Brisbane expressed an interest in making much of his Allaire estate a forest reserve with a historical center. He wrote to Allaire descendants to learn the history of the property.

In the midst of the Great Depression, Brisbane was hit hard with real estate taxes. His real estate holdings in the United States were extensive. Brisbane, although a wealthy person, found Depression tax rates a burden. His Allaire estate, once as large as 10,000 acres during the early 1920s, would be reduced to 3,000 acres by 1940. One of the first parcels he sold was the outlying sandpits and farmland including his orchard. Later, the property that now comprises Monmouth Executive Airport was sold to Edward Brown. Brisbane, however, held on to strategic parcels of land. The village was retained as well as much of the property that contained picturesque landscapes, watersheds, and forests.

On December 25, 1936, Arthur Brisbane died quietly in New York City with his family at his bedside. Newspapers across the country announced the editor's death. Headlines read, "Nation Mourns Brisbane's Death." The *New York Evening Journal* ran a seven-page spread on Brisbane's life and included numerous condolence letters sent by the leading politicians, celebrities, and journalists of the time. He was buried with other family members on the highest knoll at his Allaire estate, not far from his mansion. He was moved in the 1960s to Batavia, New York.

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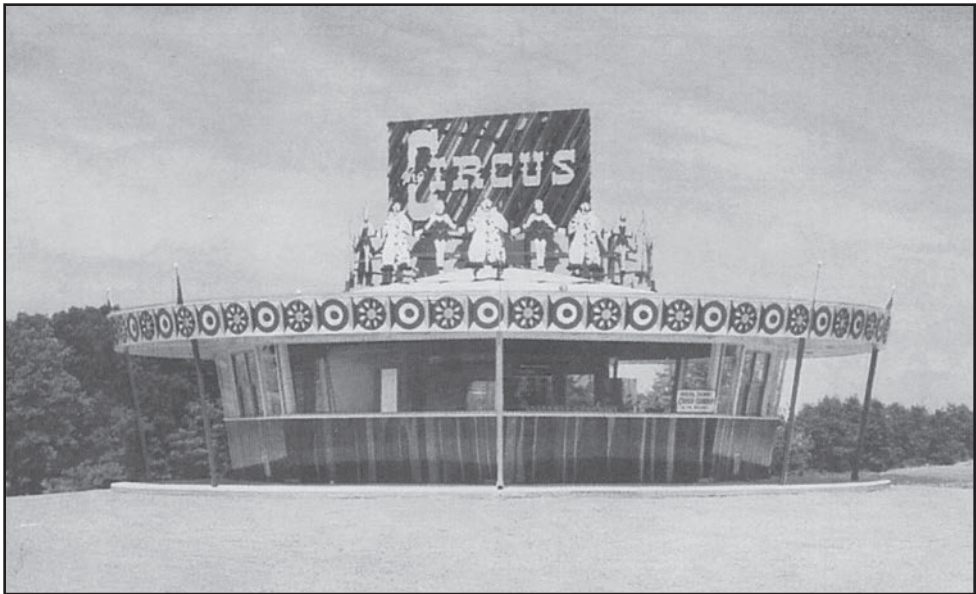
WALL TOWNSHIP

AROUND TOWN



COURTESY OF ARCADIA PUBLISHING

The Allenwood General Store, also called the Country Store, was located in the heart of Allenwood and run by the John and June Herbert family.



COURTESY OF ARCADIA PUBLISHING

The Circus Drive-In restaurant was on Route 35 opposite Old Mill Road. The unique restaurant, established in the 1950s, offered dining inside and carhop service outside.



COURTESY OF ARCADIA PUBLISHING

The Railroad Station in Allenwood.

Captain
Sam Allen,
Wall patriot

Excerpt from the Allgor-Barkalow Homestead Old Wall Historical Society Museum Journal

In the early 1700s, David Allen settled on a large tract of land on the north side of the Manasquan River in what is now Wall Township. His family had emigrated to New England in the 17th century and his brother, Joseph, was the father of the famed General Ethan Allen of Vermont.

Among David's children was a son named Samuel who was known throughout his life as "Lame Sam" because he had been crippled from birth. Lame Sam was a Quaker and his oldest son, also called Samuel, was born in 1757 on the family farm in the section of Wall that is now called Allenwood.

In 1776, just after the start of the Revolutionary War, young Sam married Elizabeth Fleming. Elizabeth's brothers, Stephen and Jacob Fleming, and Sam's brother-in-law, the famous Col Abraham Osborn, were officers in the American Forces and served with distinction throughout the war. Samuel Allen, however, chose to serve in the local militia, which was a group of volunteers dedicated to guard and protect the Jersey shore, from Sandy Hook to Cape May, against the invading British forces and marauding bands of local Tories.

He was a staunch patriot and his many daring deeds and exploits caused early apprehension

among the British who issued urgent appeals for his capture and death.

According to an early account, Captain Sam (as he was then known) was driven from his home many times by the Tory assailants causing him to hide out in the woods for several weeks at a time. His home was plundered and burned to the ground three times.

Several times he was captured but made daring escapes. One time, when he and Col. Osborn were taken prisoner, they were lashed together with ropes and, with armed soldiers in front and behind, were forced to march on foot along the wooded roads of Wall towards Sandy Hook and eventual confinement in one of the notorious prison ships.

As they reached Shark River, Allen and Osborn made a daring escape under cover of night and a heavy sea fog.

Captain Sam found his way to a nearby farmhouse, where he commandeered a horse and raced through the night to the nearest military post, which was at Colts Neck. There he alerted a regiment of soldiers who chased the Tories through the countryside and across the Shrewsbury River.

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