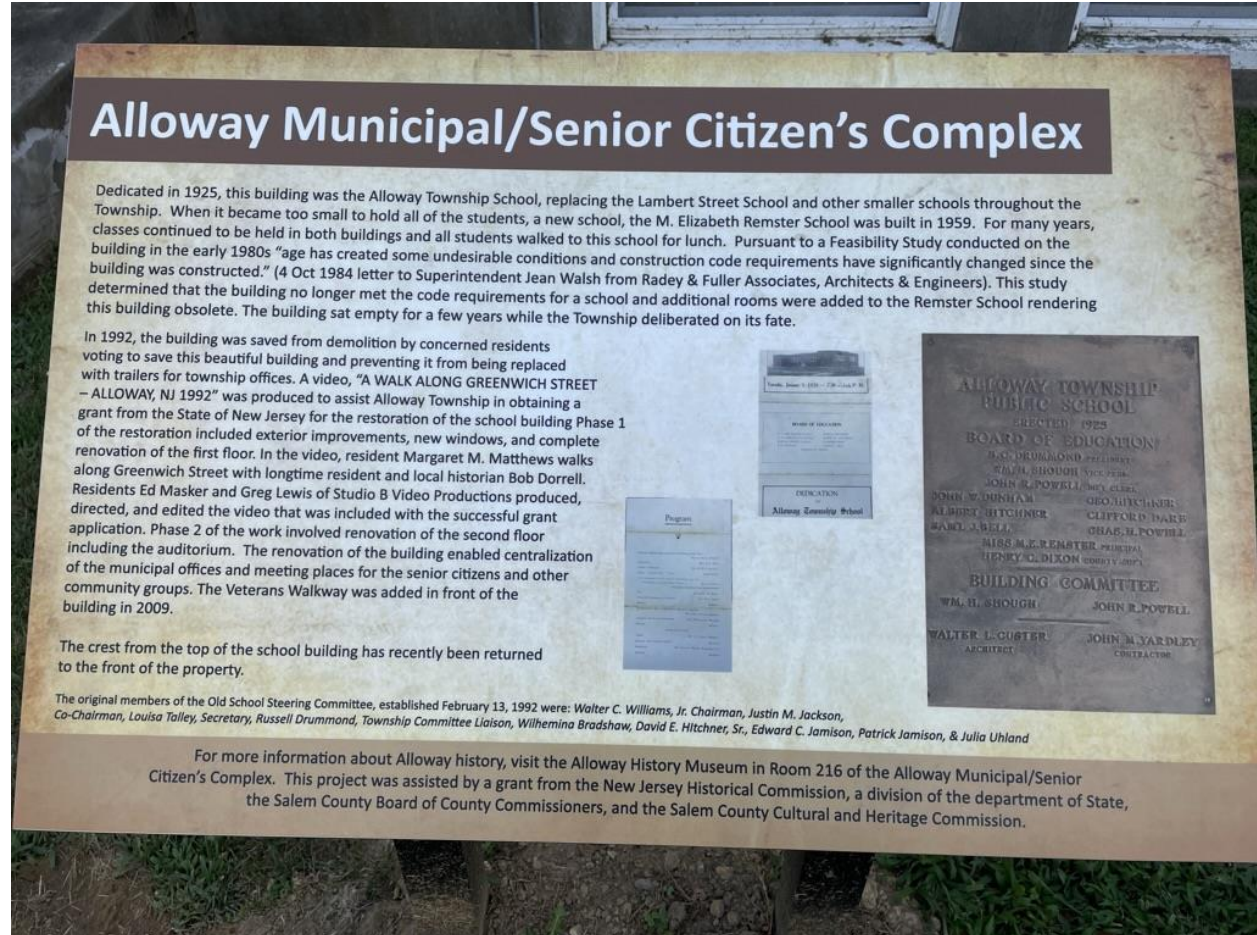


History Signs in Alloway

Through regrants via the Salem County Cultural & Heritage Commission and Salem County Commissioners from grants by the NJ Historical Commission, we have installed history signs at various points in Alloway.

Municipal Building/Senior Citizen's Complex



Public "Free" Cemetery

Alloway Public "Free" Cemetery

The history of this cemetery is not well documented. An article appeared in the January 6, 1941 *Standard and Jerseyman* that indicated that Mrs. Lydia Fox Kelty had paper records in her possession which showed that her father, Robert Fox, was a direct descendant of James McGill, who donated one acre of his farm to Alloway Township, in which residents of the township were to be buried free of charge. Research of family records reveal that Robert Fox was the son of Charles H. Fox (1845-1929) and Lydia Megill (1846-1897). Lydia Megill was the daughter of John Megill (1805-1883) and Elizabeth Margaret Shaw (1810-1881). John Megill was the son of James Megill (1780-1842) and Margaret Mower (1788-1824).

Per the newspaper article, James McGill was the great-grandson of Rev. James MacGill who came to America from Scotland in 1725. Several of Rev. MacGill's grandsons settled in Salem, and one, Patrick MacGill, a blacksmith, settled in Allowaytown. James McGill, who gave the ground, was Patrick's son. James McGill, his family and a number of soldiers of the American Revolution are buried in this old cemetery. Research of the June 1793 tax records confirm that Patrick McGill lived in Alloway.



According to the article, this gift was made by James McGill in the year 1810-11, when he learned that the owners of the cemeteries in this vicinity refused to allow soldiers of the American Revolution to be buried without buying a lot. This so incensed Mr. McGill, whose father and uncle had served in the Revolution, that he gave the aforementioned ground to the citizens of Alloway Township. Unfortunately, the deed documenting this gift could not be found in the Salem County archives. Burial records are incomplete and many of the early gravestones are no longer legible, and documentation has not been found to identify what Revolutionary War soldiers are buried here.

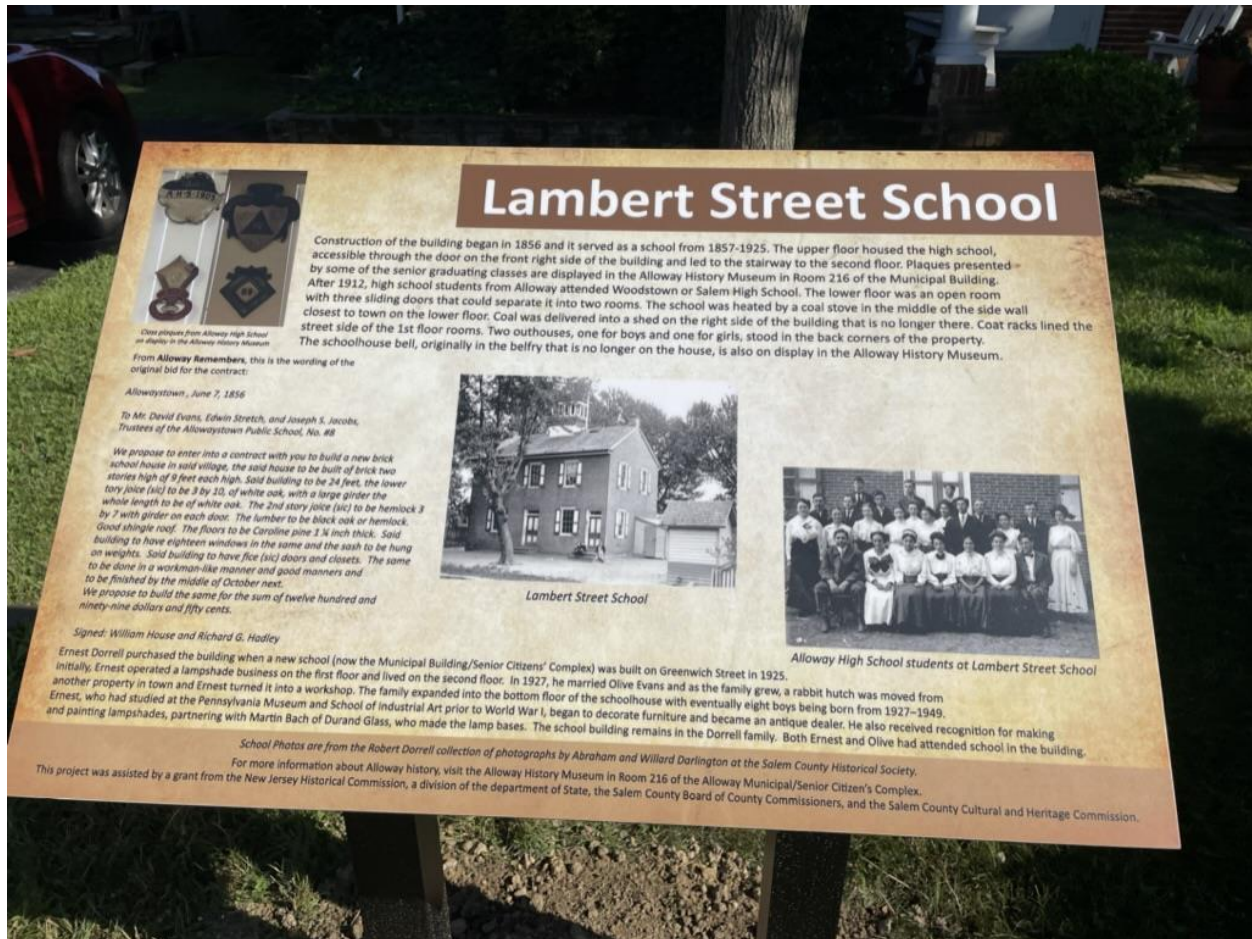
Some of the earliest known burials include: Elizabeth Bee 1768-1832, James Bell 1756-1830, Rebecca Sweeten Bell 1767-1806, Jesse Earley 1786-1867, Peter H. Emel 1778-1823, Esther Emmel 1786-1847, Martha McCormack 1777-1806, John Mowers 1760-1822, Lydia Johnson Mowers 1765-1807, Anna Simms 1798-1855

For more information about Alloway history, visit the Alloway History Museum in Room 216 of the Alloway Municipal/Senior Citizen's Complex. This project was assisted by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the department of State, the Salem County Board of County Commissioners, and the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.



Flags are placed on the graves of Veterans each year on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Burials are still taking place in the cemetery today. The Township is responsible for the upkeep of the cemetery.

Lambert Street School



Lambert Street School

Construction of the building began in 1856 and it served as a school from 1857-1925. The upper floor housed the high school, accessible through the door on the front right side of the building and led to the stairway to the second floor. Plaques presented by some of the senior graduating classes are displayed in the Alloway History Museum in Room 216 of the Municipal Building. After 1912, high school students from Alloway attended Woodstown or Salem High School. The lower floor was an open room with three sliding doors that could separate it into two rooms. The school was heated by a coal stove in the middle of the side wall closest to town on the lower floor. Coal was delivered into a shed on the right side of the building that is no longer there. Coat racks lined the street side of the 1st floor rooms. Two outhouses, one for boys and one for girls, stood in the back corners of the property. The schoolhouse bell, originally in the belfry that is no longer on the house, is also on display in the Alloway History Museum.

Clear plaques from Alloway High School are on display in the Alloway History Museum.

From Alloway Remembers, this is the wording of the original bid for the contract:

Allowaytown, June 7, 1856

To Mr. David Evans, Edwin Stretch, and Joseph S. Jacobs, Trustees of the Allowaytown Public School, No. 48

We propose to enter into a contract with you to build a new brick school house in said village, the said house to be built of brick two stories high of 8 feet each high. Said building to be 24 feet, the lower story joice (sic) to be 3 by 10, of white oak, with a large girder the whole length to be of white oak. The 2nd story joice (sic) to be hemlock 3 by 7 with girder on each door. The lumber to be black oak or hemlock. Good shingle roof. The floors to be Carolina pine 1 1/2 inch thick. Said building to have eighteen windows in the same and the sash to be hung on weights. Said building to have five (sic) doors and closets. The same to be done in a workman-like manner and good manners and to be finished by the middle of October next.

We propose to build the same for the sum of twelve hundred and ninety-nine dollars and fifty cents.



Signed: William House and Richard G. Hadley

Ernest Dorrell purchased the building when a new school (now the Municipal Building/Senior Citizens' Complex) was built on Greenwich Street in 1925. Initially, Ernest operated a lampshade business on the first floor and lived on the second floor. In 1927, he married Olive Evans and as the family grew, a rabbit hutch was moved from another property in town and Ernest turned it into a workshop. The family expanded into the bottom floor of the schoolhouse with eventually eight boys being born from 1927-1949. Ernest, who had studied at the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art prior to World War I, began to decorate furniture and became an antique dealer. He also received recognition for making and painting lampshades, partnering with Martin Bach of Durand Glass, who made the lamp bases. The school building remains in the Dorrell family. Both Ernest and Olive had attended school in the building.


School Photos are from the Robert Dorrell collection of photographs by Abraham and Willard Darlington at the Salem County Historical Society.

For more information about Alloway history, visit the Alloway History Museum in Room 216 of the Alloway Municipal/Senior Citizen's Complex.

This project was assisted by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the department of State, the Salem County Board of County Commissioners, and the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.



Lambert Street School



Alloway High School students at Lambert Street School

Center of Town "Four Corners"



Alloway "Four Corners"

Alloway is one of the few towns in NJ with its original buildings still standing in the main intersection.

Originally built as a store, the Alloway Merchandise building was probably constructed in 1839. The first deed which notes the presence of the store building was in 1849 when John and Elizabeth Lambert sold the property to George Remster and Jonathan House. The store still has most of its original fixtures and operated for over 120 years selling general merchandise including foodstuffs, clothing, and tools. In more recent years, Bob and Sandra Dorrell operated it as a gift shop and museum.



Street



On the northeast corner is what is now referred to as the "Alloway Hotel", built by George Hitchner in 1817 and licensed as a tavern to James Ray. Part of the building may have been built earlier. Tavern keepers included Major Howell Fowles and Thomas Mulford. The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documented the building with photographs and drawings of floor plans in the 1930s. It has changed hands many times over the years. The building had been split into apartments and has recently been restored.

Main Street

On the southwest corner stands a building which has an extended wall on one side to give the illusion of a larger building. It is not known what year it was built but the 1876 map shows a shop located at that location. Through the years it has housed many different businesses including an oyster bar and ice cream shop run by John Dunham, a barber shop, a video store, and a pizza shop.



Greenwich



The oldest building on the four corners is now referred to as the "Alloway Tavern" and it is believed to have been built around 1750. It operated as a hotel and tavern for many years. It was purchased in 1881 and operated as a temperance hotel by Charles Timberman, Timberman's granddaughter married Joseph Yoerger and it has remained in the family for a few generations. The Yoergers ran a bar and a store for many years and then the building became a private residence.

Images and information are from the U.S. HABS file, the publication, *Alloway Remembers*, and the Salem County Historical Society. For more information about Alloway history, visit the Alloway History Museum in Room 216 of the Alloway Municipal/Senior Citizens Complex. This sign was funded by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, the Salem County Board of Commissioners, and the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Alloway Lake (by the public access gate)



Alloway Lake



Boat on Alloway Lake, 1910

The largest lake in Salem County, Alloway Lake, was formed by damming the Alloway Creek. It was originally a mill pond. Flowing into Alloway Lake from the south are streams from Baling's Mill Pond in Alloway and Wallace's Lake at Camp Roosevelt. Flowing in from the east is a stream that begins at Lake Ponchastruta and flows to Sycamore Lake at Camp Edge. From the lake, Alloway Creek flows into the Delaware River.



Originally known as Joseph's Mill Pond, it was named for the owners, James Joseph and his wife, Sarah, who operated a sawmill and grist mill. The Josephs sold the property to Joseph Reeve in 1821 and Reeve constructed a second dam on the south branch of the lake which enlarged it to facilitate his milling and ship-building operations. Reeve also built a raceway along the south shore thus originating the name of Canal Street.

Joseph Reeve bequeathed the lake to his son, Dallas Reeve, who in turn, sold the lake to Francis Dament and his wife, Anna Eliza, in 1867. The lake has provided water power for many mills.

Through the years, the lake has changed hands many times, with owners including the Ewin family, Bedford Seabrook, and Murcy Funk. An Alloway Lake Association operated from 1951 through the 1970s with beach access for Association members.



Sunset on Alloway Lake

The dam has been washed out and replaced several times, including during the flood of 1940 and again in 1950. More recently, Hurricane Floyd threatened the integrity of the dam, and in March 2000 the lake was partially drained.

Today, the lake and the dam are owned by Alloway Township. Through a grant from the state and a loan from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, a new spillway was constructed. The 157-acre Alloway Lake was reopened to the public in November 2009 after an extensive 8-year replacement of the dam and spillway. Public access is located at 26 East Canal Street, where there are picnic tables, a dock, parking, and a small boat launching ramp. Only non-powered watercraft or the use of electric trolling motors are allowed. Fishing, on a catch-and-release basis only, is currently permitted.

Information is from the publication, *Alloway Remembers*, the Alloway History Museum, and Google Maps. For more information about Alloway history, visit the Alloway History Museum in Room 216 of the Alloway Municipal/Senior Citizens Complex. This sign was funded by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, the Salem County Board of Commissioners, and the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Reeve Brothers (by the former hardware store/Rafter C Auction)



Head of Alloways Creek Quaker Preparatory Meeting (by the monument on N. Greenwich Street)



"Head of Alloways Creek Preparatory Meeting of the Society of Friends"

A meeting of Allowaystwen was established in 1683 but a Meetinghouse was not erected for several years. For the minutes of the Salem Monthly meeting "At Our Monthly Meeting held at Salem 29th day of 4th month 1755 the Friends at the head of Alloway's Creek made Application to have a new Meeting house built to accommodate Friends in that part to which, proposal this meeting agrees and Berghem Thompson, Isaac Oakford and Isaac Thompson are appointed managers to see and get and build between this and next fall, and bring the account there of to this meeting." A frame structure was erected in 1756.

The fate of the structure is recorded in the minutes from a Salem Monthly Meeting held the 27th day of the eleventh month, 1800. "The meeting house at the head of Alloways Creek belonging to this meeting having become unnecessary and useless in consequence of the decrease of Friends in that neighborhood by death, removals, etc., and Friends of Upper Pennanek informing they were desirous of enlarging their meetinghouse, and that they approved the frame, etc. of said house at Alloways Creek would be useful to them, on considering the subject it appeared the united sense of the meeting that Friends of Upper Pennanek be at liberty to remove all or such parts as they may think useful to them, with the stove, benches, etc., belonging thereto."



Original Survey

Properties owned by Ephraim Bee adjoined the Quaker land. A note in a file at the Salem County Historical Society from Jane Clement Bee states, "After Ephraim Bee died in 1874 the Wentzells found a number of old papers relating to the old meeting with names of members and people buried therein. They thinking (sic) as long as the meeting house was gone, then the papers were no good, so hence they immediately buried them, thereby destroying (sic) records of valuable historic interest."

It is estimated that several hundred persons, including Native Americans, are buried in this lot. The land was later sold to private individuals, and, around 1860, the owner bulldozed the lot removing the foundation and the stones. When he learned that it was a cemetery, he erected a monument in the early 1900s as a memorial to members of this Meeting and that is all that remains at the site at the present time.



Monthly Meeting Minutes
November 27, 1800

Images and information are from the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College and the Salem County Historical Society.
For more information about Alloway history, visit the Alloway History Museum in Room 216 of the Alloway Municipal/Senior Citizens Complex.
This sign was funded by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, the Salem County Board of Commissioners, and the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Camp Roosevelt (by the entrance on Watson's Mill Road)

