Explore Cape May County’s Past

Celebrating 45 Years of History

Education and Preservation

Welcome

“Whereas, the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Lower has recommended the granting of a variance to Dr. Joseph and Patricia Anne Salvatore in connection with the establishment of a historic village project on Old Shore Road, Cold Spring, Lower Township, Cape May County, New Jersey. This resolution shall take effect immediately, October 24, 1973.” With that statement of approval by Lower Township 45 years ago, Historic Cold Spring Village was born.

In 1973, the former meeting hall of Cold Spring Grange #132 was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Salvatore with the intent of turning it into a museum of Cape May County history. Cold Spring Grange #132, now the Cold Spring Grange Restaurant, has the distinction of being the first structure acquired for what would become Historic Cold Spring Village. The Salvatores, both of whom had a strong interest with Americana and local history (Dr. Salvatore was born and raised in Wildwood), had read of locally-significant historic structures in the area of being destroyed to make way for new construction. They took it upon themselves to save them. Many historic structures were added during the 1970s, the first being the c.1876 Goes Erickson Shop (the Tin Shop) from Heislerville in Maurice River Twp., Cumberland County, which is also a structure in the Village not originally from Cape May County. The paths that will lead you from building to building were also created in the 1970s. They were cleared between the trees on what had once been farmland that had lain fallow since the 1890s. A Philadelphia-based real estate company had planned to build a neighborhood named “Cape May Heights” on the land that is now HCSV. However, they went bankrupt in The Panic of 1893. Many of the paths follow the street pattern designed for the never-built development. As the Village progressed, as many trees as possible were saved to create the shade that helps keep HCSV cool during the summer. The 1970s also saw the acquisition of the Dennisville Inn, which had to have its second floor separated from its first floor so the two halves would fit under the overhead telephone lines as it was transported by two flatbed trucks from Dennisville to HCSV; the Spencer Leaming House, moved from a location in Lower Twp. across from the Lower Township Hospital, the Corson-Hand House and the Country Store, both of which had long trips to the Village, coming from the northernmost edge of Cape May County in, respectively, Tuckahoe and Marlboro in Upper Twp., a section of the Woodbine Junction Tower that once controlled access to a spur railroad line that branched from the main line in Woodbine and ran across the back bays and marshland to Sea Isle City, the Cape May Point Jail, once a Cape May Police Station as a storage area; and the Rio Grande Railroad Station, which served as the Village’s first Print Shop before being moved to its current location.

Between 1973 and 1981, work continued on acquiring, repairing and restoring the Village’s original buildings. Historic Cold Spring Village’s most important milestone was reached on May 23, 1981. For the first time, Historic Cold Spring Village was open to the public. After years of preparation, visitors could at last experience important structures that had been work-places and homes of our ancestors. The Village parking lot was filled to capacity as visitors flocked to see this new wonder and step back in time. Though the first summer seasons of the Village saw many of the buildings used, unlike today, as retail shops, the staff in those carefully restored structures, just like today, were clad in period clothing and told the stories of those who had once lived and worked locally. Forty-five years later, Historic Cold Spring Village is a private, non-profit living history museum, the largest in New Jersey, still proudly carrying on its mission of nearly half a century: historic preservation, history education and heritage tourism.

A visit to the Village

Begin your visit at the Welcome Center near the Route 9 entrance, where you will find an orientation exhibit on local history, as well as a brief video presentation on the lives of our ancestors of the Early American era. Beyond the Welcome Center is the Marshallville School where you can experience a 19th century school day in a real c.1850 one-room school. The Gandy House, originally a humble farm family’s home, is in the Village Print Shop. Next door, the Douglass Carriage House showcases the Village woodworker. Across the path is the Pottery Shop where the Village potter hand crafts an array of objects.

At the center of the Village is the c.1817 Spencer Leaming House, home to Early American domestic life. The Village broum-maker is next to the Willis Barn turning sorghum into household brooms. Interpreters at the Corson-Hand House demonstrate spinning and weaving using wool from our Village sheep.

The Lewis Corson Gandy Barn is the heart of the 19th century heritage farm where crops and flowers appropriate to the era are grown using traditional agricultural techniques. Down the lane is the Fishing Bait and Tackle Shop where the blacksmithe forges an array of iron items.

Near the Village restaurant is the Heislerville Store where the tinsmith creates useful objects. Next door is the Tuckahoe Shop, home to the Village bookbinder. At the David Taylor Shop, visitors see the classic trade of basketweaving.

At the Cape May Point Jail children can play games popular with the youth of two centuries ago. And lastly, the innkeeper at the Dennisville Inn will invite you into the taproom or dining room for a lively discussion of 1800s social life.

The Past and Future of HCSV

In 1973 Dr. and Mrs. Salvatore, (Patricia) acquired Cold Spring Grange #132, thus beginning Historic Cold Spring Village. They assembled a collection of 18th and 19th century buildings on twenty-two acres of wooded land between Routes 9 and 626. With the assistance of their children, Rick and Kate, they collected tools and furnishings for the buildings. Their objective was to provide visitors with a sense of stepping back in time to the 1800s. In 1981, after eight years of development, the Village was opened to the public. In December 1984, the buildings and land were donated to Cape May County. The County operated the Village for seven years until it was returned to the Salvatores in 1993. The family immediately donated it to the newly-formed private non-profit corporation, HCSV Foundation. The first 45 years of Historic Cold Spring Village have been exciting and innovative. However, the future promises to be challenging amidst proposed budget cuts to arts, history and cultural non-profit organizations. HCSV Foundation invites you to become involved in the 2018 season. The Board of Trustees, Friends of the Village, and the Administrative Staff fervently believe that without a past, the future has little meaning. The Museum’s pledge is to continue to expand upon its mission of preservation, history education and heritage tourism, thus improving our understanding of the past.

Contributions are most welcome. Please consider a tax-deductible gift to the HCSV Endowment Fund either through a direct donation or planned giving.
A Brief Timeline of Events from HCSV’s Era

1789-1865

1789-George Washington inaugurated as 1st US President
1794-Whiskey Rebellion in Pennsylvania over US liquor tax
1798-99-Quasi-War with France, French privateers raided Delaware Bay
1799-George Washington dies at Mount Vernon, Virginia
1801-1815-Barbary Wars with North African pirates
1804-Steam locomotive invented in UK
1807-First commercially successful steamboat
1812-1815—War of 1812, British blockade Delaware, raid Cape May County
1814-1815-“The year without a Summer,” weather cooler than normal due to volcanic eruptions
1816-Mary Shelley writes “Frankenstein, or The New Prometheus”
1820-Missouri Compromise settles disputes between slave and free states
1820s-Charles Babbage designs his “difference engine,” a mechanical computer.
1823-Clement Moore anonymously publishes “A Visit from St. Nicholas”
1828-Noah Webster publishes 1st edition of his famous dictionary
1829-Work begins on 1st American railroad (Baltimore & Ohio)
1832-1833-South Carolina Nullification Crisis
1833-Lydia Maria Child publishes “The American Frugal Housewife”
1836-1st migrant wagon train travels the Oregon Trail
1839-1st “selfie” taken in Philadelphia and 1st camera produced in France.
1840s-Transcendentalist Movement gives rise to Melville, Hawthorne and Thoreau are popular authors
1841-Walt Whitman begins literary career while employed as a schoolmaster
1843-British mathematician Ada Lovelace writes the 1st computer program
1844-1st long distance telegraph message sent from DC to Baltimore
1846-1848-Mexican War, peace treaty grants vast lands to the US
1849-California Gold Rush begins
1850-Compromise of 1850, briefly settles issues between North and South
1852-Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”
1857-US Supreme Court Dred Scott Decision
1858-1st transatlantic telegraph cable across the Atlantic
1860-Abraham Lincoln elected 16th US President
1861-1865-American Civil War

A free, 30-minute Village Retail Pass is available for the Country Store, Ice Cream Parlor, Bakery and Shepherd’s Hook; please ask at either Gatehouse.

For information on group rates, please call (609) 898-2300, ext. 10.

Hours of Operation
Open Tuesday through Sunday from June 27th through September 3rd and the weekends of June 16-17 & 23-24 and September 9-10 & 16-17
10:00am - 4:30pm unless otherwise noted

Ice Cream Parlor open 11-4
Village Bakery open 10-4
Cold Spring Brewery open 12-8
Tues. - Sun. Open 7 days a week in July and August.
1. Welcome Center (1894): Originally a Junior Order of United American Mechanics Hall and later the Lower Township Municipal Hall, the Welcome Center features a history exhibit and orientation program. Village offices are located on the second floor.

2. Marshallville School (c. 1850): The Marshallville School is a good example of the use of local materials in the architecture of the region. Our resident schoolmaster or schoolmistress will test your knowledge.

3. Cove Hall Cottage (c. 1691): The Village’s 2nd most recent addition is believed to be the oldest existing building in Cape May County! Experience the living quarters of a typical family living in an early rural community.

4. Spicer Leaming House (c. 1817)/Domestic Arts: Watch the woman of the house cook and carry out her daily chores in the restored kitchen of one of the first buildings moved to the Village.

5. Corson-Hand House (c. 1837)/Fiber Arts: Originally the home of a ship carpenter, and later a shoemaker, this house features an interpreter demonstrating wool carding, spinning and weaving.

6. Dennisville Inn (c. 1836): This former stagecoach stop features a restored tavern and dining room. Stop by and try your hand at one of the tavern games and chat with our innkeeper.

7. Cape May Point Jail (c. 1900)/Children’s Games & Crafts: Participate in hands-on children’s activities including games and crafts. Open 11-3.

8. James Hathorn House, (c. 1722/1780)/Country Store: The store (originally a house built in two parts) sells The Village's artisans' wares, plus books, candy, heritage food, toys, housewares, and much more.

9. Village Gazebo: The Gazebo is the main stage for Village events, musical performances and live entertainment.

10. Taylor Octagonal Poultry House (c. 1880): This charming octagonal-shaped structure was built as a brooding house for hens and is home to a Shepherd's Hook, a fiber arts and artisan shop. Please see the gates for more information.

11. Heislerville Store (c.1876)/Tinsmithing: The Village Tinker demonstrates tinsmithing techniques in an Antique Cumberland County Shop.

12. Tuckahoe Shop (c. 1855)/Bookbinding: This commercial building, originally from Tuckahoe (about 25 miles north), houses the Village Bookbinding Shop. Observe the bookbinder demonstrate the tasks involved in historic bookbinding.

13. John Finley Blacksmith Shop (c. 1886): Originally located in Goshen, one of Cape May County’s shipbuilding towns, observe our working blacksmith.

14. David Taylor Shop (c. 1830)/Basket Making: An original cobbler’s shop from Dennisville houses the Village basket-makers. Watch them demonstrate and discuss this practical art.

15. Ezra Norton House (c. 1850)/Village Bakery: This home from Dias Creek houses the Village bakery. Freshly baked cookies, confections and refreshments are available daily. Open 10 - 4.

16. Ewing-Douglass House (c. 1850)/Ice Cream Parlor: Enjoy hand-dipped ice cream, sodas and cold drinks at a vintage Cold Spring farm house. Open 11 - 4pm.

17. Lewis Corson Gandy Barn (c. 1880)/Farming: Visit the 19th century farm complex. See the tools a farmer would use to tend heritage crops and livestock.

18. Pottery Shop (Reproduction): The resident potter demonstrates and handcrafts pottery using 1800s techniques.

19. Willis Barn (c. 1865) Broommaking: The broommaker turns his crop of broom corn, a variety of sorghum, into practical household items. The barn is also the home of the Village sheep, hens and rooster(s).

20. Douglass Carriage House (c. 1895)/Woodworking Shop: Housed in a restored carriage barn from Cape May, the Village woodworker undertakes a variety of projects.

21. The Rev. David Gandy House (c. 1830)/Print Shop: This building from Upper Township houses the Village Print Shop. Observe the printer demonstrating the tasks involved in historic printing.

22. Cold Spring Grange #132 (c. 1912)/Village Restaurant: The farm to table restaurant (open to the public) is the only building in the Village on its original location, and is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. The Grange, a fraternal organization, was founded in 1867 and is officially known as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. Call (609) 884-0114 for more information.

23. The Village Eatery (reproduction): Light fare and snacks. Please see gates for information.

24. Stillwell and Elizabeth Corson Barn (c. 1804)/Cold Spring Brewery: This heavy timber frame three-bay English barn was once used for threshing and storing grain and is now home to the Cold Spring Brewery. Open Tuesday-Sunday noon to 8 pm. Open 7 days July-August.

25. Friend’s Pavilion (Reproduction): Reproduction construction provides covered dining and meeting space.

26. Original Cold Spring: Please see description on page 2.

27. Freight Station (Reproduction)

28. Rio Grande Railroad Station (c. 1894): Originally from Rio Grande, about 3 miles north, the building has served as a train station for the Cape May Seashore Line.

29. Woodbine Junction Tower (c. 1894)/Restoration/Reproduction: A portion of this building once served as a railroad signal tower in Woodbine.

30. Rail Guard Shack (Reproduction)

31. Bradner’s Run: Please see description on page 1.

32. Cold Spring Presbyterian Church (“Old Brick”) & Cemetery (c. 1823): The earliest grave in the cemetery is that of Sarah Hand Eldredge Spicer, dated 1742, a direct descendant of the Mayflower settlers. Guided tours offered during summer by church members. Call 609-884-4065 for information.

Ask at the gates about converting your ticket into a Village Membership.

SUPPORT THE VILLAGE AND BECOME A MEMBER OF HCSV

Benefits Include:
- Free, unlimited admission
- Discounts in the Country Store
- Complimentary subscription to The Villager Newsletter
- Exclusive members-only special events
- Discounts on special programs and classes
- Application opportunities for Junior Apprentice Programs
- Membership in the Friends of HCSV

Membership fees:

| Individual | $35 |
| Joint (2 adults) | $60 |
| Family (2 adults and up to 6 children or grandchildren, age 17 and under) | $90 |
| Benefactor (Family Membership plus 10 One-Time Visit Passes) | $175 |
| Business Membership (Family Membership plus 20 One-Time Visit Passes) | $300 |

Special Memberships available for Active Duty Military.
Visitor Guidelines

- Wheelchair-accessible restrooms are available at the Welcome Center (#1) and Ice Cream Parlor (#12).
- Smoking or the use of vaporizers and e-cigarettes in Village buildings or on Village grounds is prohibited.
- Picnicking is not permitted. However, food is available for purchase.
- Pets are welcome on Village grounds but must be kept on a leash. Please clean up after your pet. HCSV assumes no liability for incidents involving pets. Service dogs only are allowed to enter the buildings.
- Personal photography and videography for private, non-commercial use is permitted (and encouraged!) in the Village. Organized commercial photo and video shoots require prior approval by the Administrative Office. Call (609) 898-2300, ext. 10 for more information.
- HCSV may photograph or videotape visitors for educational and promotional purposes. Attendance on Village property is implied consent for the use of visitors’ likenesses for these purposes.

2018 Themed Weekends & Village Events

June 16-17
Military Timeline Weekend
Experience field camps, displays and exhibits depicting military life throughout history. Sponsored by the Title Company of New Jersey and the Linsingting family.

June 23-24
Quilt & Fiber Arts Show
Displays of beautiful, locally made quilts! Demonstrations of knitting, crocheting, quilting, wool production and much more. Presented by CAMACO Quilter’s Guild and Chris Clemans Sotheby International Realty.

June 30/July 1
Independence Day Celebration
Celebrate Independence Day the traditional way with patriotic programs, celebrations and music on Saturday.
Sponsored by the Brigantine VFW and Sunset Liqueurs.

July 7-8
Paranormal Pursuits Weekend
Experience all things unexplained! Enjoy ghostly tales, presentations by paranormal investigators, ghost tours and much more.
Sponsored by Gais’ Market.

July 14-15
14th Annual Celtic Weekend
Enjoy traditional music, a pipe and drum band, demonstrations, family activities and more!
Presented by Fitzpatrick, Bongiovanni and Kelly, CPAs.

July 21-22
Railroad Days
Enjoy working model trains, garden railways, memorabilia, presentations and more!
Sponsored by Crest Savings Bank.

July 28-29
Hands-on History
Enjoy family activities and crafts including tin punch, pottery, face painting, historic games and dress-up, puppetry and more!
Sponsored by PNC Bank.

August 4-5
Down on the Farm Weekend
Experience farm life! Visit barnyard animals and enjoy horse-drawn farming demonstrations, antique and modern farming equipment exhibits, carriage rides and more!
Sponsored by Smeltzer & Sons Feed and Pet Supply.

August 11-12
Classic Car Show
Antique and classic cars and trucks line the Village’s shaded paths. Enjoy family activities and a classic car parade! (cars depart by 3 pm both days)
Sponsored by Kindle Auto Plaza and Mini Edison.

August 18-19
Village Field Day
Games and activities for the whole family!
Sponsored by Schuler Security Inc. and Priester Foundation

August 25-26
Seafarer’s Encampment
Come aboard for exciting pirate performances, featuring Valhallas Pirates. Enjoy special exhibits and demonstrations, plus sea chanteys and sing-alongs!
Sponsored by Sunset Liqueurs and Ocean Club Hotel.

September 1-2
Hands-on History
Enjoy family activities and crafts including tin punch, pottery, historic games and more!
Sponsored by PNC Bank.

September 8-9
Revolutionary War Encampment
The American Revolution comes to life with reenactors and encampments from Continental, Loyalist and Hessian troops and civilians. Camp life presentations, artillery demonstrations and more.
Private Event Sponsor

September 15-16
Civil War Weekend
The Blue and the Gray take the field at one of the Village’s longest-running and most popular events! Union and Confederate troops camp throughout the Village and demonstrate camp life, weaponry and more. Battle reenactments both days at 2 pm.
Sponsored by Ocean First Bank and Hotel Alcott.

October 20
27th Annual Lower Twp. Rotary Club Pumpkin Festival
(Free admission) Craft show, music, games, food vendors, pumpkin painting and Lower Twp. Recreation Commission Halloween Parade. Donations of canned goods or non-perishable goods requested. Held on grounds only, buildings closed. Rain date: Sunday, October 22nd.
Presented by the Lower Township Rotary Club.

December 1
Wassail Day
Celebrate the start of the Village’s holiday season with hands-on crafts, live music and a holiday treat.

2018 Summer Family Activities

Visit our craft area for a variety of fun activities for kids and adults! #7 on the map.
- Game of Grace (Flying Hoops)
- Rolling Hoops
- Skittles
- Ring Toss
- A different craft activity offered each day for adult & child
- And much more family fun!

This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the Cape May County Culture & Heritage Commission, from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

School Programs

- Distance Learning via Internet Protocol (IP)
- Teleconference or Skype (Oct.-April)
- Visits to the Past, Field Trips (Late May-Early June)
- Visits from the Past, classroom visits with Museum Educators
- Marshallville One-Room Schoolhouse Experience
- Traveling Trunk Program

Funded in part by the Friends of HCSV.

Historic Cold Spring Village has received operating, endowment and project grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission, The New Jersey Historic Trust, The 1772 Foundation, The New Jersey Cultural Trust, New Jersey Council for the Humanities and the County of Cape May, including funding from the Division of Open Space and Farmland Preservation and the Division of Culture and Heritage/NJSCA. Supported in part by a grant from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.