



The Crier
of the
Glocester
Heritage Society

Glocester Heritage Society
Job Armstrong Store
1181 Putnam Pike
P.O. Box 269
Chepachet, RI 02814

401.568.1866
www.glocesterheritagesociety.org
info@glocesterheritagesociety.org

Incorporated 1967.

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The Glocester Heritage Society identifies, acquires, holds, arranges, restores, maintains, and preserves for posterity buildings, tracts of land and objects of historical, educational, architectural, cultural, and other similar interests of outstanding value within the Town of Glocester, RI.



Rose LaVoie is Designated the William Blackstone Society Fellow.

On September 23, Rose LaVoie participated in an ceremony in which past inductees welcomed her as a William Blackstone

Society Fellow. It was a beautiful affair," according to Rose. Paul Fogarty attended and gave Rose a resolution of congratulations and recognition of receiving this award. An additional Senate citation was offered, as well. Many family and GHS members attended the event in Rose' honor.

GHS is proud to have Rose LaVoie as our President. Thank you, Rose, for your commitments to preserving northern Rhode Island's heritage.

GHS received its first donation from Dino's and IGA as part of the new charitable giving program. Keep those grocery receipts coming!



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The Crier

Dear Gloucester Heritage Society Members,

We are in the midst of two major fund-raising drives: one for the restoration of the Dr. Reuben Mason House and the establishment of the Dorr Rebellion Museum, and the other, to establish an endowment fund at Rhode Island Foundation to enable us to have monies to maintain the buildings under our care - the Job Armstrong Store, the Dr. Reuben Mason House, and the Evans Schoolhouse.

These are long term plans to help us prepare for the future of the Gloucester Heritage Society and its continuing success in preserving our heritage.

Yours in preservation,

Rose La Voie



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The Crier

From the Editor's Desktop



Preservation Society of RI has asked the GHS and other organizations located in state to support Question #11 on the November 2, 2004 ballot --- a \$3 million state bond referendum to fund the State Preservation Grants for projects around the state.

If approved by the voters, Question #11 will provide \$3 million in State Preservation Grants for arts and culture organizations, museums, and historic sites like the Gloucester Heritage Society. In 2004, the Society applied for a State Preservation Grant for funds to continue our five-year plan to restore the Dr. Reuben Mason House and the eventual opening of the Dorr Rebellion Museum.

It will be in the interest of all GHS members and compassionate local citizens to support Question #11. Whenever we have the foresight to look ahead and envision how history can become alive, we will foster continuity for generations to come. As the question notes, "Rhode Island's long-term economic well-being, high quality of life, and education of our children are inextricably linked with our historic and cultural resources...."

The GHS hereby declares its support for Question #11.

Celebrating Northwest Rhode Island Heritage

On October 2, 2004, the Burrillville Heritage Society unveiled its new bell tower to the community. The general public who attended heard the bell ringing each hour. GHS congratulates BHS for its contributions to our northwest Rhode Island community, which involves long hours of work and a dedicated volunteer force.

Peddlars Faire

Saturday, November 13 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

In the tradition of the eighteenth century merchantile industry, GHS will host an annual celebration of season and one-of-a-kind craft with **Peddlars Faire.**

According to event facilitator, Glennis Hopkins Beltram, "Peddlars Faire gives everyone a chance to do Christmas shopping early. Our Christmas theme, as well as inside and outside vendors, offer the many weekend visitors to Chepachet a different, really more special selection than elsewhere."

Held in Society headquarters at the Job Armstrong Store, 1181 Putnam Pike, the event will feature diversified vendors, include hand painted glassware, handmade band boxes, antiques, currency, photography, handmade soaps, tie dying, homemade dolls, and a potter. We will highlight outside vendors who sell mulled ciders, hotdogs, and other warm and delicious cool weather fare.

The Chepachet Volunteer Fire Department will be serving their (in)famous chowder, and, because the Gloucester Business Association has identified Peddlars Faire as pivotal for local commerce, they will piggyback on this event to host the first Gloucester Business Expo that same day.

Thank You to Dino's and Brigidio's IGA!

GHS has been quite fortunate to be the beneficiary of goodwill from two local merchants. Both Dino's and Brigidio's IGA have agreed to donate one percent of sales receipts submitted to GHS.

Keep those receipts, please! Susan Doucette has agreed to coordinate this program, and she gladly gathers receipts at GHS General Meetings (third Monday of each month). If you are unable to attend, please feel free to mail your receipts to Sue's attention at GHS, PO Box 1181, Chepachet, RI 02814. Thanks again, Dino's and Brigidio's IGA!

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News from the Evans Schoolhouse

The lively troupe of young actors ran through the audience, onto the nearby street, and into the woods. Trinity Repertory Theater delighted Gloucester citizens with a free summer performance of *The Two Gentleman of Verona*, directed by the Summer Shakespeare Project's coordinator Mark Sutch, on Thursday, July 15 at 6 p.m..

And the venue for this dynamic performance was the GHS' own Evans Schoolhouse and adjacent lawn! This wonderful new setting was a perfect match for the fun, interactive, informal educational experience for children and families. The open schoolhouse doors beckoned newcomers inside to view the Evans Schoolhouse remarkable renaissance project.

One audience member was heard to comment, "I didn't even know this schoolhouse was here!"

The Two Gentlemen of Verona is a classic romantic comedy. It follows the adventures of Valentine and Proteus, longtime friends whose bond is put to the ultimate test when they both fall in love with the same beautiful girl. As Valentine leaves his home to see the world, he promises his allegiance to his best friend Proteus. As Proteus sets off for the Duke's court in Milan, he promises his love to the fair Julia. But when the friends meet abroad and discover the lovely Silvia, all promises are soon forgotten. Disguise, mistaken identity, and a band of outlaws complete this tale of love and friendship.

The Summer Shakespeare Project has thrilled Southern New England audiences for the past 6 years with its inimitable brand of "truly live theater – filled with energy and excitement" (Providence Journal). The GHS was pleased to be an active participant in this annual community theater.



Tentative plans are in place to invite Betty Mancucci and the Burrillville Heritage Society to tour the Dr. Reuben Mason House on Sunday, October 17, 2004.

CHARITY COFFEE CLUB

The Gloucester Heritage Society is enrolled in the Charity Coffee Club for November at Brown & Hopkins Store. Every visitor who pauses for a cup of coffee while at Brown & Hopkins Store will be invited to put a donation in the box.

All donations during November will go to GHS, so encourage your friends and neighbors to tour the store, have a cup of coffee and congratulate Liz McIntire for the charming ambience she has created. It's a pleasure to see the old store open once again.

We welcome the new ownership at Brown and Hopkins and look forward to continued collaboration to support heritage projects. We invite our GHS membership to visit the Brown and Hopkins website at



<http://www.brownandhopkins.com/>

Heritage Day

A rainy August day presented challenges to our Heritage Day Committee, but general goodwill on the part of visitors and a committed GHS membership combined to sustain this annual event.

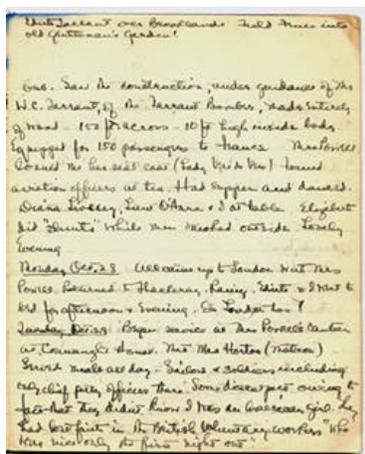
We appreciate the donations of goods and services from local businesses, organizations, and individuals that contributed to Heritage Day's achievements and financial success.

The Crier

The Gloucester Heritage Society has extensive archives on display and preserved for the future.

Among the many items from Gloucester's history are:

The Potter Photographs - a collection of photographs taken by Albert Potter between 1867 and 1914; many of these have been framed and are on display in the Job Armstrong Building.



Albert Potter's Civil War Journal - spanning January to June 1862.

The Dr. Edgar Potter Medical Collection - a display of many items found in the doctor's bag in the late 19th and early 20th century; Dr. potter was Albert Potter's nephew.

The Reuben & Annie Steere Collection - circus banner, photographs, and personal effects of the "World's Smallest Matured Man," born and raised in Gloucester, who traveled the world.

The GHS always welcomes volunteers. If you'd like to help to run the Job Armstrong General Store on Saturdays, or serve refreshments at our general meeting, or even help to gather news for this newsletter, please contact any member of the executive board. Thanks!

Help out at the Dr. Reuben Mason House on weekends. Call Edna Kent (568-8967) or John Doucette (968-2242).

In the summer edition of *The Crier* a report on a talk given by David Balfour will have given the reader to believe that there was a sword "attributed to Thomas Dorr" at the Masonic Lodge in Chepachet.

In reality the "sword" is an officer's sabre used in close encounters combat. It is not attributable to Thomas Dorr but to Captain Walter Allen Read, veteran of many campaigns including Antietam, Fredericksburg and the horrific St Petersburg Mine. Richmond Kent, lifelong resident on the property formerly owned by Maude Read Farnum, recalls it vividly. It was part of Mrs Farnum's father's Civil War memorabilia.

Masonic Historian James Greenhalgh determined its proper place to be in the archives glass case at the Masonic Lodge.



Linking local history segments together, Mr Balfou also remarked about the trolley service which began at Chepachet in July of 1914. He envisioned the possibility, in future, of students from as far away as Providence coming out on the Blackstone Valley Tourism Trolley bus to our Dorr Rebellion Museum for a history lesson at Acote's Hill; the last stand of Dorr's Rebellion.

Chris Clark Realty will continue to donate money to the RMH fund for each house sold by their company. Spread the word!

The Crier

Looking Back to the Last Quarter

What Legacy Will You Leave to Gloucester?

Ben Middleton, from the RI Foundation, spoke on September 20, 2004 about its mission and connections to non-profit organizations like the Gloucester Heritage Society (GHS). Founded in 1916 by Jesse Metcalf, the movement that became the RI Foundation was originally known as a community trust: a place where local people could ensure that prized infrastructures outside regular town governments could continue.

So, how could the RI Foundation help the GHS? According to Mr. Middleton, individuals give more effectively through a relationship with the RI Foundation.

Donors end up supporting organizations they respect. "It's a place where dreams come true," Mr. Middleton allowed. As example, GHS, if designated a beneficiary, would receive 4.5% of annual proceeds through an irrevocable partnership with the Foundation. Unrestricted and field of interest funds are combined and managed by the "best minds in the country" to produce profits that become a legacy for donators. Analyzed over four years, eight hundred funds are adjusted according to share.

When RI Foundation becomes involved, potential donors can sit down, have a confidential conversation, and learn of the opportunities available for community giving. "Donors give more to the organizations they admire" when participating with RI Foundation, and those grantees reap more benefits. "Any gift of any size, for any purpose, that has a planned destination, is called 'planned giving,'" Mr. Middleton said. General (which go to an organization with no particular request), specific (with a designated purpose), residual (portion leftover from a distribution to a number of organization), and contingent (based on a number of factors) bequests are all possible vehicles for private donors.

It seems like just about each kind of organization offers a vehicle to incorporate gifts, and the donor sidesteps taxable gains and supports a charity. Mr. Middleton described one particularly interesting possibility in which donors can opt to bequeath their homes and yet continue to live in that property until their deaths. Afterward, the Foundation would sell the property for the benefit of a predetermined organization like GHS.

GHS currently has \$7000 in its endowment account. If members were to find the wherewithal to increase this to the necessary RI Foundation minimum, the Society would be able to use these proceeds to much greater advantage.

The Foundation also awards grants based on merits of the proposals. Innovative programs that can demonstrate sustainability are eligible for application.

We couldn't do it without you!

Andy Townsend and family donated 55-gallon vat once used to make chowder for Old Home Day. Please stop by the Job Armstrong Store on Saturday afternoons to see this unusual vestige of community past.

The Crier

The Road To Democracy

Part Two

By Steve Hanley

After the Magna Carta was signed, the ensuing centuries saw a gradual erosion of the absolute power of the monarchy. A small but ever-expanding group of nobles came to share some measure of power with the Crown. The Church of England also rose to be nearly as powerful as the Crown itself. Ecclesiastical courts began to rival the law courts, as more and more people sought relief from the rigid ways of the traditional courts. Often know colloquially as the Courts of Star Chamber, these religious courts actually initiated the concept of “equity” in the law of England, which the colonies adopted their own as our country was formed. Equity translates loosely as “doing the right thing”, especially where standard legal practice provided strict adherence to long-standing rubrics, but denied essential justice in so doing.

This concept of doing the right thing was a tectonic shift in legal philosophy, which heretofore had placed form well ahead of substance. One unintended consequence was that it

started some philosophers thinking about the nature of “justice” in the abstract. And when people start thinking about justice, it leads inexorably to considerations of human rights and social values. Dangerous stuff, indeed!

Even though the religious courts allowed a small measure of fresh air into the tightly constricted English legal process, the Church of England was hardly a bastion of progressive thought. Nor was it terribly inclined to tolerate those who did not hew slavishly to its doctrines. To a certain religious group, known to us as Puritans, the hegemony of the Church of England was intolerable and they decided to leave “merrie olde England” in search of climes that were more accepting of non-traditional thinking. Their search brought them to Amsterdam, where they were tolerated, if not exactly taken to the bosom of Dutch society. Being peremptory, brusque, and aloof, the Puritans made few friends in Holland, and so the decision was taken by the group to strike out for The New World, where they hoped to be free to practice their religion, unimpeded by legal institutions and

boorish neighbors.

The rest, as they say, is history. The Puritans ran their ship, the Mayflower, aground several times in the vicinity of Cape Cod and what we now call Boston’s South Shore, seeking a congenial location for their new colony. Ultimately, they set up camp near present day Plymouth, a feat enshrined in misty legends about Plymouth Rock.

In fact, The Rock landed on the native peoples as the pilgrims, which is what the Puritans now called themselves, strode ashore.

The professed desire for religious and cultural tolerance that drove the Puritans to essay the dangerous crossing from Holland to the new world did not, however, extend to the natives or to other colonists. In fact, for the first time in the history of the fledgling country, but certainly not the last, dissent and contrary thinking were punished with torture, death and banishment. And it is the last of those that lead directly to the creation of a tiny enclave for society’s misfits and free thinkers – a place that came to be known as Rhode Island. Read more about this turn events in the next issue.

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GLOCESTER HERITAGE SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 269
CHEPACHET, RI 02814



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

General Meeting, Monday, October 18

Glocester Historian, Edna Kent, will lead this evening's program: "Cemeteries and Seeking Our Routes."

Open House Tours, Three GHS Properties, Sunday, October 24

As part of the RI Historic Preservation Commission Celebration of Heritage, the Job Armstrong Store, the Evans Schoolhouse, and the Dr. Reuben Mason House will be open to the public. Please join us for this special event.

General Meeting, Monday, November 15

Program will review Peddlars Faire and Candlelight Shopping, two important fund-raisers for GHS.

Candlelight Shopping, Thursdays: December 2nd, 9th, and 16th

The Gloucester Heritage Society joins the Gloucester Business Association in a series of holiday evenings. Take a stroll down Main Street and envision life in the 1800s as you find that perfect gift for your loved ones.

General Meeting, Monday, December 20

A Yankee Swap and community sharing will accentuate this year-end event.

Existing members: you'll be notified at time of renewal. Thank you for your support!

Membership Form

Name _____
Spouse's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____

Please make check payable to the Gloucester Heritage Society.

Single: \$15 Family: \$25 Seniors/ Students: \$10 Contributing: \$50 Patron: \$100 Benefactor: \$250 Life: \$300
Are you able to receive this quarterly newsletter via e-mail? It would save the GHS publishing and postage costs. E-mail editor at c4tuna@aol.com