

	<p><i>The Crier</i></p> <p><i>of the</i></p> <p>Glocester</p> <p>Heritage Society</p>	<p>Glocester Heritage Society Job Armstrong Store 1181 Putnam Pike P.O. Box 269 Chepachet, RI 02814</p> <p style="text-align: right;">☎</p> <p style="text-align: right;">401.568.1866</p> <p style="text-align: right;">www.glocesterheritagesociety.org info@glocesterheritagesociety.org</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Incorporated 1967.</p>
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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.

<p>Thomas Dorr Center Stage Once More</p> <p>The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission awarded a \$200,000 grant to the Glocester Heritage Society for the restoration of the Dr. Reuben Mason House, a Chepachet structure in which the Heritage Society plans to locate its Dorr Rebellion Museum.</p> <p>Despite the \$200,000 grant, help will be necessary. Harry Anderson, grantwriter for the Heritage Society, notes that the state money is a matching grant, so the society has to come with an equal amount of funding within two years.</p> <p>“The architect is foreseeing an expense to complete the project in excess of the \$400,000,” says Mr. Anderson. “How much remains to be seen.”</p> <p>The society plans to hold a public meeting in March to further inform residents about the status and scope of the project. In the meantime, Mr. Anderson says he is busy looking for funding sources.</p> <p>The legacy of Thomas Dorr recently came to the forefront with the passage of the Separation of Powers Amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution. Remarking on the Amendment during a press conference this summer, Phil West, executive director of the watchdog group Common Cause, held up a copy of Mr. Dorr’s 1844 book <i>Right and Might</i> and reminded those in the room of their debt to the past.</p>	<p>He noted that Dorr’s People’s Constitution of 1841 “contained a strong separation of powers clause and a ban on dual office-holding.”</p> <p>Asked if he see interest in the Dorr Rebellion on the rise, Mr. Anderson says he see this not so much with the general public, but with historians and preservationists. The museum may be one more step toward bridging this gap.</p> <p>“The project has immense importance, not only for Glocester, but for the state, and the country,” says Mr. Anderson. “It’s about time this man’s getting recognition.”</p> <p>Adapted from an article originally featured Thursday, Dec. 2, 2004 in The Observer</p>
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The Crier

Dear Gloucester Heritage Society Members,

What a wonderful autumn for the GHS! We were the big winner at the state Historic Preservation Awards held at the Slater Mill with a presentation of a \$200,000 grant from the Governor.

It was a very exciting and moving celebration with our fellow preservationists from all over the state.

We have established a goal of \$10,000 for our endowment fund, with over \$6000 in hand and a pledge of \$1000 coming in February. I think we will be able to reach our goal by June 2005--- ensuring our ability to care for the buildings entrusted to us. Please tell your friends and neighbors of our endeavors.

I am sorry to report the demolition of the Kestleoot House on Wednesday, December 15, 2004 by the Town of Gloucester. I was hoping for further discussion on their plans because there was not a strong mandate from the voters, but it was not to be. Another worthwhile structure is gone forever.

We have three major projects planer for 2005: first, a video history of Gloucester by Carlo and Betty Mancucci; second, a major fund raising event in conjunction with the Gloucester Business Association silent auction; and, third, a special photographic exhibit of 20th century business in Gloucester.

Won't you join us at our January 17th meeting at 7 p.m. and be part of all these exciting events? Happy New Year.

Yours in preservation,

Rose LaVoie

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The Crier

From the Editor's Desktop

GHS experienced a wonderful year in 2004. We saw expansion of our membership, increased volunteerism, and real impact on Gloucester preservation. Moreover, the Gloucester community responded with enthusiasm to our endeavors. The donations thermometer rose in solid increments outside the Dr. Reuben Mason House. Our relationships with the Gloucester Business Association, Brown & Hopkins General Store, Dino's Supermarket, and IGA were stronger than ever. Our newest fund-raiser, the spring Gardeners' Plant and Shed Sale, was well-received. Even in bad weather, many local citizens attended Heritage Day and Peddlars Faire. We thank everyone for their contributions that have made GHS a leader in state preservation efforts.

Now we look ahead to 2005. We will continue past traditions of fairs and building rejuvenation. We also hope to open GHS headquarters at the Job Armstrong Store more frequently, especially as a Preserve RI grant culminates, display cases are created, and our substantial archives collection is more open for viewing. We welcome new members, volunteers, and initiatives to further our overall GHS in our goals.

Financial Times, by Andy Andrews *GHS Treasurer*

The Gloucester Heritage Society is currently conducting two fund raising drives.

The more familiar of the two is the Dr. Reuben Mason House Fund Drive, which is soliciting donations to restore the property, located on Route 44 in Chepachet. The fund drive commenced activity approximately one year ago and has raised to date \$328,895.00 with a goal of \$500,000.00 to complete all work. Most of the donations to date have been grants from foundations and state and municipal government. This funding covers only certain "hard" costs. The balance of the costs, both "hard" and "soft," must be raised from other sources. Our most important source will be the local community, its people and its businesses.

The Dr. Reuben Mason House is a treasure with many original features dating back to its construction around 1758. The eventual use of the building will be a museum commemorating the Dorr Rebellion. The building will be open to the public.



The other fund raising drive, known as the Gloucester Heritage Society Fund Drive, is soliciting contributions to be placed in an endowment fund where interest and dividends will accumulate and be added to principle. Once annually the GHS may draw up to 4.5% of the current principal balance to be available to fund a portion of the Society's operating costs.

Operating costs are expected to increase faster than our traditional revenue sources (i.e. Heritage Day). Having an endowment fund available is one way of reducing these costs. Until now GHS' primary expenses have been to pay insurance, utilities, and maintenance covering the Job Armstrong Store. Added to this obligation this year is upkeep and maintenance of the Evans Schoolhouse. Upon completion of the Dr. Reuben Mason House construction, expenses incurred in the property will need to be assumed.

The Rhode Island Foundation will serve as the financial manager of this permanent endowment fund. The minimum amount necessary to open an account is \$10,000. To date the GHS has \$5749.03 earmarked toward opening its first endowment account. Subsequent accounts will be opened as money become available. This is a very important fund raising effort by the Society, as we hope that our membership, friends, and the community will provide support to make this drive a success.

THE GLOCESTER HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Crier

News from the Evans Schoolhouse

by Harry Anderson

Before the onset of winter, Tom Sampson with a helping hand from Harry Anderson closed in Mrs. Ryan's donated outhouse. Come spring, the finishing touches – including scraping, priming, and painting the exterior—will be done. Dozens and dozens of hours of volunteer hours have been given to this project. What seemed to be an easy job to restore a simple structure turned out to be rather complex. The GHS thanks Tom for generously giving time, sweat, and expertise that has made possible the saving of this 1921 (circa) structure. It perfectly complements the Evans Schoolhouse.

The GHS also thanks Joe Danti, his son Albert, and his father, who is also named Albert, for their hours of work on Saturday, December 4, 2004. Before going home, three generations of the Danti family had moved four heavy granite stones: one to hold a bronze plaque that recognizes everyone who had contributed to the project of saving and restoring the Evans Schoolhouse; another one for a step at the outhouse door; and three others to fashion a place to sit.

With the backing of Superintendent of schools, Dr. Mario Cirillo, and the help from Maureen Danforth, fifth grade teacher at Fogarty School, a grant proposal for \$9,650.00 has been sent to the History Channel to underwrite the cost of starting up a collaborative program between Gloucester's schools (grades K-12) and the GHS. In the next issue of *The Crier*, if the proposal has been accepted, what the program entails will be explained.

Tim Steere of Putnam, CT and Mary Hooper of Dayville, CT donated a School Committee Report from 1875 in memory of Harry L. Steere.

Where, O Where?

A History Quiz

by Edna Kent, Town Historian

1. Where was the largest hotel in Chepachet?
2. Where was the first church in Gloucester?
3. Where was the first post office in Gloucester?
4. Where is the trolley booster station?
5. Where was the "Indian Uprising" in Gloucester?

(answers below)

Where, O Where?

A History Quiz

by Edna Kent, Town Historian

(answers)

1. 27 room Chepachet Inn; corner of Douglas Hook Rd. and Putnam Pike (rt. 44); built in 1813; burned 1913
2. Close Communion Baptist Church; north of Korean War and Vietnam War Monument in front of Town Hall, Putnam Pike (Rt. 44); built 1713; torn down 1810
3. Kimball's Hotel; corner of Rt. 44 and 102 at Stop light; built 1764; torn down 1930; Amherst Kimball, first Postmaster
4. Brick building next to Rt. 44 west of Harmony Center. It boosted the electricity to power the trolley into Chepachet.
5. Bowdish Reservoir (aka Mehunganug Swamp – old name), West Gloucester; "Uprising" was "quelled" by Major Fitch and 50 men from Norwich, CT in 1695.

GHS Goals: the Restoration of Dr. Reuben Mason House
and the eventual opening of the Dorr Rebellion Museum

Why Should We Care About the Dr. Reuben Mason House?
by Steve Hanley

The Dr. Reuben Mason House (RMH) is an historic building that teaches us about construction techniques used during the Colonial era. As we peel back the later additions and modifications to the house, we learn how those methods changed over time. Like a good jigsaw puzzle, the RMH tests our ability to understand how our ancestors utilized their homes for shelter and as places to generate a living.

Second, the RMH provides a place to connect our community today and provides a cultural bridge to the past. At one time, Route 44 was lined with stately homes. Our town was a leader in the industrial revolution with an array of mills that lined the Chepachet River. Flax seed, from as far away as South Carolina, was hauled by wagon and later pressed into oil to lubricate machinery of commerce and to light the lamps of those who could not afford whale oil. The RMH will stand at the entry to Chepachet Village as a reminder of that rich heritage.

Thank you for the following recent generous donations to support the work of preserving the Dr. Reuben Mason House:

The Steere Family, \$500.00
Andy Andrews, \$200.00
Bessie Lindenbaum, \$50.00

Third, this structure will provide an ideal site for the Dorr Rebellion Museum. Thomas Dorr's story is a stirring lesson in what it means to put one's entire life and fortune on the line in the defense of liberty. He helped create a new constitution that broadened the voting franchise. Later, he came to be the first Governor elected pursuant to the People's Constitution. As the bumper stickers of today like to say, "Freedom is not free." The sacrifices Thomas Dorr made to promote his ideas drive that point home clearly. Schools will work with GHS to educate children about their community. But, more importantly, the Dorr Museum will tell the story of democracy: how suffrage expanded to people other than the landed gentry.

With so many cultural, historical, and community threads woven together into the structure of one building, preservation of the RMH is of great importance to Glocester.

Want to learn more about Governor Thomas Dorr, his life, and his achievements? The Rhode Island Historical Society has four soft cover and one hardcover book on these topics.

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

December 16, 2004

Mrs. Rose Lavoie, President
GHS

Dear Rose:

My family and I would like to take this opportunity to send care of you, a donation to the Glocester Heritage Society. We would like this donation to be applied to the Restoration Project of the Dr. Reuben Mason House located near the Acotes Hill Cemetery.

This donation is in loving memory of the children's father, and my beloved husband, Richard Sayles Steere. Richard was born and brought up in this town and it meant a lot to him. He was very proud of his ancestors and heritage, and as such was very interested in preserving this heritage. We, his family, take great pride in what this wonderful, honest, and devoted man stood for in our lives; as well as the lives of a great many others both in and outside of this town. When Richard died, there was a great void in our lives, but his values are still alive and we know that he would be something to assist you morally, physically and financially, if he were still here among us. But since he isn't, we could like to make this donation in his memory.

Please accept this check of \$500.00 with our love and support for all your collective endeavors.

In Peace and Friendship,

Beatrice Steere
David Steere
Sharon (Steere) Zwicker

The Crier

Looking Back to the Last Quarter

Film to Begin in 2005

In this era of emerging literacies, GHS has fused old with new: we have a website (www.glocesterheritagesociety.org) and e-mail (info@glocesterheritagesociety.org). We forward press releases to local newspapers about exciting events as they occur. We inform commuters as they pass by the Job Armstrong Store, Society headquarters at 1181 Main Street, Chepachet, RI with a sandwich board noting upcoming proceedings. And, yet, we continue to look to other innovative ways to communicate the GHS mission regarding preservation for historical, educational, architectural, and cultural value within the Town of Glocester.

So, on Monday, November 15, 2004, the GHS general membership viewed a video history of Manville, Rhode Island. We wanted to envision how a comparable study of Glocester might be captured visually. The presentation was a hit with Society membership, who voted unanimously to seek funding for such a project.

Betty and Carlo Mancucci of Log Cabin Studios, the videographers (568- 8449), explained their process from research to editing. Period videos are "the story of everyday people," according to Carlo. "In order to understand history, you need to get emotionally involved. A videographer uses facts and people's stories, combined with music: good times follow with tragedy. They include stories of loss." Research is combined with photographs from people's personal archives. "It takes three to four hours for every finished minute of film," Betty noted.

The Manville video was composed in about two years from beginning to end. The narrative began with Native American history, using sketches and paintings to describe that pre-photograph era. Myriad tribes traveled through the Blackstone Valley prior to the arrival of settlers and the erection of fences.

Next, the Mancuccis interwove period still photographs to set the mood for the French Canadian immigrant story. Period Cajun music played in background; a narrative voice over, female, told how horses and wagons delivered meat, ice, and groceries. Scenic footage of river, oaks, water daffodils, brooks, maples, "tadpole brook," and beehives was juxtaposed against Unity Furnace, which manufactured machinery for Samuel Slater's Cotton Mill, and other structures from the Industrial era. Several other compelling events were chronicled in this video, which has been broadcast on Rhode Island television.

A similar video for Glocester will help to bring our history and culture to a wider audience and will augment our other projects at the Job Armstrong Store, the Evans Schoolhouse, and the Dr. Reuben Mason House. Seed money for video will be \$600. Lists of older Glocester residents, still photos, and archival materials would need to be made available to Carlo and Betty. Edna Kent, Harry Anderson, Carole Fry, and Frank Stevenson will be on the committee as liaisons to the videographers. Can't you just imagine this video playing in the foyer at the eventual Dorr Rebellion Museum? This will be a lovely greeting for visitors around the world to our special community.

Did You Know?

James Crawford, a Chepachet native, has written a play situated here that will have a run off Broadway in 2005. It describes two friends and their relationship with their mentally challenged maid. The theme is about "crossroads," which he attributes to the English translation of the Native American word for our town.

We couldn't do it without you!

Thanks for \$500 grant for community-based organizations received via Senator Paul W. Fogarty's office, District 23... Peddlars Faire netted \$600 a combination of vendor and merchandise fees... Donations from the Brown and Hopkins Coffee Fund came to \$179.... Also, thanks to Brown and Hopkins for their Antique Appraisals.... Proceeds from Dino's Supermarket and IGA were about \$500 for the year.... Thank you for supporting GHS!

The Crier

Job Armstrong Store Updates

A Crystalline Peddlars' Faire

On the Saturday of Veteran's Day Weekend, the last autumn leaves shine in the midday sun, the tourists line Chepachet's streets with light capes and late season sandals, and pumpkins peek out from window boxes and planters.

Right? *Wrong.*

On the morning of Peddlars' Faire, 2004, Glocester, RI awoke to five inches of snow. Plow drivers were awakened abruptly by early morning phone calls to clean up the streets. Drains swirled with onslaughts of water. The festive door wreath glistened with snow, and the tree inside hid, masked by frosty panes.

Yet Peddlars' Faire commenced as if nothing had happened. Co-Chairperson Glennis Hopkins Beltram carried herself with dignity and aplomb – wearing, of course a big wooly sweater and oversized boots. In the tradition of the eighteenth century merchantile industry, the other Co-Chairperson, Henry Beltram, with his usual easy-going and welcoming demeanor, greeted vendors. All arrived on time to the Job Armstrong Store to set up their displays of season and one-of-a-kind crafts.

Did you see the hand-painted glass pitchers, iced glass sets, plates, cutting boards, canisters, candelabras, and cheeseboards? Did you see the primitive Santas and Raggedy Anns? Their tea-colored long and soft faces, high aprons, and long skirts took one back in time. Did you see Shakespeare's faeyres covered with silks, nets, acorn caps, and cone hats? Did you see the antique and foreign memorabilia, including Afghanistan Taliban and Iraqi banknotes, or the Rhodes on the Pawtuxet dance tickets?

Did you see the Victorian replica bandboxes? Covered with washable, vinyl-coated wallpaper, their ornamenting included innocent, cherry-cheeked girls amidst a background of leaves and flowers; silk hydrangeas and pearls; ribbons and reproduction and original newspapers.

Did you see the antique embroideries, the cookware and cookbooks; the aged watering can, crocks, and kettles; the sleighbells and hurricane lamps? Did you see the Mouseworks photography: sunflowers and seashore, daffodils and riverbeds, sunsets and high hills, roses in bloom and morning mists? Did you see the dangling earrings of Swarovski beads? Did you see the headbands comprised of multi-colored ribbons and caps of metallic stars?

Peddlars Faire was a snow-covered delight, a combination of new and old. Thanks to all who shared in this wonderful event.

Corey Beltram, "who loves this building," according to his grandmother, Glennis Hopkins Beltram, will hold his Eagle Court of Honor at the GHS Job Armstrong Store on January 22nd, 2005. The GHS is delighted to host this event.

***Reminder:** Please attend the GHS General Meetings on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Job Armstrong Store, 1181 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, Rhode Island. Thanks!*

The Crier

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



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

General Meetings: third Monday of the month, 7 p.m.
Job Armstrong Store, GHS Headquarters
1181 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI
Open to the Public

January 17th, February 21st, and March 21st, 2005

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