



*The Crier*  
of the  
**Gloucester**  
**Heritage Society**

Gloucester Heritage Society  
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 Incorporated 1967

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Issue One

*The Gloucester 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 Gloucester, RI.*

**Celebrating 2005, Anticipating 2006**

Rose LaVoie:  
***Our Accomplishments Continue,***  
 page 2

The Year in Review:  
***Care of GHS Grounds,***  
 by Jeff Rossi,  
 page 3

***Evelyn Kaiman Remembered,***  
 page 3

***News from Harry Anderson,***  
 page 4

The Year in Review:  
***Grants, gifts, and generosity,***  
 page 5

***Looking Back to the Last Quarter,***  
 page 6

***The Voice of the Vice President,***  
 page 7

***Gardeners' Plant and  
 Shed Sales,***  
 page 7

***Calendar for 2006,***  
 page 8

*Memories*



*Hope*

# The Crier

Dear Society members and friends,

We have recently acquired through the generosity of Lorna Phetteplace and Gertrude Phetteplace Hopkins scrapbooks kept by their mother, Ida Phetteplace since 1934. They are a wonderful source of information of our town for over seventy years. Along with family photographs, all identified with dates and information, many old school books and tax books --- all donated for our use. We hope to display these scrapbooks in the future, so watch the newspapers or our website for upcoming news.

In the first scrapbook, there was a newspaper clipping from 1921 announcing the arrival of the Rosenberg children from Poland. Their father, Nathan had settled in Chepachet eight years earlier, establishing a business to raise money to bring his family to America. Two of these children, Moses and Bessie, are still alive, and I shared copies of this clipping with them. Bessie has since sent me a copy of the family history in Rhode Island that was printed in The Federation Voice in January, 1990. Who knows what other treasures and important events we will uncover as we delve into the scrapbooks? I cannot wait.

Join us in our exciting quests for further information on our past.

Yours in preservation,

Rose LaVoie



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# The Crier

## COME MEET STEVEN PORTER

Our January 16 meeting (7:00 p.m. at the Job Armstrong Store) will feature Steven Porter, president of Integrated Marketing & Communications. At our November meeting a motion to retain a professional fundraiser passed unanimously. Steve will explain what strategies he'll use to get us the money to fully match the \$200,000 RI Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission's grant as well as to fund the restoration of the rooms of the Dr. Reuben Mason House and their conversion into the Dorr Museum.

### Care of GHS Grounds, by Jeff Rossi

As someone who has enrolled to become a URI Master Gardener, I have an inherent interest in the GHS grounds and their potentials as living museums.

After the Gardeners Plant and Shed Sale, a group of us stayed to clean the back yard of the Job Armstrong Store. I also took on the task of creating plant beds with remaining items left unsold from the plant sale. I soon realized that one dead spruce tree along the property line may have to be removed professionally. Also, as the back corner is comprised of discarded vegetation, we could benefit from the donation of topsoil to create another planting area.

The Evans Schoolhouse property will present a new challenge with the expansion of the Town Hall parking lot. How should we create the look we thought we already had? I am wide open for suggestions.

The Dr. Reuben Mason House is the most exciting building of all. In creating gardens here, we must have complete historic accuracy while realistically creating grounds that are maintainable by a volunteer staff. Although still at the fantasy stages, I will begin the process of drawing up rough plans to post on our website ([www.glocesterheritagesociety.org](http://www.glocesterheritagesociety.org)) soon. The grounds can become a living and learning experience alongside the history of each actual building.

## Evelyn Kaiman: GHS Founder Remembered

Adapted from the Providence Journal



KAIMAN, EVELYN H., 91, of Greenville died Monday, November 28, 2005 at Elmhurst Extended Care. She was the wife of the late Sol Kaiman. Evelyn lived a life of service to others, retiring as a Home

Economist for the University of Rhode Island in 1979. After retirement, she continued to serve as a volunteer for the Northern RI Co-operative Extension Service until 2002. She also taught school for many years in Prudence Island and Portsmouth, RI, and in Burlington, VT. One of her favorite hobbies was baking, and many fondly remember her traditional Christmas cookies.

Born on Patience Island, RI, Evelyn graduated from Rogers High School in 1931 and URI in 1935. She also attended Columbia University, received a Masters Degree from URI, and was one of the first individuals to be inducted into URI's Hall of Fame. Always active in her community and profession, Evelyn and her husband were founding members of the Gloucester Heritage Society.

Evelyn, thank you. We will miss you.

## Guestbook Entry Harry Anderson

We mourn the passing of Evelyn Kaiman, who had been a most loyal member of the GHS from its founding right up to her death this past December. In her quiet, humble way she helped make successful Peddler's Faire and Heritage Day. Her chief contribution was chairing the committee that put together *A Taste of Gloucester*, the popular recipe book that is about to undergo its sixth printing. In her memory, the GHS has made a contribution to the Northern RI Cooperative Extension.

# The Crier

## News from Harry Anderson

### GRANTS GRANTED

A letter from James Capaldi, director of DOT, announces that the GHS has been awarded a grant of \$100,000 under the aegis of "Call For Projects, Transportation Enhancement Program," funded by Congress.

DOT received 109 applications, but only 45 were approved.

We must dedicate our DOT grant money to what was specifically listed in the proposal; to wit: restoration of the Dr. Reuben Mason House grounds – specifically the following: re-sodding the lawns; planting of trees, shrubs, gardens, building driveways and a parking lot; rebuilding stone walls; erecting a picket fence; installing exterior lighting.



The GHS also has received two other grants for \$5,000 each, thanks to two Gloucesterites, Molly Harrington and John O'Neill. Molly is a trustee of the Kimball Johnstone Fund. Recognizing the huge significance of the Dr. Reuben Mason House project, they persuaded their fellow trustees to approve the grant proposals that we had sent to their foundations. These grants will be used to help to match the \$200,000 State grant.



### A NEIGHBOR'S CALL FOR HELP

To raise funds for the Free Will Baptist Church, Clifford Brown has prepared a lecture that he will deliver at a TBA date in early spring. Its topic: *The Architectural Splendor of the Meeting House.*

He has asked the GHS for support by spreading the word and by attending the event.

Clifford, a Liberal Arts professor at Union College and a deacon of Freewill Baptist Church, delivers memorable talks: they are pithy, engaging, and always laced with droll humor.

On several occasions he has helped the GHS, the most recent was to arrange use of the meeting house to launch a fund raising drive. He also spoke at that event.

Now it's our turn to help him.



# The Crier

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

### Grants, gifts, and generosity to the GHS

The Blackstone River Heritage Corridor	\$10,000
RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission	\$200,000
Glocester Town Council	\$25,000
The Levy Foundation	\$30,000
The Mary Dexter Chafee Fund	\$5,000
The Kimball Johnstone Foundation	\$5,000
The Champlain Foundations	\$85,000
The RI Foundation	\$800
The RI Foundation	\$800
The Gregson Foundation	\$30,000
The History Channel	\$9,600
The Champlain Foundations	\$15,000
The RI Assembly	\$1,000
Battle Foundation	\$10,000
<u>Department of Transportation</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>

Totals to date

**\$527,200**

NOTE: Not all of these monies have been dedicated to the restoration of the Dr. Reuben Mason House. They have funded these projects:



- Moving and restoring the Evans schoolhouse
  - Installing a new hearing system & air conditioning in the JAS
- Redoing the floors of the JAS
- Framing an 1863 map that is exhibited in the schoolhouse
- Forging a collaborative with Ponaganset High School
  - Producing a video of local artisans at work
    - Replacing front windows of the JAS
  - Producing a video of Glocester's history
  - Restoring Mrs. Ryan's outhouse
- Purchasing state-of-the-art high-tech equipment

**the glocester heritage society**



# The Crier

## The Voice of the Vice President

by Jeff Rossi

After living in our town since 1978, I have seen, like many of you, good and maybe not so good changes. Like many of you, change to me seems overwhelming.



Sometimes we do not even hear of proposals until they are already started. Unfortunately, things like being part of a family, having responsibilities, and working seem to get in the way of getting involved.

I am sure if we all had the time to attend every town meeting and function, we would have a town more to our liking to live in. Seeing the town grow at such a speed is scary. To many, the quaint town dotted with historic rural farms and town buildings is slipping away. It is true that, once gone, they will never return. The reasons that drew us here will no longer exist.

I believe it to be unrealistic to think we can turn back time without its consequences. There certainly is good in progress. There is, however, no reason compromise cannot be reached. If we look at towns throughout New England with similar problems as has Glocester, we those that have embraced their heritage and weaved it into their town identity. Our town must find ways to save our identity; it would be shame if the only way a traveler could realize he or she entered our town was by reading the "Entering Harmony" sign at our eastern border. It would be even sadder to wonder why it was given that name.

If taken in small realistic steps, a Glocester identity of heritage and conservation can be attained. We need to hold firmly to each of our accomplishments, to see them grow in a gestalt, and to make clear a vision of what preservation means to our community.

\*\*\* In Memorandum \*\*\*

**The Glocester Heritage Society is sad to learn of the passing of Richmond Kent, longstanding member of the Society. Among numerous contributions over decades, Mr. Kent interviewed and recorded oral histories of elderly citizens in the 1970s and 1980s; was co-chair of Elephant Day in 1976; and donated sound equipment. Our thoughts are with his family, especially his wife, Edna, our friend and Glocester Town Historian.**

## The Year in Review: Gardeners' Plant and Shed Sale

by Carolyn Fortuna

On a sunny spring Saturday, May 21, 2005, the Glocester Heritage Society held its second annual Gardeners' Plant and Shed Sale. Well-attended by Society members and the community alike, the sale netted around \$400 and helped offset accrued winter heating oil bills.

Of particular note on that occasion was the visit of local celebrity, Joyce Knibb: Author of the recently published Let Us Speak of Pleasant Things and of Warm Places in the Heart, Joyce Knibb lives in Burrillville and is at work on a new novel entitled Family.

Also, *Girls with Pearls* owner Ellen Spring displayed a variety of earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and other settings of fresh water pearls. Working in collaboration with a young woman from China, Ellen brought a global connection of sustainability and community to the Gardeners' Sale.

Look for the 2006 sale to take place Saturday, May 20. Donations of plants and garden implements are always welcome. Contact chair Carolyn Fortuna @c4tuna@aol.com.



# The Crier

## Announcing the GHS Calendar for 2006

General meetings of the Gloucester Heritage Society take place the third Monday of each month at the Society headquarters, the Job Armstrong Store, 1181 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, Rhode Island. The public is always welcome.

Gardeners' Plant and Shed Sale	Saturday, May 20
Heritage House and Garden Tour (tentative)	Saturday, June 24
Heritage Day	Sunday, August 20
Blackstone River Valley Tourism Collaborative's Footsteps in History: Preserve America	Columbus Day Weekend
Peddlars' Faire	Saturday, November 18
Candlelight Shopping	Thursdays in December

The three Society properties --- the Job Armstrong Store, the Evans schoolhouse, and the Dr. Reuben Mason House --- are open in the winter by appointment. Please contact the Gloucester Heritage Society for more information.



### **Heritage House and Garden Tour in planning stage**

It has been proposed that GHS revisit its past popular Heritage House and Garden Tour. About a dozen sites throughout Gloucester's three villages --- Chepachet, Harmony, and West Gloucester --- would be included. A luncheon catered by Society members would be available for a nominal additional charge.

Would you attend? Would you be interested in opening up your home and/or garden for this special day? Would you be able to sit on the planning committee? If so, please contact Rose LaVoie at 568-5306.



# The Crier



The Gloucester Heritage Society joined the village of Chepachet in many events and treats to mark the 2005 Candlelight Shopping & Festival of Lights. Twinkling luminaries lined the village streets, and many shops were open and actively participating in all three Thursday

evenings of this festive annual celebration.

Visitors dined at local restaurants and delighted in the sights, sounds, and scents of the season. Santa & Mrs. Claus strolled arm in arm down Main Street, sleigh bells jingled, carolers shared songs, and hot mulled cider invited everyone for a bit of warm taste. GHS hosted eight vendors and accrued \$240 in receipts.

Shopping, horse-drawn hayride, Penny Social, and Gingerbread House created an exciting event within historic Chepachet. The Gloucester Heritage Society would like to acknowledge the community's tremendous planning and effort, with special recognition to Liz McIntyre for all she does to make this event such a success.

## Planning for Peddlars' Faire and Candlelight Shopping

"I start in August," allows Ways 'n Means co-chair Glennis Beltram. "It's a little hard to bring everything together. Henry and I have to scout and find replacement vendors for spaces left unfilled. Will they be upstairs or downstairs? I have to go to the Scituate and Burrillville Art Festivals to find vendors. I added Carla, who displays herbs, and later, on a whim, I asked my sister in law. She said it was a close-knit group here at GHS."

"Vendors here gather and talk and are very social," Glennis continues. "The people who come in feel like it is old home day. They read about it in several papers. It's very well advertised: The Observer, The Bargain Buyer... several local papers carry it. I call the GHS members who will work in shifts, so it gives me a little time in between to get a snack and see what the vendors are selling. Everyone enjoys the public. I enjoy it. I enjoy it a lot." The Faire brought in \$415 of receipts from vendors and \$55 from refreshments.

She laughs. "Of course, once it's over, I'm glad, too."

## Building and Fire Inspections: PASS

According to Henry and Glennis Beltram, inspections before Peddlars Faire for fire and building codes were "nerve-wracking events...Would both pass? One pass? Were there enough fire extinguishers?" Doors at back needed to be free of chairs. One door couldn't open from the inside, so Henry, with an old fashioned handle, corrected the problem. Henry also fixed the hinge on the back door.

"We did a bit of work and a little bit of praying before they arrived. We had the vendor's money, booths ready, and would've had to give back their money. Oh, my goodness! Iffy, iffy, iffy," Glennis remembers. As it turned out, the JAS passed both inspections, with the admonition that, before next year, we need to fix the new stairwell banister.

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## GLOCESTER HERITAGE SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 269  
CHEPACHET, RI 02814



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### 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

*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

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