

Gloucester Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

OUR MISSION

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, Rhode Island .

UPCOMING EVENTS

Heritage Plant Sale May 19
Job Armstrong House 9 a.m.
Perennials, shrubs, houseplants, and donations from local nurseries.

General Meeting May 21
Job Armstrong Store 7 p.m.

Dorr Museum March June 23
March originating in Slatersville, North Scituate, and Greenville for reenactment in Chepachet

Take note: The next general meeting is Monday, May 21, 7 p.m., at the Job Armstrong Store, at which time plans for the June 23 Dorrr March will be reviewed

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY HARRY ANDERSON, GHS PRESIDENT

I am exactly halfway into my term of office, and it has been an exciting ride! So much for the good has been happening. In March, Nancy Brown presented us with a \$1,500 check on behalf of the Clayville Historical Society; and another check for \$5,000 was given us by the Kilmartin Foundation. Both gifts start our climb toward a goal of \$50,000, the architect's fee to design the Dorrr Museum.

We are working doggedly to put in place the details for the June 23 Dorrr March event. Because they grasp the significance of it,

Bob Billington, President of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council; Lorraine Provencher,



Pettingell/Mason House

the Blackstone Valley's Footsteps in History coordinator; John English of the Historical Society of Smithfield; Christo-

pher Martin, Corresponding Secretary of the Johnston Historical Society; Hal Welch, a National Park Ranger; and Lesa Nash of Nash Design, have come to assist us.

"Who's he kidding?" Some people may scoff. "He wants \$50,000? No way." To them I answer, "A half million bucks we got to save the Pettingell/Mason House and to landscape its grounds. What do you say about that?" To all you readers, I whoop it up; "Come on, take a look around. There's excitement in the air. Join in!"

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007

The bylaws state that the Board of Directors shall consist of five elected officers and the chairs of committees appointed by the President. Its duties: "It shall have general oversight of 'the Society's activities and finances; fill vacancies arising between annual meetings; assess membership dues." Serving until November 19, 2007, the following make up the present board of directors:

Officers	Telephone
Harry Anderson	934-0511
President	
Jeff Bowie	568-7160
Vice President	
Lauren Andrews	568-8095
Treasurer	
Eunice Hindley	568-5622
Secretary	
Pauline Anderson	934-0511
Corresponding Secretary	
Chairperson(s)	
Ways & Means Committee	
Carolyn Fortuna	568-6826
Jeff Rossi	

Hospitality Committee	
Glennis Beltram	568-7468
Henry Beltram	568-7468
Buildings & Grounds	
John Doucette	968-2242
Frank Buccì	764-0776
Publicity Committee	
Rose LaVoie	567-5306
Membership Committee	
Frank Stevenson	568-4016
Community Outreach Committee	
Tom Carrazzo	714-6525
Historian & Local Lore Committee	
Edna Kent	568-8967

jeffrossi@hotmail.com

NEWS, NEWS & MORE NEWS!

- Carolyn Fortuna and Jeff Rossi now co-chair the Ways and Means Committee. Their job is to suggest schemes that may raise at least \$5,000, the GHS FY2007 budget bottom line.
- Tom Carrazzo now chairs the newly created Community Outreach Committee. His Job is to conceive of ways to inform all segments of Gloucester of the work of the GHS and to attract community input (among other goals).
- A meeting with Acotes Cemetery Association has settled the issue of property boundaries around the Pettingell/Mason House. Now, the GHS in collaboration with the DOT can configure restoration of the yard.
- The Board of Directors has been holding weekly workshops to plan for the June 23 Dorr March event, whose goal is two-fold: to raise in the consciousness of Rhode Islanders the significant contribution that Thomas Dorr has made to the State's rich history; and to gather in funds that will enable the GHS to pay an architect's \$50,000 fee—step one in restoring the rooms of the Pettingell/Mason House.
- The GHS is inviting bids to repair weather damage to the north wall and windows of the Job Armstrong Store.



DORR MARCH PROGRAM JUNE 23, 2007

A variety of programs, music, and food choices will be offered at: the Militia March/Baptist Church/Pettingell/Mason House/Chepachet Fire Department. Here is a sampling of the events:

10:00 am.	Marching to commence in Slatersville, North Scituate, and Greenville; walk-a-thon participants to accompany the troops (approximately two miles) Tours to begin at The Pettingell/Mason House (future home of the Dorr Rebellion Museum)
Noon to 3 p.m.	Musicians to entertain at the Baptist Church
Noon to 5 p.m.	Chicken barbeque at the Chepachet Fire Department
1:00 p.m.	North Scituate and Greenville Militia to arrive at Acote's Cemetery in Chepachet ; cannon and guns to be fired from the hill. Slatersville Militia to arrive at encampment. North Scituate and Greenville Militia to proceed to encampment in field at corner of Dorr Drive and Douglas Hook Road
2:45 p.m.	Militia to proceed to Sprague's Tavern for reenactment
3:00 p.m.	Speakers at the Baptist Church talk about the Dorr Rebellion's impact
3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Musicians resume entertainment.



TREASURER'S REPORT BY LAUREN E. ANDREWS

You have probably noticed while traveling Route 44, a dearth in construction activity at the Reuben Mason House. The reasons? We are moving from Phase 1 to Phase 2, or from completion of structural and exterior work to the startup of interior work. Involved are a number of issues such as: resolution of a few remaining Phase 1 items on a punch list; preparation of plans and specs and establishment of bidding procedures for Phase 2. Lastly, and most importantly, there is fundraising.

We have a policy that we do not start a new phase until all required funding has been obtained. To date, we have spent about \$275,000 with approximately \$200,000 remaining to

spend in order to complete. Fifty thousand dollars of the remaining \$200,000, we have on hand with another \$50,000 available subject to match funding. One hundred thousand dollars will fulfill our match funding requirements and also complete Phase 2. At this point, the building will start to look like the museum it is eventually intended to be.

In the meantime, we look to our readers, subscribers, members, friends, and all those who believe in the significance of historic preservation to join us in this last lap effort to raise \$100,000 from the community. We look forward to your support.

DORR REBELLION REMEMBERED AND REENACTED ON JUNE 23, 2007

BY EDNA KENT

Thomas Wilson Dorr, champion of our voting rights and the People's Party leader, which elected him Rhode Island governor in 1842, will again have his message heard in Gloucester.

The Dorr Rebellion, which ended in Chepachet in June 1842, will be remembered on June 23, 2007 as militia troops retrace the march into Chepachet from three directions. Brief reenactments will take place at the future Dorr Rebellion Museum (field hospital for the state's troops) 1043 Putnam Pike and Tavern-on-the-Main (which was Dorr's headquarters).

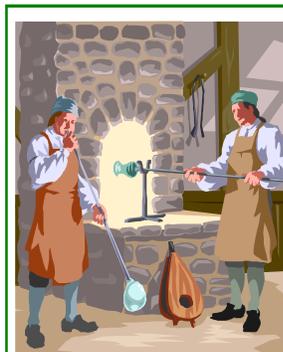
Militias will assemble to parade with fife and drums to the Baptist Church where speakers will reveal Dorr's struggle for our voting rights,

and musical selections will be presented by Atwater/Donnelly.

Chowder and clam cakes and other food concessions will be open from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Baptist Church serenaded by music from the Heritage String Band. "Sutlers'" tents selling period wares will be at Town Hall.

This is a fund-raising event to support the interior completion of the future Dorr Rebellion Museum at the Pettingell/Mason house east of Acote's Hill.

Edna M. Kent serves as honorary Town Historian for the town of Gloucester.



Sutler - (n.) Ⓐ

provisioner to an army post often established in a shop on the post.

BULLETIN BOARD



Ideas, suggestions for anything that may help the GHS to please you and to attain its goals are welcome and needed. Lines of communication are easily accessible. **By mail:** Gloucester Heritage Society, P.O. Box 269, Chepachet, RI 02814 **By e-mail:** info@gloucesterheritagesociety.org **By phone:** 401-934-0511.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

SALUTE TO:
HENRY AND GLENNIS BELTRAM

Congratulations, Henry and Glennis Beltram! You are chosen to be in this issue's Volunteer Spotlight.

The Beltrams, long-time members of the Society, work quietly behind the scene. For example, out of her oven come the most delicious sweets that she serves to us at the end of every meeting; and those are complemented with coffee that he perks. What a boost to everyone's spirits are those deserts and perfectly brewed coffee! But much, much more

than that they donate to the Society.

At every event, most notably Heritage Day and Peddlars' Faire—Henry and Glennis hold the fort, doing whatever is needed to be done: selling raffle tickets, setting up vendors, welcoming visitors. It was they who arranged for Boy Scout Troop 44 to raise the flag during the dedication of the restored Evans schoolhouse. They helped paint the walls of the schoolhouse. Also (few know this), they mop and

dust the Job Armstrong Store's floors and walls and keep vigilance on its oil burner and aging timbers.

They now chair the newly formed Hospitality Committee and serve on the Board of Directors. Their commonsensical input in the planning for June's Dorr March is of great value.

Thank you, Henry and Glennis, for your generosity of spirit. You are an exemplar of volunteerism at its best, without which non-profits like the GHS could not stay viable.



EYES ARE ON US!

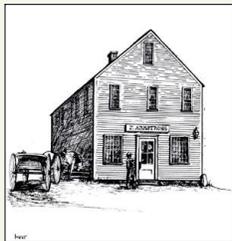
On page 8 of the Executive Summary (Rhode Island State Land Use Policies and Plan), a photo of the Pettingell/Mason House, while undergoing renovation, is featured. Then, on page 15 of the *Champlin Foundation 2006 Annual Report*, we read:

The Rueben Mason House, built in 1745, was home to Mason, a surgeon during the Revolutionary War. The building was also used as a military hospital during an 1842 rebellion led by Thomas Dorr to expand voting rights in Rhode Island. It continues as a landmark, anchoring the eastern approach to historic Chepachet Village in the Town of Gloucester.

A 2003 grant of \$80,000 toward the cost of the exterior renovations and a \$50,000 award this year will help to restore the interior of the building.

Indeed, eyes are on us!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.GLOCESTERHERITAGESOCIETY.ORG



Gloucester Heritage Society
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P.O. Box 269
Chepachet, Rhode Island 02814

Phone: 401-934-0511
E-mail: info@gloucesterheritagesociety.org
Website: <http://www.gloucesterheritagesociety.org>

**A 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation incorporated in 1967
to preserve and maintain town historical and aesthetic
values and objects.**

JOIN THE DORR MARCH ON JUNE 23, 2007!

T.W.DORR



I WILL NOT COMPROMISE
THE PEOPLES RIGHTS

"I will not compromise the people's rights."

Dorr Rebellion Museum

1111 Putnam Pike • Chepachet, Rhode Island

MUSEUM MARCH REGISTRATION

MUSEUM MARCH REGISTRATION FEE: \$10.00

GOAL: EACH PARTICIPANT IS ASKED TO RAISE \$100 (OR MORE!) IN PLEDGES. PLEDGE CHECKS MAY BE MADE PAYABLE TO "GLOUCESTER HERITAGE SOCIETY" WITH "MUSEUM MARCH" NOTED IN THE MEMO LINE.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DORR REBELLION MUSEUM MARCH FUNDRAISER: COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL YOUR CHECK TO THE GLOUCESTER HERITAGE SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 269, CHEPACHET, RHODE ISLAND 02814.

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Want to register online? Go to **WWW.DORREBELLIONMUSEUM.ORG**.