

Glocester Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

DORR MUSEUM FUNDRAISER BY HARRY ANDERSON, GHS PRESIDENT

OUR MISSION

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, Rhode Island .

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dorr Day Fundraising Planning Session Feb. 19 7 p.m.

Neighbors' Night March 19 7 p.m.
Potluck Supper with members of historical societies in nearby towns

The 22nd Annual Rhode Island Statewide Historic Preservation Conference April 14 in Pawtucket
Something OLD, Something GREEN
Info: www.rihphc.state.ri.us

Job Armstrong Cleanup April 21 Saturday 9 a.m.
Bring mops, vacuums, sponges and energy!

Dorr Day A Pledge Walk to Raise Money for the Dorrr Museum Tentative Date June 23

On February 3, the Board of Directors approved to go forward in efforts to create the Dorrr Museum at an estimated cost of \$350,000 by organizing a Dorrr Day event. It will take place June 23 and involve militia units, and others who march or cycle to Chepachet where an event will take place, featuring music, speakers, and more.

Here's the rationale to undertake such an ambitious project:

- The potential to make \$50,000- enough to contract an architect to design the Dorrr Museum there.
- The event will attract state-wide attraction, opening doors to further

fundraising.

- The event will also make more widely known the importance of the Dorrr Rebellion.

Acquiring the Reuben Mason house in the beginning



Pettingell/Mason House

seemed preposterous. Getting nearly a half million dollars to restore its exterior seemed even more preposterous. But there it stands, solid and lovely, saved from imminent

demolition—a stunning example of what can be accomplished by a local band of volunteer advocates of preservation in collaboration with municipal and state help.

Dorr Day event also may seem preposterous. We do, however, have up-country spunk to arm wrestle the preposterous and triumph. Jeff Bowie, our bright and vigorous vice president, is our point man in this project. Forthcoming from him soon is the master plan to make Dorrr Day a success.

Expect to be asked to participate. I know you will, and here comes my first thank you as your president for keeping the Glocester Heritage Society and its mission alive and well.

CHAMPLIN FOUNDATION AWARDS \$50,000 GRANT

The Champlin Foundation recently awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Glocester Heritage Society for the interior restoration of the Pettingell/Mason House on Route 44 .

The GHS hopes eventually to establish the Dorrr Rebellion Museum there once the restoration is complete.

Rose LaVoie, who led the effort to save the house, credits the Champlin Foundation, both in the first and now second phase of the house restoration, with financial help that also encourages others to lend their support.

"I never dreamt it would turn into a museum, LaVoie said.

"But it will take a lot of money and a strong commitment from the society to make it a reality. "

The GHS, with a second phase goal of \$350,000, will meet Feb. 19 to design a pledge walk, named the Dorrr Day. It will follow routes taken by the Dorrr militias in 1842.

**THE GLOCESTER HERITAGE SOCIETY
ENDOWMENT FUND**

If you are looking for a way to help the Gloucester Heritage Society, think of giving to the society's Endowment Fund. An endowment fund serves as a permanent savings account for not-for-profit institutions. The fund's growth is not subject to tax, and donors receive tax deductions for gifts made to endowments.

In 2006, the GHS raised the initial base of \$10,000 so that the Rhode Island Foundation would agree to manage the fund.

As people contribute to the GHS Endowment Fund, interest and dividends accumulate and get added to the principal. The society will then be able to withdraw up to 4.5 percent of the current principal balance annually to fund a portion of the society's operating costs.

Those operating costs once only included utilities, insurance, and maintenance for the Job Armstrong Store. Now, the society also needs to fund the upkeep and maintenance of the Evans School House as well as expenses

for the Pettingell/Mason restoration project.

"We've been very fortunate. Several of our members have endowed it," Rose LaVoie, the society's past president, said, "It's an ambitious goal, but we've got to accomplish it, so that it will live on after we are gone."

Donations can be specifically designated to the Endowment Fund on your check donation. For further information, call 568-5306.



**Evans School House
Dedication
June 14, 2003**

Photo by MouseWorks Photography

**JOB ARMSTRONG
STORE NEEDS YOUR
HELP!**



Several window frames and sills in the back of the Job Armstrong House are rotting and need to be replaced. If you can donate any materials, money, or carpentry skills to the project, please call Frank Bucci at 764-0776.

I N M E M O R I A M

**Cecelia Blicher
November 23, 2006**

Former GHS Treasurer and loyal member.

Her cheerful nature and indomitable spirit was an inspiration to us all.

**Barbara Sarkesian
January 20, 2007**



Scituate Town Historian
She was also President of the Trimtown Lyceum.

**THE MASON HOUSE
WE CAN FINALLY SEE THE TUNNEL.
OR BY THE LIGHT AT THE END OF
THE TUNNEL. BY ANDY ANDREWS**

Construction to Date: All exterior completed and the building is stabilized.

Remaining Work: All interior finish work: electrical, plumbing, heat, and air conditioning. That includes the caretaker living unit and preliminary work on the museum. Plans and specifications remain as well along with the bidding process.

Cash on hand and commitments outstanding for interior work now total:

Cash \$55,000
Commitments with

Matching Requirement \$50,000 (Match amount has been raised.)
Total: \$105,000

The bidding process will give us a final picture on who how much money we still need to raise. Once remaining funds needed are in place, interior construction will go quickly.

Don't forget your own gift. Remember, regardless of the size of your gift, the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission will match it.

Treasurer's Report

Fundraising: A total of \$515,000 in gifts and commitments have been received to date. Breakdown of \$515,000:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Town of Gloucester | \$25,000 |
| Blackstone River Valley Commission | \$10,000 |
| R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission | \$200,000 |
| Foundations | \$170,000 |
| Individuals and Small Business | \$10,000 |
| Enhancement Grant from U.S. Dept. of Transportation to R.I. Dept. of Transportation to Gloucester Heritage Society | \$100,000 |

**A NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW LEADERS
BY HARRY ANDERSON**

Nostalgia was thick in the Purple Cat last November evening when the Gloucester Heritage Society gathered for a potluck supper prior to its annual meeting. With Rose LaVoie's stepping down, after six years as president, as well as Jeff Rossi (vice president) and Carol Fry (secretary), the nominating committee presented this slate of officers:

- President :** Harry Anderson
- Vice President :** Jeff Bowie
- Secretary:** Eunice Hindley

- Treasurer:** Andy Andrews
- Corresponding Secretary:** Pauline Anderson

HELP WANTED
People to chair the Ways & Means, Archives, and Grant Committees.

At the January membership meeting, Anderson appointed committee chairs; to wit:

- Membership:** Frank Stevenson

Buildings & Grounds: John Doucette and Jeff Rossi

Public Relations: Rose LaVoie

Hospitality: Glennis and Henry Beltram

Town History and Lore: Edna Kent

The Board of Directors (formerly called "Executive Committee") is composed of the elected officials and committee chair people.

Other appointments include: Tom Carranzo, John Holmes, and Frank Bucci to Building & Grounds. Pat Kenny now edits the newsletter.

**FEBRUARY FRESHET
BY EDNA KENT**

How could one small mill pond east of Stone Dam Road prompt the Freshet of February 10, 1867 that flooded the center of Chepachet?

An overnight rise in temperature melted 12-15 inches of snow and 18-20 inches of ice, causing ponds to overflow and destroy earthen dams. Overflowing each other; first,

Peckham's shingle mill pond dam burst, next Peckham's sawmill pond went out, then shallow Keach Pond poured into Smith & Sayles Reservoir and crashed through Stone Dam.

Elmer Keach recalled his father's story. Heading to work via Chepachet Bridge, he saw a huge wall of water, ice, and

broken trees rising at the dam west of the bridge — and RAN FOR HIS LIFE.

When he dare to look back, the bridge was GONE.

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



great rise or overflowing of a stream caused by heavy rains or melted snow.

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
LET US HEAR FROM YOU!**

In this slot in future issues, a member of the Gloucester Heritage Society will be spotlighted for volunteer service given to the Society in 2007.

We need your help to let the community know about your good works.

- Don't be shy. In a notebook, log what you have

done and the time you have spent doing it. Overall, volunteers are the lifeblood of the GHS. You deserve recognition and a thank you.

Moreover, your telling what you do not only keeps everyone abreast of what's happening, but it also may inspire us to forge on.

Mail your log to:

Gloucester Heritage Society
Box 269
Chepachet, RI 02814

And do it, say monthly.

If you'd like to volunteer and devote an hour, an afternoon, or an entire day to maintaining and reviving the GHS buildings, call 568-0511. We hope to hear from you.



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

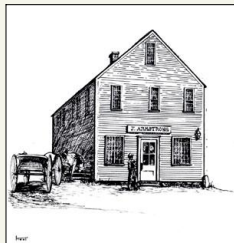
By e-mail:
info@gloucesterheritagesociety.org

By phone:
401-934-0511

VOLUNTEER THANKS!

The GHS thanks Carolyn Fortuna for editing the newsletter in 2005 and 2006.

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



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1181 Putnam Pike
P.O. Box 269
Chepachet, Rhode Island 02814

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

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

JOIN THE GLOCESTER HERITAGE SOCIETY!

The Glocester Heritage Society meets the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at the society's headquarters—the Job Armstrong Store in the center of Chepachet village. The meetings are open to the public as well as to its members. Please join us at the:

Job Armstrong Store
1181 Putnam Pike
Chepachet, Rhode Island

Membership Form

You can add your annual support to the Glocester Heritage Society in a variety of ways:

Single: \$15, **Family:** \$25, **Senior or Student:** \$10, **Contributing:** \$50, **Sustaining:** \$75,
Patron: \$100, **Benefactor:** \$250, or a **Life Membership:** \$300.

Name: _____

(Please include spouse's name if joining as a family.)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

(Will be kept confidential.)

Questions? Contact Frank Stevenson, Membership Chair
at 401-568-4016.

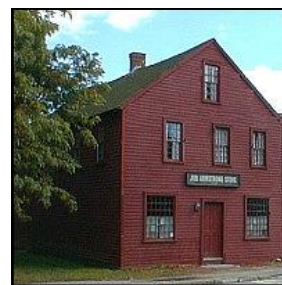


Photo by MouseWorks Photography

Please make your check payable to the Glocester Heritage Society and mail it to: The Glocester Heritage Society, Member Services, P.O. Box 269, Chepachet, RI 02814. Thank you for your support!