

# - Carpenter's Store -

Within a few steps from the south door at Masons' Hall stood a little building known as Carpenter's Store. (see photos on pages 28 & 32 in Images of America photo book.) In 1948 salvagers claimed the 198 year old building "sound as a bullet" and was tough to tear down.

In 1750 the store was built near the public whipping post by Timothy Wilmarth for his son Joseph. The Wilmarth family sold it to William Green in 1818 for \$3,000 who transferred it to William Valentine the very next year.

Sensing the "business boom" in Chepachet, Jesse and Scott Armstrong (Job's father and brother) purchased the structure in 1825. Politics may have pressured their decision to sell to Alexander Eddy in 1840, when Dorrites were outnumbering the "tried and true" Law & Order party in the region.

The Carpenter Store appears to have been named after Elias Carpenter, Jr. who purchased it in 1906 and let it to "Little Annie Reuben" Steere for her Lunchroom & Confectionery, and, later, to Mrs. Williamson whose chowders warmed the palates of trolley passengers returning from Providence.

— Edna Kent, Town Historian

## Schedule of Events

November 17	Monday 7pm	General Meeting
November 22	Saturday 9am-4pm	Peddler's Faire
December 3	Wednesday	GHS/GBA Christmas Party at Tavern-on-Main Bring a gift for the Yankee Swap
December 4	Thursday 6pm-9pm	Candlelight Shopping and wreath raffle drawing on Main Street Chepachet
December 11	Thursday 6pm-9pm	Candlelight Shopping
December 18	Thursday 6pm-9pm	Candlelight Shopping
January	(No Meeting Scheduled)	
February 16	Monday 7pm	General Meeting "President's Day"



### Glocester Heritage Society

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



# Glocester Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

November 2008  
Volume 41, Issue 4

## Peddler's Faire

Saturday, November 22 – 9am-4pm

### Featuring:

- Hot Foods Vender
- Christmas Country Crafts
- Yarn and Knitted Items
- Hand-painted glassware
- Jewelry
- Handcrafted Soaps
- Antique Bank Notes
- Band Boxes
- Kitchen Items
- RI woven wool blankets
- Painted Slates
- Hooked Rugs
- Gift Baskets
- GHS Cook Books
- 1790 Maps of Glocester, etc.
- Matted photos ready for framing
- Wreath Raffle Tickets (drawing December 4)

### 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

### Officers

President – Edna Kent 568-8967  
Vice President – Rose LaVoie 568-5306  
Treasurer –  
Recording Secretary –  
Corresponding Secretary – Eunice Hindley  
Membership – Frank Stevenson, Carole Fry  
Hospitality – Henry & Glennis Beltram  
Building & Grounds – Frank Bucci 764-0776  
Jeff Rossi - jeffrossi@hotmail.com  
Publicity – Rose LaVoie 568-5306  
Historian – Edna Kent 568-8967  
Webmaster – Jill Stevenson  
Newsletter – Lesa Nash

### Directors

Glennis Beltram, Roland Rivet, Frank Bucci  
Astrid Stott

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Chepachet, RI 02814

Phone 401-568-8967

E-mail: info@glocesterheritagesociety.org

Website: www.glocesterheritagesociety.org

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

## Candlelight Shopping

on Chepachet's Main Street

December 4, 11, 18 Thursday evenings 6-9pm

### Wreath Raffle Drawing

December 4th at the Glocester Heritage Society

**Shop Local** - Support Glocester Businesses  
Glocester Businesses support the community  
(see Glocester Business Association Guide)

# Thank You!

**GBA Businesses for all their contributions to GHS events.**

**Nancy Greene** for the office filing and volunteering as temporary recording secretary

**Robert Leach** and his tractor for mowing Reuben Mason House lawn & field

**Charlie Wilson & Roland Rivet** for transporting from N. Attleboro the barn frame loom for use in the museum

**Marie Jennison Dance Studio Students** (Greenville) for cleaning the Windsor-Hunt Cemetery on Route 44, also, Kyle Cunningham and Brett Whitecross for trucking off 30+ bags of clippings.

**Wanted  
GHS Treasurer - a vital position**

**Memo** Please save your Dino's or Brigido's grocery slips. They help with our overhead expenses. Bring them to meetings and place in box on filing cabinet near bathroom door. Thank you.



## In Memoriam

**Patricia Zeitlin**  
1926-August 4, 2008  
Long term GHS member

**George O. Steere, Sr.**  
1914 - August 22, 2008  
Chepachet native & husband of Kathryn Steere - GHS member

**Hazel Chase**  
1927 - August 21, 2008  
Chepachet neighbor & friend

# Pettingell Mason House Update

While we had hoped to see window candles glowing in the Reuben Mason house this holiday season and heating and alarm systems installed, all interior work has been postponed until a museum consultant can be found to coordinate with an architect - per state officials' requirements.

*"Good things come to those who wait"*

## Heritage Day —

(A good day despite the weather).

The September 28th dawn revealed a heavy mist and intermittent light showers with only 10 of the 26 vendor-applicants setting up. Chowder and clam-cakes were sold at the the fire station to warm everyone's spirits.

Although dampness prevailed throughout the day many customers ventured out. Vendors were encouraged by the good attendance, and have agreed to come back next year.

Roland Rivet, chairman, announced over \$1000 has been received (benefit of J. Armstrong Store) and he promises to chair Heritage Day 2009.

## Footsteps in History

Columbus Day Weekend (October 11th, 12th &13th)

- Saturday, October 11th - An exhibit was held at the Freewill Baptist Church - A remarkable collection of original documents (1753-1800's), found in the dump in the 1930's when the Town Clerk's office was moved, filled 10 tables. Thanks to Dr. Clifford Brown and Town Historian, Edna Kent - who spent days putting it all together. **MORE to come next year!!**
- Sunday, Oct 12th - The Job Armstrong Store was open Sunday
- Monday, Oct 13th Two docents oversaw tours of the Reuben Mason House

Footsteps in History is an annual event sponsored by Blackstone Valley Tourism Council which brings friends from near and far to exchange news, ideas, history stories and promises to revisit in the future.

## Wolf Hill Enigma

At our October meeting, an interesting twist was quickly decided upon when it was discovered that no oil was available to heat downstairs. (A new oil tank had been installed and testing was yet to be done.) The second floor Reading Room was made cozy and warm and 16 members enjoyed Jim Ignasher's program "Wolf Hill Enigma"— a history/mystery of aircraft accidents on Wolf Hill in Smithfield.

Many questions and lively discussions continued over coffee and apple squares - thanks to our congenial hosts Henry and Glennis Beltram.

# Sledding Down Page Hill

excerpted from "Looking Back" by Helen S. Brown

Our favorite slide with the double runner sled was down Page Hill on Spring Grove Road. Father had made a double-runner, complete with good steering, that could hold 5 or 6 of us.

We hauled it from Chepachet Grammar School to the hilltop during lunch hour and climbed aboard. Brother John sat in front to steer. I usually sat in back, and took charge of making sure that everyone leaned left at the appropriate moment so we could take the corner at the bottom of the hill.

Spring Grove Road, going down Page Hill has several "thank-you-ma'ams", and we bounced over those to the sharp turn onto Douglas Hook Road. Once we started down, there was no stopping. Braking with feet was not an option. I imagine we might have reached 30 mph at the turn. Then we'd coast up Harrington Hill toward the school as far as gravity permitted.

On every ride we wondered if we would make the corner, but we always did. There were few automobiles then and they were much slower with snow-covered roads. But, as luck would have it, father's sled always carried us safely back to our afternoon classes.

## Chepachet Mills Exhibit

Photos and surveyors maps showing the location of early mills can be seen in the large glass case on the south wall of the Job Armstrong Store.

This display has been created by student Kate Taylor under the direction of Edna Kent, Historian.

# Job Armstrong Store

Now that heating season is again upon us with high oil prices, the number of days we use the building may need to be cut to a minimum.

## January - February - March

Store open by appointment only, call 568-8967

We sell books, cards, note paper, 1790 maps, mugs, shirts, bags, photos, historic broadsides, elephant & Dorr Rebellion items. Our famous cookbook "Taste of Gloucester" is in its 6th printing, still only \$24.95.

Exhibits and Phetteplace Scrapbooks may be seen on the 1st floor. Reading room & archives (by appointment) 2nd floor.

## Awards

Our good friend, Robert Billington was honored with the "Creative Achievements in Humanities Award" from the RI Council of the Humanities at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, October 20.

This summer, as President of Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, he also was the recipient of the "Tourism for Tomorrow Destination Award" from the 2008 World Travel & Tourism Council. Robert Billington writes to us; "This (award) also belongs to YOU. Your support has helped bring the community together, opening it to a new economic potential"

Congratulations on these very prestigious awards!

## Donated to Archives

- Framed lithograph- Thomas Wilson Dorr from Ed Grasso
- Nine antique glass and porcelain books from Bill Crohan
- Booklets "Annual Ball" Stumble Inn, September 29, 1950, from Nancy Greene
- Program: "70th Anniversary of the Dorr War" July 18, 1912, from Nancy Greene
- Glass candy/cookie jars for the store from Nancy Greene
- Rag Rug Maker which belonged to Jessie Mason's mother from Pete Mason
- "Read & Potter", Apple Box Lid from Roberta Paine
- 6 x 6 x 6 Barn Frame Loom, circa 1740-1760, for the museum from Martha Maynard of North Attleboro
- Two Factory bobbins from the 1814 mill from Rose LaVoie