



Glocester Heritage Society

N E W S L E T T E R

Looking Back

2008 was a very good year, great returns from the Gala & Auction, fascinating speakers at our meetings. There was resounding response at Cannon Night Fire, Chuckles & good humor over the re-enactments. Pleasant visitors at Armstrong Store (profits good). Footsteps in History exhibit – fantastic. Heritage Day, Peddlars' Faire and Candlelight Shopping had vendors & visitors with happy returns and profits.

Our Gala committee met in December and after some discussion over the list of candidates, it was unanimously voted for the 2009 recipient of the “Citizen Extraordinaire” Award goes to Rose LaVoie who has served the community in so many capacities over the years.

“Dorr Rebellion Days” has been set by the Gloucester Light Infantry for June 26, 27, and 28 featuring:

- Cannon Night Fire on Friday Evening
- Period Military Encampment *
- Re-enactments of Dorr Rebellion events Saturday
- Open house at Pettingell/Mason House

* Kentish Guard 2nd RI, Warren Federal Blues, Newport Artillery, Pawtuxet Rangers, 2nd RI Tew's Co. and Gloucester Light Infantry

Looking Forward

Monday - February 16, guest speaker Scott Molloy, URI Labor historian and author “Irish Titan, Irish Toilers” his wit and keen insight will be a pleasure to hear. See you there!

Dorr Rebellion Gala

Dinner - Silent Auction
Wednesday evening April 29th at
Crystal Lake

Glocester Heritage Society will present the
“Citizen Extraordinaire” Award to
Rose LaVoie

Still only \$50 per person
Check our web site for updates

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

Officers

President - Edna Kent 568-8967
Vice President – Rose LaVoie 568-5306
Treasurer –
Recording Secretary – Nancy Green
Corresponding Secretary – Eunice Hindley
Membership – Frank Stevenson, Carole Fry
Hospitality – Henry & Glennis Beltram
Buildings & Grounds – Frank Bucci 764-0766
Jeff Rossi – jeffjrossi@hotmail.com
Publicity - Rose LaVoie 568-5306
Historian - Edna Kent 568-8967
Webmaster – Jill Stevenson
Newsletter – Edna Kent, Eileen & Charlie Wilson

Directors

Glennis Beltram, Roland Rivet, Frank Bucci
Astrid Stott

Glocester Heritage Society

Job Armstrong Store
1181 Putnam Pike
P.O. Box 269
Chepachet, RI 02814
Phone: 401-568-8967
Email: info@glocesterheritagesociety.org
Website: www.glocesterheritagesociety.org

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

Thank You!

Charlie Wilson

for clearing snow away
from our building with
his trusty snowblower.

Ponaganset High School Chorus

for singing at the
Candlelight Shopping.

Tom Sanzi

for advertising our events
on "Chepachet Chatter"
(Cox cable channel 18)

Charlie Wilson, Roland Rivet and Tom Sanzi

for taking care of advertising our events

Wanted – G.H.S. photographer to photo
G.H.S. Events.

Wanted - Treasurer !

Store Articles

"A Taste of Gloucester" Cookbook and
other G.H.S. items found in our store
are available this winter at

The Town Trader and

Brown & Hopkins Country Store

Job Armstrong Store

Open by chance or by appointment
401-568-8967

Will be open with regular
hours Thursday April 2nd 11am - 2pm

200th - Congratulations - 200th
Brown & Hopkins Country Store

In Memoriam

Ronald Tetreault
1934 – Nov.17, 2008
husband of Beth Tetreault
member & friend

Pettingell/Mason House Update

On December 16th The Pettingell/Mason House Steering
Committee met with the Newport Collaborative's Architect and
Youngken Associates museum consultants at the Job Armstrong
Store in the upstairs reading room.

This informative 3 hour session was encouraging and inspiring.
The congenial exchange of views, reassures us of a pleasant
working relationship.

Frank Bucci and his "vapor barrier crew" – Roland Rivet, Matt
Diamond, Bob Balme, Edna Kent, and David Heon will resume
work whenever they can all get together as temperature
moderates in the early springtime.

Peddlers' Faire & Candlelight Shopping

Twos a very good season!

Every year we scout for replacements to fill the
vendor spaces for Peddlars' Faire. Before each Faire
the Job Armstrong Store has to pass inspection by the
Fire Marshall. This past year 14 vendors setup to
please the shoppers the Saturday before Thanksgiving
(Nov 22). Nine of those vendors chose to stay into
December for Candlelight Shopping the 1st three
Thursday evenings of December. Christmas wreaths &
baskets were on display and Carole Fry's Wreath
Raffle was a great success with vendor combined
totals over \$1200 (to benefit Job Armstrong Store
overhead).

Candlelight Shopping has become a "must-do" event
and all Main Street businesses chip in to make it a
success. The fire company & Masonic Hall opened
their doors to visitors. Bell Ringers, Santa Claus,
Hayrides, a benefit Penny Social, Carolers from the
Ponaganset Chorus and a flute concert were stars
among our luminarias which brightened the shoppers
way. Thanks to the many members, friends & business
owners for overseeing the many details that create
these events. It's great when everybody pitches in.

Glennis & Henry Beltram
Peddlars' Faire Chairpersons

24th Annual Rhode Island Statewide
Historic Preservation Conference
Preserving historic farms, woodlands, shores,
towns.
U.R.I. Kingston Campus - Sat April 25, 2009
Info: 401-732-1009
www.preservation.ri.gov/conference

NEWS

Even though we begin mid-year, **G.H.S. Endowment Fund At RI Foundation** is already beginning to payback. Our first dividend of \$213.00 has been received. This fund will grow with the kindness of friends, donations and the memorials for loved ones.

Video Project

Glocester has more history than our film makers imagined! The Glocester History video project is now in the script stage with proofreading and editing; then matching subjects and audio to appropriate photos. The finished product could be available by late summer if all goes well.

Irons Family Project

Do you have Irons in your family ancestry? RI Genealogical Society is searching for info to publish an Irons genealogy.

Call Geri Clark 401-884-3985

Email: gclark688@aol.com

Any and all info will be much appreciated.

Catching the Train

excerpted from "looking Back"

by Helen S. Brown

Glocester had no high school when I was growing up, so I went to English High in Providence by Chepachet trolley unless there was very very bad winter weather. Then the train was the only way to be sure of getting there. On those occasions I rode on the Chepachet to Oakland Stage with Jimmy Steere to the train station. It was a steam train, usually with a baggage car and one or two passenger cars.

I never missed the providence train, but- coming home on one occasion was a different story. On that day I left school loaded down with a large number of books, papers and my lunch box and could have managed, but mother asked that I bring home a five pound roast from Public Market. A long line of customers and a clerk that was slow in wrapping the roast delayed me. I set off for the train station, rushing as fast as I could and arrived just in time to see the only train to Oakland pulling out. No trolley; because of snow, no stage and I had no place to stay in Providence! so I ran across the platform into the yard and chased the train down the snowy tracks. All the while, I was balancing my books and holding onto the miserable meat (which had been the cause of my problem in the first place) I remember thinking" It stops at Dike Street" (about a mile and a half away!) The conductor, leaning out the back door, saw me running but did nothing until some of the students begged him to stop the train. I continued to run until finally, the conductor pulled the cord to halt the train and he must have signaled the engineer because the train backed up. I climbed aboard puffing more than the steam engine.

As darkness fell, the train chugged its way into the countryside, and I counted my properties; hat, mittens, scarf, papers, books, lunch box, mothers roast and my blessings.

Did you Forget ? More than ever before we need your help.....

Yes ___ I want to support the Glocester Heritage Society
restore and preserve local history.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Type of Membership

___ Single \$15

___ Senior \$10

___ Student \$10

___ Family \$25

___ Lifetime \$300

Please make your check payable to: Glocester Heritage Society

Mail to:

P.O. Box 269

Chepachet, RI 02814

Last Man Over the Bridge

What a winter! All night, warm rain had poured intermittently between heavy “pea-soup” fog and the previous brutally cold months; accumulation of heavy snows had vanished overnight. After a busy morning in the sawmill, Reuben Keach was trudging home to the old Keach house on the Oakland road for lunch, skirting puddles while listening to the distant clack of mill machinery.

As he approached Chepachet Bridge he heard a deep grumbling roar that shook the soggy ground beneath his wet boots. Looking west toward the pond beyond the falls he saw a menacing wall of ice and water raised up 15 to 16 feet high above the top of the falls. “Can’t get home if the bridge goes out” was his only thought as he raced across the wooden span and on up the street. While behind him roared the Feb 10, 1867 Freshet smashing Hawkins’ Sawmill, Hawkins’ Gristmill, Waterman Chair & Casket Factory and the old wooden bridge over the Chepachet River. Reuben was the last man over the bridge. (excerpted from 1980 Elmer Keach interview by Edna Kent, Historian)

In an interview over a century later his son, Elmer chuckled
“Of course, he didn’t want to miss his lunch!”

Schedule of Events

General Meeting - Monday - February 16 7PM

Program- Scott Molloy, author and URI labor historian “19th century NE Labor”

General Meeting - Monday - March 16 7PM

Program to be announced.

General Meeting, - Monday - April 20 7PM

GALA Planning

Dorr Rebellion GALA - Wednesday - April 29 2009

at Crystal Lake RT 102 Harrisville, R.I.

Check our website for updates

– WWW.GLOCESTERHERITAGESOCIETY.ORG