



# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> RI, Warren Federal Blues, Newport Artillery, Pawtuxet Rangers, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@glocesterheritagesociety.org)  
Website: [www.glocesterheritagesociety.org](http://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

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

**Wanted** - Treasurer !

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## 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**

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### Job Armstrong Store

Open by chance or by appointment  
401-568-8967

Will be open with regular  
hours Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 11am - 2pm

**200<sup>th</sup> - Congratulations - 200<sup>th</sup>**  
**Brown & Hopkins Country Store**

### In Memoriam

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

### Pettingell/Mason House Update

On December 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Peddlars' Faire & Candlelight Shopping

Twas 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

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### 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.

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### 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](mailto: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 “19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://WWW.GLOCESTERHERITAGESOCIETY.ORG)