



# Glocester Heritage Society

N E W S L E T T E R

## Presidents Letter

To our members and friends.

It's a joy to see the community spirit in Chepachet. Our Events have become traditions that are eagerly attended.

2009 was a rewarding year ending with the ever-popular Peddlars Faire and three Candlelight Shopping evenings. Glocester Business Association invited G.H.S again this year for a Christmas party at Tavern on Main.

Glocester's 2 hour history movie, "West of the Seven Mile Line," premiered in November with rave reviews and the DVD's are flying off the shelves.

The Pettingell/Mason house warmed to the presence of craftsmen and member volunteers.

To all the volunteers who generously gave of their time for our many events in 2009 – We Thank You!  
Many hands make lighter work!

This year begins with Pettingell / Mason house furnace up and running and coordination of manpower necessary to continue Phase 1 interior restoration. Our schedule in 2010 also includes Dorr Rebellion Museum Gala & Silent Auction in April with added awards planned, Dorr Rebellion Weekend (cannon fire, reenactments, and Fife & Drum Muster) in June, August Picnic, Heritage Day in September, Remembrance Tour at Acote's cemetery in October, Peddlars' Faire in November, and Candlelight Shopping in December. Plus our regular meetings the Third Monday of every month except July. Come and be a part of our progress. Cordially, your G.H.S. President, Edna Kent

### **Dorr Rebellion Gala & Silent Auction**

Crystal Lake Golf Course Restaurant  
Wednesday April 28<sup>th</sup>

Honoring Henry & Glennis Beltram  
Citizens Extraordinaire

And awarding two restoration awards  
Order tickets early – info call 568-5306 Rose Lavoie Chairman

Save the Date! A great fun night !

## **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

## **Executive Board**

President - Edna Kent 568-8967  
Vice President – Rose LaVoie 568-5306  
Treasurer – Beth Beltram 568-3117  
Secretaries:  
Recording – Nancy Greene 508-943- 4565  
Corresponding – Carolyn Farnum  
Publicity – Carolyn Fortuna  
Archives – Edna Kent  
Hospitality – Henry & Glennis Beltram  
Grants – Dennis Robidoux  
Membership – Frank Stevenson, Carole Fry  
Buildings & Grounds – Frank Bucci 764-0766  
Jeff Rossi – [jeffrossi@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffrossi@hotmail.com)  
Historian - Edna Kent 568-8967  
Webmaster – Jill Stevenson  
Newsletter – Charlie & Eileen Wilson –Edna Kent

Pettingell / Mason house Steering Cmte:  
John Doucette  
Robert Leach  
Edna Kent

### **Directors**

Glennis Beltram, Roland Rivet, Frank Bucci  
Ann Lowell

### **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.

### Archives

Kathryn & Tom Ross

- Full size original 1870 map of Gloucester
- 2 gallon crock for period pantry museum
- Bean pot for period pantry museum

Susan Law

- Sunny Acres Dairy bottles & rack
- Law genealogy

Betty Mencucci

- Photo of Shady Oak School

Robert Grandchamp

- Dorr Rebellion papers from diary of Edward Peckham found at John Hay Library.

Bruce MacGunigle

- S.A.R. booklet on RI Sons of the Revolution

### Pettingell / Mason House

The steering committee has met several times, including meeting with RIHP & H Commission, Joe Danti electrician, furnace installers, paint analysts and the Architectural Preservation Group who will be doing woodwork preservation.

Alarm systems will be installed soon and response is being sought from well diggers at this time. We hope to have a bathroom working by mid year. GHS members and friends are encouraged to volunteer. We need to finish removing a floor covering upstairs in the kitchen ell, cellar vapor barrier installation and cellar cleanup.

Call Edna Kent 568-8967 or Frank Bucci 764-0776

### For Sale:

“West of Seven Mile Line” DVD (2 hours) \$25  
Available at The Town Trader or call  
Edna Kent 568-8967 or Betty Mencucci 568-8449

“Taste of Gloucester” cookbook 6<sup>th</sup> printing \$25  
Available at The Town Trader or G.H.S. Store

G.H.S. Store to open April 1<sup>st</sup>  
Thursdays 11 – 2

### Educational Outreach Program

Through a liaison with Gloucester Light Infantry, an educational outreach pilot program has been presented in two schools 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades by Gloucester Historian Edna Kent and GLI Member Tom Sanzi & Omer Blanchette at William Windsor School and La Salle Academy during 2009.

The presentation was met with great enthusiasm and teachers are inspired by the impact it has had on their students.

We have opened a door to history and the pupils are begging for more.

### In Memoriam

Majel L. Burlingame  
1921 - Jan. 27 2010  
member and friend

### Grant Writer

We're blessed! G.H.S. Member Dennis Robidoux has stepped forward to help us acquire grants for our many programs. His past 6 years were spent working with grants programs in another community.

Thank You, Dennis

### Historic Preservation Conference

Saturday, April 24, 2010  
Little Compton & Tiverton RI  
[www.preservation.ri.gov/conference](http://www.preservation.ri.gov/conference)  
Info Janet [Balleto@cox.net](mailto:Balleto@cox.net)  
Or 401-732-1009

### Gideon Smith Cemetery

In Byron Winsor Park on Snake Hill Rd, near Waldron's Corners, in Harmony is a small cemetery in the woods. It was originally "49 ½ ft by 49 ½ ft square" according to Gideon Smith's deed transfer to Abel Whitaker.

( Gloucester Deed Book 20-386)

*"I hereby reserve the privilege of 3 rods square for a burial lot with liberty to pass and repass, - it being where there are now some graves of my children (Gideon Smith, 22 Feb. 1858)*

Today there are five graves marked with no inscriptions on fieldstones; 3 adults and 2 children now identified as Gideon Smith's family- in a 30' by 30' cemetery surrounded by a rustic fence.

### Glocester Revolutionary War Veterans

Eseck Burlingame, native of Glocester, was three times married and father of 21 children. "He was a cooper of the old fashioned type who made barrels and wooden receptacles at his shop in Glocester" and traveled to customers needing custom coopering. His older brother Nathan served as Minute Man in Col Chad Brown's regiment under Capt Stephen Olney up to 1782. When he was unable to respond to a duty call his 16 year old brother Eseck attended the roll call in 1781. Although too young to serve – no one revealed the deception and he completed the entire period of duty.

From

"Rhode Island's Own "Real Sons"  
of the American revolution

**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

\_\_\_ Donation \$\_\_\_

Endowment Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to:

Glocester Heritage Society  
P.O. Box 269  
Chepachet, RI 02814

## **Snowstorm didn't stop George**

“Probably the most important episode of George Cutting’s Stagecoach driving career occurred during one of the worst snowstorms this section ever experienced. Starting from the Post Office here as usual about 3:30 in the afternoon, he drove his coach and six horses for a part of the distance when the depth of snow, with gathering intensity of the storm made it impossible. He took the mail and one horse from the rest and rode horseback to Pascoag. The trip up and back taking four days.” (excerpted from news article at Cuttings death in 1920)

*Historian’s Note; George Cutting and family lived in the Pettingell / Mason House.*

## **Schedule of Events**

Monday Feb 15 7pm General Meeting Program “WWI Doughboy from France”

Monday March 15 7pm General Meeting Program “From Lambing to Knitting”

Wednesday April 28 Dorr Rebellion Gala & Silent Auction @ Crystal Lake

Monday April 19 General Meeting Program (to be announced)

Check our website for updates  
– [WWW.GLOCESTERHERITAGESOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.GLOCESTERHERITAGESOCIETY.ORG)



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