

GLOCESTER HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWS AND SPRING EVENTS

On **April 30** the URI Master Gardeners Meet from 9AM-12noon, our URI Master Gardener team will meet at the Reuben Mason Medicinal Herb Garden for a celebration of the Garden's 10th year. They will open the garden for the new growing season, conduct a pruning workshop and share the beauty of the stately Elm tree planted in front of the historic **Reuben Mason House**. The tree replaced the original elms from the 18th century. Visitors can learn about the plight of the elm of New England and URI's efforts to correct the situation. Edna Kent, Town Historian, will conduct tours of the historic house. Hours are 9-12.

You are invited to enjoy the new Job Armstrong's Shopkeeper's Garden on **May 21**, from 10AM to 12 noon. The URI Master Gardeners will offer soil testing to those arriving with a sample of their garden soil with an informational kiosk staffed with Master Gardeners to answer all garden questions. At 10AM, Diane Stacy will present tips on opening your home garden for the growing season. Her team encourages questions about purchasing garden tools and usage.

For the first time in a number of years, the Gloucester Heritage Society will be celebrating **Elephant Day On May 21, 2022**. Guided tours through town of the route taken by Betty the Learned Elephant will meet behind Gloucester Town Hall. Tours will start at 11:00AM, the second tour at 12:30PM and the last at 2:00PM. Bring the family and hear the story of our beloved Betty, take pictures with Betty Potato Head and visit the Evans One Room Schoolhouse.

The tour ends at the Job Armstrong Store where pictures depicting elephants that were drawn by budding artists at a Gloucester Manton Free Library Childrens' activity session will be on display.

With COVID restrictions easing up, the **Job Armstrong Store** will be open most Saturday afternoons from now through July. Hours are 12 Noon-3. Contact Marie Sweet at 568-7347 if you would like to volunteer for a few hours at the store.

New displays the JAS include Dr. Potter's medicine bag and contents, voting name records from the 1900's, early tax books, plus a wooden bath tub donated by the Beltram family with one wall is devoted to numerous maps from 1790 to more recent times.

The Historic Cemetery Committee headed by our Vice President Bill Brown is ready for a new season cleaning and maintaining the historic cemeteries in Gloucester. Flags have been ordered for Memorial Day and will be placed on all veterans' grave sites. These sites are now marked with permanent flag holders designating the conflict that the veteran served in. Also, we have gained a few new members from this committee.

Sadly, we have lost in the past few months a good friend Astrid Stott and our member of many years Marjorie Swift.

Marie, Bill and Edna are in the process of updating our website, glocesterheritagesociety.org, with help and a thank you to Jill Stevenson for assisting us.

Now you can, also, visit us on our **new Facebook** page created for us by Trish Horgan on Gloucester Heritage Society-R I or Gloucester Historic Cemeteries.

From the Heritage Society Officers, a thank you to all our members and friends for their support.