


	<p><i>The Crier</i></p> <p><i>of the</i></p> <p>Glocester</p> <p>Heritage Society</p>	<p>Glocester Heritage Society Job Armstrong Store 1181 Putnam Pike P.O. Box 269 Chepachet, RI 02814</p>  <p>401.568.1866 www.glocesterheritagesociety.org info@glocesterheritagesociety.org</p> <p>Incorporated 1967.</p>
Volume One	Year 2004	Issue Three
<p>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, RI.</p>		
<div><p>John H. Chafee</p><p>BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY</p><p>National Heritage Corridor Commission</p></div> <p>Glocester Heritage Society receives \$10,000 grant to continue Phase One of the Dr. Reuben Mason House renovation... page 3</p>		<p>Dino's Supermarket And Brigido's IGA Donate 1% of sales to Glocester Heritage Society! Submit your receipts to Susan Doucette or mail to GHS. Page 3.</p>
<p>2004 Heritage Day Sunday, August 15th, 9:00 am-4:00 pm Admission is free and vendors are welcome!</p>		
<p>News Flash! Chris and Nathan Clark of Chris Clark Realty are donating \$500 for each Glocester house they sell during 2004 to benefit the Dr. Reuben Mason House restoration. We've received \$1000 to date. Thank you so much to Chris Clark Realty!</p>		
 <p>Page four</p> <p><i>Theater, presentations, renovations</i></p> <p>The Evans Schoolhouse Takes on New Life</p>		

The Crier

Dear Gloucester Heritage Society Members,

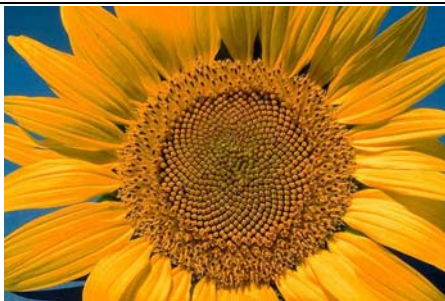
The enthusiasm and dedication of the membership the last three months has been an inspiration to me to press forward with our many plans for the future of the Gloucester Heritage Society. The Evans School completion, the exciting kick-off of the Reuben Mason project, and the ongoing events to bolster our treasury for much needed repairs and upkeep of the Job Armstrong Store. Much of this has been the result of new members taking active roles.

Won't you join us at future meetings and be part of a most gratifying organization dedicating to preserving the heritage of our town?

Yours in preservation,

Rose La Voie

P.S. A very special thank you to Madeline Brown and her family for naming the Reuben Mason House restoration fund the recipient of donations in memory of Kenneth F. Brown.



Ad Hoc Committees

Dr. Reuben Mason House Steering
Edna Kent, John Doucette, Bob Leach

Development
Steve Hanley, Edna Kent, Carolyn Fortuna

Board of Directors

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Rose LaVoie

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Steve Hanley

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Carole Fry

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Archives
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Building
John Doucette

By Laws
Leo Gagnon, Harry Anderson, Frank Stevenson

Communications
Dottie Leach

Editor
Carolyn Fortuna

Finance
Cecelia Blicher, 'Andy' Andrews

Grants
Harry Anderson

Membership
Frank Stevenson

Publicity
Dottie Leach

Ways and Means
Glennis and Henry Beltram

Website
Jill Stevenson

The Crier

From the Editor's Desktop

This summer season is a time for vitality and energy. Trees in our rural Chepachet community reach expansively across roads and yards. The succession of blooms from mountain laurel to day lilies, from hostas and hydrangeas, has begun. We lie back on the long and lush grass, thinking back to the times of youth exuberance, understanding without being able to articulate it that we are better off now than then.

Yet we celebrate with passion those times long gone. Perhaps that is the reason why so many new members and newly returned members (like my family) have jumped head first into the expansive goals of the Gloucester Heritage Society. Want to work in an authentic, fully restored general store? Try the Society headquarters at the Job Armstrong Store, 1181 Main Street. Glennis Beltram will welcome you with opened arms as she assigns you two – or three, or four – tasks. You'll immediately be made to feel appreciated.

Enjoy getting down and dirty with archeology? Well, about one-half mile up the road, at the foot of Acotes Hill, sits the Dr. Reuben Mason House. According to Gloucester Historian Edna Kent, we can trace this homestead at least to 1756. Its most famous resident was surgeon to General William West's brigade in early American Revolutionary War battles. And now the task for dedicated GHS members is to uncover those origins, and it's best done with patience, shovels, and brooms. The RMH Steering Committee would love your input—and back, and arms, and legs, and...

Since its move to a shady knoll behind Town Hall and its restoration, the Evans Schoolhouse (circa 1856), still needing a lot of finishing work, has been taken under the wing of Harry and Pauline Anderson. Its white paint shines on a summer morning, and it's likely, should you walk by, that you'd run into one of the Andersons. They're like second parents to many of us, and their nurturing dispositions, combined with ingenuity, diligence, and patience, have fostered a loyal following. But there's always room for more! Want to pose as an itinerant schoolmistress? Have you some 19th century period clothing to hang on the entry coat rack? Perhaps you're a closet gardener, ready to assist the volunteer landscapers in all seasons and weather?

Whatever your secret driving force, whatever your raison d'être, the Gloucester Heritage Society can offer you the place to flourish. There's no better place to find community in a day and age when neighbors are in name only. At GHS, you'll extend your family, give of self, and find a sense of fulfillment that's not easy to come by in today's high tech world. (Did I mention that we could use high tech people, also, to assist with organizing our archives?)

Keep in touch ---- CF ©

GHS Receives \$\$\$ Nod from the BRVNHC

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (BRVNHC) is an incredible collection of historic buildings, roadways, and industrial roadways. But together, they're not understood as the system they once were, because the time when they were a working system has just about passed from living memory. Key for BRVNHC is to resurface that historic system – to return it to prominence --- as a recognizable and understandable spine. The Gloucester Heritage Society, with its recent award of \$10,000 to continue the work of restoring the Dr. Reuben Mason House, is an essential component of that reworking and revival.

Places that tell a particular theme are critical to supporting the overall interpretation of the Valley. Thus, the RMH and eventual Dorr Rebellion Museum is natural to this future integration. A primary strategy that the Commission continues is the development of a series of major visitor centers and museums linked to the industrial heritage of the Blackstone River Valley. Several visitor centers offering different themes and levels of services are necessary because there is no "entrance" into the Corridor. Since the RMH is situated at the gateway to Chepachet, it is the site of choice to house a prominent reception building. Visitors in the next decade are expected to rise exponentially to the region, especially spring (student groups) and autumn (foliage fans). GHS appreciates the ongoing commitment from the Valley.

(research derived from www.nps.gov/blac)

Thank You to Dino's and Brigido's IGA!

GHS has been quite fortunate to be the beneficiary of goodwill from two local merchants. Both Dino's and Brigido's IGA have agreed to donate one percent of sales receipts submitted to GHS.

Keep those receipts, please! Susan Doucette has agreed to coordinate this program, and she gladly gathers receipts at GHS General Meetings (third Monday of each month). If you are unable to attend, please feel free to mail your receipts to Sue's attention at GHS, PO Box 1181, Chepachet, RI 02814. Thanks again, Dino's and Brigido's IGA!

The Crier

News from the Evans schoolhouse

by Harry Anderson

A map of the Western Hemisphere (circa 1850) that had been on a roller and used for decades by teachers of Glocester's kids who went to the Evans schoolhouse now is framed and protected by polyglass and hung on the east wall of the schoolhouse. Much gratitude goes out to Ray Colwell, who gave the map to the GHS.

It's a large map --- 5'5" x 5'5" -- and in its frame weighs about 45 pounds. The materials it's printed on is linen. The minimal water damage and other signs of aging sort of enhance it. Pegasus Art & Frame on Swamp Hill Road in Greenville -- really, a man named simply "Carl" -- took on the immense challenge to frame this outsized map. He had to completely configure his workshop to do the job. He says, "I fell in love with this map." A close analysis of the mitered corners of the frame and the perfect positioning of the map within it show Carl's artistry.



The cost of preserving the map is paid for by a grant from the RI General Assembly via Senator Fogarty's office. Thanks again.

A 48-star American flag, donated by Henry and Glennis Beltram, now hangs in the schoolhouse.

Fritz Benz, an active volunteer in numerous enterprises in his hometown of Scituate, has extended his generosity to the GHS by building four benches with native pine boards. Using a sketch of a 19th century bench given him by Edna Kent, he has masterfully replicated it. The benches now enhance the interior of the schoolhouse.

Fritz has also volunteered to finish up some odds and ends in the restoration project, such as putting in thresholds at the two entrances and installing hardware in the two doors that will make the building more secure.

More than \$300.00 has been received in memory of Rose Evans McManus, the granddaughter of Daniel Evans, who had had the schoolhouse built.

Gary Tucker is overseeing the making of a bronze plaque that lists the names of people who have contributed to the restoration of the schoolhouse. The plaque will be affixed to a granite stone that will be placed affront the flagpole.

Because of Norma Lohr's idea to enlist the efforts and expertise of Ponaganset High School's agriculture department, headed by Loren Andrews, to help beautify the schoolhouse grounds, students, under Mr. Andrews' direction, have planted trees and bushes.

Did you know... on page 205 of a coffee-table book entitled *America's Country Schools* (Andrew Gulliford), published in 1984 by the Preservation Press, Washington, D.C., appears a photo of the Evans Road schoolhouse, one of four such structures to represent RI that is shown in this fascinating study of schoolhouses across America. How about that!

Thanks to Kevin LaVoie, who persuaded Barnes Concrete Company to donate cement. The foundation is ready to receive Madeline Ryan's outhouse, which she has donated to the GHS.

Texts that may have been used by pupils of the Evans schoolhouse in 1885 and on into the 20th century have been donated by Ann Dalquist.

GHS Goals: the Restoration of Dr. Reuben Mason House

And the eventual opening of the Dorr Rebellion Museum

Dr. Reuben Mason House Unveiled to the Public

*Dramatic Day of House Tours, Invited
Dignitaries, and Historic Recreations
Draws Hundreds to Benefit*

As one drove by the Dr. Reuben Mason House site on Rt. 44 at the entrance to Chepachet village, color, light, and action filled the scene.

It was Saturday, June 5th, the kick-off fund-raiser for GHS' newest restoration project: the Dr Reuben Mason House restoration and the future Dorr Rebellion Museum, coordinated under the watchful eye of Gloucester Historian Edna Kent.

A canvas tent had been raised on the property's west side, and under it the Providence Brigade Band played period music of the 1800s on period instruments in period costume for over 30 minutes. The crowd of invited guests and happen-chance onlookers listened and relaxed. The Newport Artillery circled the grounds, and the Gloucester Light Infantry stood poised, muskets in hand, ready for their traditional festive rifle fire finale.

Honored guest speakers included Senator Paul Fogarty, Representative Nicholas Gorham, Attorney James Marusak. Each spoke with great passion about the cause of restoring this important building and of commemorating the life and legacy of Governor Thomas Dorr.

**Help out at the Dr. Reuben
Mason House on weekends.
Call Edna Kent (568-8967) or
John Doucette (968-2242).**

Interestingly, the day had an unexpected and pleasant turn of events. Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor visionaries Bob Billington and Michael Creasey presented Rose LaVoie (GHS President), Harry Anderson (grantwriter), and Edna Kent (historian) with a \$10,000 check. This award will help the Dr. Reuben Mason House Steering Committee to continue stage one planning.

After the introductory activities, guests were invited to tour the Dr. Reuben Mason House for the first time and learn of the restoration project and building's fascinating and varied history. Interpreters Edna Kent, Marjorie Swift, and Tom Sanzi (the latter portraying Dr. Reuben Mason) answered questions as guests toured. The first floor was decorated with antique furnishings for the keeping room (loaned by Robert Leach), photographs by Frank Stevenson that detailed archaeological findings so far, period artifacts from the GHS archives (researched and identified by Edna Kent and John Doucette), battery powered candles (donated by Kathy Rechter), framed letters (loaned by Pat Mongeau), framed painting (loaned by Kent Cameron), and plants (loaned by Chris Brissard at The Junction).

Upon exit, Steve Hanley (GHS vice president) and Harry Anderson explained to guests how they, too, could help make a difference toward the success of the project. Options ranged from buying an "I Helped Save the Dr. Reuben Mason House" button to upgrading to a pledge drive package that included GHS membership, T-shirt, button, and subscription to *The Crier*. Carolyn Fortuna sold t-shirts designed especially for the occasion by local graphic artist, Kate Malmborg and produced free of charge by Abaca Press, Buffalo, NY.

The food committee (Glennis Beltram, Pauline Anderson, Susan Doucette, Ann Lowell, Carolyn Farnum, and Evelyn Sampson) unveiled a tantalizing selection of finger foods, cheeses, fruit, deli samples, cakes, cookies, muffins, and candies donated by GHS members.

When the event was over, Tom Sampson and 'Andy' Andrews returned to the Gloucester Fire Department the folding chairs they had raised so many hours before. The thermometer posted on the front of the Dr. Reuben Mason House (thanks Don Lacasse) continued to rise toward its eventual goal of \$500,000.

While that end is not in sight yet, it is clear that the GHS, Gloucester and surrounding communities, and people who recognize the important work of historic preservation are behind the efforts to see the Dr. Reuben Mason House restoration to full completion and to the eventual opening of the Dorr Rebellion Museum.



**GHS/ Dr. Reuben Mason House
Steering committee wishes to
extend heartfelt thanks to
everyone who offered generous
time and effort at the June 5th
Benefit for the Dr. Reuben Mason
House restoration and the future
Dorr Rebellion Museum**

Thanks to Henry Duquette (liaison to the Providence Brigade Band), Dottie Leach (publicity), Gary Tucker (electricity), and members, friends, and guests for all their support.

The Crier

Looking Back to the Last Quarter

Gardeners' Plant and Shed Sale

On May 22nd the gray clouds held their moisture so spring gardeners could welcome the first Society Gardeners' Plant and Shed Sale at the Job Armstrong Store headquarters. Coordinator Carolyn Fortuna allowed that she "... was a little nervous about piloting a new event at GHS. But the turnout of donations and volunteer help was wonderful! As Hillary says, 'It takes a village.' "

This very successful fund-raiser was made possible by the efforts of Pauline Anderson, Glennis Beltram, Susan Doucette, and Ann Lowell (elephant tables and refreshments) and the many contributions by GHS members. Special thanks goes to Steve Hanley, who donated his family's antique white wicker furniture to the event. Those sales alone will feed the Job Armstrong oil tank next winter for several months.



"Chepachet is Our Prized Commodity"

Glocester's former Main Street Coordinator spoke at the April GHS General Meeting about fund-raising opportunities for our organization. Dave Balfour, who sits on the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission, chairs the board of directors of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, and is heard on radio station WOON in Woonsocket, detailed many of the historic events and artifacts that are based in Chepachet. Dave reminded the GHS membership that we are "ambassadors" to the area, and that each of us has the wherewithal to inspire the Society to great heights.



Among the topics Dave discussed were a sword hanging in the Masonic Lodge attributed to Thomas Dorr, the 1914 streetcar that the Providence Public Schools used to visit Acotes Cemetery, and the Masonic Order's role, historically, as the oldest "fresh water lodge" in the country. We thank Dave for his time and continued interest in the GHS mission.

We couldn't do it without you!

We have so many people to thank this quarter! Many people donated personally and financially to the Gardeners' Plant and Shed Sale, to the Dr. Reuben Mason House benefit, and to the Evans schoolhouse. Not to be overlooked, Shirley Greenhalgh donated a 1924 quilt made and signed by the parents of pupils in Hortense Steere's class on the occasion of her marriage.

The Crier

"Origins of the "Ancients and Horribles" Parade," by Edna Whitaker Kent, Glocester Historian

Background history of this event is found in newspaper articles, meeting minutes books, interviews and personal recollections. The "Horribles" goes back to the Knockers (men's) Club in 1906 when they dressed in their wildest 'ugly' outfits and marched from the Baptist Church down Main Street to "circle the square" (Dorr Drive and Douglas Hook Road).

The "Ancients" parade was held on July 25, 1914 during the grand Trolley Day Celebration, when every mode of early transportation available from baby carriages and goat carts to lumber wagons and stagecoaches paraded Main Street to herald the arrival of the trolley at Chepachet.

In 1927 the Christian Endeavor (young couples club) at Chepachet Congregational Church, the Reverend Elden G. Bucklin and parade chairman James Whitaker offered a family event on July 4th called "Ancients and Horribles" Parade. The purpose was to keep young people from going out of town and getting in trouble or hurt with fireworks on the holiday. Chowder and clam cakes, hot dogs, soda and ice cream were an added incentive, followed by silent movies in the evening. Proceeds of their successful day went toward the next year's parade.

While January snows swirled about the door, a small group of dedicated individuals would meet each year at the Congregational Church to plan the next parade. Up to 1930 fireworks completed the evening but were discontinued "due to setting fires", so a magician was substituted to fill out the evening's entertainment.

In 1935 prizes for the best entries added inspired competition and a hush of secrecy in the weeks before 4th of July. Barns, garages, enclosed backyards and huge canvasses concealed guarded creations under construction destined to win the grand prize.

Listed as the "first peacetime demonstration since 1941" the 1946 celebration featured the Chepachet Fire Company's carnival held on the front lawn of the Chepachet Grammar School after the parade. The Ferris wheel was set at the very corner of the lot at Douglas Hook Road and Chepachet's Main Street. An added attraction for adults was a raffle for a new Chevrolet.

In the beginning the parade route began at the Baptist Church, turned at Rt 44 and Chopmist Hill Road intersection, and returned to the Congregational Church. The starting point was changed in 1946 to the Grange Hall, turning at Halbig's corner (Rts 44 & 102) and returning to the Congregational Church. Again, the parade was extended, turning at Ella's (Rts 44 & 102). As parade entries grew more numerous assembly space was chosen on the ballfield at Acotes Field.

The parade was reversed again in 1973 since its formation size had outgrown the ballfield. Today the parade forms at the intersection of Rts 100 & 98 on the road to Pascoag and disbands at Acotes Field.

Chepachet has played host to a remarkable panoply of satirical, patriotic, comic, historical, religious, futuristic, beautiful and horrible spectacles. If it could be imagined, it has probably been seen in the "Ancients and Horribles" Parade.

Glocester Heritage Society Minutes of General Meeting May 17, 2004

The general meeting was preceded by a presentation by Carolyn Fortuna and Edna Kent. They outlined the activities planned for June 5th to kick off the Dr. Reuben Mason House restoration fund drive.

Rose LaVoie, president, called the general meeting to order at 8:00PM. A list of those members in attendance is attached. The minutes of the April 19th meeting were accepted as presented and filed. The Treasurer's report showed the electric bill to be over \$100 for the previous month. It was decided to shut off the refrigerator for a month to see if it makes a difference. The report was accepted and filed.

Old business –

Evans schoolhouse

Fritz Benz, a cabinetmaker, has finished 4 benches that are in place. His labor was donated and he has offered to finish the remaining "odds and ends" for the cost of materials. The membership was happy to accept his offer. Gary Tucker has provided an estimate of \$950.00 to engrave and install a bronze plaque on the grounds – approved by unanimous vote. Lauren Andrews (PHS) will plant dogwood, lilacs, and hydrangea in June and have students plant bulbs in the Fall. The first monthly raffle netted \$59.00 for the treasury.

New business –

It was voted to send a note of thanks and \$25.00 to Corey Beltram for securing a display case for the JAS. The GBA will be holding a Business Fair at the Chepachet Union Church the day of Peddlers' Fair. They have offered GHS a table to display information about the Society and pledge cards for the Dr. Reuben Mason House restoration fund. Interviews will be held on May 20th with 2 architects who have expressed interest in the Dr. RMH project.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole A. Fry
Recording Secretary

The Crier

GLOCESTER HERITAGE SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 269
CHEPACHET, RI 02814

GLOCESTER GLOCESTER HERITAGE SOCIETY ... bringing history alive!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday July 15,
6:00pm on the
lawn of the Evans
Schoolhouse



2004 Heritage Day
Sunday, August 15th, 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Main Street
Chepachet, RI

Admission is free and vendors are welcome!

Vendor form available on-line at www.glocesterheritagesociety.org

**General Meetings Reconvene on Monday,
September 20, 7 p.m.**

A representative from the Rhode Island Foundation will discuss characteristics that define a community foundation, including the best use of funds to meet community needs, involvement in civic affairs, identifying and attaining philanthropic goals, and a sense of "community" that overrides individual interests and objectives. Come see how your financial legacy can benefit a non-profit like GHS.

Existing members: you'll be notified at time of renewal. Thank you for your support!

Membership Form

Name _____
Spouse's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____

Please make check payable to the **Gloucester Heritage Society**.

Single: \$15 Family: \$25 Seniors/ Students: \$10 Contributing: \$50 Patron: \$100 Benefactor: \$250 Life: \$300

Are you able to receive this quarterly newsletter via e-mail? It would save the GHS publishing and postage costs. E-mail editor at c4tuna@aol.com