Glocester Heritage Society

President's Message
By Harry Anderson, GHS President

I am exactly halfway into my term of office, and it has been an exciting ride! So much for the good has been happening. In March, Nancy Brown presented us with a $1,500 check on behalf of the Clayville Historical Society; and another check for $5,000 was given us by the Kilmartin Foundation. Both gifts start our climb toward a goal of $50,000, the architect’s fee to design the Dorr Museum.

We are working doggedly to put in place the details for the June 23 Dorr March event. Because they grasp the significance of it, Bob Billington, President of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council; Lorraine Provencher, the Blackstone Valley’s Footsteps in History coordinator; John English of the Historical Society of Smithfield; Christo-
pher Martin, Corresponding Secretary of the Johnston Historical Society; Hal Welch, a National Park Ranger; and Lesa Nash of Nash Design, have come to assist us.

“Who’s he kidding?” Some people may scoff. “He wants $50,000? No way.” To them I answer, “A half million bucks we got to save the Pettingell/Mason House and to landscape its grounds. What do you say about that?” To all you readers, I whoop it up; “Come on, take a look around. There’s excitement in the air. Join in!”

The bylaws state that the Board of Directors shall consist of five elected officers and the chairs of committees appointed by the President. Its duties: “It shall have general oversight of the Society’s activities and finances; fill vacancies arising between annual meetings; assess membership dues.” Serving until November 19, 2007, the following make up the present board of directors:

<table>
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<th>Officers</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tr>
<td>Harry Anderson</td>
<td>934-0511</td>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>568-7160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Bowie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>568-8095</td>
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<td>Lauren Andrews</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>568-5622</td>
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<td>Eunice Hindley</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>934-0511</td>
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<td>Pauline Anderson</td>
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<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
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<td>Chairperson(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carolyn Fortuna</td>
<td>568-6826</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Rossi</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jeffjrossi@hotmail.com">jeffjrossi@hotmail.com</a></td>
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Hospitality Committee
Glennis Beltram 568-7468
Henry Beltram 568-7468
Buildings & Grounds
John Doucette 968-2242
Frank Bucci 764-0776
Publicity Committee
Rose LaVoie 567-5306
Membership Committee
Frank Stevenson 568-4016
Community Outreach Committee
Tom Carrazzo 714-6525
Historian & Local Lore Committee
Edna Kent 568-8967

UPCOMING EVENTS
Heritage Plant Sale May 19
Job Armstrong House 9 a.m.
Perennials, shrubs, houseplants, and donations from local nurseries.

General Meeting May 21
Job Armstrong Store 7 p.m.

Dorr Museum March 23
March originating in Slatersville, North Scituate, and Greenville for reenactment in Chepachet

Take note: The next general meeting is Monday, May 21, 7 p.m., at the Job Armstrong Store, at which time plans for the June 23 Dorr March will be reviewed

The Board of Directors 2007
You have probably noticed while traveling Route 44, a dearth in construction activity at the Reuben Mason House. The reason? We are moving from Phase 1 to Phase 2, or from completion of structural and exterior work to the startup of interior work. Involved are a number of issues such as: resolution of a few remaining Phase 1 items on a punch list; preparation of plans and specs and establishment of bidding procedures for Phase 2. Lastly, and most importantly, there is fundraising.

We have a policy that we do not start a new phase until all required funding has been obtained. To date, we have spent about $275,000 with approximately $200,000 remaining to spend in order to complete. Fifty thousand dollars of the remaining $200,000, we have on hand with another $50,000 available subject to match funding. One hundred thousand dollars will fulfill our match funding requirements and also complete Phase 2. At this point, the building will start to look like the museum it is eventually intended to be.

In the meantime, we look to our readers, subscribers, members, friends, and all those who believe in the significance of historic preservation to join us in this last lap effort to raise $100,000 from the community. We look forward to your support.
Thomas Wilson Dorr, champion of our voting rights and the People’s Party leader, which elected him Rhode Island governor in 1842, will again have his message heard in Glocester.

The Dorr Rebellion, which ended in Chepachet in June 1842, will be remembered on June 23, 2007 as militia troops retrace the march into Chepachet from three directions. Brief reenactments will take place at the future Dorr Rebellion Museum (field hospital for the state’s troops) 1043 Putnam Pike and Tavern-on-the-Main (which was Dorr’s headquarters).

Militias will assemble to parade with fife and drums to the Baptist Church where speakers will reveal Dorr’s struggle for our voting rights, and musical selections will be presented by Atwater/Donnelly.

Chowder and clam cakes and other food concessions will be open from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Baptist Church serenaded by music from the Heritage String Band. “Sutlers’” tents selling period wares will be at Town Hall.

This is a fund-raising event to support the interior completion of the future Dorr Rebellion Museum at the Pettingell/Mason house east of Acote’s Hill.

Edna M. Kent serves as honorary Town Historian for the town of Glocester.

**Volunteer Spotlight**

**Salute to:**

**Henry and Glennis Beltram**

Congratulations, Henry and Glennis Beltram! You are chosen to be in this issue’s Volunteer Spotlight.

The Beltrams, long-time members of the Society, work quietly behind the scene. For example, out of her oven come the most delicious sweets that she serves to us at the end of every meeting; and those are complemented with coffee that he perks. What a boost to everyone’s spirits are those deserts and perfectly brewed coffee! But much, much more than that they donate to the Society.

At every event, most notably Heritage Day and Peddlers’ Faire—Henry and Glennis hold the fort, doing whatever is needed to be done: selling raffle tickets, setting up vendors, welcoming visitors. It was they who arranged for Boy Scout Troop 44 to raise the flag during the dedication of the restored Evans schoolhouse. They helped paint the walls of the schoolhouse. Also (few know this), they mop and dust the Job Armstrong Store’s floors and walls and keep vigilance on its oil burner and aging timbers.

They now chair the newly formed Hospitality Committee and serve on the Board of Directors. Their commonsensical input in the planning for June’s Dorr March is of great value.

Thank you, Henry and Glennis, for your generosity of spirit. You are an exemplar of volunteerism at its best, without which non-profits like the GHS could not stay viable.

Indeed, eyes are on us!
JOIN THE DORR MARCH ON JUNE 23, 2007!

“I will not compromise the people’s rights.”

Dorr Rebellion Museum
1111 Putnam Pike • Chepachet, Rhode Island

MUSEUM MARCH REGISTRATION

MUSEUM MARCH REGISTRATION FEE: $10.00

GOAL: EACH PARTICIPANT IS ASKED TO RAISE $100 (OR MORE!) IN PLEDGES. PLEDGE CHECKS MAY BE MADE PAYABLE TO "GLOCESTER HERITAGE SOCIETY" WITH "MUSEUM MARCH" NOTED IN THE MEMO LINE.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DORR REBELLION MUSEUM MARCH FUNDRAISER: COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL YOUR CHECK TO THE GLOCESTER HERITAGE SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 269, CHEPACHET, RHODE ISLAND 02814.

NAME: ____________________________

MAILING ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________

CITY: ____________________________ STATE: __________ ZIP CODE: ___________

PHONE: __________________________ E-MAIL ________________________________