

Job Armstrong Store

Thursdays and Saturdays
11 to 2 pm

Open — weather permitting

We sell books, cards, note paper, 1790 maps, cups shirts, bags, elephant & Dorr Rebellion items. Our famous cookbook “Taste of Gloucester” is in its 6th printing and is available for \$24.95.

Exhibits and Phetteplace Scrapbooks may be seen on the 1st floor

NEW
Broadsides
11” x 15 1/2”

Chepachet
Pascoag • Harrisville
Mail Stage - 1849

Stagecoach
Providence to Springfield
via Chepachet

Great Gifts
Suitable for framing \$10



Gloucester Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

January 2008
Volume 41, Issue 1

President's Message

It has been forty-one years since Barbara Westcott, Molly Harrington and I were requested to rally townspeople interested in forming an historical society in Gloucester. They met at the Library Hall in bone-chilling January and February weather to organize a formal group: Our Gloucester Heritage Society.

With a noble and ambitious mission statement in hand they proceeded. William Gerold, the first president was ideally suited with a background in architecture, history, photography and a penchant for organization. It was a good fit. Each leader, in turn, has brought a new dimension of growth.

From the beginning good fortune has blessed the Society in the form of challenges met and won. When a cause is right, things seem to fall into place — many times with unsung ‘angels’ working behind the scene.

Our most formidable cause is now the creation of the Dorr Rebellion Museum. With Phase II (interior work) starting this year, the list of “to do’s” is a long one.

Also, there’s much to be accomplished at the Armstrong Store. So, whether it’s filing, computer, archives, exhibits, society photographer, or making curtains, I hope you will come, become inspired and offer a helping hand. Maybe you have a good idea. We need all of you. Call me. You are welcome.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year!
Edna Kent 568-8967

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 — “Andy” Andrews 568-8095
Recording Secretary — Camille Bucci
Corresponding Secretary — Eunice Hindley
Membership — Frank Stevenson, Carole Fry
Hospitality — Henry & Glennis Beltram
Building & Grounds — Frank Bucci 764-0776
Jeff Rossi - jeffjrossi@hotmail.com
Publicity — Rose LaVoie 568-5306
Historian — Edna Kent 568-8967
Webmaster — Jill Stevenson
Newsletter — Lesa Nash

Directors

Glennis Beltram, Roland Rivet, Frank Bucci

Gloucester Heritage Society

Job Armstrong Store
1181 Putnam Pike
P.O. Box 269
Chepachet, RI 02814

Phone 401-568-8967

E-mail: info@gloucesterheritagesociety.org

Website: www.gloucesterheritagesociety.com

A 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation incorporated 1967 to preserve and maintain town historical and aesthetic values and objects.

Schedule of Events

General Meeting Monday — February 18 - 7pm -
Dr. Clifford Brown “Behind the Scene” Tyler and Dorr Rebellion

General Meeting Monday — March 17 - 7pm

General Meeting Monday — April 21-7pm

***Dorr Rebellion Gala Monday April 30 at Crystal Lake, Route 102, Harrisville**

***Plant and Gardeners’ Sale — May 17**

*Check our website for updates www.gloucesterheritagesociety.com

Gloucester Town Hall

fairly gleams since its much-need restoration and landscaping. During the January thaw the last of the new brick-colored doors were being installed.

*It's a building
to be proud of!*



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Dorr Rebellion Gala


Dinner - Silent Auction - Raffle
Wednesday evening April 30th
at **Crystal Lake**, Route 102 Harrisville
Gloucester Heritage Society will present
a special award to Kevin Kitson “Citizen Extraordinaire”
\$50 per person
Rose LaVoie, Chairperson

Check our website for updates: www.gloucesterheritagesociety.org

Thank You!

**Dino's Park & Shop and
Brigido's IGA
for their sales slip program.**

It has become vitally important toward paying our overhead at our headquarters in the Job Armstrong Store. Well over \$1,000 each year has been received during the last three years.

 *Please save your grocery tapes and bring them to meetings.*

And — it's Sue Doucette who records all these wrinkled and folded grocery tapes. We appreciate your willingness to take on this task, Sue. **Thank you!**

Thank you Kevin Kitson, head of the Community Service Program, for seeing to it that our grass was mowed — when our mower broke down, also, raking and snow removal at Job Armstrong Store during Candle Light Shopping.

*Elmer Leach
Remembers...*

During a serious ice storm in the 1920's when three high steel electric towers went down due to the weight of ice, John Steere's thick electric service wires were suspended on chestnut poles kept Chepachet village 'aglow'. When asked how that could be, Mr. Steere said proudly "Why, those chestnut poles just bent over and straightened up when the ice let go."

*From recorded interviews by
Richmond Kent*

Pettingell/Mason House Update

Several small exterior details are to be completed as soon as weather and carpenters' schedule allows. This will, then complete Phase I. Invitation to bid is now being written for an architect to draw up interior plans (Phase II).

The 'mechanicals' (electric, furnace, etc.) are projected to be installed this year - funded by a grant from the Champlin Foundation.

A tour of the building is planned in June.

Museum Board — John Doucette, Robert Leach, Edna Kent



Our annual Peddlars' Faire was held Saturday November 17th, (after the required fire and building inspections were made). It was a great success with 13 vendors participating. Booths of various giftwares were offered as well as our famous Gloucester Cookbook and other G.H.S. historical items.

New this year was the very successful Wreath & Basket Raffle run by Carole Fry.

Candlelight Shopping followed in December on Thursday evenings with 9 vendors in our Armstrong Store. Luminaries adorned the street lending a vintage Christmas appearance. Participating shops and organizations were; Town Trader, Brown & Hopkins, Old Stone Mill, Old Post Office Antiques, Harolds, Christy's Liquors, Tavern-on-Main, Masonic Lodge, Chepachet Fire Company, and Gloucester Light Infantry. Masonic Lodge sponsored Bell Ringers and Santa Photo-op and Old Stone Mill hosted Virginia Sinclair and students flute music. These events have become a Christmas tradition destination.

Henry & Glennis Beltram, Chairpersons

The Wreath & Basket Raffle brought in \$936. A round of applause to the committee; Carole Fry, Norma Lohr, Jeff Rossi, Robert Balme, Carolyn Fortuna and all the supporting businesses who created their own wreath and basket designs. These funds go directly to Armstrong Store overhead expenses.

In Memoriam

Clint Gustafson 1922-2008

GHS Past President

Long-time member & friend.

Memorial contributions may be made
to the GHS Endowment Fund

*Additions to the Gloucester
Heritage Society Archives*

**18 small Sunday School Books
1852-1860**

Pine Tree Chapel, East Gloucester,
Evans School and Harmony Chapel
Thank you Paul Anderton

Teacher's register book

Cherry Valley, Pine Orchard &
Brown District Schools
Thank you Craig Place

Photo of Children seated in classroom
at old Chepachet Grammar School

Photo of upper-grade students on
steps of old Chepachet Grammar
School (c.1930's?)

Thank you Gertrude Hopkins

Sledding to Providence

"I remember an especially big blizzard near the end of the war... 1918. The snow covered our 4 1/2 foot-high picket fence and the trolley was shut down for days... The Pascoag branch train also had trouble getting out our way. My sister Amey was attending Brown University and.. was allowed only a certain number of 'cuts'." Snowbound, she might fail her courses, so she decided to walk to Providence (18 miles). Cousin Edna Paine, who worked in Providence agreed to make the trip with her.

With a sled and food, they set out over the surface of the hard encrusted snow. Their plan was to walk up the hills and slide down the other side. On the level, one pulled, the other rode.

They walked down Putnam Pike to Absalona Hill and slid down to Bessie Phillips' farm, walked, then slid down into Harmony. In Greenville they slid down Barnes Hill and "probably stopped for hot chocolate at Walcott's" (now Apple Valley Mall).

Leaving their sled at Chadwick's House in Greystone, they "walked into Centerdale and found that the trolley was running to Providence. Amey passed her courses, and Edna got to work, both staying with friends until trolley service to Chepachet resumed."

From Looking Back, by Helen Steere Brown

Did you forget?...

*Yes... I want to support the Gloucester Heritage Society
in restoring and preserving local history*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please make your check payable to:

Gloucester Heritage Society

P.O. Box 269, Chepachet, RI 02814

Type of membership

☐ Single \$15

☐ Senior \$10

☐ Student \$10

☐ Family \$25

☐ Lifetime \$300