Within a few steps from the south door at Masons’ Hall stood a little building known as Carpenter’s Store. (see photos on pages 28 & 32 in images of America photo book.) In 1948 salvagers claimed the 198 year old building “sound as a bullet” and was tough to tear down.

In 1750 the store was built near the public whipping post by Timothy Wilmarth for his son Joseph. The Wilmarth family sold it to William Green in 1818 for $3,000 who transferred it to William Valentine the very next year.

Sensing the “business boom” in Chepachet, Jesse and Scott Armstrong (Job’s father and brother) purchased the structure in 1825. Politics may have pressured their decision to sell to Alexander Eddy in 1840, when Dorrites were outnumbering the “tried and true” Law & Order party in the region.

The Carpenter Store appears to have been named after Elias Carpenter, Jr. who purchased it in 1906 and let it to “Little Annie Reuben” Steere for her Lunchroom & Confectionery, and, later, to Mrs. Williamson whose chowders warmed the palates of trolley passengers returning from Providence.

— Edna Kent, Town Historian

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**Schedule of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Peddlar’s Faire, GHS/GBA Christmas Party at Tavern-on-Main, Bring a gift for the Yankee Swap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Candlelight Shopping and wreath raffle drawing on Main Street Chepachet</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Candlelight Shopping and wreath raffle drawing on Main Street Chepachet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Candlelight Shopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Candlelight Shopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>(No Meeting Scheduled)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>General Meeting “President’s Day”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Peddlars Faire**

Saturday, November 22 – 9am-4pm

Featuring:

- Hot Foods Vender
- Christmas Country Crafts
- Yarn and Knitted Items
- Hand-painted glassware
- Jewelry
- Handcrafted Soaps
- Antique Bank Notes
- Band Boxes
- Kitchen Items
- RI woven wool blankets
- Painted Slates
- Hooked Rugs
- Gift Baskets
- GHS Cook Books
- 1790 Maps of Glocester, etc.
- Matted photos ready for framing
- Wreath Raffle Tickets (drawing December 4)

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**Candlelight Shopping**

on Chepachet’s Main Street

December 4, 11, 18 Thursday evenings 6-9pm

**Wreath Raffle Drawing**

December 4th at the Glocester Heritage Society

**Shop Local** - Support Glocester Businesses

Glocester Businesses support the community

(see Glocester Business Association Guide)

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**Glocester Heritage Society**

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

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**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

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**Officers**

President – Edna Kent 568-8967
Vice President – Rose LaVoie 568-5306
Treasurer –
Recording Secretary –
Corresponding Secretary – Eunice Hindley
Membership – Frank Stevenson, Carole Fry
Hospitality – Henry & Glennis Beltram
Building & Grounds – Frank Bucci 784-9776
Jeff Rossi - jeffrossi@hotmail.com
Publicity – Rose LaVoie 568-5306
Historian – Edna Kent 568-8867
Webmaster – Jill Stevenson
Newsletter – Lesa Nash

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**Directors**

Glennis Beltram, Roland Rivet, Frank Bucci
Astrid Scott

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**Newsletter**

Volume 41, Issue 4

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**GHS/GBA Christmas Parade**

December 4, 11, 18 Thursday evenings 6-9pm

**Wreath Raffle Drawing**

December 4th at the Glocester Heritage Society

**Shop Local** - Support Glocester Businesses

Glocester Businesses support the community

(see Glocester Business Association Guide)
**Potting Hill Mason House Update**

While we had hoped to see window candles glowing in the Reuben Mason house this holiday season and heating and alarm systems installed, all interior work has been postponed until a museum consultant can be found to coordinate with an architect - per state officials’ requirements.

*“Good things come to those who wait”*

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**Heritage Day —**

(A good day despite the weather).

The September 28th dawn revealed a heavy mist and intermittent light showers with only 10 of the 26 vendor-applicants setting up. Chowder and clam-cakes were sold at the fire station to warm everyone’s spirits.

Although dampness prevailed throughout the day many customers ventured out. Vendors were encouraged by the good attendance, and have agreed to come back next year.

Roland Rivet, chairman, announced over $1000 has been received (benefit of J. Armstrong Store) and he promises to chair Heritage Day 2009.

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**Wolf Hill Enigma**

At our October meeting, an interesting twist was quickly decided upon when it was discovered that no oil was available to heat downstairs. (A new oil tank had been installed and testing was yet to be done.) The second floor Reading Room was made cozy and warm and 16 members enjoyed Jim Ignasher’s program “Wolf Hill Enigma” – a history/mystery of aircraft accidents on Wolf Hill in Smithfield.

Many questions and lively discussions continued over coffee and apple squares - thanks to our congenial hosts Henry and Glennis Beltram.

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**Footsteps in History**

Columbus Day Weekend (October 11th, 12th & 13th)

- **Saturday, October 11th -** An exhibit was held at the Free will Baptist Church - A remarkable collection of original documents (1753-1800’s), found in the dump in the 1930’s when the Town Clerk’s office was moved, filled 10 tables. Thanks to Dr. Clifford Brown and Town Historian, Edna Kent - who spent days putting it all together. MORE to come next year!!

- **Sunday, Oct 12th -** The Job Armstrong Store was open Sunday

- **Monday, Oct 13th Two docents oversaw tours of the Reuben Mason House**

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**Chepachet Mills Exhibit**

Photos and surveyors maps showing the location of early mills can be seen in the large glass case on the south wall of the Job Armstrong Store. This display has been created by student Kate Taylor under the direction of Edna Kent, Historian.

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**Job Armstrong Store**

Now that heating season is again upon us with high oil prices, the number of days we use the building may need to be cut to a minimum.

**January - February - March**

Store open by appointment only, call 588-8967

We sell books, cards, note paper, 1790 maps, mugs, shirts, bags, photos, historic broadsides, elephant & Dorr Rebellion items. Our famous cookbook “Taste of Gloucester” is in its 6th printing, still only $24.95.

Exhibits and Phetteplace Scrapbooks may be seen on the 1st floor. Reading room & archives (by appointment) 2nd floor.

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**Awards**

Our good friend, Robert Billington was honored with the “Creative Achievements in Humanities Award” from the RI Council of the Humanities at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, October 20.

This summer, as President of Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, he also was the recipient of the “Tourism for Tomorrow Destination Award” from the 2008 World Travel & Tourism Council. Robert Billington writes to us; “This (award) also belongs to YOU. Your support has helped bring the community together, opening it to a new economic potential”

Congratulations on these very prestigious awards!!

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**Memo**

Please save your Dino’s or Briggs’ grocery slips. They help with our overhead expenses. Bring them to meetings and place in box on filing cabinet near bathroom door.

Thank you.

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**GSA Businesses for all their contributions to GHS events.**

**Nancy Greene** for the office filing and volunteering as temporary recording secretary

**Robert Leach** and his tractor for moving Reuben Mason House lawn & field

**Charlie Wilson & Roland Rivet** for transporting from N. Attleboro the barn frame loom for use in the museum

**Marie Jennison Dance Studio Students** (Greenville) for cleaning the Windsor-Hunt Cemetery on Route 44, also, Kyle Cunningham and Brett Whitecross for trucking off 30+ bags of clippings.

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**In Memoriam**

Patricia Zeitlin 1926-August 4, 2008

Long term GHS member

George O. Steere, Sr. 1914 - August 22, 2008

Chepachet native & husband of Kathryn Steere - GHS member

Hazel Chase 1927 - August 21, 2008

Chepachet neighbor & friend

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**Wanted**

**GHS Treasurer - a vital position**

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**Donated to Archives**

- Framed lithograph- Thomas Wilson Dorr from Ed Grasso
- Nine antique glass and porcelain books from Bill Drohan
- Booklets “Annual Ball” Stumble Inn, September 29, 1950, from Nancy Greene
- Program: “70th Anniversary of the Dorr War” July 18, 1912, from Nancy Greene
- Glass candy/cookie jars for the store from Nancy Greene
- Rag Rug Maker which belonged to Jesse Mason’s mother from Pete Mason
- “Read & Pottery”; Apple Box Lid from Roberta Paine
- 6 x 6 x 6 Barn Frame Loom, circa 1740-1780, for the museum from Martha Maynard of North Attleboro
- Two Factory bobbins from the 1814 mill from Rose Lalonde