

# Job Armstrong Store

Thursdays and Saturdays 11 to 2 pm

Open — weather permitting

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.

**NEW**

Souvenir bottles  
of R.I.'s own  
**Autocrat Coffee Syrup**  
Excellent addition to  
Gift or "Care" Packages for  
out-of-state relatives or friends.

**Broadsides 11" x 15 1/2"**  
Stagecoach Era

**Great Gifts**  
Suitable for framing \$10



# Gloucester Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

April 2008  
Volume 41, Issue 2

## Dorr Rebellion Gala & Silent Auction — April 30 To benefit the Dorr Rebellion Museum Wednesday April 30, 2008 Crystal Lake Golf Club 100 Bronco Highway Burrillville, Rhode Island

*RSVP by April 23, 2008*

Register online at [gloucesterheritagesociety.com](http://gloucesterheritagesociety.com) or make check payable to  
Gloucester Heritage Society, P.O. Box 269, Chepachet, RI 02814

### • Memorial Day – Monday, May 26 – 10am

Gloucester Light Infantry extends a cordial invitation to GHS members to march in the parade. Please sign in before the parade at GLI Armory, corner of Dorr Drive and Douglas Hook Road or call 714-1708 A.S.A.P. Parade sets out from the Baptist Church - 1213 Putnam Pike at 10am.

### • Dorr Rebellion Days – June 20/21

We are encouraged by public acclamation toward our efforts through the years to heighten awareness of the importance of Dorr's Rebellion which culminated at Chepachet. Dorr's struggle for the fairness of voting rights extends to our rights today. This year Gloucester Light Infantry will host the State Militias' Encampment. They plan a spectacular "NIGHT CANNON-FIRE" Friday evening June 20th. Saturday activities include re-enactments, marching drills, demonstrations. Public invited to visit encampment – Saturday 3-5. Watch for details in the Observer or on our website.

### • GHS Bake Sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 10-2

at our headquarters at Job Armstrong's Store.

Co-chairman: Glennis Beltram & Pauline Anderson.

### 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 –  
Recording Secretary –  
Corresponding Secretary – Eunice Hindley  
Membership – Frank Stevenson, Carole Fry  
Hospitality – Henry & Glennis Beltram  
Building & Grounds – Frank Bucci 764-0776  
Jeff Rossi - [jeffjrossi@hotmail.com](mailto: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  
Astrid Stott

### 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](mailto:info@gloucesterheritagesociety.org)

Website: [www.gloucesterheritagesociety.com](http://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

April 21	Monday,	7pm	General Meeting Program "7th RI Infantry in the Civil War"
April 30	Wednesday	6pm	Dorr Rebellion GALA & Silent Auction at Crystal Lake, Rt 102, Harrisville
May 19	Monday	7pm	General Meeting
May 26	Monday	10am	Memorial Day Parade
June 16	Monday	7pm	General Meeting
June 20/21	Friday/Saturday		Dorr Rebellion Days in Chepachet
June 21	Saturday	10-2pm	Bake Sale at Job Armstrong Store 1181 Putnam Pike



### Gloucester Heritage Society

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



# Thank You!

**Jill & Frank Stevenson  
for their continuing  
support, keeping our  
website current.**



## Memo

Please save your DINO'S or BRIGIDO'S grocery slips. They help with our overhead expenses. Bring them to meetings or send to P.O. Box 269, Chepachet.

## Wanted

- **Recording Secretary** - to take notes at meetings, type them for permanent record and read them at the next meeting.

- **Filing Clerk** - to file reports in our office Thursdays or Saturdays.

- **Treasurer** - Our most dedicated Treasurer, Andy Andrews has handed in his resignation due to ill health. We were missing his professional knowledge already as he deposited his five boxes of files in the president's living room. It is a vital position that we sincerely hope can be filled soon.

## Trees

The mighty elm will be staging a comeback thanks to the Gloucester Conservation Commission's G.H.S. member Roy Najecki who announced the offer of free elms to be planted at the Pettingell/Mason house. Others may be planted along Main Street (where allowed).

## Pettingell/Mason House Update

The RFP (request for proposals) (Phase II) for an architect to design house interior is now being reviewed by Roberta Randall at RI Historical & Preservation Commission. Installation of "mechanicals (ie-electric, plumbing, heating, etc) may begin in the Fall with funds already granted to us from the Champlin Foundation. "Good things come to those who wait"

### "Behind the Scenes"

Our February meeting was a banner evening with Dr. Clifford Brown, political science professor at Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., who held us spellbound with "Behind the Scenes" – President Tyler's role in controlling the 1842 Dorr Rebellion. Several LaSalle students jotted notes for their history reports, and participation from the audience elicited even more fascinating facts in a Q&A session at the end. The room hummed with inspired discussion well after the program was finished. Refreshments were served by our ever – congenial hostess, Glennis Beltram.

## From an unpublished text by Gardis Thayer

### "Dorr Rebellion..."

Charles Slocum was one of the Dorrites. (his wife) Lydia Olney Slocum was heart & soul with him and proof of her loyalty, named her baby daughter born that time – CANDACE DORR WILSON SLOCUM" (The Lydia Slocum house is now "The Town Trader")

Historian's note: Since deeds do not reveal a land transition during the 18th Century it is likely that the building was passed down in the Olney family to Lydia who married Charles Slocum in 1833, Lydia's great-grandfather was Capt. Joseph Olney whose daughter, Dorcas married Dr. Reuben Mason. When Dorcas died, Dr. Mason's and Dorcas' only son James came to live with Capt. Joseph Olney and Esther (Smith) Olney, in the house now known as the Town Trader.



## Hats off!

**Along the street  
there comes**

**A blare of bugles,  
a ruffle of drums,  
A flash of color  
beneath the sky,**

## Hats off!

**The flag is  
passing by!  
Blue and crimson  
and white it shines,  
Over the steel-tipped,  
ordered lines.**

## Hats off!

**The colors before  
us fly,  
But more than the  
flag is passing by.**

Henry Holcomb Bennett

**Memorial  
Contributions  
may be made to  
G.H.S. Endowment  
Fund. Your donations  
are tax deductible.**

*Earth Day -  
April 22  
Make every day  
Earth Day!*

### Excerpts of a —

## Letter from Elizabeth Mullins

*1981 (Owner of a gristmill in West Gloucester)*



Photo above not actual mill (facsimile)

*"I would have  
liked to have seen  
Nelson Plant's  
gristmill restored...  
Its first location  
was in Pascoag.  
I was told by  
Everett Burlingame  
that his father  
bought it from,  
I believe, Frank  
Sayles and moved*

*it to the Burlingame place. Neighbors... helped him reassemble it.  
Burlingame Reservoir was its source of power...  
an up-and-down sawmill (was) there...*

*In 1936 I bought the Eddy Pray farm, formerly owned by S.S. Sweet  
on Old Gristmill Road, West Gloucester. The original house was gone,  
but gristmill & carriage shop, barn still survived.*

*1870 Atlas (shows 6 gristmills): John Steere, A. Hawkins & Son,  
J. Peckham, S.M. Paine, Nelson Plante and mine.*

*Nelson had a stand on Rt 44 at the road to his place. We bought honey,  
jellies, blueberries, vegetables and cornmeal from him...*

*On one visit to the mill the cobwebs were covered with a green...  
powder.. (He was) grinding alfalfa for a doctor in Riverside who made  
alfalfa tablets for his patient."*

The state of Rhode Island purchased the property to preserve it. However, the buildings presented a liability and all were destroyed.

First person historical information like this expands the knowledge of the town's history.

Perhaps you, too, have a memory of a person, place or event that – without your written testimony, will never be a part of Gloucester's history. Write it – please – so it can be added to our archives.