

# GLOVER HISTORY

*Providing for the Future, Remembering the Past  
1783-1997*

Vol. 6, No. 1

Glover Historical Society, Inc.

Winter 1997

## President's Report

### Runaway Pond

Runaway Pond was foremost in our thoughts a year ago. We dreamed of moving the monument and creating a mini-park at "Dry Pond." We "buckled right in and tackled the thing that couldn't be done and we did it!"

Fill was added to the median between the roads, thanks to the town of Glover. The cold spring water was piped to the new site. Five concrete bases were poured for the monument, mill stones and water works. A bronze tablet was installed on the back of the monument explaining the 1810 event. The mill-



Addison Graves (a grandson of GHS President, Wayne Alexander) traces words on Runaway Pond monument. Photo by Bethany Dunbar

Gravel, Calkins Sand & Gravel, Carroll Concrete, E. M. Brown & Son, Garon-St. Sauveur Granite Co. and The Little House Desktop Publishing, all who gave of their time, talents, equipment, materials, etc.

One millstone was donated by Lisa and Richard LaClair; the second millstone was donated by Amy and Dale Leroux. Both these stones originated from Glover grist mills. The third "millstone" that was on site (and put there by Edward Pudvah

stones were set for tables and the water is flowing.

More work is yet to be done this summer. We need permanent legs for the mill stones, top soil, seeding, landscaping with flowers and shrubs, and stone work on the water works.

Expenses of about \$2,000 would have drained our treasury but about \$1500 in cash donations was given by, and thanks to, some very generous members.

Very significant contributions were also made by Merle Benway, Royce Conley/Mark Colburn, Thompson

about 1953), is probably a wheelwright's stone and came from West Glover.

This mini-park we have created at Runaway Pond seems to be well accepted by the public and is something of which Glover can be proud.

### The Museum

The Museum in the Municipal Building is well managed by Jean Borland, who has taught many school children about Glover history, genealogy, etc. Artifacts and memorabilia are gladly accepted. Family genealogies are welcome for our files and possible future publications.

### In Memoriam

The GHS has recently lost several of its members: Edwin Gittleman, Robert Young, Florence (Cook) Alexander, Dorothy Sinberg, Mazel Rogers and Warren Alexander passed away in 1996, Richard Alexander on January 17, 1997.

### Membership

Glover History Society membership is now 111. The cost is \$5 for an individual or \$8 for a family. Please join and invite a friend to do so also. Dues are now payable for the calendar year. Note your expiration date on the mailing label.

*History of Glover* books are still available for \$18 at the Municipal Building.

### Postscript

A 19 year old Glover girl, Edith Francena Aldrich, wrote in her diary on Friday, July 1, 1898:

"Picnic at Dry Pond. Went, did not have a very good time." (Perhaps the Rev. Edwin Alexander was pestering her!)

The picnic area was the northwesterly part of Runaway Pond used 12 years later for the 1910 celebration when the monument was dedicated.

This area was excavated for its gravel when the state rebuilt Rt. 122 in the 1950s. At that time 2000 cubic yards of crushed stone were stockpiled at the side of the pit late one day. It was found to have sunk out of sight into the pond by the next morning—according to Hugh Stone, Sr.

—Wayne Alexander

# Glover Historical Society Runaway Pond Park

The weather was chilly and damp, but the mood was bright last July 20 when the new Runaway Pond Park was dedicated. A crowd of people sheltered under umbrellas and raincoats gathered in the rest area across the highway from the old lake bed to see the new home of the Runaway Pond monument and hear speeches, a song and a poem that described again the catastrophic event that gave Glover the distinction of having the first man-made ecological disaster in the New World. The new bronze plaque attached to the monument gives a brief explanation of the event to the passerby.

The dedication ceremony capped months of work by members of the historical society to ready the site of the park and lay the foundations for the monument and the millstone picnic tables. Just a few days before the event a crew from Garon-St. Sauveur of Newport had moved the 4900 pound granite marker from across the road down nearer the outlet of Runaway Pond and placed it on its new foundation. The marker was originally set on the other side of the road in 1910, during the centennial celebration of the "letting out of Long Pond" sponsored by the Orleans County Historical Society. An estimated crowd of 2,000 people gathered for the June 6th dedication, when the road beside the



The monument is moved by Garon-St. Sauveur of Newport.  
Photo by Julie Alexander

old lake bed was just a narrow dirt track.

But the location of the monument had become less desirable as time went on and the transportation mode changed from horse drawn carriages to fast moving automobiles. Since 1910 the road has been widened, built up and paved, and the monument's proximity to the road put it in danger from the snow plow, salt and road dirt. The Glover Historical Society decided to move the marker to a place where people could stop to view it and take a look at the old lake bed that was the pond that ran away.

The ceremony to dedicate the new Runaway Pond Park opened with Pete Cocoros playing the national anthem on his trumpet. Warren Tyler gave a welcoming speech. Reverend Joy Toll led an invocation. Then Randy Williams played his guitar and sang a song about Runaway Pond written by Margaret MacArthur, based on the epic poem by Harry Alonzo Phillips. Afterwards Peggy Day Gibson read a portion of the poem.

Historical Society President, Wayne Alexander, told the story of the letting out of Long Pond. The ceremony ended with the start of the "Run, Chamberlain, Run" Race, re-enacting the momentous run of Spencer Chamberlain, when he raced ahead of the flood to rescue Aaron Wilson's wife from the gristmill along the Barton River.

Later that week a group of Historical Society members went back to the monument to

bury within its foundation the time capsule carefully prepared by Betty Putney and her committee. Among the items in a six foot long PVC pipe are a jar of quicksand from the old lake bed, copies of the Glover Historical Society newsletter and a roster of its membership, a copy of the newspaper article about the event, a program from the 1910 centennial celebration and one from this year's dedication, a booklet of the Harry Alonzo Phillips epic poem of the letting out of Long Pond, a photograph of the Glover Community School students taken in May, a T-shirt for the "Run, Chamberlain, Run" 5.5 mile road race, and an audio tape of "The Ballad of Runaway Pond."

The new Runaway Pond Park promises to be a favorite roadside picnic spot. Already people have been filling their jugs from the piped springwater flowing out of the stone waterworks.

—Peggy Day Gibson

## From the Museum...

Seventy-seven donations were made to the Glover Historical Society in 1996. For example, Barbara Wright very generously donated several Civil War items, also a tuning fork, a rubber stamp that A. A. Webster used in the post office, and her handmade wool baby socks.

As donations are given they are catalogued and added to the various scrap books or sections in the rooms.

We appreciate all of the donations and would list them all if space allowed. You are what keeps the Glover Historical Society rooms interesting. Come and visit us and give us new ideas.

—Jean Borland

### Glover Historical Society, Inc.

Municipal Building  
Glover, VT 05839

#### MEMBERSHIP FOR 1997

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.# \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Family Membership - \$8.00 (spouses, children under 18)

\_\_\_ Single Membership - \$5.00

\_\_\_ Additional Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check your address label for your membership expiration date.*

## Ralph and Hannah Parker

Once upon a time there was an old settlement on the hill above what the local people call Parker Pond. The mistress of that settlement was one Hannah Hoyt (Hayt) Parker, wife of Ralph Parker Esquire, the lawyer and



real estate agent, sent by General John Glover to sell off 23,040 acres of land that he bought in 1781, after the Revolutionary War.

Hannah Parker was born in Lanesboro, Massachusetts, in 1776, the sixth daughter of Sara and Ezra Hoyt. Hannah's father was a merchant. In 1786, he moved his family to New Haven, Vermont, where he continued his profession and became a "man of considerable prominence and wealth" in his community.

Ralph Parker was born in 1772 and was said to have once resided in New Haven, Vermont. Perhaps that's where he met Hannah. They were married on September 19, 1793. They built their house (on lot #116) in 1798 in the big field at the settlement and built the tavern the following year.

Hannah was an herbalist and lay healer (and probably a nurse-midwife). She had a wonderful garden which grew between her own house and the tavern. Some of her herbs are still growing wild up there today. Hannah was said to be a "superior woman, affable, generous, very kind to the sick, often going three to four miles to watch with them."

Ralph and Hannah had six children of their own, four sons and two

daughters. Donald Penfield Parker was the first child born in Glover. Ralph maintained an "ashery" for the production of raw potash. Hannah kept the store and the tavern. In 1802, Ralph became the legislator from the town of Glover, a position that he held until 1814. He also served as town clerk from 1805-1813. In 1803, Ralph built a sawmill for Ira Allen in Irasburg, at the site of the present Black River Sawmill.

Hannah and Ralph spent 18 years together in wedded bliss. In the fall of 1811, an epidemic of spotted fever (chicken pox) swept through this area and 20 Gloverites died. It was said to "attack the most robust" of people. We believe that Hannah, being one who travelled miles to sit with the sick, also became a victim. She died one month before her 35th birthday. People came to her funeral on horseback from as far away as Derby Line. The Reverend Salmon King, the first pastor of the Congregational Church of Greensboro, delivered the eulogy. It was the first eulogy to be printed in Orleans County.

Hannah was buried in the West Glover Cemetery. Her grave is marked by a white, very unusual stone approximately 5' tall, 3' wide and 3" thick. It reads:

"In testimony of that respect and esteem which is due to departed worth, this monument is raised by an affectionate husband. Mrs. Hannah Parker whose remains are here enclosed was the wife of Ralph Parker Esquire. She died at Glover on the 16th of August 1811 age 34 years 11 months."

It seems that Ralph could not continue living at the settlement after losing Hannah. In 1815, he and his children "removed" to Rochester, New York, where he remained until his death in 1852. After Ralph died, his sons returned to the old settlement to look for the old homestead. By then, there was no trace of it left, not even the stone at the front stoop.

-Betsy Day

## Glover Historical Society Financial Statement

Jan 1, 1996 to Dec. 31, 1996

<b>Starting Balance:</b>	<b>Checking</b>	<b>\$ 729.74</b>
	<b>C. D.</b>	<b>1,444.46</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,174.20</b>

<b>Income</b>	
Membership Dues	780.00
Donations	1,585.00
Sale of History Books	290.00
Sale of Video Tapes	70.00
Map Sales	93.50
Bake Sale (Glover Day)	146.00
Burt Porter Concert	109.67
C. D. Interest	73.52
Misc.	27.30
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,174.99</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
Insurance	226.00
Newsletter	403.00
Postage	178.50
Supplies (Copier labels, sheet protectors, etc.)	66.92
Runaway Pond Project	1,858.30
Misc.	8.50
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,741.22</b>

<b>Final Balance:</b>	<b>C. D.</b>	<b>1,517.98</b>
	<b>Checking</b>	<b>1,089.99</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,607.97</b>

-Martha Alexander, Treasurer

## A Surprise Gift

Currier's Quality Market sold enough Ben & Jerry's "Peace Pops" to qualify for a credit of \$702. Jim and Gloria Currier chose to assign the check to the Glover Historical Society. We are very grateful. It will help us finish Runaway Pond Park this summer.



## Glover Day, 1996

Well, July 20 was a fine warm sunny day for us to celebrate our first annual Glover Day. Not!!! In fact, it was the exact opposite; a cold windy rainy day. I heard it said that we had better weather than this in February. That's the weather in the Northeast Kingdom for you. But in spite of foul weather, it didn't seem to dampen spirits all that much.

The affair was sponsored by both the Glover Ambulance Squad and Glover Historical Society. Thanks to the big circus tent lent to us by Bread and Puppet, most everybody had a swell time.

It was a day for the town to celebrate

itself—past, present and future. The main event was the moving and rededication of the Runaway Pond monument at the rest area park across Route 16 from Long Pond. Following the ceremony, there was a "Run, Chamberlain, Run" road race from the park back to the fire station, 5.5 miles, masterfully coordinated by Bob Townsend. We had about 40 runners including Bob Kinsey who brought up the rear to make sure nobody got lost along the way. Meanwhile, under the big tent there was lunchtime music provided by Burt Porter and family. The Ambulance Squad had a giant bakesale, the Parent's Club sold popcorn, there were specially designed "Run,

Chamberlain, Run" T-shirts (which are still available) for sale, the Old Stone House raffled a quilt and the Fire Department cooked hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch. The Ambulance Squad offered free blood pressure tests. There were frog races and a dunking cage (which sadly went unused because of the weather). Later that evening the Glover Church had a two-seatings chicken pie dinner, both of which were filled to overflowing.

The day accomplished one of our main ongoing goals, to make our community aware of its heritage and the importance of preserving it. Plans are already in the works for a similar affair next summer.

—Randy Williams

### GLOVER HISTORY

An occasional publication of the  
Glover Historical Society, Inc.

Municipal Building, Glover, VT 05839

President ..... Wayne Alexander  
Vice President ..... Bob Clark  
Secretary ..... Randy Williams  
Treasurer ..... Martha Alexander

#### Additional Board Members

Jean Borland      Peggy Day Gibson  
Gisele Clark      Rita Lombardi  
Jim Currier      Carolyn Perron  
Betsy Day      Edwin Urie

Manager of the Museum: Jean Borland

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## Warning!

The Annual Meeting of the Glover Historical Society will be held at 7:00 pm this year, and on Wednesday, July 9, 1997. It will take place at the Municipal Building (unless we decide to have a picnic at Runaway Pond Park). Election of officers is the principal agenda item.

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**NOTICE:** The Glover Historical Society can now be found on the Internet as a Local Historical Society link from the Vermont Historical Society's home page. Look for it at the following address:

<http://www.cit.state.vt.us/vhs/lhs/essex.htm#Glover>