

History Comes Alive in New CD from the Gloucester Hornpipe & Clog Society

They sing about Old Ironsides, a Boston Harbor ghost, the Massachusetts State Schooner (the *Ernestina*), the Massachusetts State Heroine (Deborah Samson), and the sea-serpent of Cape Ann -- and now they've recorded these and nine other selections on a CD entitled "Liberty!" The Gloucester Hornpipe & Clog Society will celebrate its new recording on Saturday, Nov. 22, in a concert at the Calvary Church on Mass. Ave. in Arlington.

The CD features the band's lively mix of Celtic jigs and reels, Colonial-era tunes, sing-along sea chanteys, and original songs written about colorful people and places from New England's rich history. Three of the group's members are from Boston and three from Arlington. The CD was recorded at the Arlington studio Straight Up Music, owned and run by sound engineer Larry Luddecke.

In addition to vibrant vocals and harmonies, the band features fiddle, flute, banjo, tin whistle, accordion, dulcimer, and guitar. Founder David Rosen plays the age-old delights of bones, spoons, Irish drum, and a unique instrument called the pogo-cello -- a combination rhythm instrument and pogo stick. Various members also play the group's washtub bass, which adds a most amazing thump to the sonic landscape.

Along with traditional melodies, the band performs songs written by its members. These include "The Ballad of Deborah Samson," about a Middleboro woman who served in the Revolutionary War disguised as a man, and "The Lady in Black," about the ghost of Georges Island in Boston Harbor, both written by Diane Taraz. Lynn Noel's "Patent Leather Waltz" celebrates the memories of women who worked in New England's shoe mills, and John Berger's "Castle Island Waltz" is a sweet melody named for that seaside spot near his South Boston home. The group covers Jim Bean's "Lovely *Ernestina*" and Daisy Nell's "Full and By," which honor the five schooners that remain of the 4,000 built in Essex in previous centuries.

The concert, **fun for all ages**, starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Calvary United Methodist Church, at 300 Mass. Ave., near Walgreen's in East Arlington. Admission is \$8. The church is handicap-accessible via elevator. For more information, call 781-648-3719 or visit www.hornpipe.org.