



Gouverneur Historical Association

30 Church Street
Gouverneur, New York 13642
(315) 287-0570



TO: Members and Hopefully New Members
FROM: Joe Laurenza

The Gouverneur Museum has had another wonderful year with over 1,100 visitors. For several years our visitor count has been just over 1100.

For our newest members, I decided to do a brief history of the museum as many may have forgotten how our museum came to be a reality. In 1974 the Presbyterian Church decided to sell the Manse. The Gouverneur Historical Association voted to purchase the building and turn it into a museum, hopefully by July 4, 1976 as a 200th birthday gift to the area. The Gouverneur Museum officially opened its doors on that date.

The museum houses over 1,700 artifacts and over 170 scrapbooks that are invaluable to those doing genealogy. About 15-20 new items come in each year and this year a bumper crop of scrapbooks (12) were also donated, and will be finished being cataloged by the end of winter.

We had two very successful Rock and Gem Shows, one in December and one in August. They brought in over 300 visitors. St. Lawrence County has the greatest variety of minerals in the eastern part of the United States. Bill deLorraine, President of the St. Lawrence County Rock and Mineral Club, spearheaded these two exhibits. A thank you also goes out to his wife Joanna who helped him set up for the two shows, and also to the other specimen contributors.

The Gouverneur Garden Club did a fantastic job with their Christmas decorations again this year. Sandy Wyman, museum board member and garden club member, is already planning this Christmas's decorations. This year's December attraction along with the Christmas decorations, will be a model train exhibit thanks to Dwayne Martin, a model train collector and enthusiast, and museum board member.

We loaned the Gouverneur School District several pieces from the mid-1800's for their musical, "Little Women, The Musical". The student performers were wonderful, and it was nice to see our "goodies" on stage with them.

We continue to update our web site, and if you have never checked it out, I think you will thoroughly enjoy it. Our address is: gouverneurmuseum.org

The museum, in conjunction with the Gouverneur Cemetery Association, hosted another fundraiser. This year they raised over \$4,000.

We have had a very successful fund drive to make the museum more handicapped accessible for seniors and others. We raised over \$15,000 for two stair chairs, one to the cellar exhibits and the other up to the second floor library and exhibits. The cost is \$15,600 and donations are still coming in so there is no doubt in my mind that we will cover the cost. The donations have come in from not only Gouverneur area residents, but also ex-Gouverneur residents who reside all over the United States. The upstairs unit was used by someone on the day after its installation.

As many of you probably know by now from reading the Gouverneur Tribune Press, Phillip Hanlon, son of Dr. Hanlon, who grew up in Gouverneur, was selected as the new President of Dartmouth College. The museum archives was able to provide Dartmouth with information and photos of Phillip's life in Gouverneur for a magazine article.

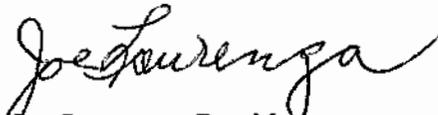
Our archives also provided information for a book by Glenn Pearsall "When Men and Mountains Meet". The fourth chapter is all about Gouverneur and Gouverneur Morris. Glenn will be at the Gouverneur Library, Monday, November 4, 6:30 p.m. for a book signing and talk. All are invited.

A busy year of research. We were contacted by 31 individuals or businesses for information on previous Gouverneur area residents or businesses. The results we were able to provide were: just what they wanted to know, some of the information they were seeking, or no luck at all from our archives. While the scrapbooks are very helpful, they are in no way the answers to all inquiries.

The other eight board members are: Marilyn Scozzafava, Julianne (Dudy) Alt, Jon Jackson, Tania Sterling, Anna Easton, Ron Taylor, Gerald Lum, and Joe Weekes.

The museum has no paid staff and is operated by over 40 volunteers. Your membership dollars and any donations go towards utilities, heat, and insurance.

A BIG "Thank You" to all our volunteers. The hundreds of hours they donate are the reason for our success.


Joe Laurenza, President