



Gouverneur Historical Association

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Gouverneur, New York 13642
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TO: MEMBERS AND HOPEFULLY NEW MEMBERS
FROM: Joe Laurenza
DATE: October 2015

The museum continues to receive visitors, over 1000 this year. New members and donations of both artifacts and dollars keep us afloat. Our community truly supports keeping history alive in the Gouverneur area and the museum board is very grateful for that support.

Our Christmas decorations bring in lots of visitors each year and we are pleased that the Gouverneur Garden Club takes on this project. They are a great group of ladies, keeping Gouverneur beautiful in the summer and us during the holiday season. Our artist show for last Christmas's season was Chuck Gonio. The reception for Chuck and visitors for holidays brought in over 80 visitors. The board is always pleased with that kind of turnout. This year's featured artist during December will be Fran Chevier, another local and talented person.

The bedroom has been redecorated with a fresh coat of paint and new wallpaper. Sandy Wyman headed up this project with the help of Diane Goodell and Aaron Fuller's workmen. Katie Pistolessi washed everything on display and ironed the linens, bought & hung new curtains, picked out the carpet runners and cleaned & waxed the floors. This project was paid for thanks to two generous donations. We are always grateful that so many people support the museum either with their time, talent or dollars.

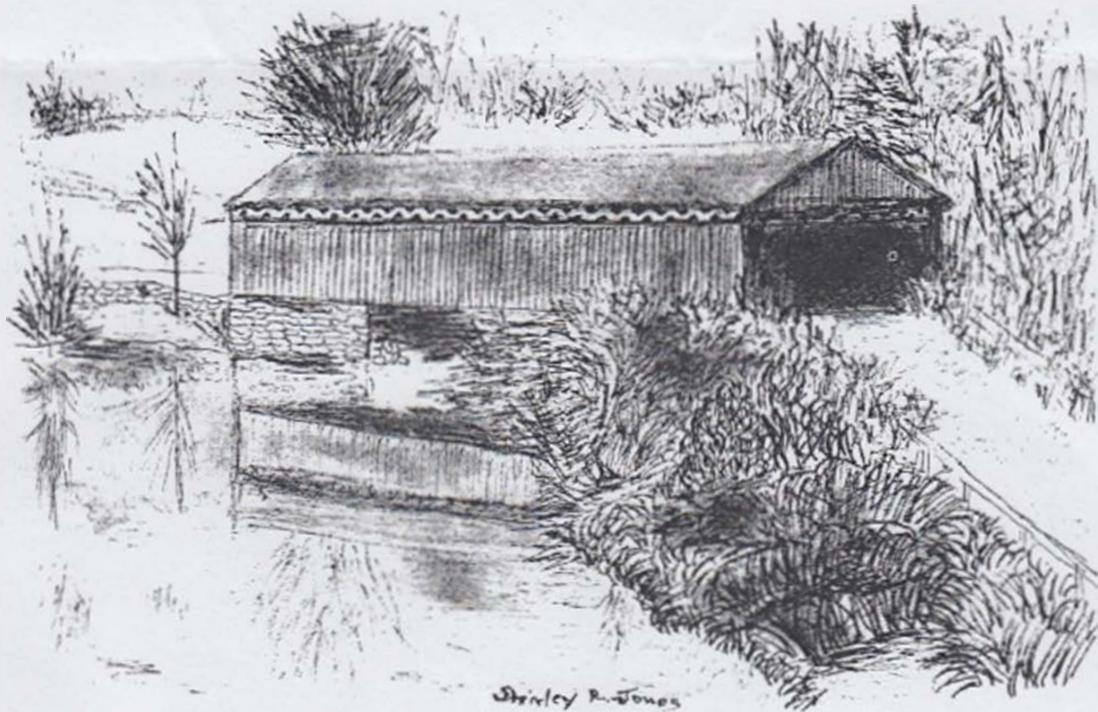
The Osbourne School, the one room schoolhouse the museum owns out on Rock Island Road, was used for a day in June by the 4th, 5th and 6th graders from St. James School. Many of the children and adults dressed in period costumes. The following Saturday the school held an open house.

This year, as in past years, the museum had tables set up in the park for Flag Day, Antiques in the Park, and Arts in the Park. Old photos were a big hit as usual and our souvenirs, post cards, etc. were on sale.

This year many requests came in from people researching their genealogy. Some of the family names researched this year were: Hennessy, Tuttle, Dodge, Goodnough/Brown, Brozzo, Forsythe, Patterson, Storie, Dygert, Murray, and Preston, Bullard, Keeler, Eager & Lansing, Draper & Whalen, Ralph Smith, and Hodgkins. Requests for information also came in for: Old West Side School photos, Gouverneur High School photos, The Surprise Store, Edward J. Noble Hospital, Roma Restaurant, Gouverneur Shakespeare Club, Rhodes & Jackson Photography, and the Burtis Building.

This summer, Melanie Miller, who is writing another book on Gouverneur Morris, came by the museum to photograph the original deed from Gouverneur Morris to the Town of Gouverneur. The deed hangs on our wall in the foyer and she hoped to include it in her book. However due to its age, 207 years and faded state, it would not photograph well. She did research and got back to us on how to prevent further damage

The new postcard below is the artwork of Shirley Jones. These cards are for sale along with the other 5 postcards of Gouverneur scenes for 50 cents. If you would like to purchase any, you can call Joe Laurenza at 323-2654 or email the museum gouverneurmuseum@centralny.twcba.com



The mailing side of the post card has the following information on the bridge: Gouverneur, New York's one and only covered bridge over the Oswegatchie River on William Street. Built in 1865 and swept away by high waters in the spring of 1866, it was rebuilt that year. Winter skating parties were held by the bridge with sometimes a hundred or more in attendance.

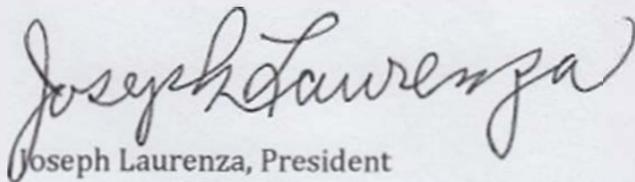
In May the museum participated in the Civil War Day at the Gouverneur Fairgrounds put on by the Gouverneur Middle School. We took over several of our Civil War Artifacts for display and explanation. Groups of students went around throughout the entire day visiting various displays: living conditions, clothing, medical instruments, etc. I also spoke about a new talented artist from Gouverneur, Edwin John Prittie at a couple of our service clubs. You can search and learn about him on our website, gouverneurmuseum.org. If you don't come to us, your museum will come to you.

In July the St. Lawrence Genealogy Club meet at the museum and people interested in how to locate their ancestors were given assistance. The club also held their meeting after several toured the museum.

We encourage you to check out our web site (gouverneurmuseum.org) periodically as new information, photos, and videos are added to keep it current. Please encourage people to visit the museum. I continually am amazed at the number of people who have lived in Gouverneur their entire life and have never been through our doors. They are amazed at our collection of Gouverneur History.

We have contracted with WPBS, our local public television station, for airtime to help increase visitors. Some will be seen in 2015 and more will continue in 2016. Several thousand dollars has been donated for this already, and the museum board will underwrite the remaining cost. Also the board has decided to put in a permanent sidewalk to the museum annex at the fairgrounds. The vocational center will provide free labor so the only cost is for the materials. The other big expense is some of the window castings are deteriorating and they will have to be removed and replaced either this year or next. The Gouverneur Museum is 113 years old, and is in excellent condition, and the board intends to keep it that way.

We appreciate all our continuing members and encourage new membership. Our board and over 40 volunteers work diligently to "Keep Gouverneur History Alive and Well.



Joseph Laurenza, President