



Gouverneur Historical Association

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TO: Members and Hopefully New Members
FROM: Joe Laurenza

What wonderful year we have had.

The Christmas decorations and train show brought in over 140 visitors and that included three groups of children, which are always fun to give tours to. With the winter we had, the Christmas decorations did not get taken down until February 22. It was difficult to schedule a time with the ice, snow and cold temps we had in January and February. Thank you to the Gouverneur Garden Club and Museum Board Members who assisted in putting the decorations up and taking them down.

The stair chair fund was extremely successful. The cost of the two stair chairs was \$15,700, and just over that amount was raised. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED!!! The donations came from not only local residents and businesses but from Gouverneur people all over the United States who had left their homes here, mostly for warmer climates. Like who can blame them, but they still support Gouverneur needs.

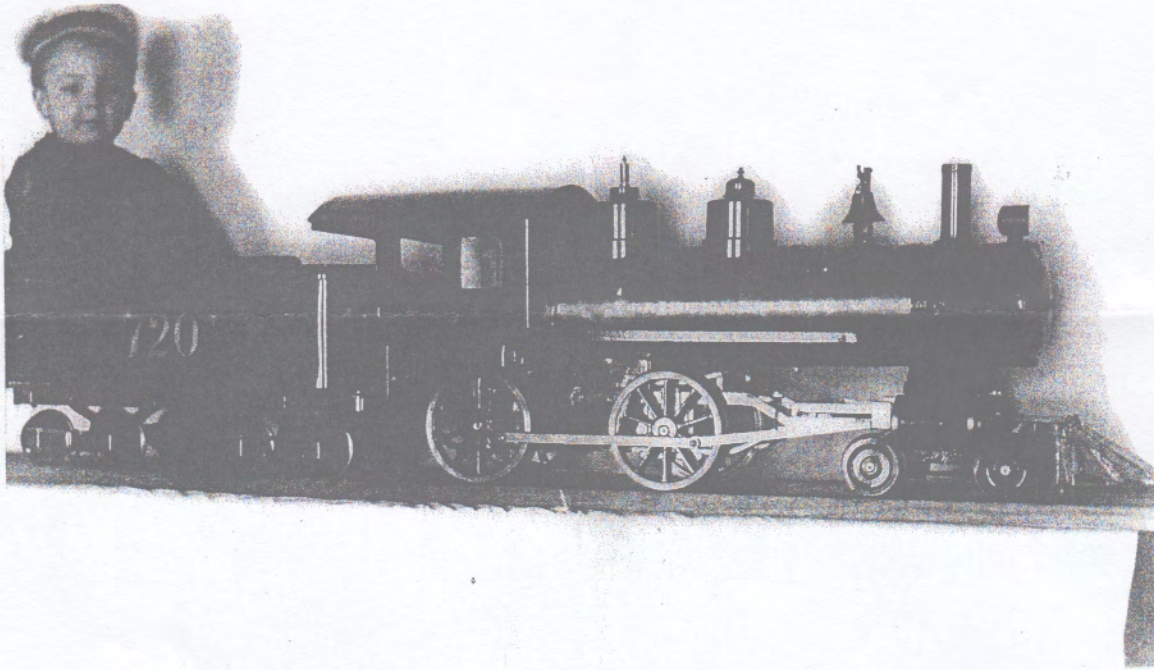
This year we were very fortunate to have Grace Woods donate many hours cleaning our doll collection. We have over 25 antique dolls in our collection, some dating back to the 1800s. I do not know when they were last cleaned, but I know they have not been since my board tenure, about 16 years. Thank you Grace.

Also new for the museum, was being asked to participate in the Civil War Day at the Gouverneur Middle School. We took many of our Civil War artifacts for the students check out. This summer we had two groups of children visit the museum, the Rec Center kids and a summer school class.

I was asked one day how many requests do we get for information regarding Gouverneur area individuals or businesses from the past. I never really thought about it, I just research the requests as they come in and hopefully find an answer to their question. My answer to this person was sometimes 3 or 4 a week and sometimes none. I would estimate that we probably field close to 100 emails and phone calls each year. People are always so pleased when we can fill in the blanks for them as they work on their genealogy.

We continue to receive artifacts from both local residents and those who have relocated to other parts of the United States. Joe Head brought in his father's medical bag (remember that doctor's use to make house calls) and several medical items that Dr. Head used in his Gouverneur practice.

Also, we received on long-term loan, the three-foot hand made train engine and wood/coal car. Come check it out and learn the history of its local maker.



Several museum board members have been busy this past summer getting ready for the above train exhibit. Hundreds of man and woman hours have dressed up the basement with cleaning and painting and some rearranging. Many thanks to all involved as this saved the museum thousands of dollars in labor.

The museum is hosting a geodes exhibit from September 17 to October 18. The specimens are outstanding. This exhibit is thanks to Bill deLorraine. This is the second show Bill and his wife Joanna have put on for us. Over 100 came to visit the mineral specimens a few years ago.

The museum volunteers were busy this summer as usual manning the fair building, Flag Day in the Park, Antiques in the Park and Arts in the Park. Again, THANK YOU to all our board members and volunteers that give us their time.

Joe Laurenza
Joseph Laurenza, President