



Gouverneur Historical Association

30 Church Street, Gouverneur, NY 13642

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Dear Members and Friends:

The Gouverneur Museum continues to attract visitors from around the country. Some are seeking answers for their genealogical questions, and others are curious about the history and heritage of the Gouverneur Area. Examples include inquiries about the International Lace Manufacturing Company and the Centennial Fountain. We have been gifted with many wonderful artifacts and love to show them off. See them in person or use the online tour to find out more. The website has information and photographs and even includes books and articles about the Gouverneur area.

We continue to encourage school-age children to visit our fantastic collection of local artifacts. In addition to several classes visiting the museum this year, the local middle school history club toured approximately 20 graves at Riverside Cemetery and learned about the past of people important to Gouverneur's history and heritage. Our newest volunteer is Jax Spicer. He visited with his 8th-grade class and expressed interest in helping out. We are excited to have him.

Unfortunately, the maintenance of our buildings continues to be a significant ongoing financial drain on our resources. Most recently, we had to remove a large tree at the Osborne Schoolhouse on County Route 11 as a preventive measure before it fell and damaged the building. We also had to replace the roof on the outbuilding on the property. Fortunately, the roof replacement on the Museum Annex at the Gouverneur Fairgrounds was paid for by the Fair Association, and we are grateful for their contribution.

Our most recent maintenance project has been the rehabilitation of one of the Museum's front porches' marble columns and repointing of the marble wall supports. Water from inadequate gutters had contributed to the washout of the underpinnings, and the column started to lean like the Tower of Pisa. The next step was to replace the gutters and downspouts to redirect the water away from the building. This has been done.

We are in the planning stages of our 50th Anniversary celebration, marking the opening of the Museum and commemorating 250 years of our country's birth. 2026 is promising to be a banner year, as many long-time Gouverneur organizations will celebrate milestones. The Gouverneur Garden Club is planning a number of events to recognize its 80th year. The Gouverneur Breast & Ovarian Cancer Fund, will observe its 25th annual Walk. In accordance with those anniversaries, the Museum hopes to collaborate with the Gouverneur Garden Club for a Spring event. And the Garden Club is exploring a partnership with the Gouverneur Arts Club to host a show of local artists. 2026 will certainly be a year of celebrations.

The enclosed Museum sticker is our gift to you, a Historical Association member, (or potential member.) Please renew your membership or join us with your donation of \$10.00 or more. We welcome all donations, large or small. Have you considered volunteering your time to the Museum?


Joe Laurenza, President