

Gouverneur Historical Association

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



TO: MEMBERS AND HOPEFULLY NEW MEMBERS

FROM: JOE LAURENZA DATE: OCTOBER 2019

The Gouverneur Museum keeps us busy with our regular and going activities. Our Museum attendance this year was over 250 and the Gouverneur Museum Annex at the fairgrounds was 287 during fair week.

Our Christmas exhibit last year was Mary Jo Whalen's collection of hand carved birds. It brought in several visitors to see her magnificent collection and tour the building during the month of December.

This year one of our big projects was having our web site designer Shari Barnhart update our site and then develop an App, so that anyone can tour the museum from their home on their cell phone or computer, manse.oncell.com. Also when people come to the museum with their phone they can go from room to room, and one of our board members will give them the tour of that room. Our newest board member Missy Tersmette came up with the idea after visiting Bolt Castle. So try touring the museum from your home of better yet come to the museum. We are open every Wednesday and Saturday, year round from 1-3 p.m. For special individual or group tours call my cell (315) 323-2654.

Another big project this year was a tour of downtown Gouverneur that the museum put together. On August 24, 20 interested people from Gouverneur and the surrounding area learned the history of: Gouverneur and Gouverneur Morris, Gouverneur Museum, Gouverneur Village Park, Centennial Fountain, Memorial Arch, Life Saver and Edward John Nobel, Presbyterian Church, Baptist Church, Library, Post Office, Wesleyan Seminary, St. Lawrence Inn, Kinney Drugs and Burt O. Kinney, Loomis Talc Offices and International Lace Mill. Also on that day the Gouverneur and Edwards Masons had a successful Chicken BBQ at the museum, they sold out.

Inquiries this year that the museum was able to provide information on from our archives were: Gouverneur Granit and Marble Company, Bowers & Company, Sylvia Lake Hotel Fire, Elinor A. Smith, Mary Fisher, DeGrasss Spencer, George Demeret, James Kearney, Alfred Frederick Billings, Reese Road, Patricia Arquette (Hair Wreath), Bolton Family, Doris Johnson, Jumbo's Diner, Mason's Jewelry Store, James Barnes, Elliott Brothers Clothing, James Scalzo, Freeman Building on Clinton Street, Hotel Gouverneur on Clinton Street, Sarah Kenyon, Sophronia Phelps, Moses Clark, Stacy Family, Caledonia Mines and the History of the Seaker Graves Building.

When people cannot find the information they are seeking on line, we get a call or email and sometimes we have what they are after and sometimes we don't. Our 219 scrapbooks, four Gouverneur History Books, old Gouverneur Business Directories, etc., are invaluable resources and can answer many questions.

If you have questions about Gouverneur or want to learn about its history or people, our web site is gouverneumuseum.org.

Museum Board Members: Joe Weekes, Marilyn Scozzafava, Melissa Tersmette, Katherine Pistolesi, Judy Brown, Jon Jackson, Charles Gonio, William Cartwright, Anna Easton, Tania Sterling, and Joe Laurenza.

Joseph Laurenza, President