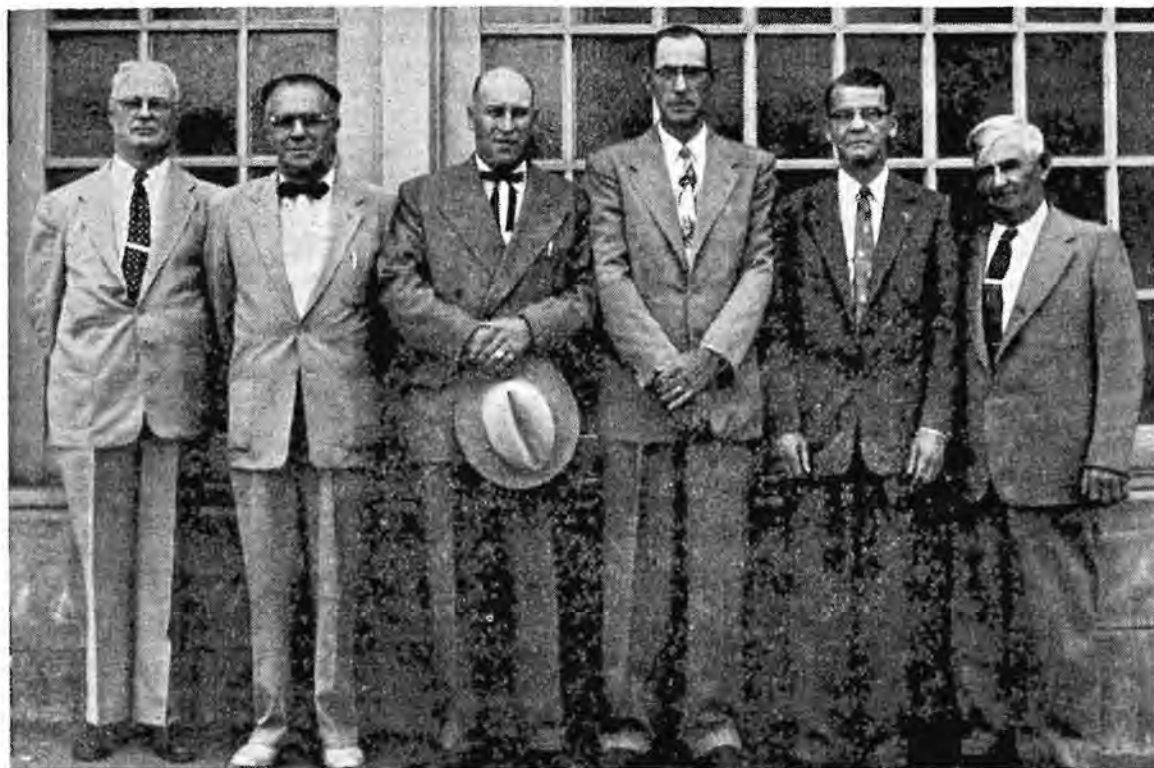


## Supervisors of Town of Gouverneur

Dr. Richard Townsend, 1811-1814; John Brown, 1815-1819; Israel Porter, 1820-1821; Aaron Atwood, 1822-1826; Harvey D. Smith, 1827-1835 and 1837; Almond C. Madison, 1836 and 1838; William E. Sterling, 1839-1840-1841 and 1843; Peter VanBuren, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845; George S. Winslow, 1846-1849; Charles Anthony, 1850-1852; Milton Barney, 1853, 1854 and 1857, 58 and 59; O. G. Barnum, 1855; Charles S. Cone, 1856; John Pooler, jr., 1860-1865; Robert Ormiston, 1866-1871; Newton Aldrich, 1872-1878; George M. Gleason, 1879-1880; Amasa Corbin, 1881; Albert K. Jepson, 1882; Capt. George Parker, 1883, (died Aug. 11, 1883) Newton Aldrich appointed to fill

out the term, Newton Aldrich, 1884-1901; all for one year terms up to this time.

Newton Aldrich elected for a two year term in 1901; Walter R. Perrin, 1903-1905; Herbert G. Aldrich, 1907-1909; George H. Robinson, 1911-1915; (The 1915 election was the first time the supervisor was elected at the time of November general election, previous to that time the elections were held in February. Mr. Robinson died in August, 1917 and Charles S. Bodman was named for the interim until the November election.) Charles S. Bodman, 1917-1923; James B. Thompson, 1925-1927; Earl E. Laidlaw, 1929-1937; George W. Parker, 1939; Ld Sheldon, 1941-1947 and Donald A. Peck, 1949-1953-1954-1955.



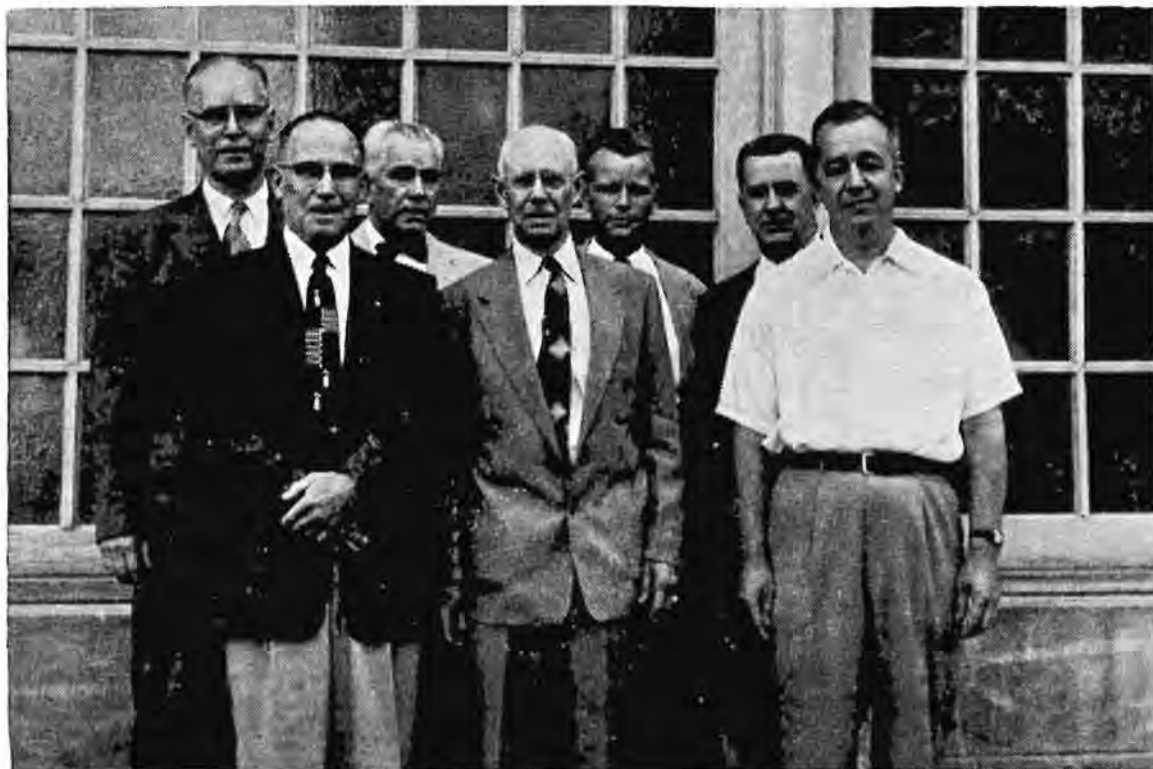
**THE TOWN BOARD IN 1955**—From left to right, Sterling L. Tait, town clerk; Ora M. Wright, Justice of the Peace; Donald D. Peck, supervisor; Frank C. Campbell, councilman; Lee C. Rich, inactive Justice of the Peace; Gomer E. Jones, councilman.

## Mayors of Village of Gouverneur

Lists of the presidents and mayors of Gouverneur Village from its incorporation in 1850 until the present, as compiled by Julius R. Bartlett, village historian:

N. D. Arnot, 1850; Peter VanBuren, 1851; John Fosgate, 1852; Richard Parsons, 1853-55; Charles S. Cone, 1856; Whitfield M. Goodrich, 1857; James D. Easton, 1858; Gilbert L. VanNamee, 1859-60; Charles Anthony, 1861; Charles A. VanDuzee, 1862-63; Charles E. Clark, 1864-66; J. Bower Preston, 1867; William H. Bowne, 1868-69-70; Sylvanus B. Stinson, 1871; Edwin G. Dodge, 1872-76; William Whitney, 1877; William H. Bowne, 1878; Alfred K. Jepson, 1879; Ezekiel F. Beardslee, 1880; William R. Dodge, 1881; Dr. James B. Carpenter, 1882; Newton W. Aldrich, 1883; Bradley L. Barney, 1884-85; George M. Gleason, 1886; John McCarty, 1887-88; Henry G. Sudds, 1889-90-91.

Gerritt S. Conger, 1892; J. Bower Preston, 1893; Arthur W. Orvis, 1894; Augustus L. McCrea, 1895; Charles S. McCarty, 1896; John E. McFerran, 1897-98; Charles Fuller, 1899; George D. Hazelton, 1900; J. Brayton Johnson, 1901-02; Arthur W. Orvis, 1903; Frank W. Sprague, 1904; David G. Scholton, 1905; Charles McCarty, 1906; Dr. Andrew Allen, 1907-08; Charles H. Anthony, 1909-10; Fred B. Fuller, 1911-12; Mial H. Pierce, 1913-14; James O. Sheldon, 1915; Charles M. Tait, 1916-17-18; Walter F. Leonard, 1919-20; George F. Dawley, 1921-22-23; Willis H. Loomis, 1924 until April; Walter F. Leonard, 1925-26; Orvis C. Baldwin, 1927-28-29-30; Henry R. Freeman, 1931-32; W. Spencer Corbin, 1933; Edward H. Vaile, 1934-35-36-37-38; Warner H. Miller, 1939-40-41-42; William C. VanSlyke, 1943-50; William H. Foster, 1951-52; Elon V. Porter, 1953; Jess L. Skinner, 1954-55-



**VILLAGE BOARD IN 1955**—From left to right in front row, Ashton E. Liscum, trustee; Jess L. Skinner, mayor; Glenn W. Miller, village engineer and village clerk. In the second row, Guy F. Baker, treasurer; Glenn W. Lehigh, trustee, Joseph E. McAllaster, trustee and Nelson B. Winters, trustee.

## First Movement for Hospital in 1904

A place to care properly for its sick and its injured in their own home town. . . that was the dream of the people of Gouverneur for many decades, but the first movement toward a hospital came in 1904 when the Gouverneur Shakespeare club advanced the idea of obtaining a local hospital by popular subscription.

At the first meeting the late Samuel W. Close, Charles B. Hawley and William J. Fint, physicians at the time, gave their support to the movement and subscriptions amounting to \$2,000 were received. But public response was not sufficient to buy an old building or erect a new building.

In January, 1914, Byron J. Hatmaker, editor of the Northern Tribune, following a successful example in founding a hospital in Penn Yan, called a public meeting to promote a 16 bed hospital in Gouverneur.

Mial H. Pierce, president of the village, was made chairman of a committee which included Henry H. Ryan, Anson A. Potter, Robert L. Kinner, Walter F. Leonard, Abram C. Gates and Howard Sturtevant, to consider the matter.

Early in February, Silas Wright Payne, a G.A.R. man and drug

store proprietor, offered free a lot he owned at Jefferson and Babcock streets for the use as a hospital site and several individuals offered to furnish a room. But the committee was stymied by the lack of sufficient funds for a building. With the announcement that a new high school would be built as the gift of the Dean family, the hospital movement was ended for the time being.

It took the disastrous influenza epidemic of 1918 to make the people of Gouverneur realize how vital was the need for a hospital. In the fall of that year, as the epidemic swept the entire country and residents of the Gouverneur area were stricken by the hundreds, it became evident that there were many people who had no one to care for them during their illness and others who lived in homes where there were no facilities to provide for the seriously ill.

Almost as one person, the community responded to the need and the demand. The second week in October the Masonic club offered the use of its rooms for a temporary hospital.

Under the direction of the Home Service Department of the American Red Cross and under the su-

pervision of Health Officer Dr. Stanley W. Sayer, the second floor rooms of the club were converted into an emergency hospital using the banquet room for women and children and the two front rooms for wards for men. Mrs. A. F. McAllaster and Mrs. W. F. Carver were locally in charge of the Home Service Department and secured cots, beds, bedding, sick room necessities and furnishings from generous donors in the village.

Mrs. Charles R. Rodgers was named nurse-in-charge, assisted by Mrs. Lottie Brown. Miss Helena Johnston and Mrs. Glenna Morgan were day nurses and Miss Jean Shaw and Miss Bernice Lawrence, night nurses.

The nurses were assisted by residents of the village who responded to the call for volunteers to help. Meals for the patients and the employees were sent in by the women of the village, and supplies such as eggs, milk and butter were sent as gifts from people in the rural area.

According to newspaper reports at the time about 29 patients were admitted from Gouverneur and from surrounding rural areas as far away as Hermon. Of these 29, 13 patients died.



**THE EDWARD JOHN NOBLE HOSPITAL** provides the most modern facilities to care for the sick and injured of the Gouverneur area. Designed to accommodate 60 patients, the building is so constructed that a fourth floor could be added to provide 40 more beds if the need should arise. The first patient was admitted on August 8, 1950.



As the epidemic abated, need for the hospital ceased and it was closed on November 5th.

Although the need for a permanent hospital had been clearly indicated, activity looking toward a hospital continued to drop off until 1922.

#### **Mrs. Lucy Turnbull**

In the fall of that year, a third drive was started—this time for a maternity hospital. Local physicians sparked the movement with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce.

In the course of a chamber meeting on the matter, the late Judge James C. Dolan, then president, announced the receipt of a letter from Mrs. Lucy Turnbull, offering her property on William street for use as a general hospital. The Turnbull home had been built about 1870 by her father, Stephen B. VanDuzee. Mrs. Turnbull's original offer was made with the understanding that it would not take effect until her death.

The chamber passed grateful resolutions on the subject and suggested naming it the Lucy Turnbull hospital. But Mrs. Turnbull requested that it be named for her father.

In June 1927, Mrs. Turnbull wrote to the S. B. VanDuzee hospital association which had been formed in 1923, stating that it was her desire to surrender her home to the committee and move into a smaller house on the property. The committee accepted the offer, and in the winter of 1928 called for bids on the remodeling of the Turnbull home for hospital purposes.

#### **The VanDuzee Hospital**

In July, 1928, a professional fund raising concern was employed and a total of \$71,953.13 was subscribed—well over the \$50,000 goal.

Mrs. Turnbull died on September 26, 1928, just as the final returns had been received.

Repairs on the building began at once at a cost of \$35,000.00 and on Sunday morning, March 10, 1929, the hospital opened for business. Originally designed as a 15 bed institution, it eventually took care of as many as 35 patients in one day.

The Dean sisters immediately came to the support of the institution and contributed generously both to the endowment fund and to annual campaigns to provide for maintenance. In their wills

the sisters left substantial amounts to the hospital.

Other individuals and organizations were generous in their gifts and bequests and the total gifts to the Van Duzee hospital during its history totalled approximately \$500,000.

In 1943 a small wing was added to the northeast corner of the original building at a cost of \$5,600, to provide a small office and room for three additional adult beds.

In 1945 the hospital association acquired the residence of the late Miss Helen I. Parker on William street, near the hospital at a cost of \$4,000. The purpose was to acquire land for the construction of a modern wing.

But after the successful drive for the new Edward John Noble hospital in the summer of 1947, the Parker home was sold.

#### **Noble Hospital**

The services performed by the Stephen B. VanDuzee hospital from the day it opened on March 10th, 1929, had been recognized by people generally, but its inadequacy as compared with modern institutions arising in other localities instilled in the minds of the people of Gouverneur a constantly increasing desire for a modern, well-equipped, fireproof facility for the care of the sick. However, World War II abruptly ended all consideration of almost everything in the way of public building.

The tocsin note for a new Gouverneur hospital may be said to have been sounded by Albert E. Boughner, vice-president of the VanDuzee hospital, at a meeting of the Gouverneur Luncheon club on March 6th, 1946. Mr. Boughner a member of the club, discussed the hospital matter from the viewpoint of adopting a plan for a public hospital—or one of the private type, and expressed the belief that a certain amount of private funds would be required, even if a public hospital should be built. Referring to the fact that people were hospital-minded and with the war now several months over, Mr. Boughner suggested that serious consideration be given to building of a 60-bed public hospital. Mason R. Smith, Tribune-Press editor, also was urging action for a new hospital.

It was the annual meeting of the Van Duzee hospital on February 3rd, 1947, that the first positive inkling of financial assistance of a major nature was given to local people. At that meeting,

the late Harold B. Johnson, editor and publisher of the Watertown Daily Times, stated that Edward John Noble, former local resident, Chairman of the Boards of American Broadcasting company and Life Saver, Inc., would participate substantially in the costs of construction of a new hospital through the Noble Foundation. The amount of such help or any details, Mr. Johnson stated, were not available at the time of that meeting. Mr. Noble's Foundation had been contributing \$100 monthly to help defray VanDuzee operating deficits.

The EDWARD JOHN NOBLE FOUNDATION, of Greenwich, Conn., a creation of Edward J. Noble for charitable and philanthropic purposes, had been operating the former Noble family home on Depot street as a convalescent home since 1944, this move being participated in by Robert P. Noble, a brother and Mrs. Kathleen Noble Conger, sister. At the February 3, 1947 meeting, the Van Duzee corporation voted to operate the Noble home. The three are children of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harvey H. Noble, and the home was built by Mr. Noble in 1884. The joint operation of the Noble home with the Noble (Van Duzee) hospital was terminated in September, 1948.

Mr. Boughner was elected president at the February 1947 annual meeting to succeed James O. Sheldon, who declined re-election.

The notice on April 30th, 1947, that Edward J. Noble would confer with the VanDuzee hospital authorities on May 16th, 1947, in the local high school raised the hopes of local people that expanded hospital facilities might become available in the not too distant future. At this meeting, Mr. Noble announced that, through the Noble Foundation, he would give \$300,000 toward the erection of a new hospital, provided that an equal amount would be raised by the community hospital area. Suitable resolutions were adopted at this meeting thanking Mr. Noble for his generous gift and authorizing a campaign to raise by public subscription the amount necessary to match Mr. Noble's gift. This resolution pointed out that there was already available approximately \$150,000 in hospital funds from bequests, so that only \$150,000 would have to be raised by subscription.

On May 20th, 1947, announce-

ment was made of the formation of the NORTH COUNTRY HOSPITALS corporation, being brought about by the Noble Foundation having made commitments to assist in the cost of construction of hospitals in Alexandria Bay and in Canton.

The financial campaign to raise the \$150,000 required got under way at a dinner at the Gouverneur Country club on June 19th, 1947, which was attended by around 100 people. Mr. Boughner, in commenting on the raising of \$150,000, emphasized that this was a minimum figure and at least a quarter of a million dollars should be raised. The fund-raising campaign was carried on by a Community Relations committee, consisting of James O. Sheldon, Andrew K. Laidlaw, Edward H. Case, Mason R. Smith, William B. Simons, Albert E. Boughner, Mrs. Dora Parker, Mrs. Louise Ruderman, George A. Schildge, A. Prescott Loomis, Harold D. Kinney, Reverend Joseph A. Schofield, Jr., Earl Laidlaw, Clayton F. Rush, Harry Turnbull, Dr. Harry Mills and Dr. Arthur E. Head, all of Gouverneur; Rene J. Mechin and Edmund A. Sullivan of Edwards and Balmat; Mrs. Bess Davis, Fowler; Earl R. Brasie, of Brasie Corners and Walter Best, Richville. This committee covered all phases of the campaign and 24 teams were organized for the Village of Gouverneur and the outlying area included in the drive.

Early in August, 1947, a decision was reached that the new hospital would be located upon a strip of land above the Oswegatchie river on West Barney street, between the residences of Glen Cole and Clayton Rush.

Plans and specifications were drawn during the winter of 1947-48 for the erection of the hospital upon the selected site, on a basis of an outlay of not more than \$600,000. When bids were estimated, however, the costs were found to run about \$1,150,000 and this staggering cost figure definitely halted any construction in the spring of 1948 as had originally been planned.

The possibility of receiving some Federal assistance became apparent in the summer of 1948. Mr. Boughner made trips to Albany to confer with officials in relation to North Country Hospitals projects receiving benefits from the Federal hospital building pri-

gram, known as Public Law 725 of the 79th Congress. In November, 1948, a Federal grant of some \$302,000 was confirmed by the New York State Joint Hospital Survey and Planning Commission after having been recommended by the Syracuse Regional Council.

This made over \$900,000 available and Mr. Boughner and the hospital building committee immediately began the work of revising the original plans, reducing from four floors to only three floors, but retaining the original 60 patient bed and effecting other economies. However, the building plans still called for the best elements known in building construction and also for adequate steel structure, foundations, sewer stacks heating to permit the future erection of a fourth floor with a 40-bed nursing unit to give a total of 100 beds when needed.

Bids were opened on May 14th, 1949, in the Municipal Building after the architects, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill had completed the revision of drawings. The joint bid of the John W. Rouse Construction Corp., Gouverneur, and the Putnam-Hawley Construction company of Potsdam, was low at \$886,860 among a total of six bidders.

All bids were still higher than anticipated and still more than the money available. The breakdown of the amount available at the time bids were opened was about: Noble Foundation, \$300,000 Federal aid, \$302,000; local funds, \$330,000.

This was about \$200,000 short of the total amount necessary to complete the building, equipment, architects' fees, cost of site and the initial promotion, but Mr. Boughner called attention to the fact that there was no assurance that the appropriation of Federal aid would be available in the next fiscal year, and expressed the belief that a contract should be awarded and construction started perhaps in May, with expectation that some additional government funds might be obtainable and the balance would have to be raised locally.

After consideration of all bids, the contract was awarded to the firm of Rouse-Putnam company, Gouverneur, and the first work was done upon the hospital at one o'clock the afternoon of May 18th when a bulldozer started stripping top soil. Drilling and blasting of rock commenced a few days later.

First concrete was poured July 12th. Structural steel erection commenced August 22nd and completed in less than three weeks. The laying of masonry walls was started September 27th.

Ground breaking ceremonies at the time construction work began on the West Barney street site, May 18, were omitted, but the history of the Noble hospital and its predecessor, the Stephen B. VanDuzee hospital association and early hospital movements, were filed in the cornerstone ceremony October 7, 1949. The history, as gotten up by Julius R. Bartlett and Albert E. Boughner, was filed in a hermetically-sealed stainless cylinder in the cornerstone at the left of the front entrance. Many articles and items of interest for future generations and a copy of the Gouverneur Tribune-Press were included in the cylinder.

#### Laying the Cornerstone

Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Noble of New York were present for the laying of the cornerstone as well as the contractors and builders, John W. Rouse of Gouverneur and Harold A. Putnam of Potsdam, and all local hospital board members and members of hospital boards at Canton and Alexandria Bay.

#### Dedication

The dedication ceremony took place at 7 p.m. Friday, July 14, 1950, with Dr. Charles W. Mayo, member of the board of governors of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., as the principal speaker and Mr. Boughner, local hospital head, acting as chairman. Other speakers were Dr. John J. Bourke of Albany, executive director of the New York State joint hospital survey and planning commission, and Dr. Herman Weiskotten, dean of the school of medicine, New York State university, Syracuse, now the regional medical center for this area. Dr. Weiskotten was introduced by Dr. Harry L. Mills, local physician, representing the Gouverneur medical staff. The medical practitioners for the hospital were Dr. George H. Hanlon, resident surgeon for the hospital, together with Dr. Frederick F. Drury, dean of the Gouverneur physicians; his son, Dr. Foster Drury; Dr. Abram D. Burr, Dr. Ernest L. Adler; Dr. Arthur E. Head and Dr. Harry L. Mills.

Acting on behalf of the Edward J. Noble Foundation and the North Country hospitals, sponsors of the Gouverneur project, Ed-

ward J. Noble presented the new hospital to the community of Gouverneur and the surrounding area. Acceptance remarks were made by Earl E. Laidlaw. The invocation was given by the Rev. Hugh McPhee in the absence of the Rev. F. P. Diviney, regular pastor of St. James Roman Catholic church and the prayer of dedication by the Rev. Harold A. Thomas, pastor of the First Methodist church of Gouverneur. A community chorus, under the direction of Mrs. William H. Foster, sang an anthem, and the Gouver-

neur American Legion band played the recessional. After the ceremony, many were taken on a tour through the hospital.

#### First Patients

The hospital was opened for patient admission at 2:15 p.m., August 8, 1950, with the first admission being Mrs. Dora Parker, widow of the late Barnard G. Parker.

The first new patient to be admitted was Curt Serviss, Gouverneur, an employee of St. Joseph Lead company, who received a head injury in a mine shaft acci-

dent near Balmat. The first birth was a daughter born at 7:22 p.m. on the opening day to Mr. and Mrs. John N. Clark, residents of the Somerville road just outside the village limits.

Present officers of the board of trustees of the hospital are Robert S. McClellan, chairman; Edward H. Case, vice-chairman; Edmund A. Sullivan, secretary and Andrew K. Laidlaw, treasurer.

Other board members include Harold Kinney, William H. Foster, Earl E. Laidlaw, Joseph F. McAllister and James Papayanakos.

## Hospital Auxiliary Notes Twenty-fifth Anniversary

By MRS. P. H. NELSON

Gouverneur celebrates its 150th birthday in 1955 and at the same time another group in the community observes its 25th anniversary. The town's first hospital opened its doors on March 10, 1929 and in November, 1930, two of its trustees, Mrs. A. M. Jepson and Mrs. Berta Sprague requested Jane Laidlaw Dodds to help them form a hospital auxiliary and to serve as its first president.

The village and surrounding areas served by the hospital were divided into 17 twigs or units, and a chairman appointed for each group. Twigs included 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in the village, Gravel road, Battle Hill road, Macomb, Star Lake, Oxbow, Richville, Halesboro, Fowler, Somerville, Elmdale, Natural Dam and Spragueville.

The first donation day, started in November, 1929, was established as a yearly event and in 1931 money to the amount of \$269.00 and quantities of fruit, vegetables and canned goods were turned over to the hospital auxiliary.

Gradually the twigs converted into larger units with various groups taking over certain money raising projects—concerts, card parties, dances, home talent shows etc. In 1934 an annual Easter Charity Ball was established. (In 1935 the Gouverneur Luncheon club presented the auxiliary with the sum of \$1200.00, receipts of a club home talent show "The Red Lady," staged under the direction of Mrs. V. O. Boyle. For a number of years the amount raised annually by the auxiliary averaged about \$1200.00, soaring in 1941 to \$2,004.97, falling off during the

war, but reaching a new high of \$2,212.69 in 1944. In the course of 16 years activities, a total of \$26,972.81 was raised with the following presidents holding office from 1930 through 1946: Mrs. Jane Laidlaw Dodds, Miss Erna Curtis, Mrs. Philip Nelson, Mrs. Howard Collins, Mrs. Grover Moore, Mrs. Ray Fosgate, Mrs. Myra Leach, Mrs. Arthur Head, Mrs. Florence Kenyon, Mrs. Jane Dodds, Mrs. J. Robert Leach, Miss Jennie O'Brien, Mrs. George Evans, Mrs. Fred Hendra, Mrs. Nita Mills, and Mrs. Charles Ruderman.

Anticipating a financial drive for the new hospital, the auxiliary was asked in 1946 to discontinue its fund raising activities and the Stephen B. Van Duzee Auxiliary was inactive until June 1950, when it was reorganized as the E. J. Noble Auxiliary and took over work in the new hospital.

#### E. J. Noble Auxiliary

An organization meeting at the home of Mrs. M. R. Smith with Mrs. Charles Ruderman, the last president, presiding was held in June, 1950. At a later meeting a tentative constitution and by-laws were presented and at the September meeting, Mrs. J. F. McAllister was elected as first president, and officers and a board of directors were chosen for the newly created E. J. Noble Hospital Auxiliary.

The activities of the auxiliary were greatly enlarged to include an annual Membership Drive, started in the Fall of 1950; the installation and management of a hospital snack bar and cart; membership in the American Hospital Association; the formation of

a Baby Alumni group and probably their most important step—the formation of a hospital Aid Fund to help worthy patients, who were unable to assume full responsibility for their hospital services. Miss Pearl Orvis who had served as treasurer since 1938 continued in that capacity.

The Charity Ball was re-established Easter 1951, and proved a most successful function. During the summer of 1951, a deficit drive was set up as part of the membership campaign by the auxiliary with Robert McClellan acting as a general chairman. The following year the deficit drive was continued under the auspices of the men's governing board.

In the fall of 1951 the auxiliary financed the conversion of the Pediatrics Ward from three to six beds at a cost of \$1,750.00.

Mrs. Norman Donald took office as president in May 1952, to be followed in January, 1954 by Mrs. M. R. Smith, and in January, 1955 by Mrs. Philip Nelson.

In 1953 a visiting card or hospital committee was set up by the auxiliary to take care of hospital visitors and a medication cart was presented to the hospital. During 1953 a sundeck was created on the hospital roof and furniture purchased in 1954 to allow patients sunbaths in pleasant weather.

Each year in addition to special gifts, the Aid Fund has continued to allocate \$100.00 per month to needy patients. During the past year a tape recorder for the doctors room and a Stryker bed have been added to the hospital equipment.



## The Medical and Denistry Professions in Gouverneur

I swear by Apollo the Physician, by Aesculapius, by Hygeia, by Panacea, and by all the gods and goddesses, making them my witnesses, that I will carry out according to my ability and judgment, this oath and indenture. I will use treatment to help the sick according to my ability and judgment, but never with a view to injury and wrong doing. In whatsoever houses I enter, I will enter to help the sick, and I will abstain for all intentional wrong doing and harm . . .

This, in part is the oath taken by physicians today, by the doctors who came to this section when it was but a wilderness and by all those of the medical profession since the time of Hippocrates. It is the code by which men of medicine have worked in this community since its founding one hundred and fifty years ago.

It is somehow fitting that the first man to lead settlers to the town of Cambray, later to be known as Gouverneur, was a physician. True, he was at heart an adventurer, business man and politician, rather than a doctor, but in 1813, when the young settlement was cursed with an epidemic of typhus fever, he reverted to his original profession and "cared for the sick."

It has been recorded by historians that "Gouverneur has ever been known as one of the healthiest localities on record," and all of the earlier physicians seem to have been forced to engage in other callings to earn a living. So when Dr. John Spencer came to Gouverneur in 1807, from Windsor, Conn. he came not to secure a "lucrative field of work, but to establish a practice in his chosen profession and to build a home for his later years."

According to the centennial book of 1905, Dr. Spencer's fees varied from \$.50 to \$3.00, and he received payment in all sorts of produce.

Dr. Spencer's associates during the later years of his work left little record. According to Dr. S. W. Close's account in 1905 they, Dr. Murdock, Dr. Orvis and Dr. Griffin, "exercised their art with caution" and "paid equal attention to the rich and the poor."

About 1835 Samuel Clark Wait located in Somerville and two

years later moved to Gouverneur where he became the leading physician in town. He died in 1875 and was buried in a family plot at Riverside cemetery where his six wives and four children rest.

Dr. Peter O. Williams came to Gouverneur in 1847 and remained until 1854. That same year Dr. S. L. Parmelee began practice here and stayed as one of the leading physicians until 1876 when he moved to Watertown.

Other prominent physicians were Dr. Edgar H. Merrick, who was here for five years between 1864 and 1869; Dr. James B. Carpenter, who came in 1867, and Dr. David McFalls.

A colorful character, Dr. McFalls spent his early boyhood in Rossie, practiced medicine there until he enlisted in 1862, and was commissioned surgeon in the 142 Regiment, New York Volunteers, and then, in 1873 came to Gouverneur. Dr. McFalls was called in the centennial book "an active, public-spirited man, a leader among men."

Dr. Charles Wilson began practice in Gouverneur in 1871 and took a prominent place here until he moved to Utah in 1888. Dr. Thomas Hossie for a number of years engaged in a drug business and later practiced medicine until his death in 1900.

Other physicians who practiced for longer or shorter periods of time prior to the 1905 centennial were Dr. A. J. Spencer, Dr. G. E. Baldwin, Dr. E. J. Guyette, Dr. S. Dundurand, Dr. B. C. Cheeseman, Dr. P. Monakey, and Dr. Grosvenor Swam.

Practicing when Gouverneur observed its centennial anniversary were Dr. B. F. Drury, who came in 1876; Dr. A. H. Allen, in 1881; Dr. S. W. Close, 1886; Dr. Charles B. Hawley in 1888; Dr. William J. Flint in 1890; Dr. Fred F. Drury in 1891; Dr. J. A. Rega in 1895, Dr. B. W. Severance in 1898 and Dr. David M. Foss in 1900.

Of these men only Dr. Fred F. Drury, 87 years old, dean of physicians in St. Lawrence county, is still living.

Since that time Gouverneur has been served by Dr. David M. Mills, Dr. Abram Burr, Dr. Harry Mills, Dr. Ernest Adler, Dr. Foster T.

Drury, Dr. Arthur Head, Dr. C. V. Kimball, Dr. George H. Hanlon and Dr. J. R. Patton.

Not only do they care for the sick and injured in Gouverneur, but they also practice in Rossie, DeKalb, Hermon, Edwards, Fowler and Macomb.

It is only natural to turn to Dr. Fred Drury for a record of the happenings of the last 64 years of medicine in Gouverneur. And this is the story as he sees it.

"My first knowledge of medicine in the early days in Gouverneur came, of course, from my father, Dr. Benjamin F. Drury, who came to Gouverneur from Edwards in 1876 and established a practice in the Dr. Parmelee house on William street.

"He had begun the practice of medicine in DeKalb in the days when a doctor rode mostly horseback to visit his patients carrying his medicine and instruments in saddlebags. I recall hearing him tell of one time when the bridge at DeKalb was out he carried his saddle and bags walking on a foot bridge and swimming the horse beside him.

"His practice was carried on in his home in a one room office with a bedroom behind that was used as an examination room.

"My father was one of the members of the St. Lawrence county Medical society which was first organized in 1807. Regular meetings were held and many able papers were read by the members. For a while during the period between 1856 and 1864, the society was inactive but it was re-organized in 1864.

"I recall that about 1889 or 1890 my father went to Albany to see one of the first appendicitis operations performed. It was written up widely in all the papers as a very successful operation, but—the patient died.

"When I began practice with my father in 1891, abdominal operations were the exception. Surgery before then was largely limited to amputations, repairs of injuries and the setting of fractures. There were a lot of deaths.

"About this time (1889) Dr.



Grant Madill came to Ogdensburg and was among the first to handle operations in the hospital there and to come to neighboring towns for surgery. We sent patients to Ogdensburg by train or by horse and buggy.

"When he came to Gouverneur, the operation was performed in the home usually in the kitchen where there was a wooden table that could be scrubbed and draped with sheets. Chloroform was the usual anesthetic with ether soon to follow. Too many patients died from the anesthetic.

"There were few trained nurses. Attending doctors administered the anesthetic. Nora Leach, Mrs. Seymour Easton and Mrs. Neary were some of the few nurses we had at our call.

"The first operations I saw were at the Mary Fletcher hospital in Burlington, Vermont, at the time that the anti-sepsis approach was used. Operations were carried on in a room filled with steam and a heavy spray of carbolic acid. The instruments were washed and boiled in a carbolic acid solution. This solution dulled the knives and was so injurious to the plating that it had to be abandoned for just plain boiling.

"The physicians scrubbed their hands with soap, a brush and then dipped them in permanganate of potash. Rubber gloves came later.

"The only medicine that came in tablet form at that time was quinine. Most medicine was put up in powder and liquid form. The doses being measured out into papers. The cost of the medicine was included in with calls.

"At that time the charge for an office call was from \$.50 to \$1.00; a house call, \$1.00, and a night call \$1.50. Out of town calls were an additional \$.50 a mile. Obstetrical cases were \$10.

"Morphine was administered orally instead of by hypodermic and came in cubes which were cut off for the proper dosage.

Typhoid fever, diphtheria, child-bed fever and scarlet fever, all rare diseases now, were serious problems then. There were no specific drugs and the diseases were treated symptomatically. I remember the relief that patients

with high fevers experienced when we wrapped them in cold wet sheets and then covered them with blankets. Patients who had diabetes expected to die—and did.

"In the past 50 years there have been unbelievable changes in the practice of medicine.

"The coming of the automobile about 1909 and 1910 has made a great difference in the care of the sick. Its acceptance at first was slow and its use was limited to the village and to the few good roads.

Travel in fall, winter and spring was still made by horse and buggy or cutter. But as roads improved and more dependable automobiles were manufactured, their use became wide until now distance is no longer a handicap between a doctor and his patient. A doctor can now serve more patients better, and many ill persons, who then could not get to a doctor or bring a doctor to their home, get almost immediate service.

The coming of hospitals to the North Country was another great advance. The hospitalized patient receives satisfactory care, all needed facilities are at hand, and the doctor is able to be in touch with a much larger number of patients at all times.

"The first hospital type of care in Gouverneur was found in the so-called Maternity Homes of which there were five in number, operated by Mrs. Ettie Whalen, Mrs. Nellie Young, Mrs. Fred E. Dashnaw, Mrs. Payne and Mrs. George Keech. The babies were delivered in the bedrooms, and the nurses took care of the mother and the child with practical nursing care.

"After these maternity homes, which were a great help to both the doctor and the patient, came the Van Duzee hospital and later the Edward John Noble hospital.

"It is impossible to list all of the really great changes. Where we once set fractures by feel and by measurement, we now employ the X-ray and the fluoroscope. Where diabetics died, they now live useful lives because of insulin. We treat pneumonia, infections and respiratory diseases with antibiotics and the miracle drugs.

"We prevent many diseases by vaccines and inoculations. Surgery, with modern drugs, new anesthetics, the best equipment

and increased knowledge, has become an aseptic scientific procedure little to be feared under normal circumstances.

"No longer are many medicines administered orally, but instead the hypodermic needle is used with more rapid and more effective results.

"The hardships of sickness have been decreased by hospitalization and medical insurance on a large scale, and preventative medicine, with its clinics, health nurses, school doctors and nurses, and routine examinations, has assumed an ever increasingly important place.

"We are all aware of the tragic growth of recognized mental illness. While the new methods of treating mental illness are outstanding in their results, it is possible the old time physician with his intimate relationship with his patients, and his knowledge of the family background and problems, may have prevented much serious emotional upset and assisted in the recovery of many disturbed patients. The loss of that close relationship between the family doctor and his patients is one of the regressions of medicine that may well be regretted.

"Within the last few weeks has come the Salk vaccine which promises in the future to make polio as rare as diphtheria. It is but one of the many advances that make the future of medicine seem even brighter.

## Dentists

Dentists who have practiced in Gouverneur are: Dr. Dan Waid, 1854-1860; Dr. Andrew Waid, 1860-1870; Dr. A. M. Myers, 1868-1876; Dr. A. M. Stevens, 1870-1875; Dr. George Barnes, 1877-1905; Dr. William R. Conner, 1898-1932; Dr. H. C. Van Allen, 1898-1946; Dr. Ivan Brasie, 1904-; Dr. T. P. McNulty, 1905-left Gouverneur in 1915; Dr. Clarence Webster, 1905-1933; Dr. Glen P. Farmer, left in 1913; Dr. M. H. McOmber, 1915-still practicing; Dr. R. D. Lee, 1936-still practicing; Dr. H. E. Dobbie, 1938-; Dr. E. H. Koch, 1946-still practicing; Dr. Angus McQueen, 1946-now at Star Lake.



## The Legal Profession In Gouverneur

The Centennial History of Gouverneur relates the story of the lawyers who served its people during its first one hundred years. According to the article written by Attorneys H. Walter Lee and Robert E. McLearn, the first lawyer to locate in Gouverneur was Edwin Dodge who came here as an agent of the Morris estate in 1829 and was County Judge for two terms. The office of Surrogate was held by two Gouverneur Attorneys, Dexter A. Johnson from 1878 to 1880, and Vasco P. Abbott from 1880 to 1882. The office of Special County Judge was held by Gouverneur attorneys for 46 years from 1860 to 1906: E. H. Neary, V. P. Abbott, G. S. Conger and Arthur T. Johnson. Edwin Dodge and George M. Gleason each served as member of the Assembly of the State Legislature. Major J. Bower Preston, veteran of the Civil War, practiced in Gouverneur from the end of the war until his death in 1898. Lawyers then prominent in Gouverneur life included Charles Anthony, organizer and first president of the Bank of Gouverneur, Cornelius A. Parker, William H. Andrews and Edwin H. Neary.

### First Woman

The first woman to be admitted to the bar in St. Lawrence County and one of the first in the state was Miss Grace E. Robinson of Gouverneur admitted on December 2, 1892. She married Charles M. Hale June 26, 1895 and for several years they practiced law in Gouverneur under the firm name of Hale and Hale. In 1900 they moved to Canton where Mr. Hale was clerk of the Surrogate Court and clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Robert Hale, their son, graduated from Columbia Law School in 1925 and opened an office in Gouverneur in 1927 under the firm name of Hale, Hale and Hale.

### 1905 Attorneys

In 1905 fifteen attorneys were practicing in Gouverneur. They were Vasco P. Abbott, Arthur H. Abbott, Herbert G. Aldrich, Gerit S. Conger, John F. Cook, James C. Dolan, Joseph George, Dallas M. Hazelton, Arthur T. Johnson, H. Walter Lee, Robert E. McLearn, Edwin H. Neary, Arthur W. Orvis, George W. Parker and C. Arthur Parker. Resident at-

torneys not in practice then were: Archie F. McAllaster, Fred Norton and Cyrus Hewitt. During the next 50 years of Gouverneur's life some of these men were destined to make legal and political history.

### Judge Dolan

Vasco P. Abbott, one of the leading lawyers of the time, had his office in the space now occupied by Edward H. Case. With him then was James C. Dolan, who, born September 4, 1870 in the Town of Macomb, had graduated from St. Lawrence in 1896 and been admitted to the bar in 1898. Mr. Dolan studied law in Mr. Abbott's office and after his admission to the bar the partnership of Abbott & Dolan was formed. Mr. Abbott died in 1918. In 1908 Judge John C. Crapser appointed Mr. Dolan Assistant District Attorney. In 1915 he was elected District Attorney, which office he held until 1921 when he was named County Judge by Governor Nathan Miller. He was the first Judge of Children's Court in St. Lawrence county. In 1905 he was elected to the Board of Education becoming president of the board in 1910, which office he held when he died in October 1937. He was made a life member of the Board of Trustees of St. Lawrence university in 1919. He was a director of the Bank of Gouverneur and trustee of the Gouverneur Savings & Loan Association.

### Arthur T. Johnson

Arthur T. Johnson, a native of Vermont, after graduating from Eastman's Business college in Poughkeepsie, studied law in the office of Conger & Gleason. Upon admission to the bar in 1886, he practiced here and in 1889 he formed a partnership with George M. Gleason and the same year was elected Special County Judge. He was vice-president of the First National Bank and president of the Steven B. VanDuzee Hospital Association. He died in February 1938.

### Dallas M. Hazelton

Dallas M. Hazelton, born October 17, 1878 in Fowler, graduated from Gouverneur high school in 1898. After reading law for two years in the offices of Gleason and Johnson, he entered Union college for a year's course in the Albany Law School, graduating in 1901.

He was admitted to the bar in September 1901. He became Special County Judge on January 26, 1914 by appointment of Governor Martin H. Glynn. The Hon. Frank Cooper appointed him as U.S. Commissioner of the Northern District of New York. He served as a member of the Village Board of Trustees. During World War I he was chairman of the Victory Loan committee. He died June 11, 1934 at the age of 55 years.

### Judge Abbott

Arthur H. Abbott, remembered by the lawyers of today as Judge Abbott, was first elected Justice of the Peace of the Town at the Biennial Town Meeting on February 12, 1901. He had graduated from the local high school, Potsdam Normal School and from Albany Law School in 1896, and had been admitted to practice in June of that year. He became Village Police Justice in May 1920. He remained Judge Abbott until the day of his death in August 1951.

Herbert O. Aldrich who graduated with honors from Hamilton college and Harvard Law school, was elected Supervisor February 12, 1907 and held the office for two terms. He was president of the Bank of Gouverneur from 1911 until his death in January, 1926.

Charles S. Bodman was appointed by the Town Board Supervisor to fill a vacancy on September 10, 1917 and was elected to the office at the election in November. He served as supervisor until 1925 when he became the first St. Lawrence County Compensation attorney handling Workmen's Compensation matters for the county until his death in 1941.

Arthur W. Orvis, a graduate of Albany Law School, a member of the firm of Conger, Orvis & McLearn, was Deputy County Clerk from 1889 to 1892 and Village President in 1894-96. In 1912 he went to Albany as a Deputy Attorney General in the Land and Title Bureau and was there until 1935. He formed an Abstract Corporation to do title work in St. Lawrence and Franklin counties. He served as president of the St. Lawrence County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He died November 6, 1942.

George W. Parker, born in Ma-