

October, 2012



Gouverneur Historical Association

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TO: Members and Hopefully New Members
FROM: Joe Laurenza, President

The Gouverneur Museum Board has put in another busy year. Over 1,100 visitors viewed our collections this year (visiting either the museum or the museum annex at the fairgrounds), or came to do genealogical research in our library room. Emails to the museum regarding genealogy or seeking historical answers to the area continue to increase each year. We had our first overseas email request from England. We often have visitors from foreign countries.

We hosted our second cemetery fundraiser in May. Over \$6,500 was raised for the cemetery. Board members from both boards and museum volunteers supplied the goodies.

In June we hosted the 100-year girl scout exhibited. Today's and past leaders filled our meeting room with many girl scout memorabilia. It was great that so many took the time to "check it out".

Our website designer added new donated items to the museum website, and also added the transcribed diaries of Henry Sheldon. I mentioned last year that a descendent from Missouri was transcribing the two diaries I sent her. The diaries cover the years from 1861-1873. Very interesting reading. You can read it at gouverneurmuseum.org.

We had a motor added to our player piano so that now it can provide music at our various events. Of course, we can still use "foot power" to play it. Kids and some adults enjoy making music with their feet.

In June, William Foster resigned from our board due to some health issues, and Dwayne Martin was voted in to replace Bill. Dwayne has been a volunteer for several years and I can always depend on him when we are in need of an extra hand. He even volunteered to paint the Osborneville School we own, 10 miles out on County Route 11, Rock Island Rd.

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This past year the Gouverneur Middle School did an archeological dig. The advisors buried old items the museum provided in kitty litter and the students had to try to identify them. What a great idea, and we were happy to provide artifacts for this activity.

This summer the museum hosted a model train exhibit thanks to the generous time given by Dwayne Martin. He also gave away a Lionel Train to the youngster who wrote the best "Why I Would Like an Electric Train" essay.

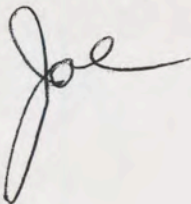
The museum was also the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from Cellu Tissue, the paper company in Natural Dam. Historical point: There has been a mill at that location for almost 200 years, the first being a grist mill, saw mill, lumber, and today paper manufacturer.

Each year several old/vintage items are donated. One of the most interesting that came in this year was a 5-foot motorized Santa that was used in the Kaplan Department Store in the early 1960's, during the holiday season. While it is on display now, it will be in the living room at Christmas time when the garden club decks out the museum for the Christmas holidays. Plan to visit us in December.

This December, the museum will host a "Rock and Gem Show". The museum has an extensive collection of its own, but we are inviting local rock and gem collectors to display their collections. This area of St. Lawrence County is very rich in minerals, as most of us are aware. The garden club will also be decorating the museum for Christmas again this year, so plan to visit us.

Volunteers help man the museum during our open days and hours, and when we have scheduled tours for students and adults. Our volunteers make our museum the success it has become in the community. We could not survive without the many hours they donate.

Thank you!!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the main part of the name.