



## Gouverneur Historical Association

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Gouverneur, New York 13642  
(315) 287-0570



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

The Gouverneur Museum Board wants to bring you up-to-date since last years communication. We had a very successful exhibit of Dale Streeter's art, taxidermy, hand made musical instruments, etc. It was our most successful Christmas show bringing in visitors to the Museum from December 3 - January 8. The garden club and volunteers decked the downstairs with wonderful Christmas decorations. Adult and kids liked the train under the tree loaned to us by Dwayne Martin. The 2011 December show will be feature the art work and photography of Leo Tallman. Put this on your December calendar. Exhibit runs from December 1 to January 7, reception Dec. 10, 1 - 3 p.m.

The return of the Centennial Fountain to the park and placed in front of the museum, close to its original location has been a delight to all.

Our website, [gouverneurmuseum.org](http://gouverneurmuseum.org) has generated a great deal of interest. I am getting emails all the time for ancestral information from people working on their genealogy. If you haven't checked it out, we think you will be impressed. The most interesting site message was from Frances Holst of Missouri, a descendent of Henry Sheldon. His father was James Sheldon who owned the farm between Gouverneur and Richville, now the Parent farm. I mailed Frances the diaries and she is transcribing them for the museum. She sends me each year as she completes it, and it will go in our library.

The Gouverneur Middle School has a history club and they have visited the museum and I have spoken at one of their meetings. It is great that young people are interested in local history.

The Museum Board hosted the annual Gouverneur Cemetery fundraiser in July. The money raised will go into the cemetery's endowment so funds will hopefully always be available for its upkeep.

The Gouverneur Museum Annex at the fairgrounds generated much interest again this year. We were open for the fireworks, the week of the fair, and when the circus was in town. Over 800 visitors stopped in, and many visited the museum since their little taste of Gouverneur history at the fairgrounds.

We had more tours by appointment this year. For those who cannot come on a Wednesday or Saturday, we always accommodate those interested in touring our facility by setting a convenient time. Just call me at 287-3193.

The museum continues to receive Gouverneur artifacts from area residents and from those throughout the United States. Over 30 items have come in this year. One was a sterling silver bowl presented to Burt Kinney on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kinney Drugs. This came from his great-grandson in Utah.

The board appreciates the 40-plus volunteers we have and all of our members. We would not have the opportunity for people to "revisit Gouverneur's history", without **you**.  
**Thank you!!!**

Some interesting information about Gouverneur Morris:

He never lived here, but owned some 90,000 acres.

Was born in 1752 in what today is the Bronx.

Entered Kings College at age 12.

Helped Jefferson write our Constitution.

Was minister to France.

Pushed to have the Erie Canal built.

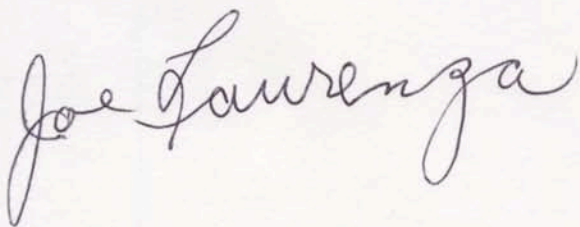
Convinced our government to base our money on the decimal system.

Married late in life and became a father at age 62.

He died at age 64.

The original deed to our town from Gouverneur Morris hangs in the Museum.

The Gouverneur Library and the Museum have several books you can borrow about this great American.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Laurenza". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page.