

Gouverneur Morris Chapter of D.A.R.

By **GRACE H. CORBIN**

A meeting of women interested in forming a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Gouverneur was held January 27, 1899 at the home of Mrs. William P. Wolfe, John street, to complete the organization of Gouverneur Morris chapter with nineteen members, Mrs. Wolfe having been appointed regent by the state regent, Mrs. Belding. The chapter selected the name of Gouverneur Morris in honor of the distinguished statesman for whom the Town of Gouverneur was named.

The charter members were Emelia Crane Anthony, Mary E. Whitney Bowne, Martha A. Church Conger, Emma Sheldon Easton, Lucy Chapin Hawley, Zelma Burt Henderson, Blanche Adeen Hodgkin, Della A. Cleveland Hodgkin, Adelaide McAllaster Leahy, Gertrude Alcott Neary, Julia Sheldon Neary, Sarah Helen Adams Parker, Florence Earle Payne, Eva C. Drake Peck, Eleanor Couper Pike, Nettie Cleveland Royce, Philena Woodruff Severance, Anna Belle Andrews Wolfe, Caroline McCarty Williams.

Officers elected were: Regent Mrs. William P. Wolfe; vice-regent, Mrs. S. W. Payne; recording secretary, Mrs. George C. Royce; treasurer, Mrs. Charles Bowne; registrar, Miss Sarah A. Parker; corresponding secretary, Miss Blanche A. Hodgkin.

The charter from the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution was presented to the chapter with appropriate exercises the evening of June 16th at Mrs. Wolfe's home. Mrs. H. A. Chapman from the Swekatsi Chapter, Ogdensburg, made the presentation. A lap stone, formed, dressed and polished by W. H. Andrews, was presented to the chapter. The stone is a portion of a pillar from the capitol of the United States at Washington, D.C. burned by the British in 1814. Harry Kerr sang "The Sword of Bunker Hill." The chapter chose the date of "June 17th," being the anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, for their annual observance of Charter Day.

Objects of the Society

The objects of the society are three-fold in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of the national society, i. e., historic, ed-

ucational, and patriotic; excerpts from which follow:

Historic: To perpetuate the memory of the spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence.

Educational: To promote educational institutions, whereby our people learn better to perform the duties of American citizens.

Patriotic: To cherish and maintain the institutions of American freedom and to foster true patriotism and love of country.

Eligibility to membership requires lineal descent from a soldier or patriot of the American Revolution. The chapter has built up its membership by election of new members who meet the requirements of the local and national society.

The meetings are held at the homes of the members the last Friday of the month from September to June 17th.

The programs of study, beginning with the colonial period and the American Revolution, have followed the leading events which have made America the greatest nation in the world today.

National holidays have been observed through the years by the display of the country's flag, by patriotic services and programs. Colonial balls, teas, dinners and luncheons with distinguished guests have had a patriotic touch. Military whist parties were held on Washington's birthday. Established in 1910 as a source of revenue, they were held annually until 1936, the last one in the St. Lawrence Inn, Mrs. F. F. Drury, chairman. Costumes, forts, flags and prizes gave added attraction.

Washington's wedding anniversary, the 6th of January, was commemorated in 1914 by a colonial ball in the Masonic Temple Hall. The minuet of long ago was danced by Mrs. A. W. Orvis as Martha Custis, Mr. D. G. Scholton as George Washington, Mrs. Pliny Earle, Frank Elwood and Mrs. Elwood, Mr. William Legate, M. E. Loveland and Mrs. Loveland — all in colonial costumes. The wedding ceremony followed, with E. H. Neary in vestments officiating. Martha Custis, in white satin, was attended by her young daughter, Nellie Custis, as flower-girl, personified by Miss Mabel Drury in white. Miss Florence Earle and Miss Blanche Hodgkin,

gowned in pink, were the bridesmaids. Mr. Scholton, as Washington, wore light blue satin, with sword and bolt. The couple led the grand march, with everyone in costumes of the Washington period.

On August 29, 1905, Gouverneur Morris Chapter held a reception at the Public Library to welcome the many former citizens who had returned for "Old Home Week," and other distinguished guests.

Patriotic Services

The first union patriotic service sponsored by the chapter was held July, 4, 1901, in the Baptist church. Col. M. R. Sackett gave the address. Miss Blanche Hodgkin read the Declaration of Independence. Invitations were issued to congregations and their pastors to participate. All patriotic societies and the Fire Department units were included. These services were continued annually in the several churches in succession until 1925 when the date was changed to the Sunday nearest Washington's birthday on this occasion, it was made a community service and held in the Gralyn Theater. Harold B. Johnson of Watertown was welcomed to his home town by a capacity audience. Mr. Johnson gave a fine address on the Life of Washington.

History Prize

Beginning in 1900, an annual history prize of \$5.00 was offered by Gouverneur Morris Chapter to members of the history class of the high school for the best historical essay on a subject chosen by the chapter. In later years, the rules were changed and the prizes increased in amount to include a first and second. They were discontinued two years ago.

Gifts

The chapter has been fortunate in receiving numerous gifts of historical value, including documents and mementoes of the Civil and Cuban wars. A very interesting group of household antiques, known as the Susan Hildreth Hilts' Collection, was placed in the chapter's care. We are indebted to our former historian, Mrs. Emily Hager York, now deceased, for compiling the data concerning these gifts, which found a corner for display for some years in the Public Library, through the courtesy of the Reading Room Association. Great-

er shelf space being required for the library books necessitated removal to the attic.

It is greatly desired by the historical committee in this Sesqui-centennial year that this collection may find a permanent place and form the nucleus of a small museum, which will prove of historical interest in the community.

Memorials

The graves of three soldiers of the Revolution have received government markers through the patriotic work of the chapter. The graves of John Garrett, Riverside cemetery and Samuel Shead, Richville, were marked in 1912 during the regency of Mrs. Everett J. Peck, who was a great granddaughter of John Garrett. A marker was unveiled in 1914 on the grave of Jonathan Church, Rossie, by Mrs. Harry Lindley, regent, assisted by Harriet and Martha Brown, two great granddaughters of that soldier. An assembly of Daughters, members of patriotic societies, Boy Scouts and school children witnessed the ceremonies.

Members in 1915 numbered sixty-six. The chapter had lost one charter member, Emelia Crane Anthony, (died March 17, 1904).

1915-1931

In 1916, a Building Fund in memory of Anna Belle Andrews Wolfe, founder and first regent of the chapter was started through the foresight of the regent then in office, Mrs. J. J. Sullivan. It was with the hope to have a permanent meeting place for the chapter. Thimble parties and benefits were held to augment the fund. The trustees opened an interest account in the First National Bank and invested in War Savings Bonds. The principal has remained intact under a trusteeship of three chapter members elected each one for a three-year term.

1917-1918: The theme of the year's program was "The Melting Pot"—comprising the Indians, the Spanish, the Aristocrats of Virginia, the Negro, the French of Louisiana, the Dutch; and the religious sects; the Puritans, the Quakers, the Huguenots.

Chapter War Work: Gouverneur Morris Chapter raised \$100.00 for the Red Cross, besides members working at Red Cross headquarters; purchased Liberty bonds; gave \$36.50 for care of a French war orphan for one year.

Charter Day, June 17, was celebrated at the home of the Vice-

Regent, Mrs. Louise H. Case, with a luncheon, members wearing costumes suggestive of the peoples and religious beliefs from which our nation developed.

Historic Sites

The Hon. Rhoda Fox Graves, chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of Historic Sites, obtained markers from the State for several historic places in this locality. A tablet was unveiled on Flag Day, 1929, on the "Gouverneur Morris Mansion," Mrs. H. G. Aldrich, regent, presiding. Mrs. Graves introduced Dr. Alex C. Flick, State Historian, and H. B. Johnson, who spoke of Gouverneur Morris.

On the 3rd of June, 1930, a tablet was placed on the Red Brick Tavern, formerly the old Peter Van Buren Hostelry. Mrs. Frank Parcells, New York State Regent, several state chairmen, and members of our neighbor chapters were luncheon guests of the chapter at the Tavern. Following the unveiling ceremony, the meeting adjourned to the home of Mrs. Aldrich, who was ending three successful years as regent, (1927-1930).

Charter Day, 1931 was celebrated in Canton, N. Y. Mrs. J. F. Brown, regent, and a resident of Canton welcomed the chapter and their guests for luncheon and program at the Silas Wright Tea Room. Adjourning to the Silas Wright cemetery at 3 p.m., we witnessed the unveiling of a bronze tablet, the gift of Gouverneur Morris chapter and the State of New York, which had been placed upon the marble shaft in memory of our north country statesman and Governor of New York State—1844-1846—Silas Wright.

1917-1918

America's part (1917-1918) in the First World War gave a broader concept of patriotism as expressed in the standing committees of the D.A.R. The occupational therapy work at Ellis Island sponsored by the national society alleviated the situation of the immigrant detained there. The chapter contributed materials and money for this work annually, until the federal government discontinued the detention place a year ago.

1931-1941

The Bicentennial of the birth of George Washington began on the 22nd day of February, 1932 and

continued for nine months throughout the nation. Mrs. C. E. Webster, chapter regent, was the chairman for the Bicentennial observance in Gouverneur, which opened with a union service in the Presbyterian church. The chapter held a guest night on the 26th at the home of Assemblywoman Rhoda Fox Graves where a valuable Loan Exhibit of colonial articles, rugs and homespun, daguerreotypes of Revolutionary ancestors, and other articles of interest, was shown. The chapter cooperated with the village in presenting a pageant August 16th on the fairgrounds, entitled "George Washington of Young America." The D.A.R. float, "Washington Negotiating a Treaty with the Indians," won first prize.

Citizenship Education

The importance of Citizenship Education has been emphasized for years by the National Society. Tamasee School, South Carolina, founded in the '20's, and the Kate Duncan Smith School, Grant, Alabama, are for the mountain-whites. They are supported entirely by the D.A.R. Gouverneur Morris Chapter contributes annually to these schools.

1933-1935

Miss Grace Corbin, regent--The Chapter gave Citizenship Medals to pupils of the seventh and eighth grades elected by their fellow students for qualities of courage, scholarship, leadership, and patriotism. This was continued for several years.

1934-1935--The Girl Homemaker's committee, Mrs. J. A. Schofield, chairman, presented ribbons and pins to pupils of the grades for achievement in cooking and sewing. With the establishment of the Junior High school, the awards have been given annually in this department.

1935-1938

1935-1938--Mrs. Earl Laidlaw was elected Chapter Regent for three years. October 30, 1936, "Some Dominant Figures in Gouverneur's History Down Through the Years" were discussed by Clarence J. Webster, son of Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Webster, and a member of the editorial staff of the Watertown Daily Times, before the chapter at their regular meeting at the home of the Misses Jennie and Cora Dean. Mr. Webster made special mention of Dr. Richard Townsend, land agent for Gouverneur Morris; Isaac Austin,

pioneer; Edwin Dodge, Harvey D. Smith, Stephen B. VanDuzee, Charles H. Anthony, Newton Aldrich, Orison Dean, Jay S. Corbin, Amasa Corbin and their able associates. Without these men, the development of Gouverneur as an agricultural, industrial and mining center could not have been," Mr. Webster said.

1939-1940

Miss Blanche Hodgkin was elected regent. She continued in office for six years. The grave of Caleb Johnson, a soldier of the Revolution, buried in Riverside cemetery, was marked with a bronze plaque in a simple ceremony on Memorial Day. Harold B. Johnson, a great-grandson was present, and said that his ancestor, with his company, was present when General Washington took command of the Continental Armies at Cambridge.

Charter Day was commemorated historically with a "Hobby Show" at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Virkler Collins, Barnes street. A large and varied collection of curios, antiques and collector's items was displayed. Beautiful spode and lusterware, coverlets, laces and jewelry were shown. A collection of ninety dolls of all types and sizes was loaned by Mrs. A. B. Virkler of Carthage.

February, 1941 — Mrs. George Duffy, State Regent and guest speaker at a chapter luncheon, at the Red Brick Tavern, urged the chapter to work for the Red Cross and the War Relief services. Chapter members volunteered many hours work with the Gouverneur unit of the Red Cross.

Ditty bags were filled for the trainees called by the draft board in this area, which was reported under "War Relief Services," Margaret Atkinson, Gertrude Loomis, committee.

World War II

September '43, Mrs. Stanley Manlove, State Regent, successor to Mrs. Duffy and guest speaker at a dinner in the Parkview Hotel spoke on the "Blood Plasma Project" for which Gouverneur Morris Chapter raised \$111.00 from a motion picture benefit in the Gralyn theater.

Mrs. H. C. Rogers, who had, as vice-regent (1944-1945) conducted the meetings during the several months' illness of Miss Hodgkin, was duly elected regent for the coming year.

During this period, Gouverneur

Morris Chapter continued its yearly program as outlined in the standing committees of the National Society, which emphasized youth, exemplified by approved schools, Junior American Citizens, national defense through patriotic education, correct use of the flag and Citizenship Pilgrims. Gouverneur Morris Chapter has for several years presented a D.A.R. certificate and pin to a senior high school girl "Pilgrim."

50th Anniversary

June 17, 1949, the fiftieth anniversary of the first Charter Day of Gouverneur Morris Chapter was celebrated with a luncheon in the parlors of the First Presbyterian church. The principal speaker was Mrs. James Grant Park, Bronxville; New York State regent of the D.A.R. The history of the beginnings of the chapter was presented by Miss Blanche Hodgkin, only surviving charter member.

Mrs. Park spoke of the importance of the Junior American Citizen's clubs, a work with which the state regent has been associated for several years..

Mrs. J. K. Wardwell, regent, presided over the anniversary function and introduced the regents from neighboring chapters. Mrs. A. T. Lowry, vice-regent from Edwards, served as toastmistress. She spoke of our "golden years" and our golden girl—Blanche—fifty years a member.

June 17, 1950: A one o'clock luncheon at the Country club celebrated the fifty-first anniversary of the first Charter Day of Gouverneur Morris Chapter. Mrs. J. K. Wardwell, regent, presided. Mrs. Arthur B. Hart, junior past regent, acted as toastmistress and introduced six past regents who were present. Besides Mrs. Hart they were: Mrs. Louise Haile Case Mrs. Mary C. Loveland, Mrs. Bertha Laidlaw, Mrs. Grace Webster, Miss Grace Corbin and Miss Blanche Hodgkin. Miss Jane Wight was present to receive her G.C.P. recognition pin. It was the first time that a daughter of a D.A.R. member had been so honored. A second and unexpected award was made during the meeting when Miss Grace Corbin, in behalf of the past regents of the chapter, awarded a charter membership gold bar to Miss Blanche Hodgkin, only surviving charter member of the nineteen women who had formed the group.

Gouverneur Morris Chapter experienced a steady increase in membership for a number of years. Inevitable changes, however, came in the roster from transfer, death and resignations. There are at present forty-eight members; thirty-eight resident and ten non-resident. Of the nineteen charter members, only one is living—Miss Blanche A. Hodgkin. Sixty-six members are deceased; four faithful members having died during the past year, Mrs. L. B. Murray, chapter treasurer for years; Mrs. William H. Storie, press assistant; Miss Leona Steele genealogical records, and Miss Jennie Wilson, trustee of the Building Fund.

Gouverneur Morris Chapter officers are: Regent, Miss Helen Stiles; Vice Regent, Mrs. F. A. Healy; Chaplain, Mrs. Grace Webster; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Arthur Lowry; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Van Wight; Treasurer, Miss Patience Seaker; Historian, Miss Grace Corbin; Registrar, Miss Blanche Hodgkin, Librarian, Miss Hazel Dickson.

Past Regents are Mrs. Wolfe, Mrs. Neary, Mrs. Pike, Mrs. Irving, Mrs. McAllaster, Miss Jennie Dean, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Peck, Mrs. Lindley, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Case, Mrs. Loveland, Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Tait, Mrs. Royce, Mrs. Anne Aldrich, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Webster, Miss Corbin, Mrs. Laidlaw, Mrs. Doud, Miss Hodgkin, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Wardwell, Mrs. Lowry and Mrs. Wight.

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bard, Hazel Hudson, Jean Huntress, Emily Johnston, Helena Johnston, Selma Loomis, Marjorie Markwick, Virginia McAllaster, Laura Nelson, Nellie Newton, Sue Olds, Stella Rogers, Bernadine Schilidge, Alta Seaker, Patience Seaker, Irma Smalley, Jane Smith, Julia Spencer, Marjorie Sullivan, Ruth Tait, Florence Thompson, Cecile Walters, Nellie Webster, Ella Woodworth, Elva Rowley, Paula Baker, Lillian Barnard, Ruth Magee, Mabel Petrie, Evangeline Brown, Lela Todd, Carolyn Meechin, Lois Pressler, Flora Burnett, and Irene Hendra.

Two secretary's books are kept by the active secretary. Mrs. LeRoy Brown is our present secretary. The historian books are also kept by the active historian, who is now Mrs. Berta Sprague.

The Gouverneur Outlook Club

By MRS. JOHN HARDY

Fifty-two years ago last winter, seven friends of Mrs. Mary McFerran were invited to her home with the idea of forming a club, upon the suggestion of her cousin, Mrs. Marguerite McLorinan. On January 13, 1903, Alida Beardsley, Mary Cunningham, Maggie Gaddis, Emma Hall, Sophia Peterson, Margaret Summerfeldt and Helen Taitt met with Mrs. McFerran, and it was decided to meet every two weeks, for the purpose of sewing and visiting.

On November 15, 1904, the nine members who called themselves "The Haunted Nine" met with Mrs. Taitt and reorganized into a literary club. The reason they called themselves "The Haunted Nine" was because every time they met, a minister called.

On November 24, 1904 it was decided to be known as "The Gouverneur Outlook Club."

Its object—The cultivation of a broader social, intellectual life.

Its colors—red, white and blue

Its Motto

Look up, net down,

Look forward and not back,

Look out and not in,

and lend a hand.

Edward Everett Hale

A constitution and by-laws were adopted and the following officers elected: president, Mrs. Sophia Peterson; first vice-president, Mrs. Cora McLean; second vice-president, Mrs. Nettie Richardson; secretary, Mrs. Mary McFerran and treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Summerfeldt.

The club was to meet every two weeks, on Tuesday. The first study topics were authors, among them Oliver Wendell Holmes, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Edgar Allen Poe.

Programs were planned only a meeting in advance. There were no annual dues—and any expense was shared equally by the members.

In 1908, the club voted to register at Albany, and to secure books to help in the studies.

It was decided that each member should pay an annual fee of

\$1.00 and that meetings would start in September and close the first of April.

Yearly topics studied were: Our Own Country, Mexico, Central America, New York state, Bible Study (1913, 14, 15) and India. During the years of 1917, 1918 and 1919 current events were studied and Red Cross work was done.

In April 1913, the day of meeting was changed to Wednesday. It was voted in 1920 to open each meeting with The Lords Prayer, and close with the Mizpah Benediction, a custom still being observed.

Joins Federation

The Outlook club joined the Northern Federation of Womens clubs October 27, 1926, at which time there were eighteen active members, paying an annual fee of \$1.50 each.

Social Work

The club has done some social work for the past few years. Following World War II, a Dutch family, consisting of mother and four daughters, was adopted and gifts of foods, used clothing, soaps etc. were sent for two years. Then an Italian family was given help in the form of clothing, packaged foods and other gifts. Presents have also been made locally in the form of both money and usable articles.

On November 9, 1949, a Fashion Show was held, with the entire proceeds, \$341.49, being used for the benefit of the new Edward John Noble hospital. Three complete hospital beds were purchased, and the remainder was given to use at the discretion of the hospital authorities.

Our yearly contributions go to The Heart Fund, Polio Drive, Student Loan Fund, Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Contingent Fund, Student Art Prize Fund and Save the Children Campaign.

Garden Club

On November 21, 1945 The Garden Club was formed under the sponsorship of the Outlook Club. Later The Outlook Club had panel discussions on zoning of the village with the mayor as principal speaker, and now plans are progressing along this line.

In 1954 a Playlet, "My Country 'Tis of Thee I Sing" was given by several members of the club. In the fall of the same year recreational facilities for youth were discussed at one meeting by our village engineer.

The programs are made each year by a program committee appointed by the president and the club meets at the homes of members. A notice of each meeting is published in the local papers with the program and the meeting place. The club has at least 14 meetings yearly. At present there are 30 members. Names for membership are presented by the club and later voted on by an executive committee.

50th Anniversary

The Gouverneur Outlook club celebrated its 50th anniversary at the home of Mrs. Charles Anderson November 20th, 1954. The minutes of the first meeting of the club were read by Mrs. George Jones, the president. Mrs. Adelbert Gates presented her impressions of The Outlook Club and selections of original poems by Mrs. Margaret Backus were read by Mrs. Anderson. Miss J. Johnson and Mrs. Ella Woodworth presented the history of the club excerpts from the club programs throughout the years.

The program was under the direction of Mrs. John P. Hardy, chairman, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Woodworth. At the close of the program a corsage of roses was presented to Mrs. Adelbert Gates the oldest member of the club. Tea was served in the dining room, Mrs. Woodworth pouring. A golden birthday cake with 50 candles, golden chrysanthemums and lighted tapers completed the table decorations. The tea committee was Miss Nellie A. Newton and Mrs. Henry M. Scott.

The officers of the present fiscal year 1955 are:

President, Mrs. George Jones; first vice-president, Mrs. John Bulger; second vice-president, Mrs. Roland Lord; secretary, Miss Josephine Johnson; treasurer, Mrs. Earl Truax; corresponding secretary, Mrs. John Hardy and press correspondent, Mrs. Grant Freeman.

The Twentieth Century Club

By Mrs. CARLTON E. WEEGAR

On Thursday, October 4, 1928 a meeting was called at the home of Miss Alice Thrall in Gouverneur for the purpose of forming a literary club. The first officers elected were: President, Mrs. Pauline Simons; vice-president, Miss Alice Thrall; secretary, Mrs. Bessie Green and treasurer, Mrs. Grace Webster.

The club was formed with the aim of helping the members to acquire a better knowledge of literary work and cultural information that could be used in the home.

The Twentieth Century club has taken up a variety of subjects including the study of various countries, art, travel, book re-

views, plays, analyses of authors and their writings, poetry, music and historical information about the local community and the north country of New York state.

Subjects of current interest, political material, information about education, home decorating ideas and hobbies have made the club meetings interesting and informative. In some years there have been meetings to which each member was privileged to invite a guest. In 1954 and 1955 the yearly meetings were concluded with an evening banquet and election of officers.

When the club was formed there were 16 charter members. At present there are 24 members,

two associate members and two honorary members. As a vacancy occurs, a new member is elected to the club. The dues are \$1.25 a year.

A complete file of the club programs from 1928 to the present is kept by Miss Hazel Dickson, one of the charter members.

Charter members were Mrs. Edna Allen, Miss Hazel Dickson, Mrs. Bessie Green, Mrs. Elizabeth Hawes, Mrs. Nina Hazelton, Mrs. Mary Kinney, Miss Marion Leggett, Mrs. Ruth Mason, Mrs. Vera Merriman, Mrs. Agnes Moore, Mrs. Faye Ross, Mrs. Pauline Simons, Miss Alice Thrall, Mrs. Faye Trerise, Mrs. Grace Washburn and Mrs. Grace Webster.

The Gouverneur Arts Club

By MRS. MASON SMITH

To foster interest in the study of literature, art and drama and questions of the hour, the Gouverneur Arts club was organized in 1922.

First officers for 1922-23 were: president, Mrs. W. B. Stoughton; vice-president, Mrs. Adelaide Smith; secretary, Mrs. Clyde W. Bame; treasurer, Mrs. W. H. Loomis; custodian, Miss Alice Wilcox and critic, Mrs. W. Leonard Baten (now Mrs. John Belknap). It was the critic's duty to see that every word spoken at meetings be correctly pronounced. The program committee was headed by Mrs. A. F. McAllaster.

The club met at homes of mem-

bers every week for the first year, membership being limited to 20. Other charter members were Mrs. V. P. Abbott, Mrs. H. G. Aldrich, Miss Marion Anthony, Mrs. B. J. Carpenter, Mrs. Louise Case, Mrs. F. F. Drury, Miss Blanche Hodgkin, Mrs. A. M. Jepson, Mrs. D. F. Sprague, Mrs. M. T. Finley, Mrs. A. J. Probst and Miss Bess McFall (now Mrs. Dunlop Clark).

The school milk fund is one of the club's earliest interests, dating from 1923. The library and the hospital have also received yearly donations since 1928.

The Gouverneur Arts club was the first to develop interest in the Northern Federation of Women's clubs' Dorothy Ebersol Art prize.

In 1924 the arts club joined the Northern Federation of Women's clubs, founded by one of its members, Mrs. A. F. McAllaster. The club is still active in the federation, having two appointed delegates at the May convention in Watertown.

Club Members

Mrs. R. F. Atkinson, Mrs. C. W. Bame, Mrs. J. B. Belknap, Mrs. B. J. Carpenter, Mrs. E. H. Case, Mrs. E. H. Cole, Mrs. H. F. Collins, Mrs. F. F. Drury, Mrs. Mark Graves, Miss Blanche Hodgkin, Mrs. J. E. Hollis, Mrs. A. P. Loomis, Mrs. W. H. Loomis, Mrs. J. F. McAllaster, Mrs. M. H. McOmber, Mrs. P. H. Nelson, Mrs. C. I. Ruderman, Mrs. M. R. Smith, Mrs. D. F. Sprague.

The Gouverneur P.T.A. Units

By MRS. ROBERT DYGERT

The first Gouverneur PTA unit to receive its charter was the East Side Elementary School unit.

The first president was Mrs. Norman Donald. Past presidents East Side PTA include Lincoln Cathers, Frederic E. Price, Mrs. George Bush, Dr. Edward Koch, Mrs. Robert Dygert, Mrs. Jack Hollis and Dr. William Haenel. The newly elected officers are: president, George Cotter; vice-president, Mrs. George Cotter; secretary, Mrs. Dominic Colloca; treasurer, Miss Marion Boulet.

West Side

The West Side Elementary

school unit received its charter on May 17, 1950. The first president was Mrs. Rodney Bradish. Its past presidents are Mrs. Grant Kaley and Glenn Johnson who has been reelected for a second term. The other officers at the present time are vice-president, Mrs. Merton Jennings; secretary, Mrs. Frederick Venton; treasurer, Archie Desnoyers.

A PTA unit was chartered at Balmat on January 18, 1954, and elected Walter Parker as its president. The present officers are Mrs. J. O. Marshall, president; Walter Parker, vice-president;

Mrs. Wallace Cropper, secretary; Mrs. John Young, treasurer.

High School

The Junior-Senior High School Unit received its charter on November 10, 1953. Mrs. Earl Truax was its first president. The immediate past president is Mrs. Robert Dygert who has been appointed St. Lawrence District Director and installed at the District Conference by the New York State President, Mrs. Harold Fallon of White Plains. The newly elected officers of the High School Unit are President, Dr. Charles Stahl; vice-president, Mrs. Helen Beatty; secretary, Mrs. Mark Riley; treas-

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union

By MRS. CHARLES McADAM

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized in Gouverneur, New York in 1883. No record of the first officers or exact date of organization is given, but from the first records, dated September 11, 1890, and titled as follows, "Seventh Annual election of officers," we deduce the date. Elected in 1890 were: President, Mrs. H. S. Randall; first vice-president, Mrs. Benjamin Olds; second vice-president, Mrs. F. H. Marsh; recording secretary, Miss Mary Sayer; corresponding secretary, Mrs. N. Aldrich; treasurer, Mrs. Pooler.

The county convention was held in Gouverneur at the Baptist church in June, 1890. Records show that there were 650 pledges signed in the Sunday school that year. Twenty new members united with the Union. The membership in 1892-93 was 105 active paid, with 12 honorary members (men). Heading this list was Rev. S. T. Dibble, Rev. D. D. Munroe, J. V. Baker and A. E. Cushman.

The annual report for 1899 shows an increase of 18 in membership. The average attendance at parlor meetings was 51. Twenty-three regular and departmental meetings were held. At this time the Woman's Christian Temperance Union circulated petitions for a curfew law and a law governing Sunday games and liquor. They distributed 1401 pages of literature. Also they placed the "Union Signal," the official publication of the National W.C.T.U., in the Reading Room (library), a pattern which has been followed to the present time.

In 1904 the membership is shown as 101. Miss Mary Sayer was made a life member by the Union in appreciation of her work for the W.C.T.U. Listed in the membership 1904 were Mrs. S. A. Ackerman, Miss Estella Ackerman, Jennie McCloy, Elizabeth McCloy, Mrs. C. L. Peck, wife of the Methodist minister; Mrs. Newton Aldrich.

During the Early 1900's

On May 8, 1906 the first meeting was held in Room 5 of the Century Block, a practice which continued until 1920. In 1908 the W.C.T.U. served Christmas dinner to 60 children and their parents. In December 1912 the W.C.T.U. financed the treatment of an alcoholic at one of the Keeley Institutes, at Whitesboro, N.Y., founded by Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, a native of St. Lawrence county, and known as Keela-Kure.

In May, 1914, the W.C.T.U. voted to help pay the board and tuition of a local girl at the Helen L. Bullock Training School at Elmira N.Y.

In 1917 a rest tent was maintained at the fairgrounds during the Fair. Here hundreds of pages of literature were distributed, and posters were exhibited. One whole evening during the McComb evangelistic campaign was devoted to the W.C.T.U., and pennants representing dry states were displayed and Unions from other localities were present. One thousand persons attended this meeting. Three hundred temperance leaflets were distributed.

In 1940 it was voted to put the "Life of Frances Willard" in the Dean High school library; the book "The Pioneer Girl" was placed in both the East and West side sixth grade rooms. Also in 1940 there was an essay contest on the life of Frances Willard for sixth grade pupils. Jean Cassaw was awarded first prize; Roberta Huntress, second prize; Eleanor Valle, third prize. Judges were Adelaide Johnson and the Rev. Joseph Schofield. In 1940 the State Convention was held at Wattertown, N.Y. Mrs. Ada Taylor was the delegate from Gouverneur.

In 1947 Mrs. George Frazier, local president, was delegate to the World W.C.T.U. Convention held that year at Asbury Park, N.J. Local membership in 1947 was 74 with 46 White Ribbon Recruits.

On May 6, 1949 the St. Lawrence County W.C.T.U. Diamond Jubilee Institute was held in the Methodist church at Gouverneur. Mrs. Frazier, who had served as president since 1936 continuously, was forced because of her husband's failing health to curtail outside activities and in October 1950 a new slate of officers was elected; Mrs. Mabel Boulton, president; Mrs. Evelyn Price, vice president; Miss Vaughn Corse, treasurer; and Mrs. Grace Sprague secretary. In January, 1951 Mrs. Boulton resigned and Mrs. Evelyn Price became president. Mrs. Kate Tyler replaced Mrs. Price as vice-president.

Legislation through education is one aim of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, so in 1951 an essay contest was sponsored in the sixth grades with prizes awarded amounting to \$10.00.

In 1952 an essay contest was sponsored in the senior class in addition to the sixth grade contest. Prizes that year amounted to \$35.00. In 1953 essays on the harmful effects of alcohol were written and prizes awarded in the amount of \$32.00.

In 1954 essay contest prizes amounted to \$25.00 and poster prizes to \$14.50. Also during 1954 over \$25.00 was used for scientific temperance instruction, of which Mrs. Eula McCormick was director. In March 1954, Mrs. Grace Sprague was made a life member by the Union.

In 1955 the Gouverneur Woman's Christian Temperance Union received from the estate of Mrs. George Frazier the amount of \$200.00, which amount the members voted to place in the Savings and Loan, the interest to be used yearly as a prize in memory of Mrs. Frazier. The membership in May, 1955, is 48 with three honorary members.

Officers are: Mrs. Charles McAdam, president; Mrs. Lila (C. E.) Crowner, vice-president; Miss Vaughn Corse, treasurer; Mrs. Alfred Hendra, secretary; and Mrs. Kate Tyler, sunshine secretary.

The Gouverneur Business Women's Club

By MARGARET STORIE

The Gouverneur Business Women's club was organized and the first dinner meeting held December 11, 1928 at the Venture Inn which stood where the present Market Basket store is located.

The following were charter members of the club: Misses Mary E. Cassidy, Elizabeth T. Callahan, E. Ruby Fletcher, Helena Johnston, Harriet Hamel, Pearl M. Orvis, Ella Sweeney, Thena Townsley, Alice Wilcox, Mildred Stewart, Mary Mason; also Mrs. Mary Clohosey, Mrs. C. C. Cunningham, Mrs. B. J. Carpenter, Mrs. Harriet Easton and Mrs. Essie W. Melrose. Miss Cassidy was the club's first president. Charter members who are still active in the club are the Misses Cassidy, Fletcher, Johnston, Mason, Orvis and Townsley.

Purpose

The club was formed for the purpose of uniting the business women of Gouverneur for social and benevolent purposes, and to promote a spirit of friendliness and good fellowship among us, also for civic improvement and the encouragement of whatever is for the welfare of the community.

In the past the club has donated funds to purchase shrubbery for the village park and along the bank of the Oswegatchie River.

It also participates in all local fund raising campaigns and during World War II contributed to the USO fund, United War Fund and Clothing Drive for Overseas. Several members worked on the Civil Defense during the last World War by answering the telephones at the center located at the milk plant during the practice air raids. Just recently the club presented the Gouverneur Reading Room with a copy of the Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible.

The club limits membership to 50 and meets the third Tuesday evening of each month at various places in and out of town. They usually have some form of entertainment. The club joined the Northern New York Federation of Women's clubs in 1933.

When Gouverneur celebrated St. Lawrence County's Sesqui-Centennial in May 1952, the Business Women's club decorated the window at Crumb's Shoe store and also Gerald's Dress shop and won \$12.50 in prizes. For the forthcoming celebration, they will decorate a window at the Surprise Store. The club just recently decorated the high school auditorium for the E. J. Noble Hospital Easter Ball, sponsored by the Hospital Auxiliary, using the Sesqui-centennial setting. The committee composed of Mrs. George Caswell, jr., as

chairman, Mrs. Roger Rumble, Mrs. Henry Carpenter and Mrs. Howard Hitsman did an excellent job in carrying out the theme.

The present members are: Edna Ackerman, Doris Beecher, Blanche Boscoe, Mabel Bowers, Elva Brown, Ida Burr, Mildred Carpenter, Mary Cassidy, Arleen Caswell, Jane Christian, Carol Clark, Freida Cole, Gloria Connelly, Geraldine Cook and Lillian Deans.

Also Blanche Downing, Ada Dusharm, Dorothy Eckman, Della Evans, Elsie Fleming, Ruby Fletcher, Edna Hall, Miriam Hayden, Adah Howe, Irene Hendra, Dorothy Hitsman.

Also Eloise Hurst, Eleanor Jackson, Helena Johnston, Eleanor Jones, Birdella Love, Beverly Maginn, Doris Markwick, Mary Mason, Lucy McLearn, Dorothy Papineau, Betty Porteous and Elizabeth Raven.

Also Lera Reddick, Louise Rich, Emma Richardson, Alma Rumble, Patience Seaker, Margaret Storie, Mary Thompson, Thena Townsley, Eula Trerise, Edith Vail and Carrie Wallace.

Present officers are as follows: President, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Raven; vice-president, Mrs. Eleanor M. Jones; secretary, Mrs. Carol J. Clark and treasurer, Mrs. Dorothy G. Eckman.

The Women's Republican Club of Gouverneur

By MRS. WALLACE THOMPSON

The Women's Republican club of Gouverneur was organized by committeewomen and a representative group of local women on Tuesday, September 12, 1950. The purpose set forth was to fill the need for political education and to cooperate with the County Republican Committee in bringing the issues of the party before the voters of the county.

The club has been instrumental in bringing to the community noted speakers, who discussed vital topics pertinent to the times. Such speakers included Congressman Clarence Kilburn, former Congresswoman Winifred Stanley, Mrs. Stanley Wells, former president of St. Lawrence County Women's clubs; Mrs. Florence Dunlop, president of St. Lawrence County Women's clubs; Mrs. Re-

becca McNab, former vice-president of National Federation of Republican Women's clubs; Dr. Frederick Crumb, former St. Lawrence County Republican chairman; and Edward H. Case, trustee of the New York State Power Authority. Former Governor Thomas E. Dewey addressed a Gouverneur audience in Grange Hall on October 4, 1950. These speakers discussed such topics as Mental Hygiene, St. Lawrence Seaway, Socialized Medicine and Increased Political Responsibility.

A Lincoln's Birthday card party is held each year to supplement the club socially as well as financially.

The original members of this local chapter are as follows: President, Mrs. Bligh A. Dodds; vice-president, Mrs. Everett Stevenson; secretary, Mrs. Howard F.

Collins; treasurer, Mrs. Edward L. Burr; Mrs. George W. Schildge, Mrs. James B. Rubar, Mrs. Arthur B. Hart, Mrs. Glen W. Lehigh, Mrs. Donald Homer, Mrs. E. Harold Cole, Mrs. Donald Monterville.

The slate of officers for the year 1955 include the following, President, Mrs. Paul D. Graves; first vice-president, Mrs. Ruth Warwick; second vice-president, Mrs. Richard Jackson; third vice-president, Mrs. E. Harold Cole; treasurer, Mrs. William Anderson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Ruth Bame; recording secretary, Mrs. Wallace H. Thompson.

The Gouverneur chapter of the St. Lawrence County Women's Republican club is still in its infancy, but club members feel that much has been accomplished in the past, and they look forward to a most promising future.

Old Home Week Celebration in 1905

By **JULIUS R. BARTLETT**

Dedication of the memorial arch in Gouverneur on August 29, 1905, was the culminating event of the Old Home Week celebration in Gouverneur village, in observance of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the town of Gouverneur, originally as Cambray, by Gouverneur Morris. The name of Cambray was changed in 1810 to Gouverneur.

Although no absolute record is known as to the renaming of the five year old township, it is commonly understood that it was named after the founder, Gouverneur Morris. But an oddity is noticed in that the name is the first name of Mr. Morris. And as the mother of Gouverneur Morris was Sarah Gouverneur, it would entirely be possible that the name came from the Gouverneur family, and perhaps from the mother of Gouverneur Morris.

Old Home Week

The Old Home week movement was suggested to Francis H. Lamon, Northern Tribune editor early in February, 1905. On February 21, the suggestion was carried in the Northern Tribune, and met with general approval.

The fact that Watertown was progressing toward an event of a similar nature held in June 1905 aided in furthering local interest.

A permanent memorial was thought to be a must here, but the cost of a memorial statue and the expense of an observance, was recognized as a big undertaking.

After several March and April meetings, there had been subscribed only about \$1,200 of the \$2,000 deemed to be necessary to carry out the Old Home Week event.

Amasa Corbin agreed to underwrite the finances on the Memorial Arch, if \$2,000, worth of subscriptions on the book were sold by May 6th, 1905.

A May 4th meeting guaranteed the anniversary, when J. Brayton Johnson, an industrialist, told the meeting that a group of local men had guaranteed to take enough copies of the centennial history then being prepared by Jay S. Corbin, to insure that the \$2,000 would be available.

Amasa Corbin, president of anniversary, directed David N. Scholton to proceed with the technical work on the arch and a contract for its erection be let. The

Extra Dark Marble Co. was quickly awarded the contract at \$1,650. The arch was much more popular than a monument idea.

The group of men who signed up for the copies of the 100 years of Gouverneur history included Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lamon, Walter W. Hall, Harry C. Rogers, Benjamin F. Brown, Walter R. Perrin, Barnard G. Parker, James B. Thompson, Edward W. Duffie, David G. Scholton and J. Vinton Baker.

Cornerstone

With the cost of the arch assured, ground was broken on Memorial Day, 1905 and the cornerstone laid on Flag Day, June 14. A public subscription for contributors toward building the arch had been carried on in May and a list was enclosed in the cornerstone of all who donated toward the building of the arch.

A contribution of \$150 from the Erwin H. Barnes Post No. 156, G. A. R., was the nucleus of the arch building campaign fund. This fund and the money from the sale of the centennial histories proved to be adequate to finance the Old Home Week plans, and thereafter, until the opening day, August 24, it was only a matter of arranging the program.

Gouverneur Morris IV

The Old Home Week committee tried to get Gouverneur Morris, IV, to visit for at least one day the town that was observing for a week the founding of Gouverneur by his great, great-grandfather, Gouverneur Morris, who wrote his name in United States history by the part he played in framing the Federal Constitution in 1787.

But Gouverneur Morris, IV, was then 29 years old and a rising young author, and four generations had practically erased any regard that the Morris or Gouverneur families might have had for this area.

Gouverneur Morris, IV, was born in New York, February 7, 1876. He left New York to take up residence in Manhattan Beach, California, in 1932 and also had a home in Monterey. He died at Gallup, New Mexico, August 14, 1953.

The Arch

The location of the arch in the tree shaded village green, known as the park, was decided upon

without difficulty as the park, a feature of the life of Peter Van Buren, hotel keeper, is in almost the geographical center of the village. East and West Main streets have always been the main streets of the village and now are on Route 11 of the New York State Highway department.

Old Home Week

Old Home Week was officially opened August 24, 1905 at sunrise with a blowing of whistles and ringing of church and school bells. The newspapers made mention of the rather deep toned whistles of the Extra Dark, S. Lawrence, Empire, Gouverneur and Northern New York marble quarries, then operating at the southwestern village limits, together with the Aldrich Paper Co. at Natural Dam, (this company now the Rushmore Paper Mills) and in the village the International Lacle Co. alarm known as the "screech owl" and the Gouverneur Steam Laundry whistle at the rear of the Gouverneur Savings and Loan association, at John and Church streets.

The church and school bells were also rung for about a five minute period and Old Home Week was announced to everyone and none except a very sound sleeper failed to notice the noisy announcement.

Headquarters

The historical exhibit and headquarters for the week were located in what is now the Century block at 23 Park street, then just completed, and furnishing ample room for the Old Home affair. A band concert by the Gouverneur Citizens band, was held in the village park in the evening, with a march entitled, "One Hundred Years and a Day" composed by Charles M. Tait, a feature of the concert. Mr. Tait was also the band leader.

Pioneer Day

Friday was pioneer and visiting day when hundreds of people home for the week, or at least part of it, visited the marble quarries, the Lace mill, the Aldrich Paper Co. and the Fowler talc mills. This visitation was, of course, in the horse and buggy day.

The preliminaries toward the construction of the milk plant that is now the Pioneer Ice Cream Division of the Borden Co., were

in a formative state being readied and directly after the end of the Old Home Week observance, ground was broken for the plant at 63 Grove street, which ended the main part of the former Dodge Grove.

Industrial Day

Saturday was industrial day with a parade in a rainstorm in the afternoon featuring the marble industry, the paper mill at Natural Dam, the Fowler talc mills, local businessmen and individuals. The address of William D. McKinstry, editor of the Watertown Times, was to have been held in the park, but weather condition forced it into Union Hall, then existing at 6 Church street. The hall was filled to overflowing.

Educational Day

Monday was educational day. Many graduates of the Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary, as well as its successor, run by local people after the Methodist church abandoned the Seminary in 1869, were in reunion parties. The Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary ceased

operating in 1887, and it was succeeded by Gouverneur high school. The high school grads were also present.

William H. Eustis, a Gouverneur Wesleyan attendant and a former mayor of his adopted city of Minneapolis, was present and spoke with easy fluency to those assembled in the park. Also making addresses were Thomas Spratt and General Newton M. Curtis of Ogdensburg and Martin R. Sacket United States Consul at Prescott and principal of the Wesleyan seminary from 1880 to 1887.

Mr. Sacket started The Northern Tribune in 1887 after the Wesleyan seminary ended its career and was still listed as the Northern Tribune editor in 1905.

Mr. Eustis was an 1869 graduate of the old seminary, the last year in which the Methodist church assumed the patronage and control of the school. James C. Dolan, then just elected to the Board of Education, made a brief address at this meeting.

Devotional Day

Sunday was devotional day with

enlarged services in all churches and a 7:30 p.m. service in the park featuring a 150 voice choir. The new arch had been completed, and its lines and architectural effect drew much commendation.

Dedication Day

The arch dedication day was carried out almost completely as planned and as indicated in the two leaf folder, issued by the Old Home Week committee. Admiral W. S. Schley and Admiral J. A. Smith were both present for the 1:30 p.m. dedication, as well as General N. M. Curtis. The parade preceded the dedication and featured military effects, with G.A.R. veterans, a battalion of regular soldiers, Sons of Veterans, Watertown, the Colonial Guards, Gouverneur, carriages with guests, the Gouverneur fire department and civic organizations, lodges and other groups, accompanied by many bands.

The Northern Tribune and the Gouverneur Free Press gave extended coverage to the anniversary event and to the speeches of the various men from other areas.



WHAT IT WAS LIKE FIFTY YEARS AGO when Gouverneur celebrated her Centennial Anniversary with an Old Home Week? The same bunting and flags, the same holiday crowd, and the same traffic bound streets. It didn't make too much dif-

ference that it was horses and buggies, and that the clothes differed. The identical pride in their town and village and the pleasure of greeting old friends prevailed in 1905 as in 1955.



SEVEN O'CLOCK TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 26, and the silver tones of reveille mark the opening of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary celebration of the town and village of Gouverneur. Smart scouts from Explorer Post 22 leave the Presbyterian church daily at seven during Sesqui-centennial week, march in rhythm with the beat of their drum to the flag pole at the end of the park, there with all ceremony raise the American flag over Gouverneur. Heralding the observation on the first day were Bugler Terry Austin, Drummer Tommy King and Explorer Scouts George Yerdon, Gary Ferguson and Paul Pete.



ONE OF THE MANY GROUPS OF HANDICRAFT ARTICLES displayed during Sesqui-centennial week at the Gouverneur Public Library. The exhibit was prepared under the direction of Miss Ruth G. Easton assisted by Mrs. Weldon P. Lynde, Mrs. Earle M. Gates and Miss Doris Peabody.