

Annual Tour
Riverside Cemetery
Gouverneur, N.Y., Sept. 25, 2010

FOUND A GARNET MINE

A. Corbin, Jr. of Gouverneur is in Luck

Gouverneur, May 1 - A. Corbin, Jr. of this place, has discovered a garnet deposit on the Frank Babcock farm, just out of the corporation limits of this village, and it is thought during the next few weeks a company will be incorporated for the development of the mine. The deposit is said to be an extensive one and experts who have examined it venture the assertion that there is but one other deposit of comparable material in this country, and that one is situated near North Creek, in the Saratoga region.

The story of how Mr. Corbin discovered the mine is somewhat interesting. Some years ago, early in the thirties of the last century, there lived on the Price farm, on the Little Bow Road, adjoining the present Babcock farm, a Scotch farmer named Nathan Hill. With him lived his son, David Hill. About 1850 the family moved West and nothing was heard from them for many years. Several weeks ago A. Corbin, Jr. received the letter which follows, from the son, now 84 years of age.

Hughesville, Missouri

Mr. A. Corbin, Jr.

I take the liberty to write you in reference to mining, as you seem to be lucky in finding mines. There is, about one mile north of Gouverneur Village, on the road that goes to Little Bow, before you go to the John Keelar place, (a hill.) It goes past the Ross Streeter place across the flat beyond the rise to where William Walling used to live. Go a little East along the side of the hill and there is a perpendicular rock about eight or ten feet high. About 65 years ago my father, Nathan Hill, built a shanty and built a fire by the rock. The fire shelled the rock and in the shells was some kind of mineral. I knocked the shells and the mineral came off in small particles the size of wheat kernels. They were hard. Perhaps you may examine it. Your father, if alive, knows me. Excuse poor writing, as I am 84 years old.

Respectfully,
David Hill

Mr. Corbin followed the directions and found the garnet as the old man had said. He has been conducting the investigation for some time past, and now believes beyond a doubt he has a fine mine of garnet.

BLACK SALT - a chemical compound found in the earth. It is made up of several properties, one of them being sodium salt. It is a complex mineral compound with a strong sulfur content. It has been used for medicinal purposes such as lowering blood pressure, as a toxic to melanoma cancer cells and also demonstrates antibacterial activity in some food processing applications. It is also another name for Rock Salt.

Gouverneur Cemetery Association

Early in August 1808 a shadow came over the settlement of Cambray in the sudden death of Emily Porter, a sprightly little girl of 2 years, and daughter of Isreal Porter. She had been out during the day with some other children gathering peas; and it is believed ate a quantity of the half-ripened kernels, which swelled in the stomach causing her death. This occasion led to the selection of the first burying ground, which was in the area of the present Presbyterian Church in a hemlock grove. Here Emily Porter was laid to rest in a pine coffin.

This first cemetery was ceded to the inhabitants of Cambray by Gouverneur Morris and consisted of 2 acres bounded by the Oswegatchie River and roughly by what are now John, William, and Church streets. In 1857 it became apparent a new and larger cemetery was necessary.

After looking over the various lots offered for sale, a committee settled upon the former Pardon Babcock farm, which had become the property of Harvey D. Smith. It lay southwest of the village on the banks of the Oswegatchie.

Thirty acres of this farm were purchased at a cost of \$1500.00 and "one burying plot" from Mr. and Mrs. Smith by the Gouverneur Cemetery Association, which had been organized on June 23, 1857. B.F. Hathaway of Brookline, N.Y. was employed to layout and grade the new ground. More than 600 lots were prepared for use with miles of walks and avenues - trees were planted and everything to make the cemetery attractive was done. The first burial was Joseph B. Smith August 25, 1857. (19 B31) By 1860 records indicate 11 acres had been added, and in 1866 there is an entry in the minutes of the annual meeting noting \$800 spent that year for land.

By 1860 the public mind became reconciled to transferring the dead from the old burying ground. The most picturesque portion of the new cemetery was selected for this purpose, boxes were provided, and the whole accomplished in two weeks at the expense of the corporation. In all, 637 removals were made under the direction of Thomas Thayer. Emily Porter was relocated to her family plot. (9 H75) Many of the removals were from unmarked graves.

The new cemetery adopted the name Riverside at a meeting of the association held April 14, 1858, and the dedication ceremonies took place Sunday, June 23 that year.

In the year 1954 it became apparent to the officers and trustees that more ground was a necessity. All 1676 saleable lots in Riverside had been purchased, and using a figure of 3 burials per lot (actually probably more) it can be said that the population of Riverside is greater than that of the village.

A site on the east bank of the Oswegatchie was finally selected which consisted of 10 acres purchased for \$3500 and a perpetual option was granted for up to 30 more acres. This addition is designated as East Riverside and should serve the area for many years.



MCALLASTER K101

On one side of the large monument are five grave stones:

Josephine M. 1895-1917, daughter of Archie and Lena

Lena Cook 1870-1946, Archie's wife

Archie F. 1865-1951, son of Joseph E.

Caroline M. Gunnison 1893-1983 Archie and Lena's daughter

Foster Gunnison Jr. 1925-1994 Caroline's son

The other side of the monument has 9 grave stones, descendants of Archie and Lena:

Catens, Deuvals, Belknaps, Skinners and two infants, Bush and Molther.

Joseph E. McAllaster 1833-1919

In 1880 he took over the feed mill on the West bank of the Oswegatchie River. He opened the first marble quarry in Northern New York, the St. Lawrence Quarry. He built a two-story brick building on Main Street in 1871 and another four-story building in 1896. He also built an electric power plant.

Archie F. McAllaster 1865-1951

Son of Joseph E., he attended the Wesleyan Seminary in Gouverneur, Williams College and Columbia Law School. In 1889 he became a lawyer in Gouverneur. In 1892 he joined his father in the feed business. In 1919 his son-in-law Leonard Caten, daughter Adelaide's first husband took over the feed business. Adelaide lived to be 100. Archie was a Bank of Gouverneur director for 28 years.

Lena Cook McAllaster 1870-1946 wife of Archie

In 1895 she organized the Shakespeare Club and was instrumental in starting the first hospital space and the Northern New York Federation of Women's Clubs.

Joseph F. McAllaster - Son of Archie - died in 1987

He ran the feed business until the late 1940s when his son took over the management. He was a long-time member of the fair board and followed his father as director of the Bank of Gouverneur 1911-1940. He also was a trustee of the hospital and member of the school board. After his retirement he and wife Virginia took a trip around the world and to South America. They spent winters in Florida for 27 years. Virginia Sprague McAllaster was very active in civic and social affairs. She was first president of the EJ Noble Hospital Auxiliary and a member of "Who's Who of American Women". After her death in 1974 Joseph married Jane A. Graves, widow of Supreme Court Judge Paul Graves.

Joseph E. McAllaster - died 2002 in Florida

Great-grandson of Joseph E., he took over the feed mill from his father Joseph F.. He was a school board member, president of the hospital board of trustees and co-chairman of the 1978 hospital fund drive.

The fourth generation to operate the feed mill, Joseph E. ran the mill until 1952 when it became evident that the bridge was to be elevated on the west side. In 1953 the business was moved to Starbuck Street and sold to Purina Mills in 1958 and Joseph E. continued to manage J.E. McAllaster Oil Co.. Four generations ran the feed business continually for 68 years. A fifth generation son, Richard was named manager of the oil firm in 1977 when it became a division of the Augsbury Corp. of Ogdensburg.

There are strong connections to St. Lawrence University as several McAllaster family members attended the school. Archie F. II, son of Joseph F. and Virginia, established a scholarship in his son's name, Archie "Sandy" III and was benefactor of the Sandy McAllaster Soccer Field. The McAllaster family continues to support the St. Lawrence endowment.

ALBERT E. BOUGHNER 1892-1972 Q-38

Mr. Boughner was born August 19, 1892 in Sedelai, Missouri. He was educated in the southwest and worked eight years in that region in railroad engineering and construction. From 1917, he managed production of milk products and ice cream. He came to Richville in 1923 as superintendent of the J.M. Horton Ice Cream Company which became part of the Borden Co. as the Pioneer Division. He retired as manager in 1957.

He was a member of a committee formed to reorganize the First National Bank following the bank holiday in 1933, and to raise sufficient capital. Named vice president and director of the reorganized bank in 1934, he served as its president from 1950 to 1960.

A director and officer of the former Stephen B. VanDuzee Hospital from 1932 to 1947, during which time he served nine years as president, Mr. Boughner became president of North Country Hospitals, Inc., from its organization in 1947 until 1954. He worked hard on the building fund drive and construction plans for three Noble hospitals at Gouverneur, Alexandria Bay and Canton, and was chairman of the board of trustees of Gouverneur Edward John Noble Hospital from 1947 to 1954.

Mr. Boughner was president of the Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce in 1933-34. In 1958 he received the Chamber Certificate of Merit for outstanding service to the community.

He was president of the Gouverneur Board of Education from 1934 to 1947, during which time the construction of the Dolan annex to the high school was accomplished. He was commander of James Maloy Post 65 American Legion in 1941-42 and president of the Gouverneur Luncheon Club in 1931-32.

Mr. Boughner was director of Civilian Protection in St. Lawrence County from 1942 to 1945, member of the board of managers, St. Lawrence County Laboratory 1937 to 1950 and a member of the executive committee Central New York Regional Hospital Council.

A member of the Oswegatchie River Cranberry Reservoir commission from 1948 he served as its chairman from 1954 to 1969.

MORE CEMETERY FACTS . . .

- A Perpetual Care Fund was established years ago for the purpose of an individual grave, plot or space. This sum of money is also an endowment and can be invested with only the interest going towards care of a specific lot.
- Lot owners are the true owners of the cemetery and it is to their best interest to attend all meetings held by the board.

ELLA M. HALL A-1

Ella M. Hall died November 17, 1941. She was one of the oldest Gouverneur residents at that time. She was a pioneer of North Gouverneur. She was born in 1846 in a log cabin. Her family bought 144 acres, which was the Sullivan farm at one time.

Ella often recollected her childhood experiences, especially about Indians camping along the Oswegatchie River, which runs through the farm. The only income the family had when she was a small girl was from the sale of black salts. The product was drawn to Ogdensburg by wagon. She attended the Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary and taught school in several surrounding one-room school houses.

Miss Hall was a Democrat and kept up on the political scene as best she could in those times. She was an avid reader and enjoyed economic and political subjects. She knew that Lincoln did not want to free the slaves by war. He wanted the government to buy them from their southern owners and then free them. Lincoln's advisers were opposed to that idea, as it would bankrupt the country. As we know from history, Lincoln went along with his advisors.

LOTT HALL (1844-1932)

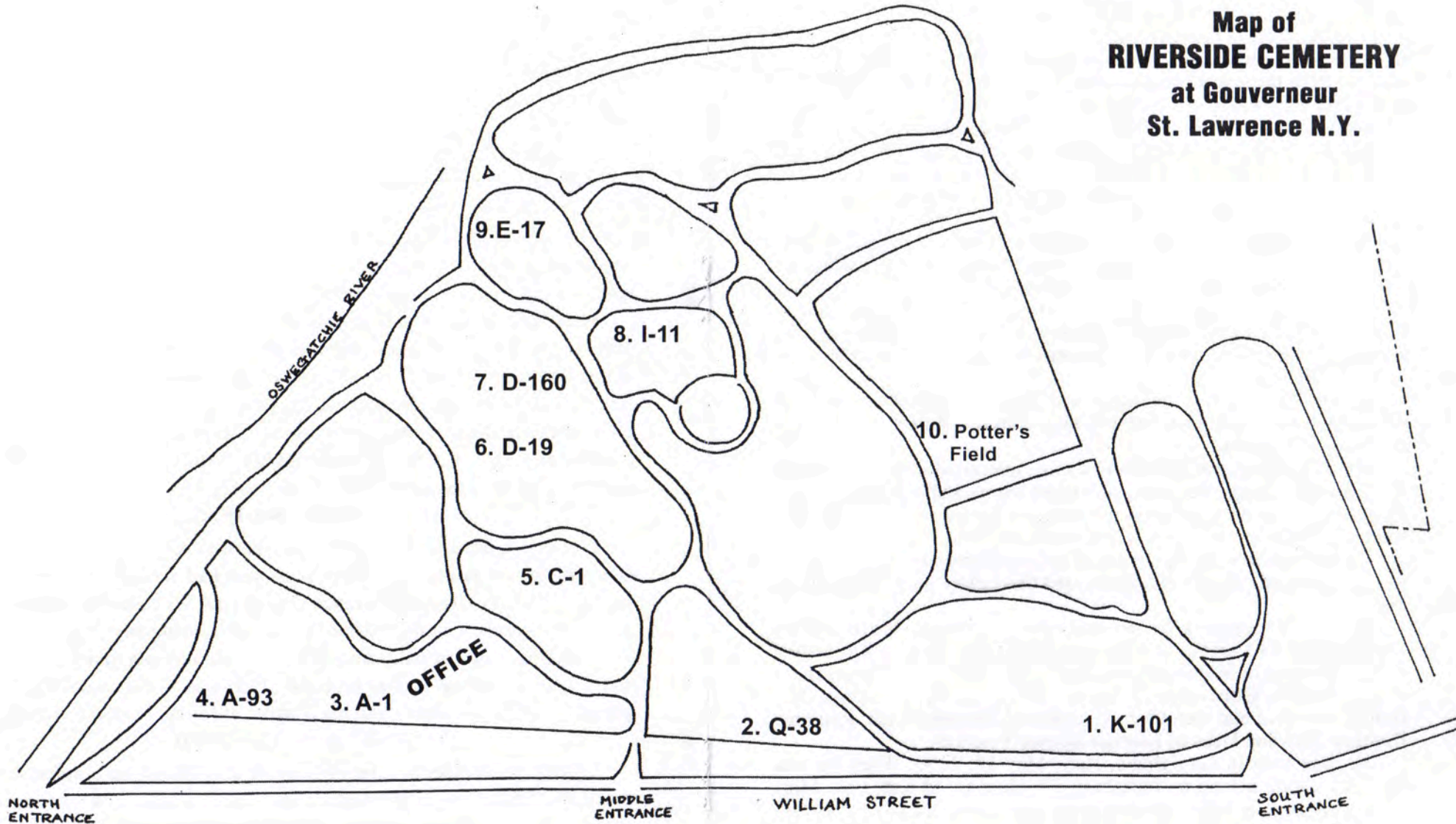
Lott was a brother of Ella. He was born in a log cabin in North Gouverneur. He farmed for many years and had several positions in local and County Grange Insurance Companies. When he retired from the St. Lawrence County Farmers Insurance Company it had over \$15,000,000 of insurance in force in the county farming districts. This was a sizable amount at that time. Mr. Hall was given credit for the growth of the organization and his support of farmers and the Grange.

WALTER HALL (1849-1910)

Walter was another brother of Ella. He was one of the best-known residents of the area and throughout the State because of his connection for years with the State Agricultural Department. He was home on vacation from his teaching position in the Dairy Department at Cornell when he passed. At age 21 he engaged in the manufacture of butter and cheese. He became an expert on the manufacturing of dairy products in the state.

Before accepting his position at Cornell, he gave lectures around the state and Ontario, Canada. Mr. Hall was a thinker upon progressive lines and sought after in his area of expertise.

**Map of
RIVERSIDE CEMETERY
at Gouverneur
St. Lawrence N.Y.**



- 1. McAllaster K101
- 2. Albert Boughner Q38
- 3. Ella/Lott/Walter Hall A-1
- 4. Fred Scozzafava A-93
- 5. John Fosgate C-1

- 6. David Hill D-19
- 7. Daniel Whitney D-160
- 8. Lucy VanDuzee Turnbull I-11
- 9. Barnard George Parker E-17
- 10. V.F.W. Tribute

The Town of Gouverneur passed a resolution in July 2008 creating sections S & GG. This allowed the association to offer additional needed lots.

FRED SCOZZAFAVA A-93

Fred Scozzafava moved to the Gouverneur area in 1916 and established Gouverneur Welding and Machine Auto Parts and Supply Company. In 1916 there were no auto parts stores. If you had a breakdown, most parts were made in a machine shop. Mr. Scozzafava was known throughout northern New York for his skill in duplicating any part for any car. He continued in the auto parts business until 1963 when he suffered a stroke and turned the business over to his sons.

A machinist and tool maker, Mr. Scozzafava introduced the technique of welding to northern New York and was one of the first people to enter the business of supplying replacement parts to the auto industry. He designed and patented a piston ring during the 1920's which he manufactured and sold through his organization.

Mr. Scozzafava learned the trade starting as a young apprentice in a blacksmith shop and became a master machinist. For many years he worked with small industries and farmers. He often repaired drills used for water wells.

During World War II, he taught welding and machine operation at the Gouverneur High School as well as operating his machine shop and auto supply businesses.

Mr. Scozzafava was well known as an interested observer of local and national politics. His many published letters and outspoken viewpoint culminated in a personal invitation to attend the inaugural ceremony of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1945.

He enjoyed a wide reputation as an owner-breeder of special pigeon strains and species. He maintained this hobby until his stroke in 1963.

He was a member of several organizations, Marble City Commandery 63 Knights Templar and the Ancient Scottish Rite Valley of Watertown and Valley of Syracuse, a life member of Gouverneur Lodge F&AM, Gouverneur Chapter 233 Royal Arch masons, The Gouverneur Rod and Gun Club, Gouverneur Pheasant Club, Rainbow Hunting Club and Dads of Foreign Service Veterans.

He was born in Gimigliano, Italy, May 10, 1890. When he was four, his family moved to Waterbury CT. He married Katherine Morrow of Edwards in 1922. He died at the age of 82, October 12, 1972.

CEMETERY FACTS . . .

- An estimate was given about 3 years ago for the removal of trees in Riverside that were deemed as unsafe. The cost would be \$1000.00 for each tree if that company did the cleanup and \$600.00 if the cemetery's one employee were to take on this task.

- A permanent maintenance fund is for the purpose of maintaining and preserving the cemetery for the future. Ten percent of each lot sale must be added to this fund as well as \$35.00 from each burial. Only the interest may be used for day-to-day operations.

JOHN FOSGATE 1800-1874

C-1

John was born in Essex, New York. He died at age 73. He married Sophronia Adams and she died in 1873 at age 67. They had 15 children, only 5 surviving. Three are buried here:

Clarissa, age 21 years

Francis, age 17 years

Gilbert, age 4 months, 25 days

John was the first brick maker in Gouverneur. He was mayor in 1852. He kept a hotel for many years at the corner of Johnstown Street and Main Street. It closed when the business district began to move across the river. His main business was as a lumberman and miller, where hundreds of men were in his employ. This was 1832 through 1874.

The lumber mill burned in 1853 and he continued to run the grist mill until his death. He was a whittler and often sat in front of the grist mill whittling and telling stories to young boys of the village. The Fosgate mill site would later become the McAllaster mill.

With the fountain in the news as it is returning to its original place in the park, it is of interest that Fosgate's daughter's husband, Antim Megeur had the idea for a fountain. In the mid 1870's, he began selling \$1.00 coupons to raise the \$300.00 needed to erect the fountain.



DAVID HILL D-19

David Hill was born in 1806 and died in 1881. David was born in Scotland and came to America in 1827, settling on the Scotch Settlement Road. The entire road at that time was inhabited by people from Scotland. He secured 100 acres of land and became a farmer. Farming was not his only interest. He did baking for the settlement. He had a huge oven that he used to bake the settlement bread.

The forerunner of the Gouverneur Fair was a plowing contest initiated by David Hill. He was a farmer and left this record upon his death. "I often ask myself why our farmers plow their lands so miserably. I thought, can there nothing be done to improve this condition? So I started out one day to try and improve what could be done among my acquaintances on the west side of the village, about holding a plowing match. I found them all willing if someone would take the lead. So, I posted notices all over calling upon farmers to meet and appoint judges, name, date and place of trial and provide means to pay prizes. At the meeting we raised \$24, and named the farm of Samuel Smith on the Rock Island Road for the place of the trial, on Thursday, October 22, 1858. The day proved a fine one and the work was done in a manner those present never saw before. James Brown, a Scotchman, took first place along with a Welshman, David Lewis, who was given the same amount as the work was equal. We judges distributed the remainder of the money among them as it was the first trial of the kind."

The success of the plowing match led to a call for the formation of a fair organization. In January 1859 a meeting was held to appoint a committee and draft a constitution according to the law. Charles Anthony was made the first president of the Gouverneur Agricultural and Mechanical Fair. All neighboring towns were invited to take part in our fair. They rented the Canton tent. A severe wind (hurricane force) blew the tent down on the first day of the fair. Over 2000 tickets were sold. A profit of \$200 was made so the directors did not have to cover any of the fair costs. That first fair was held on land bounded by Main, Park, Rock Island and Barnes Streets. The present site was purchased in 1866.

DANIEL J. WHITNEY D-160
FEBRUARY 15, 1848 -1917

Daniel Whitney was born in Canton in 1848 and moved to Ogdensburg at age 10. He began his business career at an early age as a clerk in a wholesale and retail store, balancing his time between his duties at school and work. At age 15 he enlisted in the 24th New York Voluntary Cavalry and was soon promoted to Corporal, Second and First Sergeant of the company, and, later Quartermaster Sergeant of the Regiment. He participated in nearly every Civil War battle of the Army of the Potomac, fought during 1864-65 at age 16. He was wounded at Poplar Spring Church in 1864 and taken prisoner in the Battle of Five Forks in 1865, being one of the prisoners turned over to General Lee. He was released and returned to Ogdensburg in August of 1865 at age 17. A few weeks later he came to Gouverneur and began learning the trade of marble and stone cutting at his father's business. Two years later he became his father's partner and in 1868 became the sole proprietor at age 20. In 1870 he sold out to George Parker acting as his foreman. In 1871 he was foreman of the stone cutters in the new capitol at Albany. He repurchased the marble works from Mr. Parker, in partnership with his brother, Thomas J. Whitney. The material used for several years had been mostly sandstone or blue limestone, but in 1876 Whitney Brothers commenced the first quarrying of Gouverneur stone. From the first settlement of Gouverneur it had been the practice to blast out stone from ledges in nearby fields for foundation walls, road building, and that class of work, but it was not until 1876 that quarry operations were conducted on any kind of large scale. The trimmings of the Presbyterian Church in Canton was the first building job to be done in what was later known as Gouverneur marble. They first used some of this marble for monumental work during the winter of 1877-78. In the early spring of that year the Whitneys and a Mr. Honeycomb formed a copartnership and entered into a contract with the Town of Gouverneur to build the foundations of present Main Street bridge. Honeycomb was interested only in the bridge contract and not the marble and cut stone business of the Whitneys, which became the Gouverneur Marble Company. Whitney sold out his retail business in 1878. In 1897-8 he was in Canada developing marble quarries there. In 1901 he began a regular wholesale marble business, handling products from here, Vermont and Pennsylvania. As a marble producer, New York ranked third behind Vermont and Georgia. Most of the New York marble came from Gouverneur.

THE NORTHERN TRIBUNE

January 18, 1928

NEW OFFICES FOR TALC COMPANY

With the completion of the new building the W.H. Loomis Talc Corporation of this village is now occupying its new quarters. The new building is outstanding in many ways and is one of the finest to be found in this section of the state.

Of Spanish architecture, with lomic pillars in the front, it presents a very attractive appearance, being located on East Main street at the head of Depot street. The building is 60 x 28 with a basement and second story.

The side walls are constructed of tile and stuccoed with a mixture of talc and cement. The woodwork used in finishing the interior has an undercoating of talc and oil, over which is used a paint, with Loomis talc as a base. The walls and ceilings are all of talc, the borders of the floor being talc and concrete. The space inside the borders is depressed to the thickness of the new tile to enhance the effect of rubber flooring. Loomite, which is one of the new products developed by the Loomis company, is used in the foundation walls and in the construction of the approaches. The chimney is built entirely of crude talc as are the retaining walls at the east and west sides of the property. The cornices, window sills and coping are all constructed of talc and the walls of the basement are covered with a mixture to talc and water. At the rear of the property plans were made for the construction of two tennis courts.

The company now owns about five miles on each side of the Oswegatchie River on the west branch between Harrisville and Fullerville. There is a 47 foot drop in the river between those two points and when developed will create 386 million cubic feet of water storage. This plot of land includes about 3,000 acres. The company is re-foresting their new property and has planted about 350,00 trees.



Officers of the Association - 2010

Mike Villeneuve, *President*

Barbara Roeser, *Secretary*

Jane Scott, *Treasurer*

Ron Taylor, *Superintendent*

Trustees

Eldon Conklin

George Love

Roxann Finley

Tour Committee Members

Gale Ferguson

Shirley Jones

Ron Taylor

Jane Scott

Joe Laurenza

Mary Tessmer

Cover Art

Paula Towne

Research Assistance

provided by Lea Dickson

Booklets provided by

Joe Laurenza, Village Historian
who along with Gale Ferguson
are tour guides for the day.