



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
22 CHURCH STREET  
GOUVERNEUR, NY 13642

## FPCGH-1A GOUVERNEUR, YESTERDAY & TODAY

*This book is the product of 26 eighth graders in a class shared by Mrs. (Janice) Peters (social studies) and Mrs. (Carol) Amberg (English language arts) at the Gouverneur Middle School. It was produced as a class project during the winter of 1997-1998 and funded by a grant from The Rural Education Advisory Committee for Jefferson-Lewis B.O.C.E.S.*

### Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church was organized May 24, 1817. It had six male trustees, William Colton, James Parker, Richard Kimball, William Cleghorn, John Spencer and Rockwell Barnes. The congregation's first church was built 1820. It was a plain structure compared to the Presbyterian Church today. The site was deeded by Mrs. Gouverneur Morris. The cost of the thirty-four by thirty-nine foot church was \$1,400. Originally the building had balconies around three of the four sides, and there was not a steeple. The church has changed its location twice since 1820. First to William Street which was occupied by Starbuck barn, then to a lot across the street which was occupied by Gouverneur Marble Works. In 1844 the organization built a new sixty by forty foot church at a cost of \$3,500. The church in 1866 added a parsonage, twenty pews, updated lighting system, and new furnaces.

Cornerstones for the present marble building were laid on July 27, 1892, and by the end of the year an interior finish of chestnut wood was added. The church was able to hold 500 people and cost \$50,000. In 1904 Mrs. Myra Dean and her daughters gave brick and marble for a new parsonage which today is the Gouverneur Museum. In 1943 a chime tower was built to honor the World War II veterans. In 1950 a boy scout room, recreational room, and interior redecoration were completed, according to the Gouverneur Sesquicentennial History of 1955. Today, Headstart classes and the Gingerbread Nursery School use the building during the week.