

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

***Les Artisans Arts and Craft Fair welcomes all on July 4<sup>th</sup>***

BGHS craft show organizer Ellen Stringer has done another superb job in preparing this upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> show from 9 am to 3 pm at the Kankakee County Fairgrounds Exhibition Center. She has grown the show to near capacity with about 90 vendors. Invite your family and friends to enjoy part of the holiday by supporting local crafters and the BGHS. There will be a suggested donation of \$1 to enter.

**Stroll through the Letourneau gardens, pick the herbs, and have a picnic**



On the Saturdays of June 11 and June 18, BGHS volunteers groomed and mulched the Letourneau gardens. We thank these members for their work (above from left to right) Judy Smead, Christine Michels, Mary Ann Lambert, Jim Paul, (next photograph) Ellen Liehr, Steve Liehr, Mary Ann Lambert, Steve Monts, and Jim Paul. In the lower photograph, Max Michels shows off his newly planted hosta garden.

Thanks to our volunteers in the above photographs (and others who work on their adopted gardens independently) the Letourneau Home/Museum gardens welcome the public to enjoy. I have left the wheel barrows, pitch fork, and garden debris bags on the back porch for anyone to use all summer. Do you hear the mulch pile calling you?

### **Supplemental logs for schoolhouse reconstruction will arrive about August 15**

The original logs from the schoolhouse represent 60% of the total, so new aged supplemental logs (40%) are needed. The contractor and Village of Bourbonnais have now confirmed delivery of the supplemental/new logs. In her email of June 28, Laurie Cyr stated, “I received confirmation today, that the logs will be on site on approximately August 15<sup>th</sup>. Framing will immediately begin upon their delivery.” The reconstruction sequential process will be the decking, log walls, and roof construction. The estimated completion date and inauguration celebration of the log schoolhouse must now be pushed back to a date in September—TBD. Since the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner is scheduled for Friday September 16, I suggest that we cancel the celebration dinner for 2022 and refocus our efforts to an onsite inaugural celebration. It will be too hard to plan both at nearly the same time. The next meeting of the BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday July 19 at 3:30 pm.

### **Marcia Rabideau donates doll house made by her father Adrien Richard**



Marcia Rabideau admires the doll house that her father Adrien Richard made for her and her sister Stephanie when they were children. Adrien was one of the founders of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society and the society’s first president. The doll house is now in an upstairs bedroom of the Letourneau Home/Museum. Ken Ponton (above) helped Marcia move the doll house and another large donated item—an apple press--to the home/museum on June 18.

### **Have you paid your membership dues?**

BGHS membership dues are now past due. If you have not paid for the 2022-23 dues year, you may click [Pay Dues \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org) and pay online. If you wish to send a check, please send it to BGHS, PO Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL 60914. Your dues support assists

the BGHS in fulfilling its mission of preserving and publicizing our community's French-Canadian heritage.

### Three 10-year anniversaries fall in July and August

- On July 10, 2012, the Kankakee County Board approved the Letourneau Home as a county historic landmark—already in 2000, it was proclaimed a Village of Bourbonnais historic landmark;
- On July 28, 2012, the French Heritage Museum (Stone Barn in Kankakee) held its grand opening; and
- On August 30, 2012, the 15' x 4' French-Canadian Heritage Wall on KCC's third floor, east end, held its grand opening (it commemorates French-Canadians' contributions to our area and the KCC students' work in creating the French-Canadian Interview Project—click [French Canadian Interview Project \(kcc.edu\)](http://kcc.edu)).

### French Heritage Corridor conference YouTube recording reveals dynamic history



At left, Lisa Kahn (Co-Chair of French Heritage Society Chicago Chapter) begins the Second Annual French Heritage Corridor Conference in Lafayette, IN. At right, I give the Illinois ambassador's report which includes Bourbonnais Grove's first log schoolhouse.

The YouTube link for the May 12 recorded version of the Second Annual French Heritage Corridor Conference in Lafayette, Indiana is <https://youtu.be/ZhABnLrx3tI>. Of special note:

- Lisa Kahn's introduction at the beginning,
- ambassador reports which begin at 36:26, and
- Diane Hunter's (Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma) 15-minute Native American perspective which begins at 1:36:00.

Thank you for helping to publicize the Midwest 7-state French Heritage Corridor. The corridor's recently launched website is <https://frenchheritagesociety.org/fhc/>. Take a look at this work in progress and if you have control of a website, consider posting the above link so that

your followers can become an integral part of the corridor as they use the interactive map and view the calendar of events.

### **New BTPD prioritizes history of the Durham-Perry Farmstead**

On Monday June 27 at the Perry Farm House, I met with the new Bourbonnais Township Park District Board President David Zinanni and BTPD Executive Director Dr. Edward Piatt. They both expressed their first obligation as the preservation and publication of the Durham-Perry Farmstead history. In this mission, they wish to work closely with the Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee which includes several members of the BGHS: Jorie Walters (chair), Daron Kinzinger, Sandi Sandeno, and myself. BTPD board member Bill Bukowski will also join the advisory committee.

The BTPD leadership is working closely with the Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission in completing Certificates of Appropriateness needed for roof, window, and other repair/restoration on the historic landmark farmstead. The Durham-Perry Farmstead became a Kankakee County Historic Landmark in 2013.

### **Who am I?**

After his wife Ruth died in 1860, Noel LeVasseur married Eleanor “Fannie” Franchere. He died in 1879, and his widow sold off most of the estate to St. Viator College. Their house was demolished in 1885. On the house site in 1889, the college built a large Byzantine style chapel as a memorial to the first college president. This chapel was destroyed in the fire of February 21, 1906. A four and one-half story limestone dormitory was then built on the same site in 1906. It is one of the four original St. Viator College campus buildings that still stand on Olivet Nazarene University’s campus. During the St. Viator College tenure, the dormitory was named \_\_\_ Hall. It was later renamed Chapman Hall after Dr. James B. Chapman, an early leader of the Nazarene Church. The chapel and later hall was named after me (before 1940)? Who am I?

### **Next membership meeting on July 7 will be Zoom only**

The next membership meeting will be on July 7 at 7:00 pm (CST) will be **Zoom only**. Please click this link to join the meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86864948324?pwd=sBymKaGVs5f\\_gzqd9penhkLNTMpLfz.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86864948324?pwd=sBymKaGVs5f_gzqd9penhkLNTMpLfz.1)

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on June/July 2022 news eletter item “Who am I?”
- Approval of June 9, 2022 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s report;
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Executive Vice-President Collection Committee report
- Membership Report;
- Ways and Means:

- Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley “pass through” fund investment option update; and
- July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show.
- Building and Grounds
- Old Business
  - MBVM 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2022; and
  - Restructuring of BGHS update.
- New Business
  - Next meeting on August 4, 2022;
  - Chaperones are needed for August 7 and August 21 open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum.
  - Shall we cancel this year’s *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner and concentrate on the Log Schoolhouse onsite inauguration celebration?

### **Mark your calendars for these BGHS 2022 events**

- July 3 and July 17—Letourneau Home/Museum open houses from 1-4 pm;
- July 4—*Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair at Kankakee County Fairgrounds;
- July 16, Bastille Day Festival at French Heritage Museum (Kankakee) [About Us | Kankakee County Historical Society \(kankakeecountymuseum.com\)](#);
- August 20-21—MBVM 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (August 20, 10:30 am – 3:00 pm Taste of MBVM, family, food, and fun on parish grounds; and August 21, History and Worship with 10 am mass celebrated by Bishop Hicks followed by tours of church grounds and St. Viator/ONU campus and reception with a French-Canadian flare—same link as April 29-30;
- September 2022—Inauguration of Bourbonnais Grove’s first log schoolhouse—date TBD;
- Friday September 16—Fifth Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner; and
- Saturday December 3—*Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair.

### **Additional kudos to our volunteers and donors**

In addition to expressing gratitude to those identified in photographs above, the BGHS thanks all our other volunteers: Laurel Soper for her updating of the BGHS website and Face Book postings; Gary Seiner for chaperoning the open house at the Letourneau Home/Museum on June 19; Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail and shepherding the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley investment; Christine Michels and Steve Monts for their ongoing corresponding secretary and treasurer work respectively; and Ken Ponton for his ongoing Collections Committee supervision.

### **In Memorium: Richard Courville (1922-2022) and Marie [Gregoire] Schore (1922-2022)**

Richard Courville died on May 12. He was born on September 22, 1922 in the Letourneau Home. I love the story that Ken Ponton tells of the white rose bush in front of the Letourneau Home/Museum. The rose bush had never bloomed until after Richard’s mother, Mariette (GrandPre) Courville, visited the Letourneau Home around 1995!!!

Village of Bourbonnais Mayor Paul Schore’s mother, Marie, died on June 22. She was born on November 7, 1922. I wrote the following message on the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home website:

Dear Mayor Paul Schore and family,

On behalf of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society, I offer our sympathy to you at this time of your mother Marie's death. She was proud of her French-Canadian roots, she shared that pride in our historical society's mission, and she instilled in your present family the desire to convey the meaning of that special heritage. Now, in her memory, you will be guided as you continue to pursue her values.

Jim Paul

### **BGHS represented at *Saint Jean-Baptiste* Day celebration—by Dr. Charles Balesi**

On Tuesday, June 21st, "*Saint Jean-Baptiste*" Day, Waltraud Schuller and I represented the BGHS at the reception in Chicago annually organized by the Delegation of the Québec Government on the occasion of the celebration of the FETE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC. Also in attendance, representing the French Heritage Society, was our friend and staunch supporter, Lisa Kahn. The Consul General of Canada, the Honorary Consul of Belgium and the Scientific attaché of the French Consulate were also in attendance. The affair held at the Loft, on Carpenter Street just off the Loop, was well attended.

Dominic Tétu, the newly appointed Economic Affairs Director of the Delegation, during his speech, presented the regrets of the Delegate, Mario Limoges who could not attend and also used the occasion to wish the best to Martin Dionne, newly appointed to the Quebec Delegation in London.

I had the opportunity to have a personal exchange with Mr. Tétu to apprise him of not only the historical French-Canadian roots of the Bourbonnais-Kankakee area but also of the activities of our organization, of the French Heritage Society and the French Corridor Initiative. I, along with Waltraud Schuller, thanked Martin Dionne for his committed involvement over the years and wished him "*Bon vent*".

### **A perspective on the June 19 French election—by Dr. Charles Balesi**

The June 19 results of the second and final round of the French National Assembly elections are bound to have an impact not only in France but in Europe. The *Assemblée Nationale* counts 577 members and is elected for five years; reverse from the U.S. it holds the main legislative power.

President Macron's coalition got only 245 seats, much short from the 289, losing the majority it had for the past five years with unforeseen consequences as he will have to negotiate for each piece of legislation with the opposition from Right to Left, weakening his leadership position in Europe, leadership he has aspired to since Angela Merkel's retirement.

- The Progressive Left got 131 seats, way below their expectations.
- The traditional Right ( Sarkozy) got only 61, almost disappearing.
- RN (formerly Front National), Madame le Pen, tripled its presence with 89 seats.
- Plus 37 seats going to diverse traditional Left and Center small groups, including my island, Corsica, where 3 out of the 4 seats allocated for the second time went to the nationalists. It should help us negotiating for an autonomous status.

The national networks did not carry the news, not a surprise; I trust, however, that PBS/Channel 11 which carries BBC, and Lake Shore Indiana PBS which carries BBC plus DW, The Day, will cover the news.

I wish you all a wonderful July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend.

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society