

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends, *Bonne et Heureuse Annee!*

**Our community was engaged in BGHS 2022 activities**



**Membership meetings will resume on Thursday March 9**

The BGHS will resume post-winter activities with our first in-person and Zoom membership meeting of 2023 on March 9 at 7 pm. I will send the minutes and Zoom link a few days before the meeting—as a reminder. The first open house for the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse will be on Sunday March 19 from 1-4 pm. The next news eletter will be the March/April 2023 issue.

**BGHS officers and board trustees elected at December 1 meeting**

BGHS officers and board trustees re-elected for 2023 are: President Jim Paul, Vice-President Gary Seiner, Executive Vice-President Ken Ponton, Corresponding Secretary Christine Michels, Treasurer Steve Monts, Board of Directors Trustees Carl Moran and Charles Balesi.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair was a grand success for BGHS**



Craft show organizer Ellen Stringer (at right) with her father Dan Kirsch and niece Katie Delmor

The funds raised for the BGHS at the December 3 craft show amounted to \$3343. Thank you to Ellen Stinger and all our volunteers at the BGHS table—Christine and Max Michels, Doris O’Connor, Steve Liehr, and Steve Monts! This craft fair and the one on July 4<sup>th</sup> are the two main fund raisers for the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society.

**December continued to highlight community activities**



At left, Levi Lawson proposes a garden gazebo as his Eagle Scout project at December 1 BGHS membership meeting. Senator Patrick Joyce and Nick Allen visited the log schoolhouse on December 14. Daron Kinzinger captured the log schoolhouse aglow on a winter evening.





About 60-70 people attended the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse Christmas open house on Sunday December 18 from 1-4 pm. Thank you to all the BGHS members who served as docents and provided hot drinks, pastries, and cookies: Charles Balesi, Steve Monts, Gary Seiner, Ellen Liehr, Christine and Max Michels, Mary Ann Lambert (who took many of these photographs), and Wal Schuller.

### **Kudos to our volunteers**

In addition to the individuals mentioned above, the BGHS thanks all our volunteers: Laurel Soper for her updating of the BGHS website and Facebook postings; Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail and overseeing the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve grounds; Christine Michels for her ongoing Corresponding Secretary work; Steve Monts for his ongoing treasurer work; and Gary Seiner for chaperoning the open house at the Letourneau Home/Museum on December 4 and decorating the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse for Christmas.

### **Who am I?**

I am the human connection between the Letourneau Home/Museum and the log schoolhouse—where I was born. Who am I?

**Mark your calendars for these BGHS 2023 events**

- Thursday January 19—Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee meeting;
- Thursday March 9 at 7:00 pm—BGHS in-person and Zoom membership meeting;
- Saturday March 11 at noon—Dr. Jim Healy portrays Louis Jolliet in “Solid Path through Water” at Kankakee Public Library;
- Tuesday July 4—*Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair;
- Friday September 15 or 22—potential dates for *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner;
- Saturday December 2—*Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair; and
- Sunday December 17—Christmas Open House at the Letourneau Home/Museum and Log Schoolhouse from 1-4 pm.

**French Heritage Corridor website [French Heritage Corridor - French Heritage Society](#) includes interactive map plus new events**

- **January 7 from 2pm to 3:30 pm:** [Bonne Annee: A New Year Celebration—Isle a la Cache, Romeoville, IL](#)
- **February 4:** [Ste. Genevieve King’s Ball, MO](#)
- **February 18:** [Fete de Voyageur, Prairie du Chien, WI](#)
- **February 25 & 26:** [La Brigade Winter Shoot, Potosi, MO](#)
- **April 1:** [Old Mines Area Historical Society French Seminar, Potosi, MO](#)
- **May 20 & 21:** [La Brigade Rendevou at Old Mines—300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Potosi, MO](#)
- **December 29 2023:** [Old Mines Area Historical Society Village Christmas, Potosi, MO](#)

**In Loving Memory of Roberta Renville (1944-2022)**

**BGHS Board of Directors Trustee and Collection Committee Member—2018-22**

Winter is a time to meditate about the true joys and values of life! Best wishes always,  
Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society