

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Kudos to our volunteers



On Friday April 7, Max Michels (upper left) weeded the front Letourneau Home/Museum's Boardwalk Garden and then stood in the back row for this group photograph of (from left to right) me, Ken Ponton, Max (Laurie Cyr's doggie), , Steve Monts, and Laurie after we hung plaques and portraits in the log schoolhouse. The tulips bloomed on April 20.

In addition to all the above photographed volunteers, the BGHS thanks: Laurel Soper for her updating of the BGHS website and Facebook postings; Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail and hosting the first class of fourth graders (from Grace Christian Academy) to tour the log schoolhouse and the Letourneau Home/Museum (see below); Christine Michels for her ongoing Corresponding Secretary work; Steve Monts for his ongoing treasurer work; Gary Seiner and Mary Ann Lambert for their work as curator and assistant curator respectively; Max Michels for early spring work in the Letourneau Home gardens; and Doris O'Connor and Gary Seiner for chaperoning the log schoolhouse and Letourneau Home/Museum open house on Sunday April 19.

Alert: volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for log schoolhouse and Letourneau Home/Museum open houses on May 7, May 21, June 4, and June 18--Please consider volunteering to chaperon for these open houses from 1-4 pm. The sign up is easy. For the Letourneau Home/Museum, just go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning> or for the log schoolhouse, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning2>.

Then go to May 7, May 21, June 4, or June 18 to type your name in date(s) preferred. Information on “how to prepare to be a BGHS volunteer chaperon for open houses” is below.

Our longtime BGHS Information Technology Director, Laurel Soper, is resigning at the end of 2023. She set up and cared for our BGHS website and Facebook postings. We thank her immensely for all her volunteer time. We need someone to step forward to keep our social media current. Please email me if you are interested, and Laurel will teach you what to do.

Next membership meeting is on May 11

Our next membership in-person or Zoom meeting will be on Thursday May 11 a 7 pm—zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82941525873?pwd=QU9weGg5OGZoVVRxNUhHSThkMGpjZz09>

If needed, the meeting Passcode is 459341 and ID 82941525873. The meeting agenda is below.

Date change for *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner

Due to a schedule conflict, the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner has been changed to Tuesday October 17 from 5:30-9:00 pm at the Kankakee Country Club. This is the BGHS annual fund raiser for preservation of the log schoolhouse. After the celebration dinner, I will portray Noel Levasseur, who will explain why the log schoolhouse closed in 1848.

How to prepare to be a BGHS volunteer/chaperon for open houses

For preparation to volunteer as a chaperon for open houses, you may visit the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society website which is www.bourbonnaishistory.org and open the Museum Campus window. You can then open Letourneau Museum and/or Log Schoolhouse pages, and find a link on each of those pages for “A self-guided tour of the house and gardens” or “A self-guided tour of the schoolhouse”. Those links will open pages with "Letourneau House and Garden Self-guided Tour" (pdf) and "Log Schoolhouse Self-guided Tour" (pdf). You can then download/open the pdf's. There will be printed copies of these self-guided tours in the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse for you and the visitors, but you might want to review the information beforehand so that you can be better informed and familiar with showing visitors how to access these pages on their mobile devices.

What am I today?

As a candy and ice cream store, I was built in the 1890s. Camille LaMarre was my first proprietor, and then his son Amadee operated the business just across the street from St. Viator College. Amadee’s daughter Cecile LaMarre Enright remarked, “They sold candy, tobacco, drinks, and ice cream. It was also a hangout for St. Viator College students. I was the envy of all my friends.” What is my former candy and ice cream store named today?

Check out the latest updates on the French Heritage Corridor's website

Click [French Heritage Corridor - French Heritage Society](#), and check out the many upcoming 2023 events in the seven-state corridor, especially the Third Annual Conference from June 15-17 in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.



Would you like to join the Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee?

Since the pandemic, the Bourbonnais Township Park District's Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee (PFLHAC) has been stalled in reconvening on a regular basis. Since the Perry Farmhouse is closed in the evenings, my suggestion is to plan the meetings on evenings via Zoom which I will host. Individuals on the committee are Jorie Walters (chairperson), Daron Kinzinger, Gary Seiner, and myself. Anyone interested in joining this advisory committee may call the park district at (815) 933-9905 or send me an email. For more information about the Perry Farm's living history, click [Living History - Bourbonnais Township Park District \(btpd.org\)](#).

The PFLHAC was instrumental in establishing parts of the farmhouse as a museum and pursuing national, state, and county historic landmark status for the farmstead. The PFLHAC is made up of local residents dedicated to preserving the history of the Perry Farm Park and the Durham-Perry Farmstead. The mission of the PFLHAC is to educate the public about this historic site, and to advise the Bourbonnais Township Park District Board of Commissioners about pertinent historical matters.

Daron Kinzinger led first museum campus educational tour of the year on April 27 for Grace Christian Academy fourth graders



A FIELD TRIP BACK IN TIME

This week, 4th graders from [Grace Christian Academy - Kankakee](#) were the very first class to visit Bourbonnais' 1837 Log Schoolhouse!

We are grateful to be able to share and educate local students about the history of Bourbonnais and Kankakee County through the Log Schoolhouse and the Letourneau Home, both located at 698 Stratford Drive East.

For more Bourbonnais history, click here: <https://www.villageofbourbonnais.com/visitors/history/>



As the Village of Bourbonnais Facebook post states above: “This week, 4th graders from Grace Christian Academy were the very first class to visit Bourbonnais’ 1837 Log Schoolhouse! We are grateful to be able to share and educate local students about the history of Bourbonnais and Kankakee County through the Log Schoolhouse and the Letourneau Home, both located at 698 Stratford Drive East.” One student’s parent posted: “My daughter was on this trip and has not stopped talking about it. She wants us all to go back and see it.” Another parent posted: “My daughter LOVED this! Can’t wait to take our son. Thanks for opening it up!” Daron Kinzinger, our Board of Directors chairperson, led the tour. He also serves on the Education Subcommittee of the BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee. Daron’s initiative will serve as a model for many more student educational tours in the future. Thank you, Daron!

Mark your calendars for these BGHS 2023 events

- Sundays May 7 and 21 from 1-4 pm—open houses at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
- Sundays June 4 and 18 from 1-4 pm—open houses at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
- **Saturday June 17 at 1 pm—Melanie Holmes Book Signing *100 Things to do in Illinois Before You Die*, B.Harley Bradley House, Kankakee (see attached PDF);**
- Sundays July 2 and 16 from 1-4 pm—open houses at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
- Tuesday July 4—*Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair;
- Tuesday August 1—deadline to submit nomination for annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence;
- Sundays August 6 and 20 from 1-4 pm—open houses at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;

- Sundays September 3 and 17 from 1-4 pm—open houses at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
- Sundays October 1 and 15 from 1-4 pm—open houses at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
- **Tuesday October 17 at 5:30 pm—Log Schoolhouse fundraiser *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner, Kankakee Country Club;**
- Sundays November 5 and 19 from 1-4 pm—open houses at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
- Saturday December 2—*Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair;
- Sunday December 3 from 1-4 pm—open house at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
- Sunday December 17—Christmas Open House at the Letourneau Home/Museum and Log Schoolhouse from 1-4 pm; and
- **Click [French Heritage Corridor - French Heritage Society](#) to find many more events in the 7-state corridor.**

Agenda for May 11, 2023 membership meeting

The next BGHS’s membership meeting (in-person and Zoom) is this Thursday May 11 at 7 pm. The minutes of the April 6, 2023 are attached. Here is the agenda for the meeting.

- Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on May/June 2023 news eletter item “What am I today?”
- Approval of April 6, 2023 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s report;
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Executive Vice-President report;
- Curator report;
- Membership report;
- Ways and Means:
 - Remnant log pieces;
 - Sign up for volunteering—open houses etc;
 - Craft show report;
 - *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner on October 17; and
 - Preparation for celebration of log schoolhouse’s village and county historic landmark designation.
- Building and Grounds:
 - Log schoolhouse landscaping;
 - Cedar fencing along NW corner of museum campus;
 - Small repairs—Angi?
 - Alarm system;
 - Levi Lawson’s Eagle Scout garden structure plan;
 - Camp MOSH;
 - Garden work sessions; and
 - Bisailon Rid All pest/termite estimate for log schoolhouse.
- Old Business
 - Restructuring of BGHS update; and
 - New IT Director.
- New Business
 - Next meeting TBA;
 - Special BGHS 2023 dates: 6/17, and 10/17;
 - Chaperons needed for open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse; and
 - Evening Zoom meetings for the Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee.

Have a great spring! Best wishes,

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society