

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

2023 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence nominations are due now

Please click [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org) to make your nomination for someone who has contributed to the preservation of our local French-Canadian heritage. After our membership meeting on Thursday August 3, the BGHS officers will select this year's recipient of the *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence. The award will be given at the sixth annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner on Tuesday October 17.

Next BGHS membership meeting is on August 3

Our next membership meeting will be on Thursday August 3 at 7 pm—zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82498955356?pwd=M050RUIldWlrb3BsSmVqVFVMVjN0Zz09> with zoom meeting ID 82498955356 and Passcode 365030—or in-person. The agenda is below.

July 4th *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair fundraiser for the BGHS nets nearly \$3500



In the photograph at left, (from left to right) Patrick McGinnis, Ken Ponton, and Ellen Stringer greet customers to the craft fair. In the right photograph, (from left to right) Patrick McGinnis, Steve Monts, Bonnie and Dick Bergeron volunteered at the BGHS craft show welcome table.

Thanks to the hard work of our craft show organizer, Ellen Stringer, the July 4th craft fair at the Kankakee County Fairgrounds raised \$3484.57 for the BGHS general fund (money used primarily for the maintenance of the Letourneau Home/Museum and gardens). After expenses, the craft show vendor rental raised \$2027.16. The Bourbonnais Friendship Festival's donation of \$500 plus the entry fee suggested donation of \$1 (totalling \$957.71) raised another \$1457.71. Thank you so much, Ellen, for another successful fundraiser!

**The Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society invites you to attend the Sixth Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club, 211 Cobb Boulevard, Kankakee, IL 60901
On Tuesday October 17, 2023**



An open house of the log schoolhouse from 4-5:15 pm will precede the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner on Tuesday October 17 from 5:30-9:00 pm at the Kankakee Country Club. To make a reservation for the celebration dinner online, you may use the following link to “Make a Reservation” [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org). After making your reservation, please email bourbonnais.grove@gmail.com with the names of all your dinner party guests and who you would like to sit with at the dinner (tables of eight persons). See below for reservations by mail. All proceeds go toward the preservation of Bourbonnais Grove’s first log schoolhouse (1837-48). Dinner cost: BGHS members--\$55 per person; non-members \$65 per person. The BGHS is a 501c3 organization.

4:00-5:15 pm—Log schoolhouse open house

5:30-6:30 pm—Arrival at Kankakee Country Club, pick up name place cards with table number at welcome table; and enjoy social time with *hors d’œuvres*, cash bar, or complimentary wine at your table;

**6:30 pm--Welcome, Dr. Jim Paul, President Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society;
Presentation of Sixth Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence;**

6:45 pm—Blessing, French-Canadian dinner cuisine, Reserve *Perrin Côtes-du-Rhône* wine, non-alcoholic drink, and French dessert;

7:45 pm--Entertainment: Noel LeVasseur (portrayed by Jim Paul) will explain why the log schoolhouse closed in 1848;

8:15-9:00 pm—Concluding Remarks

- **Dr. Charles Bales, current BGHS Board Member;**
- **Honorable Yannick Tagand, Consul General of France in the Midwest;**
- **Madame Jeanne Lamy-Belzil, Public & Governmental Affairs Officer, Delegation of Quebec to Chicago;**
- **Lisa Kahn, Director of the French Heritage Corridor initiative and Co-Chair, French Heritage Society Chicago-Midwest Chapter; and**
- **Mayor Paul Schore, Village of Bourbonnais.**

If making reservation by mail, please print, cut and return the information below.

Please send check (payable to “BGHS”) with information below to Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society, PO Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL, 60914 **by September 20, 2023.**

- Name: _____ Member: Yes No
- Postal address: _____
- Telephone number: _____
- Email: _____
- ___ I will attend with a party of ___ and would like to sit with _____
- Find enclosed my check of \$_____
- ___ I am unable to attend but find enclosed my donation of \$_____

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn (455 Riverstone Parkway, Kankakee, IL 60901, 815 932-4444) under the name “Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society” for overnight guests on October 17th. Please make your own independent reservations.

Log schoolhouse historic landmark nomination will be presented to the Kankakee County Board on August 8

Bourbonnais Grove’s log schoolhouse’s nomination as a Kankakee County historic landmark may be approved by the county board on August 8 at the 9 am board meeting. The Village of Bourbonnais has already approved the log schoolhouse as a village historic landmark. The log schoolhouse (1837-48) later became the home of French-Canadian families from 1848-2010. What a wonderful treasure we now enjoy and can use as a tangible artifact to teach and “touch” our community’s pioneer history!

Mark your calendars for these BGHS 2023 events

- 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;
- **Wednesday September 20—deadline for Fleur-de-Lis Celebration Dinner reservations;**
- Sundays October 1 and 15 from 1-4 pm—open houses at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
- Tuesday October 17 from 4-5:15 pm—open house at 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.

Kudos to our volunteers



At top left, Max Michels maintains and waters the gardens in early July. At top middle, Steve Monts relaxes on July 25 after weeding and mulching the Staghorn sumac gardens west of the log schoolhouse. At top right, Ken Ponton and Gary Seiner hang the Rivard and Marcotte French-Canadian family photographs in the log schoolhouse. In the lower left photograph, (from left to right) Camp MOSH volunteers Audrey McPhail, Aubrey Wosz, Shannon Kurtz, Priscilla Dwyer, and Andrew Brenner pose after weeding the daylily bed. In the lower right photograph, the Camp MOSH volunteers relax after more weeding and a tour of the log schoolhouse (from left to right) Audrey McPhail, Andrew Brenner, Priscilla Dwyer, Shannon Kurtz, Aubrey Wosz, John Sullivan, and Kennedy Dombkowski.

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, chairing our Board of Directors, and giving impromptu tours of the museum campus; Christine Michels for her ongoing Corresponding Secretary work; Steve Monts for his ongoing treasurer work, setting up the soaker hose around the log schoolhouse new plantings, and weeding that new garden; Gary Seiner and Mary Ann Lambert for their work as curator and assistant curator respectively; Ken Ponton for handy man activities, garden watering, and log schoolhouse interior decorating; Pam and Russ Perkins for grooming and watering the Native Garden (behind the Letourneau Home); and Judy Smead, Betty Leininger, and Gary Seiner for chaperoning the log schoolhouse and Letourneau Home/Museum open houses on Sundays July 2 and 16; Doris O'Connor for volunteering for the Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee; Josue Savoie for volunteering to assist with the BGHS website and Facebook postings; and Ken Ponton and Charles Balesi who along with yours truly participated in the Kankakee County Museum's "Authors Meet & Greet" on July 22.

Alert: volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for log schoolhouse and Letourneau Home/Museum open houses from August to December. The volunteer 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 the date you prefer and type in your name. Information on "how to prepare to be a BGHS volunteer chaperon for open houses" is below.

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.

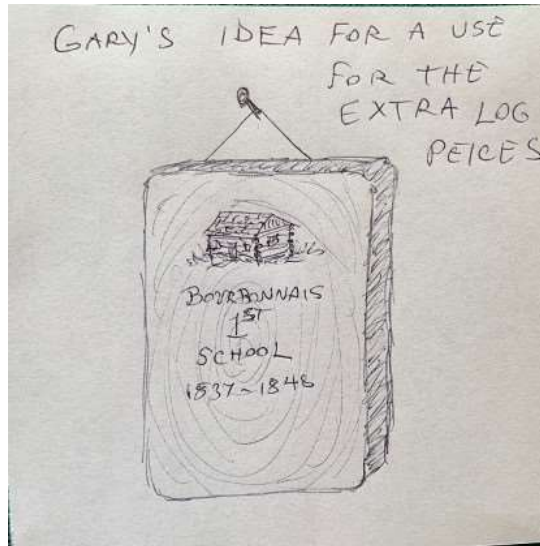
Who am I?

I built my blacksmith shop in 1882. Sadly, it was destroyed by fire in 1916. I then rebuilt a brick shop, and in the words of Adrian Richard, ". . . in a short time the . . . garage was in business, ready to meet the new horseless carriage challenge." Who am I?

Thursday August 3 meeting agenda

- 7 pm—Pledge of allegiance;

- Presentation based on August/September 2023 news eletter item “What am I today?”
- Approval of July 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—Gary;s design;



- Sign up for volunteering—open houses etc;
- *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;
 - Trees/shrubs along NW corner of museum campus;
 - Small repairs—Angi?
 - Levi Lawson’s Eagle Scout garden structure plan;
- Old Business
 - Restructuring of BGHS update; and
 - Volunteer to chair Membership Committee
- New Business
 - Next meeting September 7 at 7 pm—in-person and Zoom;
 - Special BGHS 2023 dates: 9/20, and 10/17;
 - Chaperons needed for open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
 - Evening Zoom meetings for the Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee;
 - Log schoolhouse sign contribution; and
 - Post meeting: officers select 2023 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence recipient.

Have a wonderful August! I invite you to join the BGHS Facebook public group page Bourbonnais History Dossier to learn more about our local and regional French history [Bourbonnais History Dossier | Facebook](#). Best wishes,
 Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society

