

BGHS News—August 2015

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

“French-Canadian Heritage Corridor” Signs Unveiled



The mid-summer beauty of the Letourneau Home/Museum Arboretum was the setting for the official unveiling of the I-57 "French-Canadian Heritage Corridor" signs on Wednesday July 29th at 1:30 pm. One sign will be on the southbound lanes of I-57 at the Manteno Exit and the other sign will be on the northbound lanes of I-57 at the Ashkum Exit. In the lower left corner of the above collage, Illinois State Representative Kate Cloonen and Quebec Delegate to the Midwest Eric Marquis unveil the sign. In center, historian, author, and co-curator of the French Heritage Museum in Kankakee, Dr. Charles Balesi leads a toast to the French-Canadians. Delicious *hors d'oeuvres* were served by Sandie Ortiz and Wal Schuler. Special thanks to them and all who worked on garden preparation, set up, and clean up on that festive day: Dan Kirsch and grandson Aiden, Judy Smead, Judy Beach, Steve Liehr, Ken Ponton, Sandi Davis, Charles Balesi, and Daron Kinzinger.

Issues Discussed at the August 6 Membership Meeting

At the BGHS meeting on Thursday August 6, the following items were discussed:

- Monday August 17 "The French Voyagers" presentation at Bourbonnais Public Library by Barry Cloyd, songwriter and historian--7:00 pm;
- Gratitude was expressed to Malette Trudeau-Stevenson, Marcia Rabideau, and Gary Seiner for conducting Saturday August 1 inventory of home/museum artifacts and rearrangement of displays in home/museum;
- Appreciation for Judy Smead and Gary Seinier's "sitting" for the home/museum during 1-4 pm open houses on the first and third Sundays of the summer months;
- ***"Sitter" for Letourneau Home/Museum is needed for Sunday September 6 from 1-4 pm***--self-guided tour information is available to all visiting guests--please contact me if you are available to volunteer that day; and
- ***The Water Brigade must be initiated due to the dry weather and thirsty arboretum plants--please contact me if you are available to water for about 45 minutes on August 21, 24, 27, or 30.***

Have a great August! Best wishes,
Dr. Jim Paul, Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society Board Member