

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Let Us Continue Dave King's Legacy

How sad it is to have lost our dear friend Dave King. He was a true French-Canadian activist, musical reenactor, and historic preservationist. On May 4, 2017 he spoke to the society about his work on publicizing and preserving the Van Meter Cemetery near Blatt Boulevard. At our last meeting on September 7, Nelda Ravens volunteered to serve as our liaison with Dave's cemetery preservation work. Now we should honor his memory by continuing support of this project.

BGHS Joins Maternity BVM's First French-Canadian Fest

The society experienced a remarkable day on Sunday September 10 during the Maternity BVM French-Canadian Fest. The event coordinator, Julie Worby, insured that our table was in a conspicuous location. An estimate by Paul Hogan (Maintenance Director of the parish) was that between 2800 and 3500 people attended the fest. Our historical society signed up over 30 new members from 10am to 4pm that day!!! Here are two photographs taken at the fest.



From left to right at our table, Judy Ponton, myself, Mary Ann Lambert, Marcia Rabideau, Ellen and Steve Liehr greet visitors at the French Market. Thank you to them, and all the other volunteers who worked our table that day (Norma Meier, Mimi Raiche, Andrew Mann, Christina Bradley, and Gary Seiner). In the photograph at right, a "tall" young lady and "ball walker" participate in the cake walk.

Save these Dates

There are several upcoming important dates to remember: **October 1**--deadline for submitting nomination for Annual *Fleur-de-lis* Award of Excellence (either print the nomination attached and send to Letourneau Home/Museum, P.O. Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL 60914 or complete and submit the nomination form on our

website <http://www.bourbonnaishistory.org/contribute.html> or bring to our next meeting on October 3; **October 3**--date of our next meeting at 7pm at the Letourneau Home/Museum (come early for decaffeinated coffee, water, and cookies); and **October 16**--deadline for registration for *Fleur-de-lis* Celebration Dinner on November 3 at the Kankakee Country Club (complete the registration form attached and send it along with your check to the Letourneau Home/Museum at address above). **A tentative schedule for the *Fleur-de-lis* Celebration Dinner is: 6-6:30pm--meet and greet at cash bar; 6:30pm--introductions and presentation of Annual *Fleur-de-lis* Award of Excellence; 6:45-7:45pm French-Canadian cuisine dinner; 7:45-8:45pm--French songs and music by tenor Brad Benoit; and 8:45-9:15pm--concluding remarks.**

Next Membership Meeting on October 3

The October 3 meeting agenda includes: 10 minute presentation by Noel LeVasseur about "Bourbonnais Grove: A Pioneer Educational Oasis from 1837-75"; approval of September 7 meeting minutes (see attached); next garden work session **Saturday October 14** from 8-10am; New Business--tribute to Dave King, membership pins or coffee cups, BGHS to be part of the Village of Bourbonnais website video ensemble, "donate" and online registration links to be added to our website, order more books, and welcome sign at Durham-Perry Farmstead; and Old Business--painting the interior of the Letourneau Home/Museum and adopting four remaining orphan gardens. A chaperone is still needed for the **Sunday December 3** Letourneau Home/Museum Open House from 1-4pm--*no experience needed as the open house tour is self-guided.*

Kudos to Our Volunteers

Kudos to our open house chaperones in September: Lynn Ahlden O'Brien, Sandi Ortiz, Bonnie Bergeron, and Gary Seiner. Kudos also to Marcia Rabideau for completing the presidents' portrait wall and to Laurel Soper for her continuing masterful web and social media work for the society. The photograph here depicts this year's entry into the Bourbonnais Township Park District's Scare Crow Contest at the Perry Farm: "Madame Fluer de Leaf" created by Ellen Stringer. Thank you, Ellen.



Have a great fall!
Jim