

BGHS News—August 3, 2019

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

### **Camp MOSH Youth Group Donate Bench**



The BGHS so appreciates the newly painted bench by Camp MOSH (Maternity Outreach Service for Humanity) youth workers—in the above left photograph. The youth group cleaned the Letourneau Home/Museum and groomed our gardens, especially the daylily garden. Their bench sits under the black spruce tree canopy east of the daylily garden.

### **ONU Donates \$5000 to Log Schoolhouse Restoration**



This photograph depicts members of the Log Schoolhouse Restoration Steering Committee posing on the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve (the site of the future rebuilt log school) with the donation check from Olivet Nazarene University: (from left to right) Laurie Cyr, Cindy McBarnes, Steve Monts, Mayor Paul Schore, Steve Depasquale, Jim Paul, Norm Strasma, and Frank Koehler. At its July 29 meeting, the Log Schoolhouse Restoration Steering Committee (composed of members of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society and the

community at large) opened a sealed donation from Olivet Nazarene University. The BGHS and the steering committee deeply appreciate the donation that was revealed to be \$5000. Donors of \$5000 or more toward the restoration of Bourbonnais Grove's first log school become platinum star donors. With the ONU donation, the log schoolhouse restoration fundraising campaign has reached \$13,400 toward the goal of \$120,000. The log school will be rebuilt (from new and original logs) on the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve west of the Letourneau Home/Museum at 698 Stratford Drive East in Bourbonnais. The Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society will offer tours of the restored school. When the school closed after operating from 1837-48, it became a home for generations of French-Canadians until 2011.

### **Upcoming *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner to Benefit Log Schoolhouse Restoration**

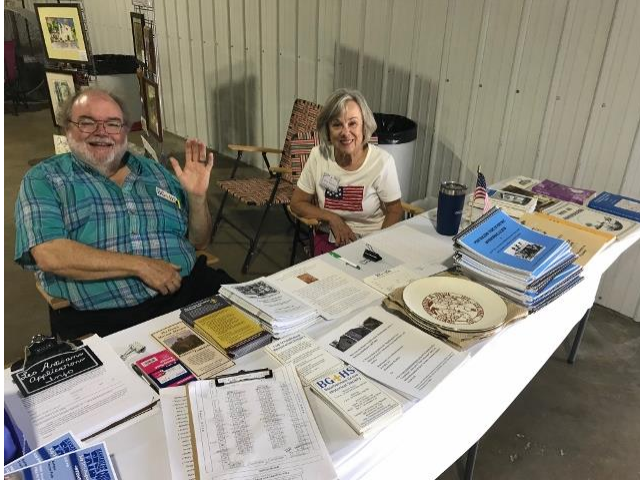
All proceeds from the upcoming September 27, 2019 Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society's Third Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club (see announcement attached) will go to the log schoolhouse restoration fund. The evening will include French-Canadian appetizers, dinner, and entertainment. Dinner/drink price is: BGHS members--\$55 per person and non-members \$65 per person. Payment may be by check (payable to "BGHS") with names of attendees and mailed to Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society, PO Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL 60914 or pay online at <http://www.bourbonnaishistory.org/news---events.html> by August 30, 2019. You should be receiving your personal invitation by mid-August. **Also, that same website link above will take you to the nomination form for this year's recipient of the *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence. The nomination deadline is August 15.**

### **Important Vote at Membership Meeting August 1**

An important membership vote took place at the August 1 monthly BGHS meeting. BGHS members were invited to vote the percentage of Frances Cooper Wertz's bequest of \$38,384 that the member preferred to be allocated to the log schoolhouse restoration fund raising campaign. Members present submitted a secret "ballot" with the percentage amount—i.e., 0 to 100%—of the bequest that she/he wished to be donated to the log schoolhouse restoration. The percentage amount was announced at the meeting, but I will postpone a public announcement until counsel with our BGHS attorney. Mrs. Wertz began her teaching career in a Will County one room schoolhouse in the 1930s. So, it is appropriate that some of her bequest to the BGHS go to the log schoolhouse restoration. A special graphic/sign honoring Mrs. Wertz will be placed in the restored schoolhouse.

### **Kudos to Our Volunteers**

Special kudos this past month go to :Marcia Rabideau for supervising the Camp MOSH cleaning of the home/museum and for volunteering again to take our meeting minutes; Bonnie Bergeron for chaperoning the Letourneau Home/Museum Open House on Sunday August 3; and to Gary Seiner for his continuous grooming of the Letourneau Home/Museum landscape around our historic structure.



Above from left to right, John Hassett and Marcia Rabideau (at July 4 *Les Artisans* Craft Fair) and Roberta Renville and Nelda Ravens (Bastille Day celebration at French Heritage Museum) greet visitors and give out information about the BGHS. Thank you so much.

### Next Membership Meeting on September 5

**Please plan to attend our next monthly meeting on Thursday September 5 at 7:00 pm. After that meeting, the BGHS officers will chose this year's recipient for the *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence.** Enjoy this beautiful month of August!

Jim