

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Carl Moran receives 2021 4th Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence



At left and center is Carl Moran, president of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society from 1996-2006, and current board member. In the photograph at right, Carl's daughter Shakinah Hunt (on right) and his son Leo's finance, Kenya Rutledge, receive the *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence from me at the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner on September 17.

Whenever one opens our BGHS website at www.bourbonnaishistory.org, Carl Moran's image greets the visitor. As a *voyageur*, Carl has re-enacted at the local *Theatiki*, Feast of the Hunter's Moon, Letourneau Home/Museum, and French Heritage Museum. His soft-spoken, but firm leadership guided the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society for ten years when he was president from 1996-2006. Now he continues to serve the BGHS as a member of the board of directors. After the September 2nd BGHS membership meeting, the officers unanimously chose Carl as the recipient of this year's BGHS *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence for his outstanding contribution to preserving local French-Canadian heritage. Congratulations, Carl!

Great news announced at 4th annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner



At left, the Honorable Berangere Travard, French Deputy Consul, addresses the post-celebration dinner audience. At right, Commercial Counselor of the Delegation of the Government of Quebec to the Midwest, Genevieve Pocius, greets everyone with a donated basket of Quebec products for the silent auction—which sold for \$205.

In addition to the above two dignitaries, several members of the French Heritage Society (Chicago Chapter), along with local BGHS members and guests, attended the BGHS's 4th annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner on September 17th at the Kankakee Country Club. Long distance attendees were from Dallas, Texas (Kim Nagele); Minneapolis, Minnesota (Josue Savoie); Kalamazoo, Michigan (Penelope and Phil Stickney); St. Louis, Missouri (Tandy Thompson); and Peoria, Illinois (Patricia Forquer and Robert Lord). Gratitude is extended to all 74 dinner guests for their support of the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner which focuses on fundraising for the restoration of Bourbonnais Grove's first log schoolhouse (1837-48). Lisa Kahn, Co-Chair of the French Heritage Society (Chicago Chapter) and Village of Bourbonnais Mayor Paul Schore announced "great news" about pledges and grants that will make the restoration of the log schoolhouse a reality at the 2022 Bourbonnais Friendship Festival.



At left, Lisa Kahn, Co-Chair of the French Heritage Society (Chicago Chapter) announces significant pledges from the Chicago Chapter—plus 9 other U.S. chapters and 1 in Paris, France—to rebuild the log schoolhouse. At right, Mayor Paul Schore (after being introduced by Dr. Charles Bales) states that a significant grant will facilitate the construction of the schoolhouse.

Phil Angelo published an excellent account of the breaking news about the log schoolhouse in the September 22, 2021 issue of *Daily Journal*. If you do not have access to the newspaper, here is the link to the online version of his story [Pioneer schoolhouse to be restored in Bourbonnais | Local News | daily-journal.com](https://www.daily-journal.com/news/local-news/pioneer-schoolhouse-to-be-restored-in-bourbonnais). In addition to the significant pledges and grants announced above by Ms. Kahn and Mayor Schore, the **2021 donations** for the log schoolhouse restoration are to date:

- **\$7328.20;**
- plus the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner proceeds of **\$635.75** (dinner payments, silent auction, and pumpkin centerpiece raffle **minus** expenses of dinner announcements, dinner program and Donors' List—see attached—, award plaque, wine, and Kankakee Country Club *hors d'oeuvres*, French cuisine dinners, desserts, and tips).

The above **\$7328.20 + 635.75 = \$7963.95, the total to date in 2021**. After adding \$7963.95 to \$55, 846.76 (the log schoolhouse restoration account 12/31/20 ending balance), my unofficial calculation of the total donations in the log schoolhouse restoration account to date is **\$63,810.71**. [I have not included the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley grant of \$6000 which is designated for the Bright Architecture log schoolhouse design plan.] Our fundraising efforts are being fulfilled.

October 7 membership meeting will be Zoom only

The Thursday October 7 membership meeting at 7:00 pm will be **Zoom only**. Please click this link to join the meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83984926120?pwd=a3krQkJSclB0L2ViWlVaSE9sT29ZUT09>. If you do not use the link, the meeting ID is 839 8492 6120 and passcode is 679566. Laurel Soper will serve as host of the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on September/October news eletter item “Who am I?”
- Approval of September 2, 2021 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s Report;
- Membership Report;
- Collection Committee Report;
 - ID two portraits in this news eletter; and
 - Update on Criteria for Accessioning for Log Schoolhouse.
- Ways and Means:
 - Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley “pass through” fund;
 - *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner review ;
 - Collaboration with ONU;
 - American Recovery Act money for not-for-profit historical sites that rely on events for fund raising—what agency is responsible? and
 - Contact person for KCCVB.
- Building and Grounds
 - Roof treatment and chimney update; and
 - Next work session: Saturday October 9 at 9:00 am—plant Tiger Eyes Staghorn Sumas, Master Gardeners groom herb garden, and general clean up.
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Participation in MBVM 175th anniversary celebration in 2022—next meeting TBA; and
 - Continued reopening of Letourneau Home/Museum.

Who am I?

As a lieutenant in the United States army, I was the only Village of Bourbonnais casualty in World War II. I was shot and killed in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. My body was buried in an American cemetery not far from the battlefield. Do you know my name?

Kudos to our BGHS volunteers



The BGHS extends its heartfelt gratitude this month to:

- Ellen Stringer, above center, for creating Yeti/Abominable Snowman for the Perry Farm Park Scarecrow contest—advertising the December 4 *Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair*;
- Norma Meier, above right, and Andrew Mann who spoke at the French Heritage Museum on September 25 to a packed audience about early French-Canadian fur traders and settlers in the Kankakee and Iroquois River Valleys;
- Laurel Soper, Marcia Rabideau, and the Collections Committee for weekly organizing the BGHS artifacts;
- Bonnie Bergeron, Gary Seiner, and Christine and Max Michels for chaperoning the Letourneau Home/Museum open houses on Sundays September 5, September 19, and October 3 respectively;
- Charles Balesi for organizing the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner and assisting me as Master of Ceremonies for the evening;
- Wal Schuller and Charles Balesi for organizing the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner seating;
- Wal Schuller and Diane Siaroff for purchasing and setting up the pumpkin centerpieces for the celebration dinner raffle;
- Gary Seiner for his continuous grooming of the shrubs and gardens around our historic landmark; and
- Daron Kinzinger for seeking estimates to trim the trees in the gardens.

Mark your calendars for these 2021-2022 events

- Saturday October 9 work session at Letourneau Home/Museum from 9-11 am;
- October 9-10—Feast of the Hunter's Moon <http://feastofthehuntersmoon.org/> ;
- November 5—Local History 101 “Antebellum Abolitionists (1838-60)” webinar (hybrid in-person and Zoom) Lifelong Learning course at KCC from 10:00-11:30 am;
- December 4 Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair.
- Saturday June 25 or Sunday June 26, 2022—Inauguration of Bourbonnais Grove’s first log schoolhouse at the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival; and

- Friday September 16, 2022—Fifth Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner.

French Heritage Corridor (FHC) held leadership meeting on September 27

Lisa Kahn, Co-Chair of the French Heritage Society (Chicago Chapter) presided over the virtual meeting of the French Heritage Corridor ambassadors on September 27. She stated that:

- all eleven chapters of the French Heritage Society (FHS) offer wonderful support for the FHC;
- the FHS webmaster will host the FHC interactive map and calendar of events;
- by the time of the next FHC conference on May 12-13, 2022 takes place in Lafayette, Indiana, the website should be active; and
- 2022 is the 40th anniversary of the FHS, and the restoration of Bourbonnais Grove's first log schoolhouse restoration will be a focus for 2022.

After individual ambassadors gave their reports, the FHC mission and purpose was discussed as well as contact and communication with stakeholders in all seven states.

Can you identify these two individuals?

The Collections Committee would like your help. Can you identify the two individuals in the portraits below? These portraits are in the Letourneau Home/Museum collection, but over the years, their identity has been lost.



Have a wonderful fall season!

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society