

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

July 4th *Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair is Returning this Year



The BGHS membership approved the return of the July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair at the monthly Zoom meeting on March 4. This seasonal event has been organized by Ellen Stringer since 2016. The photograph above features the stained glass art of Dan Kirsch (Ellen’s father) that will be at the fair. The *Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair has been a fund raising opportunity for the BGHS for over 40 years. Shoppers, who are looking for unique homemade items, will find them at this BGHS sponsored fair. The *Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair is held two times a year, July 4 and the first Saturday in December, both at the Kankakee County Fairgrounds from 9 am to 3 pm.

The July 4th event is being planned in close cooperation with the Kankakee County Health Department. All COVID mitigation requirements, including mask wearing, will be followed. For more information, contact Ellen at 815-935-5278 or lesartisansartsandcraftsfair@gmail.com.

Save the Dates for Upcoming 2021 BGHS Events

Please mark your calendars for these important BGHS sponsored upcoming events, assuming pandemic recovery continues to progress:

- July 4th *Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair;
- Camp MOSH work days for Letourneau Home/Museum and gardens—July 18 to July 24;
- August 5th—deadline for nomination for 2021 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence (nomination form is attached to this newsletter, or nomination can be made on Contact page of bourbonnaishistory.org website);

- Friday September 17, 2021—the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club; and
- December 4 Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair.

How Will the Restored Log Schoolhouse be Incorporated into the BGHS?



The fundraising for the restoration of Bourbonnais Grove’s first log schoolhouse has reached \$58,074.71 in donations and \$10,000 more in pledges. The date of the actual rebuilding of the log schoolhouse (to be rebuilt west of the Letourneau Home/Museum on the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve) has not been set, but it is drawing near. As the BGHS continues to revise and amend its bylaws and accession policy, two different points of view have emerged about how to incorporate the restored log schoolhouse into the BGHS. These views, along with the involved bylaws and accession policy proposals (see the attached **Bylaw Acquisition Policy Proposals**), will be discussed at the April 1 Zoom membership meeting.

View 1

- Since the log schoolhouse is a separate entity from the Letourneau Home/Museum, the log schoolhouse should have its own mission/purpose statement;
- Since the log schoolhouse is a separate entity from the Letourneau Home/Museum, the log schoolhouse should have its own accession/collection policy with its own criteria; and
- A log schoolhouse committee should be established to make decisions about mission/purpose, accessioning, and accession criteria for the log schoolhouse—this committee should have a representative on the BGHS Collections Committee.

View 2

- Since the log schoolhouse has been associated with French-Canadian families throughout its existence from 1837 to 2011, its mission/purpose is the same as the BGHS mission/purpose (see attached “Article II, Mission Statement-Purpose” under **Bylaw Acquisition Policy Proposals**);
- The accession criteria and policy for the BGHS (i.e., Letourneau Home/Museum) is general enough (see attached "Policy for buying or accepting donated items" and “Criteria for Accessioning” under **Bylaw Acquisition Policy Proposals**) to include the log schoolhouse; and

- Rather than attempt to create a new log schoolhouse committee with a new position on the BGHS overall organizational structure, the BGHS Collections Committee should manage the log schoolhouse BGHS collection.

I recently asked for insights from Veronica Featherston, the new executive director of the Kankakee County Museum. I wrote to her on March 22,

Congratulations on your new position as executive director! I look forward to working with you on many projects. I have a couple of questions for you. In the next year or so, the Bourbonnais Grove's first log schoolhouse (1837-48) will be rebuilt on the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve next to the Letourneau Home/Museum. The structure was part of the French-Canadian community from 1837 to 2011 when it was demolished (the logs were preserved). My questions are: 1) how have you incorporated the Taylor School, French Heritage Museum, and Governor Small Home into the Kankakee County Museum organizational structure; and 2) do each of the above have their own mission/purpose and separate criteria for accession or are do they all fall under your general museum mission/purpose and accession criteria?

Ms. Featherston responded the same day:

What an exciting thing to look forward to! I am happy to assist in any way I can and would love to be involved with this.

To answer your questions (to the best of my ability):

1) Each of the separate buildings you mentioned are considered exhibitions. They are what we call "permanent exhibitions". The Taylor One Room Schoolhouse, the Dr. Small Memorial Home, and our main museum building are all part of our "Kankakee County Museum Campus" while the French Heritage Museum is an off-site exhibit - at least this has been my understanding since my volunteer years.

2) Because they all fall under the Kankakee County Historical Society- they do technically share the museum's purpose/mission and policies (including accessioning criteria). That being said, the French Heritage Museum does have some purpose of its own and I do believe it also has an additional mission statement.

It is much more cost effective, timely, and easier to keep track of than if each building had its own separate guidelines/system. Utilizing the "location" portion of Past Perfect is the easiest way to distinguish where artifacts are stored or on display.

I hope this helps!

As we discuss the role of the log schoolhouse in the overall BGHS bylaw and accession policy proposals (see attached **Bylaw Acquisition Policy Proposals** during the Zoom April 1 membership meeting, we can refer to these insights and views above.

Next Zoom Membership Meeting on Thursday April 1

I invite you to please join our Zoom membership meeting at **7:00 pm on Thursday April 1** by emailing Laurel Soper at laurel.soper@gmail.com. She will then email you a link to the meeting at 6:50 pm on April 1. The agenda for the meeting includes:

- approval of March 4, 2021 membership meeting minutes (attached);
- discussion of how to incorporate the log schoolhouse into the BGHS; and

- discussion of BGHS bylaw and accession policy revisions (see attached **Bylaw Acquisition Policy Proposals**”).

Kudos to Our Volunteers

A big thank you goes to Marcia Rabideau for writing the draft proposals for our bylaws and accession policy. These proposals are attached. I wish you all a wonderful spring! Best wishes,

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society