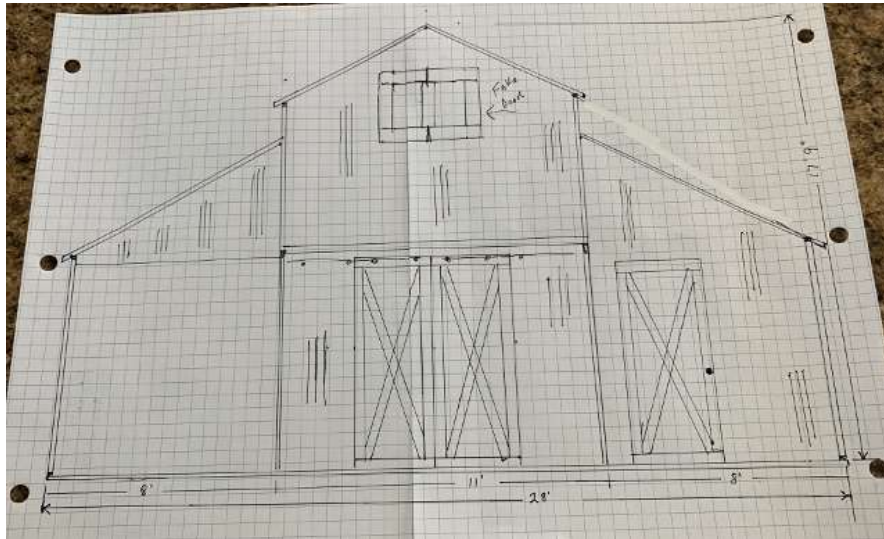


Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Membership meeting on Thursday May 2 at 7 pm

Our next membership meeting of 2024 will be Zoom meeting on Thursday May 2 at 7 pm. Here is the zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89517524722?pwd=ajhkbnlrOURJR3lVVktNeE5yVDhCdz09> with zoom meeting ID 89517524722 and Passcode 985423. The agenda is below and it contains **Save the dates for the following BGHS-related events**

A new storage barn is on the 5/2 meeting agenda



This is Ken Ponton’s sketch of an Amish-made 28’ x 28’ Monitor style storage barn. At the May 2 membership meeting, Ken will explain his plan, which includes a donor for most or all of the construction cost.

Log schoolhouse docent volunteers discussed plan for future school visits



On April 11, several log schoolhouse docent volunteers met at the Letourneau Home/Museum to discuss plans for future school visits to the museum campus. Back row: Jean Koehler, Cindy McBarnes (who presided over the meeting as chair of the log schoolhouse education committee), Frank Koehler, Daron Kinzinger; and center left to right: Joyce Harris, Maureen Antignoli, Karen Duchene Korup, Wayne Rybak, Ken Lewellen, and Jorie Walters.

Kudos to our volunteers

A big BGHS “thank you” to Cindy McBarnes and Ken Lewellen who volunteered as open house chaperones on April 7 and your truly who took a turn on April 21. Kudos also to the following volunteers:

- Josue Savoie for updating of the BGHS website postings;
- Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail, and chairing our Board of Directors;
- Cindy McBarnes for chairing the log schoolhouse Education Committee and presiding over the log schoolhouse volunteer meeting on April 1;
- Christine Michels for her ongoing Corresponding Secretary work;
- Steve Monts for his ongoing detailed treasurer’s work;
- Gary Seiner and Mary Ann Lambert for their work as curator and assistant curator respectively;
- Ken Ponton for his oversight as executive vice-president, sponsoring Illinois History Day as a resolution for passage in the Illinois state legislature, and planning construction of a storage barn;
- Ellen Stringer for organizing the craft show fundraisers;
- Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee members: Mayor Paul Schore, Laurie Cyr, Ken Ponton, Gary Seiner, Charles Balesi, Frank Koehler, Cindy McBarnes, Norm Strasma, Daron Kinzinger, and myself;
- Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee members: Jorie Walters, Doris O’Connor, Max Michels, Mack Brza, Daron Kinzinger, Gary Seiner, and myself; and
- Doris O’Connor for chairing the Membership Committee.

Several volunteer slots remain vacant for upcoming museum campus open houses

The open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse continue on the first and third Sundays of every month from 1-4 pm, but the BGHS needs volunteers for both sites. Chaperons greet visitors, hand out self-guided tour information at the door, and oversee artifacts. **If you have not volunteered before as an open house chaperon, no worries, a mentor will be present to train you—as well as open and close the sites—on the date you sign up for. By clicking on one or more of the links below, you may then click “Sign Up” for the date(s) you prefer. If both slots are filled for your site and date choice, just send me an email, and you can still come on your preferred date.**



Log schoolhouse open house volunteer chaperon link:

[Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society: Chaperoning Log Schoolhouse Open House--Meet and Greet, Hand Out Self-Guided Tours, Oversee Artifacts \(signupgenius.com\).](#)

Letourneau Home/Museum open house volunteer chaperon link:

[Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society: Chaperoning Letourneau Home/Museum Open House--Meet and Greet, Hand Out Self-Guided Tours, Oversee Artifacts \(signupgenius.com\).](#)

Also, if you would like to volunteer as a BGHS table greeter at one of our two *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fairs on July 4 and/or December 7, please open this link for dates and times: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning1>.

Who are we?—rolled over from last month since no one provided the answer

Vic Johnson wrote that Henry F. Tower, at the age of 92, reported in a 1929 interview with local historian Burt Burroughs that he attended the Bourbonnais Grove log school in 1847 at the age of 11 with two of Noel LeVasseur’s children. We are those two children. One of us was born in 1838 and the other in 1840. **Who are we?** Tower also recalled that his teacher, Mr. Starr, boarded at Thomas and Margaret Durham’s home.

Save the date *September 24* for Seventh Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner

Please save the date Tuesday September 24 from 5:30 – 9 pm for our Seventh Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club. The price for *hors d’ouvres*, wine, and French dinner this year will be \$65 each for members and \$75 each for non-members. An open house of the log schoolhouse from 4-5:15 pm will precede the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner. To make a reservation for the celebration dinner online, you may use the following link to “Make a Reservation” [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#). After making your reservation, please email bourbonnais.grove@gmail.com with the names of all your dinner party guests and who you would like to sit with at the dinner (tables of eight persons). See below for reservations by mail. All proceeds go toward the preservation of Bourbonnais Grove’s first log schoolhouse (1837-48). The BGHS is a 501c3 organization.

4:00-5:15 pm—Log schoolhouse open house

5:30-6:30 pm—Arrival at Kankakee Country Club, pick up name place cards with table number at welcome table; and enjoy social time with *hors d’œuvres*, cash bar, or complimentary wine at your table;

**6:30 pm--Welcome, Dr. Jim Paul, President Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society;
Presentation of Sixth Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence;**

6:45 pm—Blessing, French-Canadian dinner cuisine, Reserve *Perrin Côtes-du-Rhône* wine, non-alcoholic drink, and French dessert;

7:45 pm—Entertainment—Josue Savoie’s French music ensemble; and

8:15-9:00 pm—Concluding Remarks.

If making reservation by mail, please print, cut and return the information below.

Please send check (payable to “BGHS”) with information below to Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society, PO Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL, 60914 by **August 23, 2024.**

- Name: _____ Member: Yes No
- Postal address: _____
- Telephone number: _____
- Email: _____

- ___ I will attend with a party of ___ and would like to sit with _____
- Find enclosed my check of \$_____
- ___ I am unable to attend but find enclosed my donation of \$_____

A block of rooms will be reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn (455 Riverstone Parkway, Kankakee, IL 60901, 815 932-4444) under the name “Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society” for overnight guests on October September 24th. Please make your own independent reservations.

Thursday May 2 Zoom meeting agenda

- 7pm—Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on April/May 2024 news eletter item “Who are We?”
- Approval of April 4, 2024 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s report;
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Executive Vice-President report;
- Curator report;
- Membership report;
- Ways and Means:
 - Craft show;
 - Website update;
 - Remnant log pieces—student shop class involvement?
 - Log schoolhouse history booklet; and
 - Chaperons and “openers/closers” needed for open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse and craft show. At the Letourneau Home/Museum, Ken Lewellen has volunteered for 5/5; Doris O’Connor has volunteered for 5/21; Priscilla Dwyer has volunteered for 7/21, and Judy Smead has volunteered for 8/4 and 10/6. **No one has volunteered to chaperone the Log Schoolhouse for any future dates.**
- Building and Grounds:
 - Levi Lawson’s Eagle Scout garden structure plan has been tabled.
- Old Business
 - Restructuring of BGHS update.
- New Business
 - Next meeting June 6 at 7 pm—Zoom only;
 - Special BGHS 2024 dates with links—**save the dates:**
 - **May 17-19—YOUR INVITATION TO THE** Fourth Annual French Heritage Corridor Conference “What’s Cooking: Creating Collaboration in the French Heritage Corridor”, River Raisin National Battlefield Park, 333 N. Dixie Hwy, Monroe, MI, [French Heritage Corridor 4th Annual Conference - May 17-19, 2024 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)
 - Saturday May 25—work session in Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse gardens from 9-11 am;
 - June 1—2024 membership dues deadline, please click to pay or mail a check; *Saturday June 15—possible first Illinois History Day;*
 - Thursday July 4 from 9am – 3pm—*Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair [Les Artisans Fair \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#); please volunteer at the BGHS table by clicking <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning1>.
 - August 1—deadline for nomination for annual Fleur-de-Lis Award of Excellence [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#)
 - August 30—reservation deadline for annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#)
 - Tuesday September 24, beginning at 5:30pm—*Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#)

- Saturday December 7 from 9am – 3 pm—*Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair [Les Artisans Fair \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org)

Have a great beginning of spring! Best wishes,
Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society