

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Carl Moran, leader of the BGHS, died on August 30



The Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society has lost beloved member, Carl Moran. Carl served as president of the society for ten years from 1996-2006. He also held many other positions and was a current member of the BGHS Board of Directors. Carl often portrayed a *voyageur* at reenactment events. His image as a *voyageur* graces the BGHS website home page (see above photograph—Carl is on the left with George Godfrey in middle and Brad Delude on right). I will always remember the time in the mid-1980s when I first went to the Feast of the Hunters' Moon in West Lafayette, Indiana, with family and students. We entered the *Voyageur* Encampment, and at one of the canoe camp sites were surprised to see my friend Chuck Smead (who also enjoyed *voyageur* reenactments) who introduced us to fellow *voyageur* Carl Moran. They proceeded to give us a riveting account of their way of life in the 1700s. In 2021, Carl received the BGHS *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence (photograph above) for all his contributions to promoting the French heritage of the Kankakee River Valley. His Memorial Service is Thursday September 7 at 10:30 am in the ReNew Church (1085 Mulligan Drive, Bradley, Illinois). Carl was one of my mentors.

Next BGHS membership meeting is Thursday September 7

Our next membership meeting will be on Thursday September 7 at 7 pm both in-person and via zoom—zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86263661401?pwd=UnFWbkphbjJCRVpaQitQTjN4YVVkUT09> with zoom meeting ID 8626366 and Passcode 350113. The agenda is below.

Reservation deadline for the October 17th

Sixth Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner is September 20



To make reservations—**by September 20**—for the October 17 *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner online, you may click [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org) and then scroll down the page and click “Make a Reservation”. **After making your reservation, please email the BGHS by clicking bourbonnais.grove@gmail.com and inform us of the names of all guests in your dinner party (for name tags), who you would like to sit with at the dinner (tables of eight persons), and entrée choice of either: 1) duck breast *a l’orange* with sautéed potatoes and *haricots verts*, or 2) beef *bourguignon* with steamed new potato and stewed carrot and onion.** Appetizers, salad, dessert, wine, coffee/tea, and gratuity are included. See below for reservations by mail. All proceeds go toward the preservation of Bourbonnais Grove’s first log schoolhouse (1837-48). Dinner price: BGHS members--\$55 per person; non-members \$65 per person. The BGHS is a 501c3 organization.

An open house of the log schoolhouse from 4-5:15 pm will precede the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner from 5:30-9:00 pm at the Kankakee Country Club. The celebration dinner schedule is:

- 4:00-5:15 pm—Log schoolhouse open house (698 Stratford Drive East, Bourbonnais);**
- 5:30-6:30 pm—Arrival at Kankakee Country Club (211 Cobb Boulevard, Kankakee, IL), 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 dessert;**
- 7:45 pm--Entertainment: Noel LeVasseur (portrayed by Jim Paul) will explain why the log schoolhouse closed in 1848;**
- 8:15-9:00 pm—Concluding Remarks**
 - **Dr. Charles Balesi, current BGHS Board Member;**
 - **Honorable Yannick Tagand, Consul General of France in the Midwest;**
 - **Madame Jeanne Lamy-Belzil, Public & Governmental Affairs Officer, Delegation of Quebec to Chicago; Lisa Kahn, Director of the French Heritage Corridor initiative and Co-Chair, French Heritage Society Chicago-Midwest Chapter; and**
 - **Mayor Paul Schore, Village of Bourbonnais.**

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 September 20, 2023.**

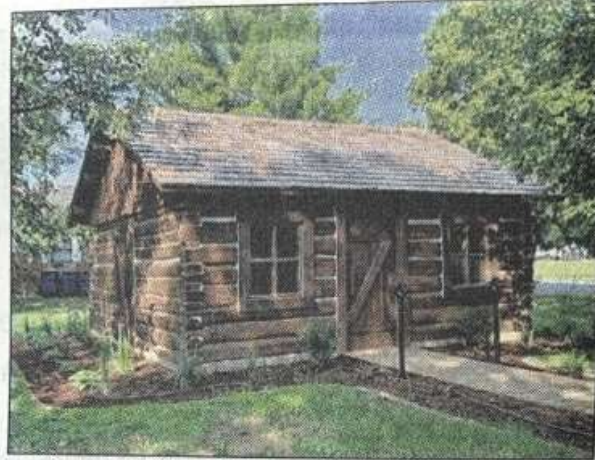
- Name: _____ Member: Yes No
- Postal address: _____
- Telephone number: _____
- Email: _____
- ___ I will attend with a party of ___ and would like to sit with _____
- Dinner choices: name of each person and her/his dinner choice _____
- Find enclosed my check of \$ _____
- ___ I am unable to attend but find enclosed my donation of \$ _____

A block of rooms have been 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 17th. Please make your own independent reservations.

Who am I?

I am the oldest house in the Kankakee River Valley. In 1837, I was likely built on the foundation of Francois Bourbonnais, Sr., Catish, and family's log cabin. My construction was unusual at that time as Jack Klasey wrote in an August 19 *Daily Journal* article about me: instead of logs , , , [I] was built of lumber sawn from trees in the surrounding grove." In 1854, my new owner referred to me as a "pioneer structure". Who am I?

Log schoolhouse historic landmark nomination approved by the Kankakee County Board on August 8



Courtesy of Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society

The Bourbonnais Grove Log Schoolhouse appears with fresh landscaping in July. The structure is located on East Stratford Drive in Bourbonnais.

Log school named landmark

On August 8, the Kankakee County Board approved the historic landmark nomination for the Bourbonnais Grove log schoolhouse. The Village of Bourbonnais had already approved the log schoolhouse as a village historic landmark on June 17. Bourbonnais Grove's first school (1837-48) later became the home of French-Canadian families from 1848-2010. What a wonderful treasure we now enjoy and can use as a tangible artifact to teach and "touch" our community's pioneer history! The Kankakee *Daily Journal* published an article about the new landmark in the August 21 edition—see above. For more information, click [Log Schoolhouse \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org).

Mark your calendars for these BGHS 2023 events

- Sunday September 17 from 1-4 pm—open houses at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
- **Wednesday September 20—deadline for Fleur-de-Lis Celebration Dinner reservations;**
- Sundays October 1 and 15 from 1-4 pm—open houses at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
- Tuesday October 17 from 4-5:15 pm—open house at log schoolhouse
- Tuesday October 17 at 5:30 pm—Log Schoolhouse fundraiser *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner, Kankakee Country Club;
- Sundays November 5 and 19 from 1-4 pm—open houses at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
- Saturday December 2—*Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair;
- Sunday December 3 from 1-4 pm—open house at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse;
- Sunday December 17—Christmas Open House at the Letourneau Home/Museum and Log Schoolhouse from 1-4 pm.

Kudos to our volunteers

The BGHS thanks all our volunteers for their continuous service to the society: Laurel Soper for her updating of the BGHS website and Facebook postings; Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail, and chairing our Board of Directors; Christine Michels for her ongoing Corresponding Secretary work; Steve Monts for his ongoing treasurer work, and monitoring the soaker hose around the log schoolhouse new plantings; Gary Seiner and Mary Ann Lambert for their work as curator and assistant curator respectively; Ken Ponton for his oversight as executive vice-president; Pam and Russ Perkins for grooming and watering the Native Garden (behind the Letourneau Home); and Judy Smead, Betty Leininger, Doris O'Connor, and Gary Seiner for chaperoning the log schoolhouse and Letourneau Home/Museum open houses on Sundays August 6 and 20, and September 3; Doris O'Connor for volunteering to assume leadership for the Membership Committee; Bonnie Bergeron for chairing the Membership Committee for the past many years; Josue Savoie for volunteering to assist with the BGHS website and Facebook postings; Betty Leininger, Joyce Harris, Jeanne Benson, Doris O'Connor, and Wayne Rybak for volunteering to serve as docents/interpreters at the log schoolhouse; Cindy McBarnes, Mayor Paul Schore, Charles Balesi, Frank Koehler, and Daron Kinzinger for serving on the Log Schoolhouse Education Committee; and the rest of the BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee for their counsel and advice at the monthly advisory committee meetings: Laurie Cyr, Steve Monts, Ken Ponton, Gary Seiner, and Norm Strasma,

Alert: volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for log schoolhouse and Letourneau Home/Museum open houses from September to December. The volunteer sign up is easy. For the Letourneau Home/Museum, just go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning> or for the log schoolhouse, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning2>. Then go to the date you prefer and type in your name. Information on “how to prepare to be a BGHS volunteer chaperon for open houses” is below.

How to prepare to be a BGHS volunteer/chaperon for open houses

For preparation to volunteer as a chaperon for open houses, you may visit the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society website which is www.bourbonnaishistory.org and open the Museum Campus window. You can then open Letourneau Museum and/or Log Schoolhouse pages, and find a link on each of those pages for “A self-guided tour of the house and gardens” or “A self-guided tour of the schoolhouse”. Those links will open pages with "Letourneau House and Garden Self-guided Tour" (pdf) and "Log Schoolhouse Self-guided Tour" (pdf). You can then download/open the pdf's. There will be printed copies of these self-guided tours in the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse for you and the visitors, but you might want to review the information beforehand so that you can be better informed and familiar with showing visitors how to access these pages on their mobile devices.

Thursday September 7 meeting agenda

- 7 pm—Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on September/October 2023 news eletter item “What am I today?”
- Approval of August 3, 2023 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s report;
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Executive Vice-President report;
- Curator report;
- Membership report;
- Ways and Means:
 - Remnant log pieces;
 - Sign up for volunteering—open houses etc;
 - *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner on October 17; and
 - Preparation for celebration of log schoolhouse’s village and county historic landmark designation.
- Building and Grounds:
 - Log schoolhouse landscaping;
 - Trees/shrubs along NW corner of museum campus;
 - Small repairs—Angi?
 - Levi Lawson’s Eagle Scout garden structure plan;
- Old Business
 - Restructuring of BGHS update; and
 - Evening Zoom meetings for the Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee;
- New Business
 - Next meeting ?
 - Special BGHS 2023 dates: 9/20, and 10/17;
 - Chaperons needed for open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse; and
 - Log schoolhouse sign contribution.

There will be no October/November news eletter—the next issue will be November/December 2023.

Have a wonderful September end to summer! I invite you to join the BGHS Facebook public group page Bourbonnais History Dossier to learn more about our local and regional French history [Bourbonnais History Dossier | Facebook](#). Best wishes,
Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society

