

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—December 5, 2024 (action items are in red)

CALL TO ORDER: President Jim Paul called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He hosted, presided over the meeting, and took minutes. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE: In addition to Jim, Daron Kinzinger, Mary Ann Lambert, Betty Leininger, Christine and Max Michels, Steve Monts, Ken Ponton, Josué Savoie, Gary Seiner, and Ellen Stringer attended.

PRESENTATION: Jim posed the question from the BGHS News Eletter of November/December 2024 “I was the second youngest child of Thomas and Margaret Durham and was named after a good friend and former employer of my father. I attended the log schoolhouse from 1840-48. Who am I?” Max gave the correct answer: **Gurdon Durham.**

MINUTES: The November 7, 2024, meeting minutes were approved. The motion was made by Daron and seconded by Betty. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of November: general account \$25,507.02 which includes the Windows subaccount of \$576.37; and log schoolhouse account \$3,358.32. Balance of the CFKRV pass through investment account on December 13, 2023 was \$7,729.05. A motion was made to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills by Gary and seconded by Mary Ann. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Christine brought us up to date regarding BGHS emails.

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT: Ken commended Pete Gryzlak on the good landscaping work. He also stated that he is in the process of installing the two sign foundations in the front yard for Daron’s new yard sign advertising the museum campus.

CURATOR’S REPORT: Gary will compile a photo book of the Letourneau family donated (digital photographs) by the Paschke family. **Jim has sent Daron the digital photo file so that he can print the photos for Gary.** Gary said that a faux coal fire in the pot belly stove will “flicker” during the Christmas Open House. Everyone thanked Gary for putting up Christmas decorations in the home/museum and log schoolhouse. The membership again thanked Gary and Mary Ann for their care and display of both museums’ artifacts.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: None

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Josué reported that he is working with Daron on a new website Landing Page. ¾ is done with Student Resources for history reports. The completed Landing page will include student resources, an overview of the BGHS, and a short video.
- Ellen gave a report on the upcoming December 7 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair. The show is full and she has completed the regular publicity with signage at Peoples Bank, posters, radio interviews, and newspaper ads. The membership thanked her for all her hard work on this fund raiser. The BGHS craft show table will be taken care of by Jim

and Ken L. from 9-11 am, Steve M. and Christine from 11 am to 1 pm, and Christine and Gary from 1-3 pm.

- The chaperones for the Saturday December 14 Christmas Open House and refreshments were discussed.
- Jim showed the membership the framed log schoolhouse piece that Betty has donated. The members thanked her.
- Daron reported that the Culver's fundraiser on Wednesday November 20 from 5-8 pm netted \$465 for the BGHS. He stated that this fundraiser and the one earlier this year raised a total of \$915 for the General Fund. The membership thanked Daron for organizing these fundraisers.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- B&C Yards Plus (owner Pete Gryzlak) has finished his work on clearing unwanted trees, shrubs, and weeds from the southeast boarder along the water retention creek. He will prepare an estimate for future work on more tree/shrub removal/pruning.
- Gary reiterated his requested that someone replace the florescent lamp in the Military Room upstairs. In the meantime, he has made temporary accommodations. Gary requested permission to purchase a new vacuum. A motion was made by Jim to spend no more that \$250 on a new vacuum. Daron seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Daron will contact an electrician to repair the many lights in the home/museum.
- There is a broken slate in the rear boardwalk that needs to be replaced. Ken P. volunteered to fix it.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Daron and Jim have been meeting to move the restructuring of the BGHS bylaws draft forward so that it can be presented to the membership. In essence, the restructuring will combine once-a-month (except January and February) membership and board meetings so that the society can deliberate and expedite decisions more efficiently.
- Tabled: Marker at Clancy Gernon Funeral Home parking lot for where the Letourneau Home once stood.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Due to Jim's travel schedule, the next membership meeting will be on **Thursday March 13, 2025 at 7 pm** and via Zoom only.
- Jim reiterated his request for a videographer for the September 27, 2025 at 7 pm production of "Hooray Bourbonnais II/Deux--no one immediately volunteered to videotape the show although an ONU person may be available--Daron will check.
- Nominations were made for officers and board members up for re-election: **Jim--president; Gary--vice-president; Steve--treasurer; the following board members up for re-election or first time on the board, Charles; Ken P (moving from executive vice-president to the board); Mary Ann, and Ken L.** The following board members are not currently up for re-election: Jim, Gary, Malette, Josué, and Daron. Daron made a motion to close the nominations, and Ken P. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Therefore, the above mentioned officers and board members were elected or re-elected.
- Jim requested volunteers to present an onstage pro and con debate with rebuttal during the September 27, 2025 production of "Hooray Bourbonnais II/Deux":

- “Was Noel LeVasseur’s legacy positive or negative?” **Jim will portray LeVasseur and present the positive view. Rodney Miller is thinking about presenting the negative view. Jim will send Rod the primary arguments for that view.**
- “Was the Excommunication of Fr. Charles Chiniquy justified?” **Ken L. volunteered to present the pro “yes” view and Josué volunteered to present the con “no” view. Jim will send each of them to the primary arguments and resource book.**
- “In the 1980s, should Durham-Perry Farmstead/Perry Farm Park be commercially developed or left in its natural state?” **Volunteers to debate each view are needed.**
- Jim announced the following special BGHS 2024/2025 dates—**save the dates:**
 - **Saturday December 7** from 9am – 3 pm—*Les Artisans Arts and Craft Fair* [Les Artisans Fair \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://LesArtisansFair(bourbonnaishistory.org))
 - **Saturday December 14 from 1-4 pm**--Christmas Open House at Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse.
 - **Saturday/Sunday September 27-28, 2025**--French Heritage Weekend at The Grove
 - **Saturday September 27, 2025 at 7 pm**--“Hooray Bourbonnais II/*Deux*”
 - **Thursday November 13, 2025**--Eighth Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner

OTHER

- Josué stated that he hopes by May to start a monthly Zoom group for French conversations;
- Daron thanked Ellen Schmidt at KCC for providing a large print copy of the French-Canadian Heritage Wall;
- Jack Schilling was recommended as someone who might work on the BGHS Facebook pages;
- Ken P. mentioned that his daughter, Lisa Massey, is willing in the future to conduct a concert that will benefit the BGHS and Kankakee County Museum; and
- Daron recommended that the BGHS initiate and “end of year” or estate giving program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul