

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—March 13, 2025 (action items are in red)

CALL TO ORDER: President Jim Paul called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:08 pm. He hosted, presided over the meeting, and took minutes.

ATTENDANCE: In addition to Jim, Daron Kinzinger, Frank Koehler, Mary Ann Lambert, Betty Leininger, Steve Monts, Doris O'Connor, Ken Ponton, Joe Racine, Josué Savoie, Gary Seiner, and Ellen Stringer attended.

PRESENTATION: Jim posed the question from the BGHS News Eletter of January-March 2025, "On September 20, 1860, I accompanied on the Illinois Central train three nuns of the Congregation of Notre Dame. We arrived at the Kankakee train station--just a little over a year since it opened. As the pastor of Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish, I had invited the nuns to open a school for the community girls"--who am I: Mary Ann and Ken had the answer: **Rev. Alexis Mailloux.**

MINUTES: The December 5, 2024, meeting minutes were approved. The motion was made by Frank and seconded by Betty. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve stated that the end of 2024 account was \$58,157.60 with liabilities of \$20,423.94 for a total net surplus of \$37,733.66. The end of February 2025 account was: \$24,797.41--general account; \$4138.08--log schoolhouse account; and \$8501.28--KRVCF (an increase of \$709.32 or 9.1% from last year.

A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills by Mary Ann and seconded by Gary. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: none.

CURATOR'S REPORT: Gary brought us up to date on his artifact improvements in the Letourneau Home/Museum as he creates a "living museum": more fake food and drinks, rearranging items so that they are in an orderly and proper place, the new "spinette desk" in the meeting room donated by Ellen Stringer, and the Letourneau family photo album (book and photos donated by Mary Ann). Gary is still working on fake fires for kitchen and pot belly stoves. He also would like some wood blinds on certain windows to stop sun fade on artifacts. Gary has placed lamps in certain areas of the home/museum to help with lighting until an electrician can take care of the issues mentioned the last few meetings.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Doris reported that there is one new member, 52 lifetime members, 59 individual members with 8 spouses, 13 families, and 2 businesses.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Josué reported that the completed Landing page includes student resources, an overview of the BGHS, and a short video--all of this created by Daron. Jim will send Josué the new prices for the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner.
- Ellen gave a report on the upcoming July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair. The show is about one-half full. She requested that a board member sign the 2026 Kankakee County Fairgrounds contract. Jim will do so, but needs to know when Jennifer (the contact person) is available.

- Jim thanked Gary for chaperoning the March 8 open house and he mentioned that Bonnie Bergeron and Mary Ann Lambert have volunteered to chaperon the Saturday April 12 Letourneau Home/Museum open house.
- The membership discussed the creation of more log schoolhouse remnant pieces. **Jim will ask Randy Papineau how he can assist in cutting and sanding them.**
- **Daron is organizing another Culver's fundraiser on Tuesday May 6 from 5-8 pm.**
- **Jim is creating an INaturalist identification of flora and fauna at the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve. The public will be invited to use the identification program as they come to the museum campus, and a side product will be their enjoyment of two historical landmarks.**

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- B&C Yards Plus (owner Pete Gryzlak) 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.**
- **Daron still plans to contact an electrician to repair the many lights in the home/museum.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Daron and Jim are ready 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. **It was agreed that Jim should add the first three Articles of the bylaws to the April/May BGHS news eletter for the membership to review.**
- Tabled: Marker at Clancy Gernon Funeral Home parking lot for where the Letourneau Home once stood.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The next membership meeting will be on **Thursday April 3, 2025 at 7 pm** and via Zoom only.
- **Steve will create a new gmail password.**
- Jim proposed a new possible slogan for BGHS: *Your History Starts Here.*
- Jim reiterated his request for a videographer for the September 27, 2025 at 7 pm production of "Hooray Bourbonnais II/Deux--**Daron and Jim will check several options.**
- Jim nominated Doris O'Connor as BGHS officer--Corresponding Secretary. He also made a motion to close the nominations, and Mary Ann. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Therefore, Doris is not Corresponding Secretary.
- Gary requested that the Camp MOSH youth volunteers work on cleaning the crawl space in July, as well as working in the garden. **Jim requested that someone contact the Camp MOSH supervisor to set up the work.**
- Jim announced the following special BGHS 2025 dates:
 - **Sunday March 16 at 10 am--Methodist religious historical reenactment**
 - **Thursday March 20 at 7:30 pm--Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee meeting via Zoom; Zoom link is below:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81115735634?pwd=r53WJLQ1gjT3fHlbSluWngGeaQ1sHm.1>
and the meeting ID is 81115735634 with Passcode of 416670;

- Tuesday April 1 at 2 pm--home school students tour museum campus
- Sunday April 12--Letourneau Home/Museum open house chaperones: Bonnie Bergeron and Mary Ann Lambert
- Saturday April 19 from 9am-12pm--Daughters of the American Revolution meeting at the Letourneau Home/Museum;
- April 23-26--Fifth Annual French Heritage Corridor Conference at Washington University, St. Louis, MO https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email&u=5d49c2a770212a80ceddc94d4&id=b6705d20dc
- Tuesday May 6 from 5-8 pm--BGHS fundraiser at Bourbonnais Culver's;
- Friday July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show from 9 am to 3 pm, <https://bourbonnaishistory.org/les-artisans-fair>
- Camp MOSH--July 20-25--Amanda Fierce afierce@mbvm.org 815-933-825x336
- August 1--nomination deadline for 2025 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence, <https://bourbonnaishistory.org/fleur-de-lis-celebration>
- Saturday September 27 from 7-9 pm at the Grove--Bourbonnais sesquicentennial history pageant Hooray Bourbonnais II/*Deux*, <https://bourbonnaishistory.org/french-heritage-weekend>
- Saturday-Sunday September 27-28, 2025--Bourbonnais sesquicentennial French Heritage Weekend, <https://bourbonnaishistory.org/french-heritage-weekend>
- Thursday November 13, 2025--Eight Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner, <https://bourbonnaishistory.org/fleur-de-lis-celebration> --**Price change \$85/member, \$95 non-member**
- Saturday December 6 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show from 9 am to 3 pm, <https://bourbonnaishistory.org/les-artisans-fair> and
- Saturday December 13--BGHS Christmas Open House from 1-4 pm.

OTHER

- Doris will take the lead on the May 30 tours of the museum campus for several senior citizens. She requested help for that day since there will be at least 40 individuals coming that day. The tour will be from 12-1:45 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul