

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

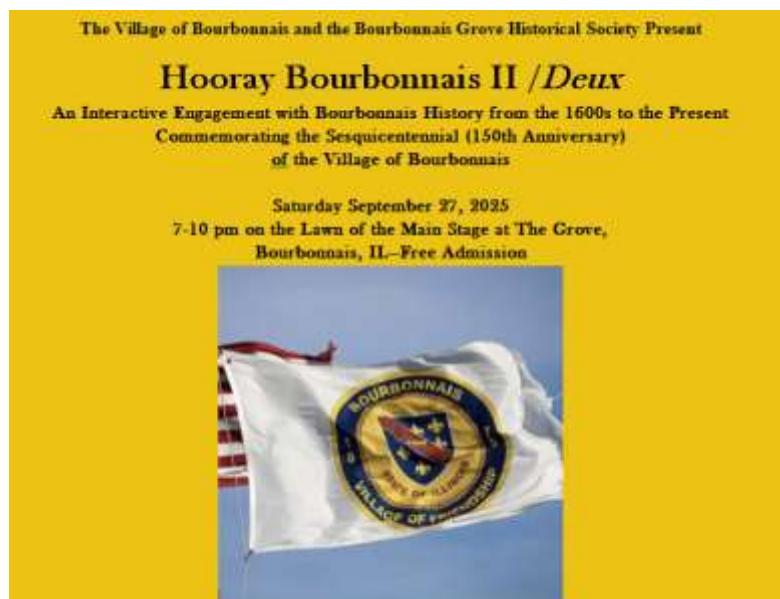
Next membership meeting is Thursday May 8 at 7 pm

Our next membership meeting will be on Thursday May 8 at 7 pm via Zoom. The Zoom meeting link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82911455436?pwd=667YIsLreGunsHqZCVdwEaharWB8k6.1> The Zoom meeting ID is 82911455436 and Passcode is 281235.

***Soirée de Bourbonnais* and French Heritage Weekend highlight
sesquicentennial celebration**

Registration continues for the first event celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Village of Bourbonnais--the *Soirée de Bourbonnais* on May 17 at The Grove. You may click this link to register <https://www.villageofbourbonnais.com/sesquicentennial-150th-celebration/soiree-de-bourbonnais-150th-gala/> Please also save the weekend dates of **Saturday-Sunday September 27-28, 2025 for the French Heritage Weekend, free and open to the public.** On that weekend, Frank Koehler, myself, and the Village of Bourbonnais Sesquicentennial Committee are planning a reenactment encampment which will be near The Grove in Bourbonnais <https://bourbonnaishistory.org/french-heritage-weekend>. Plus, on Saturday September 27 from 7-10 pm on the lawn at The Grove's main stage, **the multi-media history pageant "Hooray Bourbonnais II/Deux"** <https://bourbonnaishistory.org/french-heritage-weekend> will be performed. This history pageant will include singing, dancing, historical portrayals, special appearance by George Godfrey (great grandson of Watcheke and Francis Xavier Bergeron), Q & A, slides, videos, and debates about the legacy of Noel LeVasseur and the excommunication of Fr. Charles Chiniquy, a summary of the investigative reporting the 1980s Perry Farm commercialization or parkland controversy, and the village's identification with its French-Canadian heritage.



Eat at Culver's on May 6 and help the BGHS

NEIGHBORS
Supporting Neighbors



TUESDAY • MAY 6 • 5-8PM

Join us in supporting Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society, as 10% of all sales will be donated.

There's no limit to how much heart you can put into the community - and we're always looking for opportunities for neighbors to help neighbors. Join us and consider giving what you can to our local cause today.

Thank you for your support!

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Can you help us in the museum campus gardens in May and June?

If you can help spruce up the grounds on the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve, bring your garden tools to help weed and/or mulch for an hour or two on these Saturdays in May and June **from 9-11 am**: May 10, May 17, May 24, and June 14.



Daron Kinzinger took these spring photographs on April 26.

Three school groups visited museum campus in April



On April 1, (from left to right) Cindy McBarnes, Doris O'Connor, and Frank Koehler offered tours of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse to area students who are Home-Schooled.



Bishop MacNamara Elementary School students (Bourbonnais Campus) came to visit on April 23. Maureen Antignoli addresses the students in the log schoolhouse in photograph at right.



(From left to right), Jean Koehler (in the Letourneau Home/Museum), Linda Klette and Cindy McBarnes (in the log schoolhouse, and Doris O'Connor (in the Letourneau Home/Museum) talk about life and school in the 1800s to the St. George Elementary School students on April 24.

Kudos to all our volunteers

In addition to all the docents mentioned above in the above photographs (Frank and Jean Koehler, Doris O'Connor, Maureen Antignoli, Linda Klette, and Cindy McBarnes), more kudos go to: Ken Lewellen and Karen Duchene-Korup who were docents for the Bishop MacNamara Elementary School visit; Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail, chairing our Board of Directors, organizing publicity and Culver's fund raiser on May 6, drafting the bylaw restructuring of the BGHS, and creating the Landing Page for our website; Cindy McBarnes for chairing the log schoolhouse Education Committee and organizing the school visits; Steve Monts for his ongoing detailed treasurer's work; Gary Seiner for his expert and continuous detailed work as curator; Mary Ann Lambert for serving as assistant curator; Ken Ponton for donating the 1700s map to the log schoolhouse; 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, Tyler Goodrich, and myself; Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee members: Mack Brza, Daron Kinzinger, Ken Lewellen, Max Michels, Rodney Miller, Doris O'Connor, Gary Seiner, Jorie Walters, and myself; Doris O'Connor for chairing the Membership Committee and assuming the BGHS officer position of Corresponding Secretary; Steve Liehr for volunteering to "work" the BGHS table at the 10th Anniversary Celebration of Lifelong Learning Institute at KCC on April 11; and Bonnie Bergeron and Mary Ann Lambert for chaperoning the Open House on April 12.

Volunteering is as easy as clicking the links below--chaperone needed for Saturday May 10 Open House from 1-4 pm

Volunteering for the open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse is just a click away. These two historic landmarks will have open houses on the second Saturday of every month from 1-4 pm. 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.** The sign-up process is rather easy. **Just click one or more of the links below for an opportunity to chaperon at your preference site and 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.**

Craft Shows on July 4 and December 6, 2025 sign up link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning1>

Letourneau Home/Museum open house, second Saturday of every month March-December from 1-4 pm (2 chaperones needed) sign up link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning>

Log schoolhouse open house, second Saturday of every month March-December from 1-4 pm (2 chaperones needed) sign up link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning2>



In the first photograph, Steve Liehr (on left) offers BGHS information at the 10th anniversary celebration of Lifelong Learning Institute at KCC on April 11. In the second photograph, Mary Ann Lambert (on right) connects WWI Private Harvey Bourdreau with his grandson and others who attended the April 19 meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution at the Letourneau Home/Museum..

HB 2361 moves to Illinois senate

After being unanimously approved by the Illinois House of Representatives on April 8, HB2361 which creates a French Heritage Month, is now in the Senate. This bill calls for March of every year to be observed by the whole state of Illinois as a month set apart to promote the study of French language and the culture of French-speaking people. The bill was sponsored in the House by Representatives Jackie Haas and Nicole La Ha. Senator Sally Turner is sponsoring the bill in the Senate.

Fifth Annual French Heritage Corridor (FHC) conference generates inspiration and *amitié*



At left, Lisa Kahn, Director of the FHC Initiative and Chair of the French Heritage Society Chicago-Midwest Chapter, addresses 80 conference attendees in Ridgley Hall of Washington University in St. Louis. At right, the Honorable Consul General of France in the Midwest, Yannick Tagand welcomes everyone to the 4/24 conference.



On Friday April 25, the conference attendees visited Ste. Genevieve, MO, and the St. Louis Mercantile Library on the campus of the University of Missouri--St. Louis. At left (from left to right) FHC Michigan Ambassador Micheal Nasseney, Misty Jackson (President of the Center for French Colonial Studies), Penny and Phil Stickney (BGHS members) pose in the Mercantile Library. At center is an example of verticle log on sill French colonial archetecture in Ste. Genevieve. At right are reenactors in the Ste. Genevieve Cemetery telleing us about their late 1700s and early 1800s colonial lives.



<https://frenchheritagecorridor.org/>

During the conference, Lisa Kahn unveiled the revamped FHC website. Do you notice anything familiar on the Home Page?

Who am I?

Since no one identified me last month, you will get another chance now. On January 12, 1836, Will County was formed and Thomas Durham was elected Rock Village Precinct Commissioner as one of three commissioners in the newly formed county. One of his ambitions was to build a school in Bourbonnais Grove. After all, he and his wife, Margaret, had a vested interest: seven of their own children were of school age. At the commissioners' first meeting in Joliet, I (who was also a Methodist circuit rider minister) was appointed Will County clerk and

school commissioner. Durham agreed with me that for any new settlement like Bourbonnais Grove to survive, it must have a school. Who am I?

Special BGHS 2025 activities, some with links—save the dates:

- Tuesday May 6 from 5-8 pm--BGHS fundraiser at Bourbonnais Culver's;
- Thursday May 8 at 3:30 pm--Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee meeting;
- Saturday May 10 from 1-4 pm Open House for Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse, to be chaperoned by Ken Lewellen.
- Thursday May 15 at 7:15 pm--hybrid in-person (at Exploration Station) and Zoom Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee meeting, Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84424042187?pwd=oEOpLUKU9U7bY4d9y1lrBpBhK9biWq.1> Passcode 664589, ID 664589;
- Saturday May 17 from 6-10 pm--*Soirée de Bourbonnais* at The Grove--see page 1;
- Friday July 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show from 9 am to 3 pm, <https://bourbonnaishistory.org/les-artisans-fair>
- 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>
- 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.

Thursday May 8 at 7 pm Zoom meeting agenda

- 7pm—Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on April/May and May/June 2025 newsletter item “Who am I?”
- Approval of April 3, 2025 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer's report;
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Curator report
- Membership report
- Ways and Means:
 - Website update
 - Craft show update;
 - Remnant log pieces;
 - INaturalist app and purpose; and
 - Chaperones for open houses.
 - Slogan: *Our History Starts Here*
- Building and Grounds:

- Current and future trees and shrubs work—Pete Gryzlak of B & S Yards Plus;
- Florescent light replacement;
- Electrician?
- Pest control
- HVAC--June 9 in morning
- Should we control weeds in Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve lawn?
- Camp MOSH--July 20-25
- Garden Work Sessions: Saturdays May 10, 17, and 24 from 9-11 am; and June 21 from 9-11 am.
- Old Business
 - Restructuring of BGHS update and process--see and review Article IV below; and
 - Tabled--Marker at Clancy Gernon Funeral Home parking lot
- New Business
 - **Next meeting May 8, 2025 at 7 pm**—Zoom only;
 - Another chaperone for May 10 Open House?
 - Friday May 30 tour; and
 - Open house on the weekend of September 27-28 French Heritage Weekend

Proposed new bylaw Article IV below will provide BGHS restructuring

The last time that the bylaws of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society were approved was by membership at the March 4 and May 6, 2021 BGHS meetings; and by the Board of Directors and BGHS officers on June 2, 2021. Over the past four years, Daron and I have been working on new bylaw language that would restructure the BGHS. In the restructuring all current officers will join the current board members on the Board of Directors. The monthly meetings would combine board and membership issues. As many as 15 persons may be on the board. All BGHS members would be invited to the monthly board meetings and could participate in a “straw vote” on issues that would then be voted on by the board--at the same meeting. A more defined committee structure will developed. We will vote on the first three Articles of the bylaws (attached to the April/May News Eletter), drafted by Daron and me, at the May 8, 2025 membership meeting. The Article IV proposal for your review is below.

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CORPORATE BYLAWS

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. General Powers. The affairs of the organization shall be managed by its board of directors. This shall include, but not be limited to, the power (1) to modify restrictions on the distribution of funds for purposes designated by donors if the restrictions become obsolete and (2) to determine investment policy, including the designation of a depository for the organization's funds.

Section 2. Number, Tenure and Qualifications. The number of directors shall be not less than seven and not more than 15, but an odd number of directors shall be elected. Directors shall be elected annually by the members at the annual meeting of the members.

If the election of directors shall not be held at such meeting, such election

shall be held as soon thereafter as conveniently possible. Each director shall hold office for a term of one (1) year, or until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and shall have qualified or until his or her death or until he or she shall resign. A Director shall be eligible to serve five (5) consecutive one-year terms. If a vacancy occurs in the office of director in the subsequent year that after being made public cannot be filled with a new, qualified director, an otherwise qualified director whose five (5) consecutive one-year terms have been used may be elected with a new eligible set of five (5) consecutive one-year terms.

Directors need not be residents of Illinois or members of the organization. The number of directors may be increased to any number or decreased to not fewer than three (3) from time to time by amendment of this Section.

Section 3. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of the board of directors shall be held without other notice than these bylaws, immediately after, and at the same place as, the annual meeting of members.

Section 4. Other Regular Meetings. The board of directors may provide by resolution the time and place for the holding of additional regular meetings of the board without other notice than such resolution.

Section 5. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the board of directors may be called by or at the request of the president or any two directors. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the board may fix any place as the place for holding any special meeting of the board called by them.

Section 6. Notice. Notice of any special meeting of the board of directors shall be given at least two (2) days prior thereto by written notice to each director at the address shown for such director on the records of the organization. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope so addressed, with postage thereon prepaid. If notice shall be given by other means, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the product is transferred to be sent. Notice of any special meeting of the board of directors may be waived in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice either before or after the time of the meeting. The attendance of a director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called

or convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the board need be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting, unless specifically required by law or by these bylaws.

Section 7. Quorum. At all meetings of the board of directors a majority of the total number of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, provided that if less than a majority of the directors is present at said meeting, a majority of the directors present may adjourn the meeting to another time without further notice.

Section 8. Manner of Acting. The act of a majority of the directors present at a qualified meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the board of directors, unless the act of a greater number is required by statute, the articles of inorganization or these bylaws.

Section 9. Action Without Meeting. Any action required to be taken at a meeting of the directors of the organization, or any other action which may be taken at a meeting of directors, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all the directors entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof.

Section 10. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the board of directors or any directorship to be filled by reason of any increase in the number of directors shall be filled by the board of directors. A director elected to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

Section 11. Compensation. Directors shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties if approved by the majority of the board of directors.

Have a great spring! Best wishes,

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society

