

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Membership Zoom meeting on Thursday August 8 at 7 pm

Our next membership meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday August 8 at 7 pm (meeting agenda is below). The Zoom meeting connections are: Passcode 105819, meeting ID 3031385986, and Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84981018372?pwd=IaI80LhRgridbfiQnThTC6UQaISRba.1>. **After the membership meeting, BGHS officers and board of directors will chose the person to receive 2024 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence.**

Volunteers expand native garden



The BGHS membership on July 11 approved Pam and Russ Perkins's (in photograph above) expansion of the Native Garden behind the Letourneau Home/Museum. The garden will be dedicated to the late Joanne Schnell, a friend of theirs and the BGHS. Joanne spent many volunteer hours as a Master Gardener beautifying the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve and the Durham-Perry Farmstead. Thank you so much, Pam and Russ!

July 4th *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair nets \$3503.25 for BGHS

Craft show organizer Ellen Stringer has reported that the July 4th *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair at the Exhibition Hall, Kankakee County Fairgrounds, was highly successful. After expenses of exhibition hall rental and publicity, the surplus crafters' rental space fees of \$2170.67, plus a \$500 donation from the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival, and \$832.58 in admission donations from the public resulted in \$3503.25 net funds raised for the BGHS. Thank you, Ellen!

Special presentations made at Bastille Day Jazz Brunch Celebration



At the July 14 Bastille Day Jazz Brunch Celebration hosted by Shari Ebert and others of the Kankakee County Museum staff, Ken Ponton (at left) beams with pride after State Representative Jackie Haas presented him with a formal copy of the Illinois State Legislature’s joint resolution to create June 15 as Illinois History Day. Ken thanked Representative Haas and Deputy District Director Alexia Brown for supporting his initiative and sponsoring this resolution. Ken also thanked State Senator Patrick Joyce for sponsoring the resolution. At right, Max Michels presented a slide lecture on the history of jazz in the Kankakee and Chicago areas at the Bastille Day event.

Kudos to all our volunteers

In addition to the above mentioned Pam and Russ Perkins, Ellen Stringer, Ken Ponton, and Max Michels, a big BGHS “thank you” to Judy Smead who volunteered as open house chaperone on August 4. More kudos go to: Pam Perkins for moving ten bags of garden waste to the street last week; Josué Savoie for updating 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; 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 expert and detailed work as curator and assistant curator respectively; 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: Mack Brza, Daron Kinzinger, Ken Lewellen, Max Michels, Rodney Miller, Doris O’Connor, Gary Seiner, Jorie Walters, and myself; Charles Bales for arranging the menu for the September 24 *Fleurs-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner; and Doris O’Connor for chairing the Membership Committee.

Several volunteer slots remain open vacant for upcoming museum campus open houses—especially September 1

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. At the Letourneau Home/Museum, Doris O'Connor has volunteered for August 18, and Judy Smead has volunteered for 10/6. **Chaperon(s) are needed for September 1—please see below for sign up links.**

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 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fairs on December 7, please open this link for dates and times:

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

Here is your reminder invitation to the Seventh Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner

The Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society (BGHS) cordially invites you to attend the Seventh Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club, 211 Cobb Boulevard, Kankakee, IL on Tuesday September 24, 2024



Celebration Dinner Schedule

4:00-5:15 pm—Log schoolhouse open house (698 Stratford Drive East, Bourbonnais);

5:30-9:00 pm—Welcome at Kankakee Country Club; Appetizers; Presentation of 2024 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of

Excellence; French-Canadian dinner and dessert; Entertainment (Josuè Savoie and accompaniment—Midwest French music); and Concluding Remarks.

To make reservations for the celebration dinner online (deadline is September 14), 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 President James Paul jpaul764@hotmail.com and—using the guidelines on the form below—inform him of the names of all in your dinner party guests (for name tags), who you would like to sit with at the dinner (tables of eight persons), and entrée choice: 1) “chicken” *La poule au blanc de Normandie*, or 2) “beef” *boeuf bourguignon*. The celebration dinner price (which includes appetizers, entrée,

dessert, wine, coffee/tea, and gratuity) is: BGHS members--\$75 per person*; non-members \$85 per person. **All proceeds go toward the preservation of Bourbonnais Grove's first log schoolhouse (1837-48).** The BGHS is a 501c3 organization. See below for reservations by mail.

*This is the exact Kankakee Country Club price per person for appetizer, entrée, dessert, beverage, gratuity, and set up).

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 14, 2024.**

- Name: _____ Member: Yes No
- Postal address: _____
- Telephone number: _____
- Email: _____
- ___ I will attend with a party of ___ and would like to sit with _____
- Dinner choices—chicken or beef: 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 \$_____ for preservation of the log schoolhouse.

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 September 24th. Please make your own independent reservations.

French Heritage Corridor (FHC) website now has QR code



French Heritage Corridor

a French Heritage Society
Chicago-Midwest Chapter
initiative



FRENCH
HERITAGE
SOCIETY



Over the August 3-4 weekend, I publicized the new look of the French Heritage Corridor website at the Fort St. Joseph (Niles, MI) Archeological Open House. Dr. Michael Nassaney (Michigan Ambassador to the FHC), students, and staff at the open house were so hospitable and supportive as I visited with attendees for the two days. In addition to the new QR code for the French Heritage Corridor website, several new interactive modules for each of the seven states have been added to the website. Available in English and French, you may now (with your

children, family, friends, and/or students) explore in depth history about Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. These modules include resources such as teaching tools, suggested tours, and connections to active groups. In addition to the interactive map and schedule of French history related events, the website offers a full complement of online resources. Check it out!

Who am I?

The name of *Rue Église* was eventually changed to my last name and also a building at St. Viator College. Who am I?

Thursday August 8 Zoom meeting agenda

- 7pm—Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on August/September 2024 news eletter item “Who am I?”
- Approval of July 11, 2024 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s report (*attached*);
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Executive Vice-President report;
- Curator report;
- Membership report;
- Ways and Means:
 - Website update;
 - Remnant log pieces—tabled, we need a committee to pursue this issue; and
 - Chaperons and “openers/closers” needed for open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse. At the Letourneau Home/Museum, Doris O’Connor has volunteered for August 18, and Judy Smead has volunteered for 10/6.
 - **Chaperon(s) are needed for September 1—please see page three above for sign up links.**
- Building and Grounds:
 - Southeast trees and shrubs need to be trimmed—Pete Gryzlak of B & S Yards Plus will submit an estimate



- Work session date; and
 - Native plant seeds needed: orange butterfly weed and red cardinal.
- Old Business
 - Restructuring of BGHS update.
- New Business
 - **Next meeting date suggestion September 19 at 7 pm—Zoom only;**
 - Special BGHS 2024 dates with links—**save the dates:**
 - Thursday August 22 at 2:30 pm—Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee meeting
 - Thursday August 15 at 7 pm—Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee meeting

- September 14—reservation deadline for annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org)
 - Tuesday September 24, beginning at 5:30pm—*Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org)
 - Saturday December 7 from 9am – 3 pm—*Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair [Les Artisans Fair \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org)
- Post meeting—officers and board of directors chose 2024 recipient of *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence

Keep enjoying this great summer!

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society