

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

**Next membership meeting is Thursday June 12 at 7 pm**

Our next membership meeting will be on Thursday June 12 at 7 pm via Zoom. The Zoom meeting link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82600273863?pwd=mDFDAHrYWaB8YQYWpxubGZaNNs1XY3.1> with passcode 800707 and meeting ID 82600273863.

**Please answer this survey regarding Letourneau Home/Museum  
Arborvitae, Lilacs, Wigelia, Spirea, and Barberries**



Four views of Letourneau Home/Museum's trees and bushes--views from left to right: north, west, south, and east.

The BGHS board of directors will soon to decide the future of the trees and bushes/shrubs that surround the outside walls of the Letourneau Home/Museum. There are three points of view:

- 1) Continue to trim and prune the Arborvitae; Lilacs, Wigelia, Spirea, and Barberries;
- 2) Cut down and remove all Arborvitae, Lilacs, Wigelia, Spirea, and Barberries; or
- 3) Other \_\_\_\_\_

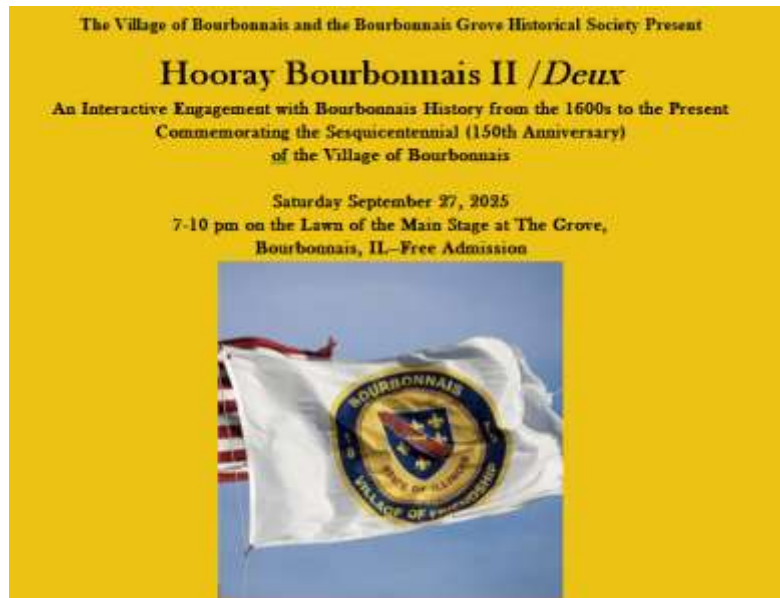
Please let me and the other board members know your point of view by emailing me at [jpaul764@hotmail.com](mailto:jpaul764@hotmail.com) and copying [bourbonnais.grove@gmail.com](mailto:bourbonnais.grove@gmail.com) (for all board members to read) **by June 10**. THIS SURVEY IS FOR NON-BOARD MEMBERS ONLY.

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

The first celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Village of Bourbonnais--the *Soirée de Bourbonnais*--took place on May 17 at The Grove. **Please 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, and videos. BGHS members and friends will also be involved in the following:

- Rod Miller and myself will debate the legacy of Noel LeVasseur;
- Josué Savoie and Ken Lewellen will debate whether the excommunication of Fr. Charles Chiniquy was justified;
- Ellen Stringer will provide a summary of her mother's (Mary Ann Kirsch) investigative reporting of the 1980s Perry Farm commercialization or parkland controversy;
- Mike Monahan will talk about his grade school years at Notre Dame Convent/Academy; and
- Marcia Rabideau will talk about growing up in Bourbonnais.



### **Can you help us in the museum campus gardens in 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 Saturday June **from 9-11 am:** June 14.

### **Kudos to all our volunteers**

A big thank you to 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, creating the Landing Page for our website, and guiding the tour for Grace Academy on May 7; Cindy McBarnes for chairing the log schoolhouse Education Committee, organizing the school visits, and serving as docent during those visits; Steve Monts for his ongoing detailed treasurer's work and help with the gardens; Gary Seiner for his expert and continuous detailed work as curator; Mary Ann Lambert for serving as assistant curator and helping continuously with the gardening; Ellen Stringer for organizing the craft show fundraisers; Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee members Mayor Paul Schore, Laurie Cyr (we will miss her as God Mother of the log schoolhouse when she moves to Tennessee), Ken Ponton, Gary Seiner, Charles Balesi, Frank Koehler, Cindy McBarnes, Norm Strasma, Daron

Kinzinger, Tyler Goodrich (who will also be missed as she assumes a new position in Kankakee County administration), 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 and Ellen Liehr and Judy Smead for helping in the *Fleur-de-Lis* garden; Ken Lewellen and Gary Seiner for chaperoning the May 10 open house; Frank Koehler and Ken Lewellen for helping at the Culver's fund raiser on May 6; Pam Adams and Jeanne Monahan for gardening on May 17; and Christine Michels for planting the baby blue bearded irises by the wagon in the museum back yard.



Mary Ann Lambert cares for the pink invincible hydrangea garden at left, and (l-r) Judy Smead, Mary Ann, Ellen and Steve Liehr help in the gardens in May.



At left, Pam Adams and Jeanne Monahan set up the wire fleur-de-lis fence in the herb garden. At right, Steve Monts and Mary Ann Lambert prepare to pull weeds.





At left, Grace Academy student pose at the Letourneau Home/Museum during their visit to the museum campus on May 7. At right, Ken Lewellen, Daron Kinzinger, and Frank Koehler served customers at Culver's on the May 6 BGHS fundraiser--which netted \$500.



Thanks to Daron Kinzinger and Josué Savoie, you can check out the new sign and QR code with video/audio introduction to the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse. Try it--you will like it!

### **Volunteering is as easy as clicking the links below**

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>

### **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.

### **Who am I?**

As an early Bourbonnais Grove pioneer, I was quite entrepreneurial, could speak Potawatomi, French, and English--but I was illiterate. Who am I?

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

- June 19 at 7 pm--Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee meeting, Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88391510923?pwd=Bk2uqIT0gsCDa8lRaIg9lZlbydS2tq.1> with Passcode 494333 and ID 88391510923;
- 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>
- Thursday September 11 at 3:30 pm--Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee meeting;
- 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 June 12 at 7 pm Zoom meeting agenda**

- 7pm—Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on June/July 2025 news eletter item “Who am I?”
- Approval of May 8, 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;
- 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
  - Camp MOSH--July 20-25
  - Garden Work Session: Saturday June 14 from 9-11 am
  - Trees and bushes around the Letourneau Home/Museum.
- Old Business
  - Restructuring of BGHS update and process--please review Article IV below which will be voted on at the meeting;
  - Tabled--Marker at Clancy Gernon Funeral Home parking lot; and
  - Friday May 30 tour
- New Business
  - **Next meeting July 3 or July 10, 2025 at 7 pm**—Zoom only; and
  - Should we have an open house on the weekend of September 27-28 French Heritage Weekend?
  - Ken Lewellen’s ideas from PR and tours

### **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. The membership approved 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