

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

### **Membership Zoom meeting on Thursday November 7 at 7 pm**

Our next membership meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday November 7 at 7 pm (meeting agenda is below). The Zoom meeting connections are: Passcode 523279, meeting ID 82581290514, and Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82581290514?pwd=bcDzoR1zBbeaGamETZAs54aWASXFCb.1>

### **Three separate families of Letourneau descendants visited in September**



*In the photograph at left*, Joanne Mack Robertson and her son Taylor pose in the parlor of the Letourneau Home/Museum. Joanne is the great great granddaughter of George and Elodie Letourneau. Her great grandparents are Clayton Oswald “C.O.” Letourneau and Minnie Whitman Letourneau. Minnie died while giving birth to their daughter, Marguerite. Marguerite married William Daniel Mack--they are Joanne’s grandparents. Joanne informed us that Marguerite died while giving birth to her Dad, William Daniel Mack, Jr.

*In the center photograph*--from left to right--Mary Alice Schmidt, Anne O’Gorman, Rita Paschke Whitman, and her husband Jack Whitman pose on the Letourneau Home/Museum front porch. Rita is the great great great granddaughter of George and Elodie Letourneau. Her great great grandparents are Eugenie Letourneau and Frederick Marcotte. Rita’s grandparents are Eugenie Marcotte St. Louis and Viateur Messier. Eugenie was adopted by her Aunt Agnes Letourneau (another daughter of George and Elodie) and Uncle Joseph St. Louis as a baby after her mother’s death. Rita’s parents are Marguerite “Peg” Messier Paschke and John “Jack” Paschke.

*In the photograph at right*--from left to right--Joel Legris poses with his twin sister Jean Legris Pekoc and his brother-in-law Roy Pekoc at the September 24<sup>th</sup> *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner. Joel and Jean are the great great grandchildren of George and Elodie Letourneau. Their great grandparents are Phillip Letourneau and Mary Lesage Letourneau. Their grandparents are Eva Letourneau Legris and Alphonse Sylvester Legris. Their parents are Harvey Legris and

Anna Rose Legris. During and after their visits to Bourbonnais, the families all expressed gratitude to the following BGHS hosts for their passion and dedication to the preservation of their heritage: Ken Ponton, Gary Seiner, Doris O'Connor, Mary Ann Lambert, and Daren Kinzinger. The BGHS is very grateful to Rita for sending us the following--and many other--digital photographs of the Letourneau family.



Mary Ann Lambert submitted these 2024 *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner photographs



Left to right: Ken Ponton, Charles Balesi, Christine and Max Michels, Cindy and Rich McBarnes.



Left to right: Mary and Paul Schore, Karen Korup-Duchene, Alicia Parkinson, Jean and Frank Koehler, Jim Paul, Christina and Andy Bradley.



Left to right: Rich Piggush, Mary Ann Lambert, Fr. Jason Nesbit, Elmira Wilkey, Phil and Penny Stickney, Jon Middleton, and Josué Savoie.

Thank you, Mary Ann, for helping to preserve the memories of our annual celebration dinner.

### **Liberty School fourth-graders, teachers, and chaperones tour schoolhouse in October**



Five of the eleven docents/tour guides who accommodated the fourth grade students, teachers, and chaperones of Liberty Intermediate School at the log schoolhouse and Letourneau Home/Museum on October 1, 3, 7, 10, and 11 are seen above: l-r, Cindy McBarnes (who organized the field trip event), Bonnie Brewer, Jean Benson, me, and Frank Koehler.

Gratitude is also extended to the six additional docents/tour guides who were not pictured above: Maureen Antognolli, Karen Korup-Duchene, Jean Koehler, Linda Klette, Ken Lewellen, and Doris O'Connor. Mayor Paul Schore and the Village of Bourbonnais staff also gave a tour of the village Administration Building before the students visited the Police Station. Thanks to all the docents/tour guides who contributed to this highly successful event.

### **Who am I?**

I was the tenth child of George and Elodie Letourneau, born on January 31, 1871. I graduated from St. Viator College, then West Point, and studied dentistry graduating from the Chicago College of Dental Surgery. I practiced in Chicago. My first wife, Minnie, died while giving birth to our daughter, Marguerite in 1898. I remarried, and my second wife's name was



Eugenie. My descendants recently visited the home where I spent twelve years of my boyhood.  
Who am I?

**Fall brings colorful displays to the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve museum campus**



Enjoying the gardens and cleaning them up: top right from l-r, Cheryl King, Mary Ann Lambert, and Steve Monts; bottom from l-r, Judy Smead, Steve Liehr, Max Michels, Ken Ponton, and Randy King. Thank you all so much!

**This photo gallery shows more fall visitors to the BGHS historic landmarks**



From left to right are: Norma Meier, Mary Jo Meier, Jeremy Meier and his dog Brie, Jan Meier O'Connell, and Kevin O'Connell (great great great grandson of Domitilde Boucher Lesage and Joseph Lesage); and Kathy Lambert, Mary Ann Lambert, Sue and Ralph Lambert.



From left to right are: Joe Piergallini, Chris Keller, Larry and Marcia Rabideau; and Congregation of Notre Dame Sister Yoko Ikeda, Mary Ann Lambert, Sister Ercilia Ferrera Erazco, Sister Regina DeVitto, Sister Darlene Mayo, Sister Marijke Gerretsen, and Alicia Parkinson.

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

In addition to all those mentioned in the photographs above, more kudos go to: Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail, chairing our Board of Directors, and organizing publicity and Culver's fund raiser; 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; Ken Ponton for his oversight as executive vice-president and landscaping work; 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, 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 chaperoning the October 20 and upcoming November 17 open houses at the museum campuses; and Ken Lewellen for chaperoning the November 3 open house.

### **Volunteer slots remain open for December 7 craft show**

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>.

### **Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee next meeting is Tuesday November 19**

The next meeting of the BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee will be on at 3:30 pm on Tuesday November 19 in the village Administration Building conference room.

### Thursday November 7 Zoom meeting agenda

- 7pm—Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on November/December 2024 news eletter item “Who am I?”
- Approval of October 3, 2024 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s report (*attached*);
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Executive Vice-President report;
- Curator report;
- Membership report--thank you notes and/or certificates;
- Ways and Means:
  - Website update
  - Craft show update;
  - Remnant log pieces;
  - Chaperones for open houses on November 17, December 1, and December 14/15; and craft show on December 7.
  - Should the BGHS Christmas Open House be on Saturday December 14 to match the village’s Miracle at the Grove?
  - Wednesday November 20--Culver’s fund raiser from 5-8 pm--10% of sales
- Building and Grounds:
  - Current and future trees and shrubs work—Pete Gryzlak of B & S Yards Plus; and
  - Pest Control (10/18/24) and HVAC tune up (10/28/24)
- Old Business
  - Restructuring of BGHS update, and
  - Marker at Clancy Gernon Funeral Home parking lot
- New Business
  - **Next meeting December 5 at 7 pm**—Zoom only--election of officers and board member Charles;
  - How many new board members can be nominated--current bylaws state that we must have a minimum of 3, and we currently have 7?
  - Other nominations
  - Assistance needed for Hooray Bourbonnais II *Deau*
    - Videotaping of the history pageant
    - On stage presenters for pro and con debate with rebuttal “Was Excommunication of Fr. Chinique justified?--Jim will develop the primary arguments for the Power Point slide
  - Special BGHS 2024 dates with link—**save the dates:**
    - Tuesday November 19 at 3:30 pm--Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee meeting;
    - Wednesday November 20 from 5-8 pm--Culver’s fund raiser;
    - Thursday November 21 at 7 pm--Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee meeting;
    - 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 open house from 1-4 pm--should this be our Christmas open house? and
    - Saturday-Sunday September 27-28, 2025--French Heritage Weekend, part of village’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration
    - Thursday November 13, 2025--Eight Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner

Have a great November and Happy Thanksgiving! Best wishes,

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society