

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Membership Zoom meeting on Thursday December 5 at 7 pm

Our next membership meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday December 5 at 7 pm (meeting agenda is below). The Zoom meeting connections are: Passcode 424287, meeting ID 81971061058, and Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81971061058?pwd=6sRnNZNnHgr3ZJRzx47RytUPy6BtzR.1>

Saturday December 7 holiday delights await us at *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show



BGHS craft show organizer Ellen Stringer has assembled a full venue of holiday crafters on Saturday December 7 at the *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show (Kankakee County Fair Grounds) from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This craft fair and the one on July 4th are the two main fund raisers for the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society. Thank you, Ellen, for organizing this holiday fund raiser for the BGHS!

**Come join us for holiday cheer on Saturday December 14 with
Letourneau Home/Museum and Log Schoolhouse Christmas Open House from 1-4 pm,
Miracle at the Grove from 10 am-3 pm, and
Kankakee County Museum/French Heritage Museum Santa's Seasonal Saturday**

The BGHS Christmas Open House at the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse (from 1-4 pm) will coincide with holiday events Miracle at the Grove, and Kankakee County Museum and French Heritage Museum Santa's Seasonal Saturdays on December 14--see promotional flyers below. Please invite your family and friends to join us on this day of history tours, holiday treats, shopping, and festivities.



BGHS hosted November 20 fundraiser at Culver's



L-R, Daron Kinzinger, Steve Monts, Ken Lewellen, Frank Koehler, and Randy King (not in photographs) volunteered to deliver food and bus tables at Culver's on Wednesday November 20 from 5-8 pm during this fundraiser. Daron, BGHS board chairperson, organized the event. On display that evening was an artifact from the Letourneau Home/Museum: a pick ax from the California gold rush. George Letourneau and several French-Canadians and others went to California from 1850-52. Thank you, Daron, for taking the lead on this fundraiser.

Who am I?

I was the second youngest child of Thomas and Margaret Durham and was named after a good friend and former employer of my father. I attended the log schoolhouse from 1840-48. Who am I?

Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee next meeting is Tuesday January 21

The next meeting of the BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee will be on at 3:30 pm on Tuesday January 21 in the village Administration Building conference room.

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>.

Teacher expresses gratitude at Village of Bourbonnais November 18 board meeting



At the November 18 village board meeting, Liberty Intermediate School fourth grade teacher Rene Brammer presented an overview of the community field trips--during five days in October--to the BGHS museum campus and Village of Bourbonnais administration and police departments.

During her presentation, Mrs. Brammer expressed special thanks to Cindy McBarnes, the BGHS volunteer docents/guides, Mayor Paul Schore, Laurie Cyr, Tyler Goodrich, the Bourbonnais Police Department, Scott Austin (B.E.S.D. Transportation Director), and the Liberty Intermediate administration and fourth grade team. Mrs. Brammer stated that "It is the hope of everyone involved in the planning of this field trip to make this an annual event for all fourth graders in the Bourbonnais Elementary School District." Here are a few photographs from Mrs. Brammer's presentation (her complete PDF presentation is attached).





Kudos to all our volunteers

In addition to all those mentioned above, more kudos go to: Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail, chairing our Board of Directors, organizing publicity and Culver's fund raiser, and drafting the bylaw restructuring of the BGHS; 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 for his expert and detailed work as curator and decorating the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse for Christmas; Mary Ann Lambert for serving as assistant curator; 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 November 17 and December 1 open houses at the museum campuses; Randy King for mulching leaves with mower and cleaning up the front boardwalk; the volunteers at the Culver's fundraiser in addition to Daron--Frank Koehler, Steve Monts, Randy King, and Ken Lewellen; and Betty Leininger for donating this framed remnant of the log schoolhouse--see below.



Thursday December 5 Zoom meeting agenda

- 7pm—Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on December/January 2024-2025 news eletter item "Who am I?"
- Approval of November 7, 2024 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer's report (*attached*);
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Executive Vice-President report;
- Curator report
 - Letourneau photo book; and
 - Flickering fire in pot belly stove.
- Membership report--thank you notes and/or certificates;

- Ways and Means:
 - Website update
 - Craft show update;
 - Remnant log pieces;
 - Chaperones for craft show on December 7; and
 - Chaperones for BGHS Christmas Open House on Saturday December 14.
- Building and Grounds:
 - Current and future trees and shrubs work—Pete Gryzlak of B & S Yards Plus;
 - Florescent light replacement;
 - Electrician?
- Old Business
 - Restructuring of BGHS update--Daron and Jim met on November 27 and will meet again on December 12, and
 - Marker at Clancy Gernon Funeral Home parking lot
- New Business
 - **Next meeting March 13, 2025 at 7 pm**—Zoom only--if agreeable;
 - BGHS Christmas Open House on Saturday December 14--refreshments?
 - 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 and election of officers and board members;
 - Assistance needed for Hooray Bourbonnais II *Deau*
 - Jim requested a videographer for the September 27, 2025 production of “Hooray Bourbonnais II/*Deux*--no one has volunteered to videotape the show, although an ONU person may be available--Daron will check;
 - Jim requested volunteers to present an onstage pro and con debate with rebuttal during the September 27, 2025 production of “Hooray Bourbonnais II/*Deux*”:
 - “Was Noel LeVasseur’s legacy positive or negative?” Jim will portray LeVasseur and present the positive view. Rodney Miller is thinking about presenting the negative view. Jim will send Rod the primary arguments for that view;
 - “Was the Excommunication of Fr. Charles Chiniquy justified?” Ken L. has volunteered to present the pro “yes” view and Josué has volunteered to present the con “no” view. Jim sent each of them the primary arguments and resource book;
 - “In the 1980s, should Durham-Perry Farmstead/Perry Farm Park be commercially developed or left in its natural state?” Volunteers to debate each view are needed.
 - Special BGHS 2024/25 dates with link—**save the dates:**
 - Thursday March 13, 2025--first BGHS membership meeting of 2025;
 - 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--Christmas open house; and
 - Saturday-Sunday September 27-28, 2025--French Heritage Weekend, part of village’s 150th anniversary celebration
 - Thursday November 13, 2025--Eight Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner

Have a great and merry holiday season! Best wishes,

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society