

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Enjoy holiday shopping at BGHS *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair this Saturday



A preview of the BGHS holiday arts and crafts is available at our Facebook page “Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society *Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts” or click this link <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=bourbonnais%20grove%20historical%20society%27s%20les%20artisans%20arts>. The craft fair will be held Saturday December 4 at the Kankakee County Fairgrounds from 9 am to 3 pm. Our organizer, Ellen Stringer, has done another superb job of bringing 90 vendor booths for you to shop for a variety of holiday fares. Thank you, Ellen.

Log schoolhouse construction begins



From left to right: first scoop on November 2; Ken Ponton and me on November 4; and Daron Kinzinger’s scenic view on November 6.



The log schoolhouse foundation is complete—November 16.

Now that the log schoolhouse is becoming a reality, we need to think about the details. I will organize the Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee over the winter, but in the meantime we can all think about addressing the following issues:

1. The BGHS has several boxes of foundation stones (left over from the Letourneau Home/Museum restoration) that can be used to cover the log schoolhouse foundation where the concrete is visible. **Let's plan to bring them down from the storage closet upstairs in the home/museum so that they are available when needed.**
2. The **items we currently have** for the log schoolhouse are: **pot belly stove, teacher desk/secretary, lantern, one individuals student slate, lantern, flag stand (TBD), one student bench (need 6-8), and U.S. flag with 26 stars.** I recently learned that Ken Ponton has unleashed his wood working skills to create this desk and bench seats—see below. Thank you, Ken!



3. **Items that we still need** (please contact me at jpaul764@hotmail.com or call the BGHS at 815 933-6452 if you wish to donate these items): **large picture of any U.S. presidents from George Washington to James Polk, bookshelf with books from 1837-48, framed copy of the Declaration of Independence, McGuffey Readers or facsimiles, abacus, teacher chair, wood bucket, ax, wall hooks or nails, student slates, slate**

blackboard, tin bucket or a basket for lunches, quill pen and ink bottle, dominoes, marbles, jacks, whirligig, chess/checkers, and student clothes to try on.

4. **For the 1848-2011 time of the log schoolhouse when French-Canadian families lived in it, can one wall be dedicated to those families with artifacts like Joseph Lesage, Julie (Fortier) Lesage, and Mary (Lesage) Letourneau's portraits, Joseph's blacksmith tools, and Charles Byron/Biron's bayonet (all now on display in Letourneau Home/Museum) as well as other information items via QR codes (see below)?**
5. **Since space will be limited for signage inside the log schoolhouse, should we print a booklet about the history of the log schoolhouse (like the one for the Letourneau Home/Museum) based on the Log Schoolhouse Power Point program that has been created [I did not attach it because it is over 15 megabytes, but I will send it to anyone who wants to review it]?**
6. **Again, for lack of signage space inside the log schoolhouse, should we place QR codes on the walls under catchy titles like "Who attended and what was education like in this one-room schoolhouse from 1837-48?" and "Why did Methodist circuit riders use this schoolhouse as a meeting center?"**

Mark your calendars for these 2021-2022 events

- December 4—*Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair;
- TBD Saturday June 25 or Sunday June 26, 2022—Inauguration of Bourbonnais Grove's first log schoolhouse at the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival;
- July 4, 2022—*Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair; and
- Friday September 16, 2022—Fifth Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner.

Who am I?

I met Phillip Letourneau as a child in Bourbonnais Grove. We both attended Northwestern Medical School and were married. We had three children—one was Eva (Letourneau) Legris. Four of our great great grandchildren donated the 1870s field cradle to the BGHS in 2015. Do you know my name?

December 2 membership meeting will be Zoom only

The Thursday membership meeting at 7:00 pm will be **Zoom only**. Please click this link to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84638471836?pwd=MUIQdzIPSU83YVFxUFU0NFINQzF2dz09>

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on November/December news eletter item "Who am I?"

- Approval of November 4, 2021 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s Report;
- Membership Report;
- Collection Committee Report;
 - Log Schoolhouse items listed in November/December newsletter.
- Ways and Means:
 - Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley “pass through” fund;
 - American Recovery Act money for not-for-profit historical sites that rely on events for fund raising
 - Jim, Steve, and Ellen (county)
- Building and Grounds
 - Fence—which one is most similar to the 1883 fencing in front of the Letourneau Home (see below)? Creating a southwest fence corner with 60 feet of fence along the west sidewalk and another 60 feet extending south (near the apartments) would form a nice visual boundary for our museum and log schoolhouse campus. **An anonymous donor has given \$1000 to the BGHS for garden projects in 2021. There is still \$730 left in that 2021 donation that can be used for the fencing.**
 - Menard’s Azembla 3 x 8 vinyl fencing [Azembla 3 x 8 White Vinyl Picket Fence Panel at Menards®](#) or
 - Lowe’s Freedom Pre-Assembled Newport 3-ft H x 8-ft W White Vinyl Gothic Fence Pane [Freedom Pre-Assembled Newport 3-ft H x 8-ft W White Vinyl Gothic Fence Panel in the Vinyl Fence Panels department at Lowes.com](#)



- Old Business
 - Chocolate Tour on Saturday February 5, 2022, contact at BTPD: Cheri Smolkovich cheries@btpd.org; and
 - Continued reopening of Letourneau Home/Museum and Christmas Open House
- New Business
 - Participation in MBVM 175th anniversary celebration in 2022;
 - Election of officers and board members; and
 - Next meeting on January 6, 2022.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. Best wishes,
 Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society