

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Tuesday Nov. 15, 2022: log schoolhouse inauguration and *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner



Discussions at the BGHS July 7 membership meeting and the July 19 BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee meeting resulted in establishing the date of **Tuesday November 15** for an afternoon festival inauguration of Bourbonnais Grove’s first log schoolhouse followed by the annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club. **Please print the attached “LSHinaugFdLCEldinAnnounce822” as a reminder to “save the date”.**

The schoolhouse reconstruction is scheduled to resume on August 15 after delivery of the supplemental logs. The structure should be quickly completed. Members of the BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee will plan the Tuesday November 15 afternoon festivities for the inauguration of the schoolhouse. The festivities will continue at the Kankakee Country Club with the celebration dinner. The link to register for the celebration dinner is [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration | Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://www.bourbonnaishistory.org). Reservations must be made by November 7.

Also, please nominate someone for the 2022 BGHS *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence. The nomination form is at bottom of the celebration dinner above webpage. This award will be presented to a local person who has contributed to the preservation of French, Belgian, or French-Canadian history. The deadline for this nomination is **October 7**. The award will be presented at the celebration dinner. Entertainment will follow the dinner.

July 4th *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair nets \$3000 for BGHS



Above from left to right, Karen Rivard visits Ellen Stringer (BGHS craft show organizer); Marcia Rabideau sells heirlooms to benefit BGHS; and volunteers, Max and Christine Michels, offer historical literature at the BGHS table.

BGHS craft show organizer Ellen Stringer reported that the July 4th show, from 9 am to 3 pm at the Kankakee County Fairgrounds Exhibition Center, was a great success. Over \$3000 was netted from:

- the show's 11 double booth and 52 single booth vendors;
- over \$750 extra was raised by the suggested donation of \$1 to enter; and
- a \$500 donation from the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival.

Thank you, Ellen, for your hard work in making this biannual fund raiser for the BGHS such a success!

Congregation of Notre Dame sisters enjoy farewell tour By Mary Ann Lambert



Above at left, Sister Theresa Galvin basks in the sun along with the pink invincible hydrangeas of Sister Madeleine LaMarre's Memorial Garden. In the center photograph, Sister Kathleen Murphy (left) and Sr. Theresa read the history of their order in the Letourneau Home/Museum display case. In the photograph at right, I am standing behind Sr. Theresa and next to Alecia Parkinson (on left). We are posing in front of the site where the log schoolhouse is being reconstructed.

I wish to thank Gary Seiner for hosting a mid-July tour of the Letourneau Home/Museum and gardens for Congregation of Notre Dame nuns Sr. Theresa Galvin and Sr. Kathleen Murphy. Alecia Parkinson and I also enjoyed the tour. The sisters were very impressed with Marcia Rabideau and Laurel Soper's display on the history of Notre Dame Convent/Academy.

In the back yard, they enjoyed Sister Madeleine LaMarre's Hydrangea Memorial Garden—which is my adopted garden. The sisters will be leaving the area on August 24th shortly after the Maternity BVM 175th Year Celebration.

Sr. Theresa was excited about the reconstruction of the log school house. She, along with other sisters, rented the house from Red and Mary Marcotte from 1971-1976. They never realized it was the log schoolhouse until she saw the articles in the newspaper. She has many happy memories of living there, and really enjoyed the neighbors.

Have you paid your membership dues?

BGHS membership dues are now past due. If you have not paid for the 2022-23 dues year, you may click [Pay Dues \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org) and pay online. If you wish to send a check, please send it to BGHS, PO Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL 60914. Your dues help support the

BGHS in fulfilling its mission of preserving and publicizing our community's French-Canadian heritage.

Languedoc soldier Martin Balthazar dit St. Martin (1737-97) spoke at Bastille Festival



Thanks to BGHS member Phil Stickney, I have these photographs to show you of my recent portrayal of Martin Balthazar dit St. Martin, a French soldier who fought in the 1759 Plains of Abraham battle in Quebec. In that battle, he witnessed the deaths of his General Louis-Joseph de Montcalm and the opposing British General James Wolfe. The French lost that battle and others which resulted in losing virtually all of North America in the 1763 Treaty of Paris. Having survived, St. Martin was allowed to remain in Quebec as one of 500 soldiers. This native of Metz (Lorraine Province, France) is an ancestor of many French-Canadian persons who now live in northeastern Illinois's French-Canadian Heritage Corridor—the King family is one such family. St. Martin addressed a large crowd at the French Heritage Museum's Bastille Day Festival on July 16. I thank Veronica Featherston, executive director of the Kankakee County Museum, for giving me an opportunity to convey this important history.

Mark your calendars for these BGHS 2022 events

- August 4 at 7:00 pm—BGHS membership meeting via Zoom;
- August 20-21—MBVM 175th anniversary celebration (August 20, 10:30 am – 3:00 pm Taste of MBVM, family, food, and fun on parish grounds; and August 21, History and Worship with 10 am mass celebrated by Bishop Hicks followed by tours of church grounds and St. Viator/ONU campus and reception with a French-Canadian flare—please click [175th Anniversary Celebration | Maternity BVM \(mbvmchurch.org\)](#));
- August 23 at 3:30 pm—BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee Meeting;
- Tuesday November 15—Log Schoolhouse Inauguration and *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner—please click [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#); and
- Saturday December 3—*Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair.

Who am I?

I was one of three nuns of the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal who came to Bourbonnais Grove in 1860. I was in charge of all the French classes. Who am I?

Let's celebrate MBVM's 175th anniversary on August 20-21



You may click [175th Anniversary Celebration | Maternity BVM \(mbvmchurch.org\)](https://mbvmchurch.org) for details regarding each day of the weekend celebration. Dr. Kyle Robinson of ONU, his history students, and MBVM parishioners will conduct guided tours from 12:30 – 1:30 pm of the church grounds and former St. Viator College buildings on Sunday August 21. The tours will take place following the anniversary mass and reception. Come celebrate and enjoy this step back in time.

Additional kudos to our volunteers and donors

In addition to expressing gratitude to those identified in photographs above, the BGHS thanks all our other volunteers: Laurel Soper for her updating of the BGHS website and Face Book postings; Gary Seiner for chaperoning the open house at the Letourneau Home/Museum for the Congregation of Notre Dame sisters; Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail and shepherding the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley investment; Christine Michels and Steve Monts for their ongoing corresponding secretary and treasurer work respectively; Ken Ponton for his ongoing Collections Committee supervision; Mary Ann Lambert for arranging the tour for the Congregation of Notre Dame sisters; Judy Smead for chaperoning the open house at the Letourneau Home/Museum on July 3 and August 7, and Ken Ponton for chaperoning the open house at the Letourneau Home/Museum on July 17. We also thank the anonymous person who pruned many of our trees. Max was that you?

Review the updated French Heritage Corridor website

[French Heritage Corridor - French Heritage Society](#) will take you to the interactive map and French Heritage Corridor Events which are continuously being updated—see below.

Discover French Heritage Sites in the Midwest

The 7 FHC Ambassadors

- (IA) **Coil Miller-Bouchet**
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- (IL) **James Paul**
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- (IN) **J. Colby Bartlett**
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- (WI) **Mary Elise Antoine**
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Click on the legend items to see the locations.

https://frenchheritagesociety.org/fhc/

- **July 27:** "Marie Madeleine Réaume: Her Life at Fort St. Joseph from 1728-1780", lecture via Zoom by James Papayette, MI
- **July 28:** Friday at the Fort (Crawford), Prairie du Chien, WI
- **July 30-31:** "Enduring Skills" and "Voyager canoe excursion" Historic Indian Agency House, Portage, WI
- **August 6-7 and 13-14:** Continually Archeological Dig, Historic Indian Agency House, Portage, WI
- **August 6-7:** Archeology Open House, Fort St. Joseph, MI
- **August 7:** "Remdez-vous Detroit", Denning Great Lakes Museum, 100 Strand Drive, Belle Isle, Detroit, MI
- **August 7:** "St. Paul Chapel Presentation", by Mark Labine, Washington County Heritage Center, Stillwater, MN
- **August 9:** "Reading the landscape: Alfo Leopold's Use of History", Historic Indian Agency House, Portage, WI
- **August 11:** Pan- \rightarrow Plenty, Prairie du Chien, WI
- **August 14:** "Little Rapids Trading Post", at O'Brien Pond House, Bloomington, MN
- **August 19:** Daughters of the American Revolution Tea, Prairie du Chien, WI
- **August 20-21:** Ministry of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Bourbonnais, IL
- **September 7-8:** Inauguration of Scheubertan George's first log schoolhouse
- **September 9-10-11:** "Mendota Mdewakanton's 25th Annual Traditional Wacipi (Pow Wow)", Mendota Heights, MN
- **September 10:** French Market, St. Joan of Arc Church, Indianapolis, IN
- **September 10:** Ste. Genevieve Militia Encampment, Ste. Genevieve, MO
- **September 10:** Cahokia-Kaskaskia Trail Road Rally, Cahokia, IL
- **September 10-11:** "A River That Flows", Columbia Woods, Willow Springs, IL
- **September 13:** "Eyes on the Fox: Early Explorer of the Fox-Wisconsin Corridor", Historic Indian Agency House, Portage, WI
- **September 16:** Fifth Annual *Plein-de-Lin* Celebration Dinner (Log Schoolhouse Fundraiser), Kankakee, IL
- **September 28-30:** Fall Bus Tour, Prairie du Chien, WI
- **October 1:** Visiting Our Ancestors, Prairie du Chien, WI
- **October 1-2:** 5th Feast of the Blessed Mother, Lafayette, IN
- **October 1:** *Fête de la Musique*, Old Mines, MO
- **October 15:** *Nuit de Loup Garou* (Night of the Werewolf), Ste. Genevieve, MO
- **October 16:** "French Genealogy", St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Dayton, MN
- **October 22:** French Colonial Studies Conference
- **October 22:** *Déjà vu* Reunion (Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve), Ste. Genevieve, MO
- **November 5-6:** Fort de Chartres Winter Rendezvous & Woodwalk, Prairie du Rocher, IL
- **November 8:** Paganatouza, Ste. Genevieve, MO
- **November 15:** *Allez à l'école*, Ste. Genevieve, MO
- **December 2:** *à l'École*, Ste. Genevieve, MO
- **December 9:** *à l'École*, Ste. Genevieve, MO
- **December 10:** Christmas at Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien, WI
- **December 16:** *Allez à l'école*, Ste. Genevieve, MO
- **December 31:** *Guignol's* Watch Party, Ste. Genevieve, MO
- **December 31:** *La Guignol's* at Fort de Chartres, Prairie du Rocher, IL

Next membership meeting will be on August 4

The next membership meeting will be on August 4 at 7:00 pm (CST) will be **Zoom only**. Please click this link to join the meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89164778707?pwd=OWloVVIQelhCK1RGUEY3N1haSVMZz09>

If you need the Meeting ID, it is 89164478707 and the Passcode is 252515.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on July/August 2022 news eletter item “Who am I?”
- Approval of July 7, 2022 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s report;
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Executive Vice-President Collection Committee report
- Membership Report;
- Ways and Means:
 - Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley “pass through” fund investment option update; and
- Building and Grounds



- Work session on Saturday August 6 from 9-11 am to groom and mulch the Staghorn Sumac Gardens near the log schoolhouse.
- Old Business
 - MBVM 175th anniversary celebration in 2022; and
 - Restructuring of BGHS update.
- New Business
 - Next meeting on September 15, 2022;
 - Chaperon needed for September 18 open house of the Letourneau Home/Museum.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer.

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society