

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

George and Elodie Letourneau's Great Great Grandchildren Visit and Make Donation



Four of George and Elodie Letourneau's great great grandchildren and their spouses came to visit the Letourneau Home/Museum on Thursday and Friday October 1-2. From left to right above are Claudia Legris-Isenhour, Paul Isenhour, Michele Legris, Joel Legris, Jean Legris-Pekoc, and Roy Pekoc. Claudia, Michele, and the twins Joel and Jean are four of Harvey and Anna (Rose) Legris's six children. Harvey was the son of Alphonse Sylvester Legris and Eva (Letourneau) Legris. Eva was one of three children of Phillip and Mary (Lesage) Letourneau. Phillip was the fifth born of George and Elodie Letourneau's eleven children. Phillip was born on April 20, 1860 and died in 1932. He was a neurosurgeon graduate of Northwestern Medical School and served as doctor in the lumber camps of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin area before moving to Iowa where he died. During their visit, the Letourneau great great grandchildren donated several family heirlooms and artifacts to the museum. The BGHS was grateful to receive these precious items: a field cradle (see below), charcoal portraits, lace collar and handkerchief, piece of wedding dress, will of Joseph Legris--witnessed by George Letourneau, letters, photographs, christening gown, baby bonnet, needlepoint purse, cooking items, prayer books, and ivory fan. The hickory bentwood field cradle dates back to the 1870s. It was used by pioneer farming families to carry their babies into the fields. The cradle hooks allowed it to swing back and forth while the family worked.



During their visit, the Legris/Letourneau family members joined the BGHS and purchased many historical books from the museum. Members Laurel Soper, Ken Ponton, Gary Seiner, Dr. Charles Balesi, Daron Kinzinger, and yours truly hosted the family visit to the Letourneau Home/Museum.

These Issues were Addressed at the October 1 Membership Meeting

At the BGHS meeting on Thursday October 1, the following items were discussed:

- ***A house "sitter" for Letourneau Home/Museum is needed for Sunday November 1 from 1-4 pm***--self-guided tour information is available to all visiting guests--**please let me know by reply e-mail if you can volunteer for this date;**
- Appreciation was expressed to Laurel Soper and Gary Seiner for "sitting" for the home/museum during 1-4 pm open houses on the first and third Sundays of September respectively;
- Save the Dates: *Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair* on July 4 and December 3, 2016 to be held at the Kankakee County Fairgrounds--Ellen Stringer, organizer of the event, is requesting potential crafters to contact her 815-935-5278 or ellen.stringer@gmail.com;
- A work session is scheduled for Saturday November 14 from 8-10 am for mulching, pruning, and putting the gardens to bed; and
- Appreciation was expressed to Gary Seiner, Ken Ponton, and Ellen and Steve Liehr for their gardening help in September.

Have a colorful October! Best wishes,

Dr. Jim Paul, Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society Board Member