

BGHS News—October 2017

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

**First *Fleur-de-lis* Celebration Dinner to Benefit  
Bourbonnais Grove Log School House Restoration**



Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members (from left to right) Norma Meier, Ken Ponton, and Mary Ann Lambert offer the community an invitation to the first BGHS *Fleur-de-lis* Celebration Dinner on November 3 at the Kankakee Country Club. The logs at right are from Bourbonnais Grove's first log school house (1837-48), and are currently in a Bourbonnais storage facility. The celebration dinner is a fund raising event that will raise donations for using these logs to restore Bourbonnais Grove's first log school house which served students and Methodist minister circuit riders from 1837-48.

The celebration dinner cuisine will feature Quebec brie with cabernet Franc grapes appetizer, *voyageur* pea soup, classic French green salad, *tourtiere* and *poutine* entrée, *buche de noel* dessert, and glass of Cotes-du-Rhone Chapoutier (red) wine or a non-alcoholic drink. Before dinner, the first "Annual *Fleur-de-lis* Award of Excellence" will be presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in the preservation of French colonial, French-Canadian, and Belgian heritage in the Kankakee and Iroquois River Corridor. After dinner, French songs and music will be performed by Brad Benoit.

Following the entertainment, the Honorable Frederic Chole (French Deputy Consul General), Mayor Paul Schore (Village of Bourbonnais), and Dr. Charles Balesi, (French Conseiller Consulaire) will speak. The price is \$65 per person (non-member price) or \$55 per person (Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society member price). Please mail name(s) of attendee(s) and corresponding check payable to "Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society" at P.O. Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL 60914 by (postmark deadline) October 23. All proceeds beyond overhead expenses of the event will be put in a special BGHS account for the restoration of Bourbonnais Grove's First Log School House (1837-48). After the school closed in 1848, a house was built around the former school located at 493 South Main Street in Bourbonnais.

Since the 1970s, this house was known as the Marcotte house. The house was demolished in December 2011, but the log walls were saved, and (as mentioned above) are currently stored in a Bourbonnais Township Public Works building. The 1 ½ story 20' x 20' log school house will be restored on the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve just west of the Letourneau Home/Museum at 698 Stratford Drive East in Bourbonnais. Thank you and best wishes.

Jim