

BGHS News—December 2018

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Celebrating Old Fashion Christmas Decorations at Open House



The Letourneau Home/Museum at 692 Stratford Drive East in Bourbonnais is ready for its annual Christmas Open House on Sunday December 16 from 1-4 pm. All are invited to visit this 1837 historical landmark and enjoy holiday beverages and sweets. At right, BGHS Vice-President Gary Seiner checks the Christmas tree decorations and gifts under the tree. The tree that he has created this year is set on a table top—which was in style during the nineteenth-century. In the 1840s, Christmas was beginning to be accepted as a holiday although many people worked on Christmas Day—Christmas as a national holiday began in 1870. However, well into the 20th century, French-Canadians and others celebrated New Year’s Day with gift giving rather than Christmas. Modern Santa Clause evolved from an 1848 drawing of a chimney-hopping jolly elf by T.C. Boyd based on Clement Clark Moore’s 1823 poem “Night before Christmas.” Seiner said that the first Christmas gifts were not wrapped, and when gift wrapping started later, brown paper was used. More colorful wrapping later evolved.

Kudos for Our Volunteers

Expressions of gratitude go to:

- Gary Seiner for once again decorating the Letourneau Home/Museum for Christmas along with his special table top tree and presents display;

- Laurel Soper and Mary Ann Lambert for their weekly compiling of artifact inventory in the home/museum;
- Judy and Ken Ponton, Laurel Soper, Lynn Ahlden O'Brien, and Wal Schuler for chaperoning the BGHS table at the *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair;
- Ellen Stringer for organizing another successful craft fair; and
- Laurel Soper and Gary Seiner for chaperoning the Letourneau Home/Museum open houses in November and December.

Next Membership Meeting on December 6

Our last meeting of the year will be this Thursday December 6 at 7 pm. Please come early for decaf coffee and cookies. The agenda for the meeting is:

- Approve minutes of November 1 meeting attached;
- Election of officers for 2019; and
- Review accomplishments in 2018.

Today is Illinois's 200th birthday. Enjoy the day. Best wishes,
Jim