

BGHS News—January/February 2020

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

### **Snow Glistens on our Historic Landmark**



Although I took this photograph of our Letourneau Home/Museum historic landmark on January 25, 2020, it might be the same as it appeared 160 years ago in 1860. We value those who spoke out in preservation of this essential piece of our past—and to all who continue the work of historic preservation.

### **Winter Allows Us to Pause and Plan**

As you enjoy this winter as a time of meditation and resolution, please consider participating in the following upcoming special activities and events:

- By the end of January, take the online Community Campus survey (you will enjoy the questions and possible answers—for about 15 minutes) [www.villageofbourbonnais.com/development/community-campus-plan/](http://www.villageofbourbonnais.com/development/community-campus-plan/);
- Stop in to offer assistance to Laurel Soper and Ellen Stringer who are our hostesses at the Letourneau Home/Museum during the Chocolate Tour on Saturday February 1 from 12-5 pm (and also overseeing a book sale/membership raffle);
- Consider enrolling in these “Leaders in Local History” classes in KCC’s Lifelong Learning Institute this spring (the class times will be finalized by March—April 3 *Potawatomi Peril*, April 17 *Antebellum Abolitionists*, May 1 *Bourbonnais History in Four Walking Tours*, May 5 *Cinco de Mayo*, and May 12 *Our Rich Veteran Heritage*;
- By March 31, consider applying for a \$600 scholarship to attend a small history museum three-day course in 2020 through the Center for Collections Care at Beloit College (for more information, go to <https://www.beloit.edu/summer-programs/center-for-collection-care/registration-funding/>);
- Plan to attend the Bastille Day Festival on July 11th from 1-4pm at the French Heritage Museum and the Voyageur Classic 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, August 28th at 8:00am at the Kankakee County Museum;

- Look for the fall date (TBA) for the Maternity BVM French-Canadian Festival—if you would like to volunteer to assist in the planning, please call Teresa Culver at 815 933-8285 ext. 110 or e-mail her at tculver@mbvm.org;
- When the Bourbonnais Township Park District booklet of offerings is ready in April, enroll in the *May 2 Reminiscing with Tommy and Peggy Durham in the year 1854*; and
- Plan to attend our first meeting of the spring on **March 5** at 7 pm, the *Les Artisans Arts and Craft Fairs* on **July 4** and **December 5**, and the *Fleur-de-Lis Celebration Dinner* on **September 25**.

### **BGHS Officers for 2020—Secretary Still Needed**

The BGHS officers for 2020 are: Jim Paul—president, Gary Seiner—vice-president, Marsha Rabideau—executive vice-president, \_\_\_\_\_ --secretary, Laurel Soper—corresponding secretary, John Hassett—treasurer, board of trustees up for election Daron Kinzinger, Gary Seiner, Malette Trudeau Stevenson, and Jim Paul (other board members Carl Moran, Charles Balesi, and Roberta Renville were not up for re-election).

### **Top BGHS News Stories Picked during Christmas Open House**

Gary Seiner did another spectacular job in decorating and de-decorating this Christmas season at the Letourneau Home/Museum. We so appreciate his hard work and attention to detail. I have attached the minutes of the December 5, 2019 membership meeting for your review. Also, the top BGHS news stories over the past decade, picked at the December 15 Christmas Open House, were: the opening of the French Heritage Museum; the Letourneau great great grandchildren (Legris family) visiting and donating the field cradle; remembering Bourbonnais Grove celebration on July 9, 2013; the opening of the French-Canadian Heritage Wall at KCC; the November 4, 2014 story by Vic Johnson about the founding of the BGHS; the I-57 French-Canadian Heritage Corridor signs; and Vic Johnson receiving the first *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence. Enjoy the winter, and best wishes,  
Jim