

BGHS News—September 2020

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Seating Still Available for the 2020 “Dinnerless” *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration

The following 31 guests have reserved their seats for the 2020 dinnerless *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration (fundraiser for Bourbonnais Grove’s first log schoolhouse restoration):

Dr. Charles Bales
Andrew, Christina, Cayla, and Raylan Bradley
John & Lisa Hassett
Mary Ann Lambert
Ralph & Mary Marcotte’s children: Andre, Annette (Langellier), Denise, Jacques, Joel, Michelle (Baldwin), Phil, Pierre, and Jon
Norma Meier
Susan Mendelewski
Dr. Steve Monts and Catherine Boucher
Dr. James Paul
Rich & Judy Piggush
Ken & Judy Ponton
Shirley Pranger
Marcia Rabideau
Roberta Renville
Judith Smead
Waltraud Schuller

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 *Fleur-de-Lis* Dinner Celebration has become “dinnerless”. All proceeds go to the restoration of Bourbonnais Grove’s first log schoolhouse on the grounds of the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve. This fundraiser campaign continues with 3 months left to register/donate for this year.

The previous three *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinners at the Kankakee Country Club highlighted French-Canadian cuisine. In conjunction with this “dinnerless” cuisine theme, the BGHS invites the local community to prepare one of the French-Canadian recipes at <https://frenchcanadians.kcc.edu/resources/recipes/recipes.html>) and/or submit a personal favorite French-Canadian recipe for a future BGHS French-Canadian recipe book. Suggested donations for the 2020 *Fleur-de-Lis* “Dinnerless” Celebration are \$55 per person (BGHS member) and \$65 per person (non-member).

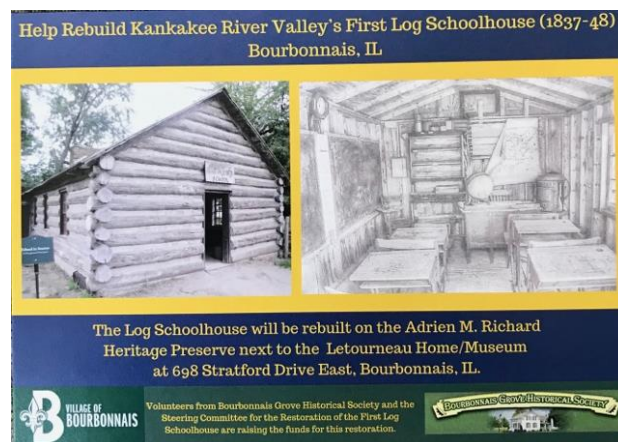
Donations for the log schoolhouse restoration are currently near \$40,000 with another \$20,000 in pledges. The restoration fund raising goal is \$120,000. This goal amount includes original log and supplemental log structural restoration, climate control for the schoolhouse, period furnishings, landscaping, and signage. **A revised list of donors is attached to this e-mail.** If you have not made your donation for the 2020 “dinnerless” *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration yet, it will be greatly appreciated and is fully tax deductible. Your donation may be by check to “BGHS” with memo Log Schoolhouse, mailed to Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society, P.O. Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL 60914 or pay online at <http://www.bourbonnaishistory.org/contribute.html>, scroll to Log School Restoration Project, click Donate, and then follow the prompts. Thank you so much for contributing to the

preservation of our community's historical heritage. **Save the date: the next *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner is scheduled for Friday September 17, 2021!**

Schoolhouse Donation Messages to the BGHS from Children of Ralph (Red) and Mary Marcotte

On July 20, 2020, Michelle (Marcotte) Baldwin wrote: "My siblings [Denise, Phil, Jacques, Andre, Joel, Pierre, Jon, and Annette (Langellier)] and I are making this donation in memory of our parents, Ralph (Red) and Mary Marcotte, who were the last owners of the house at 493 So. Main and resided there many years. The desire to maintain the integrity of the log cabin was always of extreme importance to mom and dad. It was a dream of theirs that the schoolhouse would someday be restored."

On August 21, 2020, Denise Marcotte wrote: "This check is given to BGHS in memory of my dad, Ralph Red Marcotte. Aug. 21st is dad's 89th birthday. He was born and raised Main Street, Bourbonnais, as was I! Mom, Mary Marcotte, did all she could to get historical status on the log cabin @ 493 Main St. Thank heavens the VOB assisted her in helping preserve Bourbonnais's first school house! Looking forward to the restorations! Thank you."



Dr. Steve Monts Volunteers to Serve as BGHS Treasurer

In the aftermath of the sudden death of our devoted life member and treasurer John Hassett, Dr. Steve Monts has volunteered to pick up the treasurer's torch. Steve has been a longtime BGHS member, has served as BGHS auditor, and is a member of the Steering Committee for the Restoration of the Log Schoolhouse. He is a retired chemistry professor and science department chair at Kankakee Community College. His skill as a master gardener has helped beautify the Letourneau Home/Museum gardens. The society deeply appreciates Steve's longtime and renewed support. Steve (third from the left) is depicted in this "Remembering Bourbonnais Grove 1835-75" Festival photograph taken on June 30, 2013 along with (from left to right) John Hassett, Ken Ponton, Steve, Jim Paul, Patricia Paul, Judy Smead, Laurel Soper, and Ellen Liehr.



BGHS Receives Roy Arseneau Family Photographs

On September 17, Donna Jerantowski (daughter of Madonna Arseneau and granddaughter of Roy Arseneau) donated several Arseneau family photographs to the BGHS. Roy Arseneau is pictured below in his World War I uniform. In 1988, Vic Johnson interviewed Mr. Arseneau—one of 18 French-Canadian interviewees in *The French-Canadian Interview Project* website (hosted by Kankakee Community College. Mr. Arseneau's home page is <https://frenchcanadians.kcc.edu/interviewees/rarseneau/rarseneau.html>).



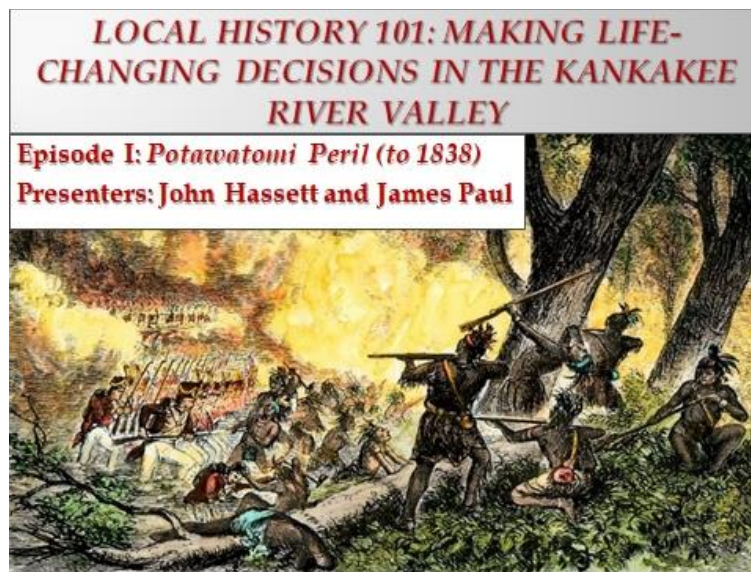
Garden Beautification Peaks in September

BGHS members, master gardeners, and friends stepped forward on two Thursday mornings on September 10 and September 17 to weed, prune, and mulch the Letourneau Home/Museum gardens. From left to right below, Mary Ann Lambert, Pam Perken, Steve Monts, Marcia Rabideau, Laurel Soper, Judy Smead, and Ken Ponton participate in the September 17 work session. Earlier on September 10, Ellen and Steve Liehr, and Bonnie Bergeron joined the work crew. Gary Seiner and Jim Paul also pitched in. The BGHS sincerely appreciates the effort of all these individuals to rejuvenate the gardens. While the weather is

nice, please bring a picnic basket to the gardens and enjoy the aesthetic charm of our local historic landmark.



Potawatomi Peril Class Scheduled for October 23, 2020



John Hassett and I were scheduled to team teach the KCC Lifelong Learning Institute course ***Local History 101—Making Life-Changing Decision in the Kankakee River Valley Episode 1:Potawatomi Peril (to 1838)*** on Friday October 23, 2020 beginning at 9:00 am. I will still teach the course as a tribute to John. The link to register for the course is: <https://www.enrole.com/kcc/jsp/course.jsp?categoryId=BF777290&courseId=LLLI-8241>

Next Zoom Membership Meeting is Thursday October 1

Please join our next Zoom membership meeting at 7:00 pm on Thursday October 1 by emailing Laurel Soper at laurel.soper@gmail.com. The host will then send you a link to the meeting at 6:50 pm or before on October 1. The meeting agenda will highlight: approval of

September 3 minutes (see attached), new treasurer, pest control service, regular agenda items, and brief time to socialize.

Thank you and best wishes for a relaxing fall.

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society