

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

### Letourneau Home reopens with free membership and *Fleur-de-Lis* dinners



Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society officer Marcia Rabideau invites the public back to the Letourneau Home/Museum (698 Stratford Drive East, Bourbonnais) on Sunday August 1 from 1-4 pm. Also, new benches invite visitors to stroll through the home/museum gardens, pick free herbs (herb garden is center-right), and rest in an idyllic 19<sup>th</sup> century setting. The gardens are always open to the public.

If you missed my article in the July 24 weekend edition of the *Daily Journal*, here it is—just click to open-- [https://www.daily-journal.com/life/letourneau-home-in-bourbonnais-reopening/article\\_1d8e2544-ebdf-11eb-87d0-7789d4383782.html](https://www.daily-journal.com/life/letourneau-home-in-bourbonnais-reopening/article_1d8e2544-ebdf-11eb-87d0-7789d4383782.html). Many thanks to Taylor Leddin, editor of the *Daily Journal* Life section, for once again helping the BGHS publicize its activities for our community. *Be sure to spread the word* on how writing a review of our website [www.bourbonnaishistory.org](http://www.bourbonnaishistory.org) will give you, your family members, and your friends a free one-year new membership and entrance to the raffle for four free *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinners. The deadline for the website review for free membership and dinner raffle is **August 5** when the dinner winners will be drawn at our monthly membership meeting.

### Dr. Balesi explains Quebec's unique Canadian status

In a two-part commentary series on June 28-29, our board member Dr. Charles Balesi wrote “Quebec seeks more self-rule” and “Quebec’s ‘long march’ towards some form of sovereignty” in the *Daily Journal*. The BGHS is grateful to Misty Knisely, Opinion page editor, for publishing the articles. If you missed these insightful articles, I am providing the links for them below:

- [https://www.daily-journal.com/opinion/balesi-quebec-seeks-more-self-governance/article\\_e38f9afa-d5b1-11eb-92e0-d7222b836215.html](https://www.daily-journal.com/opinion/balesi-quebec-seeks-more-self-governance/article_e38f9afa-d5b1-11eb-92e0-d7222b836215.html).
- [https://www.daily-journal.com/opinion/balesi-quebecs-long-march-toward-some-form-of-sovereignty/article\\_6fe13e9c-d7aa-11eb-bacc-4799b3e04e73.html](https://www.daily-journal.com/opinion/balesi-quebecs-long-march-toward-some-form-of-sovereignty/article_6fe13e9c-d7aa-11eb-bacc-4799b3e04e73.html).

## July 4<sup>th</sup> craft show nets over \$1050 as BGHS fund raiser



From left to right, Ellen Stringer (BGHS *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show organizer), Laurel Soper, and Marcia Rabideau greet guests as they arrive at the July 4<sup>th</sup> craft show.

Even with pandemic restrictions, Ellen Stringer organized a successful craft show on July 4<sup>th</sup> at the Kankakee county fairground exhibition center. 52 crafters sold their items during the fair. Not only did Ellen supervise the craft show, but she also publicized the show with 3 banners and 75 posters as well as speaking about the show and the BGHS on the radio. Her hard work is extremely appreciated. Thank you, Ellen!!!

## July photo gallery features BGHS joining the Bastille Day Festival at the French Heritage Museum, Camp MOSH work in Letourneau Home/Museum gardens, and restored wagon at Durham-Perry Farmstead historic landmark



In addition to touring the French Heritage Museum, Bastille Day Festival attendees on July 17 purchased books at the BGHS table (left photograph: Kankakee County Museum CEO Veronica Featherston, in sunglasses; Charles Balesi, with French sash; Ken Ponton, in red beret; and Elmira Wilkey, in red dress). Between myself and Charles Balesi in the photograph at right, is Lisa Kahn, Chicago Chapter Co-Chair of the French Heritage Society.



In the photograph at left, Camp MOSH completed mulching the daylily bed on July 21. They also cleaned the Letourneau Home/Museum (from left to right: Danny, Luke, Charlie, Mike O'Connor, Emon, Steve Husak, and Tommy). In the photograph at right, the 1920s wagon shines in its restoration glory next to the Durham-Perry Farmstead welcome sign. The Bourbonnais Township Park District thanks Ron Ponton for the dazzling restoration.

### **Mark your calendars for these BGHS-related 2021 events**

- August 5—BGHS website review deadline to qualify for free 1-year new memberships and 4 free *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinners (all members eligible);
- September 2—deadline for nomination for 2021 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence (nomination form is at bottom of BGHS webpage [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration | Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://www.bourbonnaishistory.org));
- **Friday September 17, 2021—the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club** (your personal email invitation will be sent soon—reservations due September 3);
- November 5—Local History 101 “Antebellum Abolitionists (1838-60)” webinar (hybrid in-person and Zoom) Lifelong Learning course at KCC from 10:00-11:30 am; and
- December 4 Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair.

### **Kudos to our volunteers**

There are so many of you to thank for all your BGHS-related work this past month. We thank: Charles Balesi for his help at the Bastille Day Festival and writing his two commentaries about Quebec; Bonnie Bergeron for helping during the craft fair; Daron Kinzinger for collecting our mail; Mary Ann Lambert for helping with the garage sale; Russ Perkins for helping me assemble the two new garden benches, use his pickup to haul them to the Letourneau Home/Museum gardens, and make sure they were exactly level and firmly grounded; Ken Ponton for helping during the craft fair and setting up the BGHS tent and table at the Bastille Day Festival; Marcia Rabideau for supervising the Camp MOSH home/museum cleaning and helping at the garage sale; Roberta Renville for helping with the garage sale; Gary Seiner for

pruning all the shrubs around the Letourneau Home/Museum and helping during the craft fair; Judy Smead for chaperoning our historic landmark for its reopening open house on August 1; Laurel Soper for updating our website and Facebook, helping during the craft fair, and organizing the garage sale; and Ellen Stringer for overseeing the July 4<sup>th</sup> craft fair.

### **Who am I—from Adrien Richard’s files?**

I was president of St. Viator’s College for 35 years, guided the destiny of the college after the disastrous fire of 1906, and its ultimate reconstruction. Not only was I a C.S.V. priest and former pastor of Maternity BVM, but also a play write, poet, authority on French literature, and author of several books and operettas. A Bourbonnais street has been named in my honor.

### **Next membership meeting is on Thursday August 5 at 7:00 pm**

The August 5 membership meeting at 7:00 pm will be in-person at the Letourneau Home/Museum and will also be available on Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on July/August news eletter item “Who am I?”
- Approval of July 1, 2021 membership minutes (attached);
- Treasurer’s Report;
- Membership Report;
- Collection Committee Report;
- Ways and Means:
  - *Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair review;
  - Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley “pass through” fund;
  - *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner (your personal email invitation will be sent soon); and
- Building and Grounds
  - Roof treatment and chimney update;
  - 2 new *Fleur-de-Lis* garden benches—**please do not move them as they are set on pavers**;
  - Camp MOSH cleaning of home/museum and mulching day lily bed during week on July 21;
  - Tiger eye sumac planting update;
  - Next work session.
- Old Business
- New Business
  - Participation in MBVM 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2022—next meeting August 18; and
  - Continuing reopening of Letourneau Home/Museum.

Please enjoy the rest of our 2021 summer! Best wishes,

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society