

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

MBVM 175th anniversary history tours start at noon on Sunday August 21

Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary's 175th Anniversary celebration will feature guided history tours of the church, church grounds, and four former St. Viator College buildings. The hour-long tour will **start at noon on Sunday August 21** after signing up at the Parish Center—just north of the church. No reservations are required. You may click [175th Anniversary Celebration | Maternity BVM \(mbvmchurch.org\)](#) for details of the weekend celebration. To preview the St. Viator College information prepared by Olivet Nazarene University History Professor Kyle Robinson and his students, click <https://arcg.is/OLnHL0>. What a fantastic way to publicize and preserve our local history! Thank you Professor Robinson and students!

Save the date: 11/15/22—log schoolhouse inauguration and *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration dinner



Please print the attached “LSHinaugFdLCelDinAnnounce822” as a reminder to “save the date”. The new/supplemental logs (about 40% of the total logs) are now scheduled to arrive on August 25. The structure should be quickly completed. Tuesday November 15 activities include afternoon inauguration at the schoolhouse and evening *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club. To register for the celebration dinner, go to [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration | Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#).

Nominations for the 2022 BGHS *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence can be made by using the nomination form at the bottom of the above web page. This award will be presented to a local person who has contributed to the preservation of French, Belgian, or French-Canadian history. The deadline for the nomination is **October 5**.

Francis DuVoisin meets new BTPD leadership team



Pictured above: left--Francis DuVosin; right—back row (from left to right) Jim Paul, Ed Piatt, Dave Zinanni; front row Bob DuVoisin (Francis’s son) and Francis.

On Thursday August 4, Francis DuVoisin and his son Bob came to the Perry Farm House to meet some of the new Bourbonnais Township Park District leadership team: Dave Zinanni, Board President; Dr. Ed Piatt, Executive Director; Cherie Smolkovich, Marketing Director, Kelli Brza, Accounting and Human Resources; and Mike Crews, Superintendent of Parks. Francis was the last tenant farmer and then owner of the Durham-Perry Farmstead before the BTPD assumed ownership. Francis will be 100 years old on March 1, 2023. To learn more about the Francis’s life and his connection to the Kankakee County historic landmark Durham-Perry Farmstead click the following link

https://www.btpd.org/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJzdWwiOiJwYXJrLWVhpc3RvcnkiLCJpYXQiOiJlE2NTk2NDcyMzQsImV4cCI6MTY1OTczMzYzNH0.tDG_JxOI5Jh2bQhMF2XsSlwSh9RvMR3iKGPwJkycqOO (btpd.org).

The new BTPD leadership team is committed to publicizing and preserving the history of the Durham-Perry Farmstead and—due to the interaction of the Durham family Quakers and the French-Canadian pioneers from 1830s on—the BTPD is now an Illinois partner of the French Heritage Corridor, an initiative of the French Heritage Society. See [Living History - Bourbonnais Township Park District \(btpd.org\)](#).

Art focuses on Letourneau Home/Museum



Local artists, Christina Loraine (left) and Morg Macie (right), paint our historic landmark on July 28. Ken Ponton texted me these two photographs and stated “Chris has a business on South Schuyler in Kankakee.” I replied to his text “Nice. Thank you. This is where we want to be, a nice goal achieved.”

Have you paid your membership dues?

BGHS membership dues are now past due. If you have not paid for the 2022-23 dues year, you may click [Pay Dues \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://www.bourbonnaishistory.org) and pay online. If you wish to send a check, please send it to BGHS, PO Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL 60914. Your dues help support the

BGHS in fulfilling its mission of preserving and publicizing our community’s French-Canadian heritage.

Mark your calendars for these BGHS 2022 events

- August 20-21—MBVM 175th anniversary celebration (August 20, 10:30 am – 3:00 pm Taste of MBVM, family, food, and fun on parish grounds; and August 21, History and Worship with 10 am mass celebrated by Bishop Hicks followed by tours of church grounds and St. Viator/ONU campus and reception with a French-Canadian flare—please click [175th Anniversary Celebration | Maternity BVM \(mbvmchurch.org\)](#);
- August 23 at 3:30 pm—BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee Meeting;
- August 27 at 1:00 pm—French Heritage Museum, lecture by BGHS member Maximiliaan Michels “*Vlamingen, Friezen, en Hollanders* into Kankakee and Iroquois Counties”;
- Tuesday November 15—Log Schoolhouse Inauguration and *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner—please click [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#); and
- Saturday December 3—*Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair.

Who am I?

I was class treasurer at St. Viator College. After graduation, I was best known for my work on television and radio. For 20 years, I hosted the night-time radio program “The Catholic Hour” (1930–1950) before moving to television and presenting “Life Is Worth Living” (1951–1957). My final role was on the syndicated “The ____ Program” (1961–1968) with a format very similar to that of the earlier “Life is Worth Living” show. For this work, I twice won an Emmy Award for Most Outstanding Television Personality, and was featured on the cover of *Time Magazine*. Starting in 2009, my shows have been re-broadcast on the EWTN and the Trinity Broadcasting Network's Church Channel cable. I was born in 1895 and died in 1979. Who am I?

Kudos to our volunteers and donors



The BGHS thanks all our volunteers: Mary Ann Lambert (at left above) and Christine Michels (between Mary Ann and me) for helping groom and mulch the Staghorn Suman Gardens

on August 6; Laurel Soper for her updating of the BGHS website and Face Book postings; Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail, arranging Nicole Smolkovich to speak to us on August 4, and pulling all the pruned tree limbs to the curb; Christine Michels and Steve Monts for their ongoing corresponding secretary and treasurer work respectively; Ken Ponton and Marcia Rabideau for their ongoing Collections Committee work; Judy Smead and Christine Michels for chaperoning the open house at the Letourneau Home/Museum on August 7; Gary Seiner for chaperoning the open house at the Letourneau Home/Museum on August 21; and the Sunday August 21 history tour guides and planners—Dr. Kyle Robinson, Peggy Rogers, Kim Bennett, Joan Hermes, Mary Beth Mathis, Claire McElroy, Jessica Graves, Sandi Sandeno, Charit Sims, Connie Lambert, Debbie Castongia, Julie Worby, Courtney Hall, Levi Berg, Mach Brza, and Alex Wolfe.

Look what's going on in the French Heritage Corridor—click links for more details

- **August 20-21:** [Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Bourbonnais, IL](#)
- **September 9-10-11:** [“Mendota Mdewakanton’s 25th Annual Traditional Wacipi \(Pow Wow\)”, Mendota Heights, MN](#)
- **September 10:** [French Market, St. Joan of Arc Church, Indianapolis, IN](#)
- **September 10:** [Ste. Genevieve Militia Encampment, Ste. Genevieve, MO](#)
- **September 10:** [Cahokia-Kaskaskia Trail Road Rally, Cahokia, IL](#)
- **September 10-11:** [“A River Thru History”, Columbia Woods, Willow Springs, IL](#)
- **September 13:** [“Eyewitnesses: Early Explorer of the Fox-Wisconsin Corridor”, Historic Indian Agency House, Portage, WI](#)
- **September 28-30:** [Fall Bus Tour, Prairie du Chien, WI](#)
- **October 1:** [Visiting Our Ancestors, Prairie du Chien, WI](#)
- **October 1-2:** [55th Feast of the Hunters Moon, Lafayette, IN](#)
- **October 1:** [Fête de Automne, Old Mines, MO](#)
- **October 15:** [Nuit de Loup Garou \(Night of the Werewolf\), Ste. Genevieve, MO](#)
- **October 16:** [“French Genealogy”, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Dayton, MN](#)
- **October 22:** [French Colonial Studies Conference](#)
- **October 22:** [Déjà vu Reunion \(Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve\), Ste. Genevieve, MO](#)
- **November 5-6:** [Fort de Chartres Winter Rendezvous & Woodswalk, Prairie Du Rocher, IL](#)
- **November 5:** [Pecanapalooza, Ste. Genevieve, MO](#)
- **November 15:** [Inauguration of Bourbonnais Grove’s first log schoolhouse followed by an evening Fleur-de-Lis Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club, Kankakee, IL](#)
- **November 25:** [Allée Allumée; Ste. Genevieve, MO](#)
- **December 2:** [Allée Allumée; Ste. Genevieve, MO](#)
- **December 9:** [Allée Allumée; Ste. Genevieve, MO](#)
- **December 10:** [Christmas at Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien, WI](#)
- **December 16:** [Allée Allumée; Ste. Genevieve, MO](#)
- **December 31:** [Guignolée Watch Party, Ste. Genevieve, MO](#)
- **December 31:** [La Guiannee at Fort de Chartres, Prairie du Rocher, IL](#)

Next membership meeting will be on September 15

The next membership meeting will be on September 15 at 7:00 pm (CST) will be **Zoom only**. Please click this link to join the meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84976544167?pwd=b09hZzFOUTEvUDA4cWprbC82QzZHQT09>

If you need the Meeting ID, it is 849 7654 4167 and the Passcode is 483187.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on August/September 2022 news eletter item “Who am I?”
- Approval of August 4, 2022 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s report;
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Executive Vice-President Collection Committee report
- Membership Report;
- Ways and Means:
- Building and Grounds
- Old Business
 - Restructuring of BGHS update.
- New Business
 - Next meeting on October 6, 2022—after meeting, officers choice *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence winner for 2022;
 - Chaperon needed for September 18 and October 2 open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum.

I wish you all fun and good times during the final weeks of summer 2022.

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society