

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Log schoolhouse reconstruction on schedule for November 15 inauguration



Continuing with the reconstruction photographs in the BGHS News--September/October 2022 issue, these new ones show (at top left and center) walls and roof rafters in place on September 30 (**the center roof rafter is an 1837 log**); in upper photograph at right, roof sheathing is set on October 4; lower left photograph shows window frame on October 7, and photographs at lower center and right on October 17 reveal the beginning of boardwalk connection to Letourneau Home/Museum boardwalk and roofing barrier for the shake shingles—note the stones covering foundation.

If you missed Taylor Leddin-McMaster’s superb article “Small but mighty” about the log schoolhouse in the Tuesday October 11, 2022 issue of the *Daily Journal*, here is the link: https://www.daily-journal.com/news/local/bourbonnais/reconstruction-of-bourbonnais-first-log-schoolhouse-nears-completion/article_832ce51a-466b-11ed-b811-ebc73726a709.html. Thank you, Taylor.

Be sure to save the date—**Tuesday November 15, 2022**—to join the log schoolhouse afternoon and evening festivities of inauguration/dedication, and the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner fundraiser that follows. **Please print the attached “LSHinaugFdLCelDinAnnounceOctober22” as your invitation and reminder.** The Tuesday November 15 activities begin at 2:00 pm at the schoolhouse (698 Stratford Drive East, Bourbonnais), and include welcome, presentations, tours, free cookies, cake, and beverage. The evening *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club will be a fundraiser for the log schoolhouse preservation fund. To register for the celebration dinner, click [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration | Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](#).

Chaperone needed for Sunday November 6

A volunteer is needed to chaperone the Letourneau Home/Museum open house on Sunday November 6 from 1-4 pm. Self-guided tours are available for all individuals. Please contact me if you are able to assist.

Kudos to our volunteers



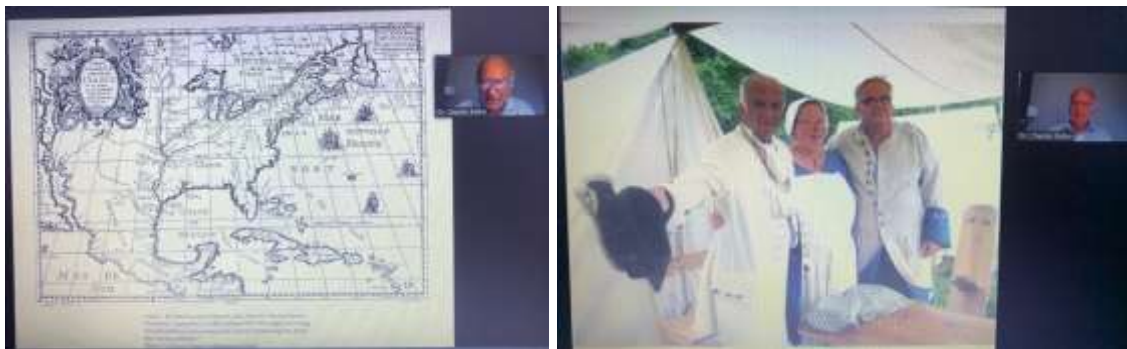
The BGHS thanks all our volunteers: Ken Ponton (upper left) for repairing, painting, and adding a hand rail to the west porch of the Letourneau Home/Museum, and chaperoning the October 16 open house at the home/museum; Max Michels for his continuous grooming of the Letourneau gardens (upper right photograph shows him removing the apple tree stump in front yard); those who came to spruce up the grounds on October 15 (lower photographs from left to right: me, Mary Ann Lambert, Max Michels, Ken Ponton, Mary Ann with Pam Perkins who in addition, expertly cares for the native plant garden); Laurel Soper for her updating of the BGHS website and Face Book postings; Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail and overseeing the pruning of the shrubs around the home/museum (work by Alex Salazar); Christine Michels for her ongoing Corresponding Secretary work; Steve Monts for his ongoing treasurer work; Gary Seiner for chaperoning the open house at the Letourneau Home/Museum on October 2; and all

the members of the BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee members for attending the monthly meetings and planning the November 15 festivities: Charles Balesi, Laurie Cyr, Steve Depasquale, Frank Koehler, Cindy McBarnes, Steve Monts, Ken Ponton, Mayor Paul Schore, Gary Seiner, and Norm Strasma.

Who am I?

Before the log schoolhouse closed in 1848, it had become a meeting place for circuit riders. The first quarterly meeting was held at the school house in January 1842. Bourbonnais Grove then became part of the six-week circuit the following year with me beginning my missionary ministry at Bourbonnais Grove in 1843. Who am I, and what is my religious faith?

Hidden in plain sight—why are there French names all over Chicago?



Dr. Charles Bales was a speaker during the French Heritage Society’s program “Hidden in Plain Sight”. He spoke via Zoom about the history of the French in the Illinois Country. In the photograph at right, Charles is in the *compagnie de la marine* officer garb. He is standing with two BGHS members, Katheryn and Ken Lewellen, who portray traders at *Isle de la Cache* Museum in Romeoville, IL.

Marquette, Jolliet, LaSalle, and DuSable—why are these French names all over Chicago? In the tradition of the French Salon, the French Heritage Society of Chicago hosted a gathering on Sunday October 2 that included food and beverage as well as the interplay of scholarly expertise. The event was in-person and virtual via Zoom, moderated by Christopher Lynch of *The Windy City Historians Podcast*. After Charles’s presentation via Zoom from Paris, three more speakers shared stories about their respective subjects:

- Ruth Nelson—Pere Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet;
- Lorraine Boissoneault—Rene-Robert Cavalier Sieur de LaSalle; and
- Dr. Courtney Joseph—Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable.

In the near future, I hope provide a link to the Zoom recording.

Mark your calendars for these BGHS 2022 events

- Thursday November 10—BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee meeting at 3:30 pm; and BGHS membership meeting at 7:00 pm;
- Tuesday November 15—Log Schoolhouse Inauguration and *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner—please click [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org); and
- Saturday December 3—*Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair.

**French Heritage Corridor website [French Heritage Corridor - French Heritage Society](#)
includes new sites on the interactive map plus exciting events**

- **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 Guianée at Fort de Chartres, Prairie du Rocher, IL](#)

A window opens to 1837



Is it 2022 or 1837? For a moment recently, I wondered about that as I saw a teacher, Mr. Seiner, standing over two of his young students—from left to right—Pam and Mary Ann. The log schoolhouse will indeed provide a window into our rich pioneer history. I wonder what lessons it will teach us?

Next membership meeting will be in-person and Zoom on November 10

The next membership meeting will be on October 6 at 7:00 pm (CST) will be in person and Zoom. Please click this link to if you wish to join the meeting via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89534973650?pwd=SUh4Qkk0dE84eW5HUnBxV0o3Nks4UT09>. If you need the Meeting ID, it is 895 3497 3650 and the Passcode is 170852..

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on September/October 2022 news eletter item “Who am I?”
- Approval of October 6, 2022 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s report;
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Executive Vice-President report;
- Collection Committee report
- Membership Report;
- Ways and Means:
 - Log Schoolhouse inauguration festivities report—tour security and refreshment servers;
 - *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner report; and
 - Craft show report.
- Building and Grounds
- Old Business
 - Restructuring of BGHS update.
- New Business
 - Next meeting on December 1;
 - Chaperon needed for November 20 open house of the Letourneau Home/Museum.
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Enjoy the wonderful fall season. Best wishes,

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society