

## Minutes of Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society Meeting March 3, 2016

BGHS member Ms. Laurel Soper volunteered to preside over the meeting and brought the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Those members in attendance in addition to Ms. Soper were Tim Arseneau, Kathryn Lewellen, Ken Lewellen, Bruce Moran, Jim Paul, Gary Seiner, and Ellen Stringer. The minutes of the previous meeting were unavailable, and will be read or e-mailed before the April 7 meeting.

Under the Treasurer's Report, Mr. Arseneau stated that the regular checking account had \$10,808.90 in it, and the windows account had \$5,528.75 in it (both as of Jan. 29, 2016). Dr. Paul requested a check payable to Fast Signs in the amount of \$1,553.42 to replace the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve sign and the "Come Stroll through the Letourneau Home gardens . . ." sign that had been destroyed by a motorist in early January. Progressive Insurance Company paid the whole claim in the amount of \$1635.18. If the BGHS pays for the work up front, it will receive a 5% discount or \$81.76. This discount amount will pay for landscape repairs not covered by the insurance. Accordingly, Mr. Arseneau wrote the check to Fast Signs for \$1,553.42. Dr. Paul also requested reimbursement for purchasing heirloom seeds. Mr. Lewellen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Seiner. Motion carried.

Under Membership Report, Mr. Arseneau reminded everyone that members should pay their annual dues at this time. Dr. Paul will announce this issue in the monthly news e-mail.

Under Curator Report, the society has accepted George Letourneau and Noel Brousseau's account ledger book from January 1870 to October 6, 1874. While George Letourneau was farming in Bourbonnais Grove at his farmstead, he became engaged in the grain business with Noel Brousseau in 1869. Letourneau bought out Mr. Brousseau in 1875 and continued a partnership with Hiram Kenaga until 1880. In that year, Letourneau sold his interest to Charles Johnson. The ledger book was donated by BGHS member Joel Legris—a great grandson of George and Elodie Letourneau.

Under the Ways and Means Report, Ms. Stringer announced that she has publicized the upcoming Les Artisans Arts and Craft Fair (July 4 and December 3, 2016) on Facebook and with the Community Arts and Crafts. Ms. Soper will post information on the BGHS Facebook site. Ms. Stringer has been sending out vendor contracts. Mr. Arseneau volunteered to keep track of the vendor contract amounts and to draft a contract for Ms. Springer. Ms. Stringer plans to be in the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival parade, announce the craft fair at the Farmers' Market in Kankakee, and send out press releases. She is contracting the Pie Lady for brunch at the fairs, and will be soliciting donors to support the fair. She said there will be no raffle at the fair. Also, under the Ways and Means Report, Dr. Paul stated that a *Four Walking Tours of Historic Bourbonnais* booklet will be distributed at the Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission's public forum for Bourbonnais Township on Tuesday April 19 at 7 pm at the Bourbonnais Public Library. Ms. Soper has volunteered to link the electronic version of the walking tours to the BGHS website home page. Dr. Paul also mentioned that he will teach the three-session Lifelong Learning Institute course "Kankakee River Valley Pioneers and Their Legacy: Thomas Durham (1784-1854) and George Letourneau (1831-1906)" at KCC on Tuesdays March 29, April 5, and April 12, 2016 from 9:30-11:00 am.

Under the Building and Grounds Report, Mr. Seiner recommended the installation of the new outside lights for the flag, repairing the broken window on the east side of the home, putting weather stripping under the front door, painting the interior of the home, investigating the wetness on the floor in the corner of the parlor by the organ, repairing the two dining room

hanging lamps, and hanging a pseudo kerosene lamp chandelier in the dining room. Mr. Arseneau volunteered to take care of installing the outside lights, to replacing the broken window, installing the weather stripping under the door, and repairing the dining room lamps. The issue of painting the interior of the home was tabled. Mr. Arseneau said that he would revisit the status of the “windows account” next month. The members present encouraged Mr. Seiner to proceed with his plan to create a pseudo kerosene lamp chandelier for the dining room.

Under Unfinished Business, Dr. Paul volunteered to “sit” for the Letourneau Home open house on March 6 from 1-4 pm, Ken Lewellen volunteered for April 3, Judy Smead has volunteered for May 1, July 3, and August 7, and Gary Seiner has volunteered for all third Sundays. The open Sundays for which the society still needs volunteers are: June 5, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4.

Under New Business, Ms. Soper was complimented for her “Going West with Paul and Ida Fortin” articles in *The Herald*. Ms. Soper solicited topics for the May article. Mr. Arseneau thanked everyone for their support at the recent death of his father, Jerome, who always enjoyed working at the Letourneau Home. Mr. Arseneau also mentioned that his Aunt Jane Morgan was going to donate an original wax bread wrapper from the Arseneau Bakery. The members present also discussed the possibility of publicizing the BGHS at the May 15 Rhubarb Festival.

Mr. Arseneau moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Lewellen seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Jim Paul, Secretary