

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—August 3, 2023 (action items are in red)

CALL TO ORDER: President Jim Paul called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He hosted, presided over the meeting, and took minutes. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE: In addition to Jim Paul, Charles Balesi, Daron Kinzinger, Mary Ann Lambert, Betty Leininger, Christine and Max Michels, Steve Monts, and Elmira Wilkey attended in person; and Bonnie Bergeron, Doris O'Connor, Marcia Rabideau, Penelope Stickney, Josue Savoie, and Gary Seiner, attended via Zoom.

PRESENTATION: The membership then discussed “Who am I?”—from the July/August 2023 issue of BGHS News eletter). “I built my blacksmith shop in 1882. Sadly, it was destroyed by fire in 1916. I then rebuilt a brick shop, and in the words of Adrian Richard, “. . . in a short time the . . . garage was in business, ready to meet the new horseless carriage challenge.” Who am I?” Max correctly answered: Simon Tetrault.

MINUTES: The July 6, 2023, meeting minutes were approved. The motion was made by Steve and seconded by Christine. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of the end of July: general account which now includes the windows account (to save a \$15 monthly fee for a separate account if below \$2500) 25243.38; log schoolhouse account \$8268.63; and CFKRV pass through investment \$6,534.23 (Steve is still awaiting an update for this account). Steve stated that the log schoolhouse landscaping bill was \$2377.03, slightly higher than the estimate. A motion was made by Bonnie to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Motion was seconded by Charles and carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Christine reviewed emails that had been received by the society: nominees for the *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence and email related to research on Francis DuVoisin.

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT COLLECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: None.

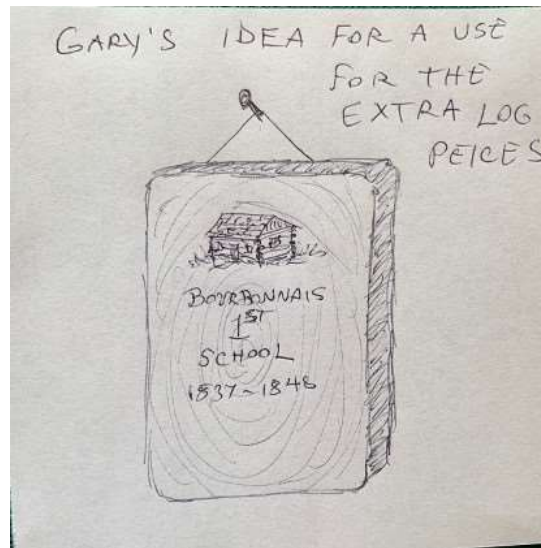
CURATOR’S REPORT: Gary stated that he has:

- Replaced the entrance table to the Letourneau Home/Museum;
- Put the other table in the log schoolhouse;
- Continued to label artifacts; and
- Gary will research blinds for the north lower floor windows in the Letourneau Home/Museum.

MEMBERSHIP: Bonnie said that there are 127 individuals in the data base, 50 lifetime, 48 paid for this dues year, 4 new members, and 25 not paid. Bonnie made a motion that Ellen Stringer be awarded honorary lifetime membership. The motion was seconded and carried.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- Below is Gary’s design for the remnant log schoolhouse pieces on the back porch. Daron is checking with Benoit Wood Services to see how they might accommodate Gary or Ken’s design ideas.



- Jim emphasized the ease of volunteering for open houses by using the Sign Up Genius. Gary and Betty will chaperone for open house on Sunday August 20 and Doris and Judy Smead will chaperone on September 3
- Jim encouraged members to make reservations for the October 17 *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner.
- Daron will determine possible dates for holding a fundraiser at Culvers from 4-8 pm.
- Jim advertised his new Facebook public group page [Bourbonnais History Dossier | Facebook](#); and
- Jim stated that the Log Schoolhouse's nomination as a Kankakee County historic landmark may be approved by the county board on August 8. The Village of Bourbonnais has already approved the log schoolhouse as a village historic landmark on June 17.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- Steve gave a report on the new landscape plants at the log schoolhouse. He said that four have died.
- Jim mentioned again that Angi be used as a resource to find someone to complete repairs as needed for the home/museum upstairs east side wall plaster, back porch repainting, and future roof repairs/replacement for the Letourneau Home/Museum. Daron said that he has not observed any new problems.
- Levi Lawson likes Gary's design for his Eagle Scout project. Levi plans to do the work after he conducts a fund raiser for his project. **The BGHS will need to supervise his project.**
- **The village is pursuing the idea of planting an arbor vitae or shrubs along the west boundary to hide the trash bins and driveway.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Daron stated that he is still in the process of editing of the bylaws (drafted by Jim and emailed to Daron on 3/2/22). He will contact Jim soon about a date that they can review his alterations to Jim's draft. The draft provides language for restructuring of the BGHS.**
- Jim confirmed that Doris will assume Bonnie's position as Membership Committee chair.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The next BGHS membership meeting will be in-person and Zoom at 7:00 pm on Thursday September 7.
- Jim announced special BGHS dates for 2023.
- Jim re-emphasized the need for volunteers on the Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee. Daron has asked if there would be a BTPD issue with the open meetings act. **Dave Zinanni said that he would check it out.** Jim stated that Doris O'Connor has volunteered to join the PFLHC.
- Jim asked for a motion for the BGHS to contribute \$6000 toward the cost of the log schoolhouse sign between the sidewalk and the schoolhouse. The village will pay the other \$6000 plus any extra expenses. Penelope made the motion and Doris seconded it. Motion carried.
- Daron mentioned that volunteers are needed for the log schoolhouse education committee to serve as docents or interpreters for visiting schools and other guests. Doris and Betty expressed interest. Charles suggested that more organization is needed to accommodate the schools.
- Daron gave a brief board of directors report.
- **Jim said that the French Heritage Corridor Leadership Team will set up an Illinois Module on the FHC website. He will then put the tour document *Let's Spend the Weekend in Illinois's French-Canadian Heritage Corridor* on the FHC website. In the meantime he will ask Laurel to put it on the BGHS website and then send a press release to the *Daily Journal* and KCCVB.**
- **Jim mentioned that the officers and board members present will chose the 2023 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence after tonight's membership meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm. Motion was made by Charles and seconded by Daron. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul