

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

### **Membership meeting on Thursday June 6 at 7 pm**

Our next membership meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday June 6 at 7 pm (meeting agenda is below). The Zoom meeting connections are: Passcode 574291, Meeting ID 82571163728, and Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82571163728?pwd=rxJYYR8LBOHND0eHWWaz6tIbjqPdwV.1> . The meeting agenda is below.

### **Let's groom the gardens before the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival and the grand opening of the Community Campus**

The Bourbonnais Friendship Festival runs from Wednesday to Sunday June 26-30. During that time the Community Campus will also have its grand opening. In order for our Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve gardens to look their best, we need to do some grooming. Here are several work session dates for you to consider helping us: **Thursday June 6 from 9-10:30 am, Friday June 7 from 9-11 am, Saturday June 8 from 9-11 am; Saturday June 15 from 9-11 am; Monday June 17 from 9-11 am; Tuesday June 18 from 9-11 am; Friday June 21 from 9-11 am; and Tuesday June 25 from 9-11 am.** Please bring your gardening tools.



Recent blooms from left to right: weigelia and dropmore scarlet honeysuckle; *fleur-de-lis* (irises) and lilac; and heirloom peonies.

### **Kudos to our volunteers**

A big BGHS “thank you” to Ken Lewellen who volunteered as open house chaperone on May 5 and June 2, and Doris O’Connor who volunteered on May 21. Kudos also to the following volunteers:

- Master Gardeners Dale Bowman and Pam Adams, and BGHS volunteer Mary Ann Lambert for grooming the herb garden on May 24 (bottom center photograph), , and Max Michels and Ken Ponton, for grooming the front gardens also on May 24 (top two photographs respectively).



- Josue Savoie for updating the BGHS website postings;
- Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail, and chairing our Board of Directors;
- Cindy McBarnes for chairing the log schoolhouse Education Committee and presiding over the Bishop MacNamara Catholic School visit to the museum campus on May 20, and to Jean and Frank Koehler and Karen Duchene-Korup for serving as docents on that school visit;
- Christine Michels for her ongoing Corresponding Secretary work;
- Steve Monts for his ongoing detailed treasurer's work;



- Gary Seiner and Mary Ann Lambert for their expert and detailed work as curator and assistant curator respectively;
- Ken Ponton for his oversight as executive vice-president, initiating the concept of History Day as a resolution for passage in the Illinois state legislature, and planning construction of a storage barn;
- Ellen Stringer for organizing the craft show fundraisers;
- Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee members: Mayor Paul Schore, Laurie Cyr, Ken Ponton, Gary Seiner, Charles Balesi, Frank Koehler, Cindy McBarnes, Norm Strasma, Daron Kinzinger, and myself;
- Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee members: Mack Brza, Daron Kinzinger, Ken Lewellen, Max Michels, Rodney Miller, Doris O'Connor, Gary Seiner, Jorie Walters, and myself;
- Charles Balesi, Wal Schuller, Frank and Jean Koehler for representing the BGHS at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual French Heritage Corridor Conference in Monroe, Michigan on May 17-19; and
- Bonnie Bergeron and Laurel Soper for mentoring Doris O'Connor in preparing to chair the Membership Committee.

### **Several volunteer slots remain vacant for upcoming museum campus open houses and craft show**

The open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse continue on the first and third Sundays of every month from 1-4 pm, **but the BGHS needs volunteers for both sites.** Chaperons greet visitors, hand out self-guided tour information at the door, and oversee artifacts. **If you have not volunteered before as an open house chaperon, no worries, a mentor will be present to train you—as well as open and close the sites—on the date you sign up for. By clicking on one or more of the links below, you may then click “Sign Up” for the date(s) you prefer. If both slots are filled for your site and date choice, just send me an email, and you can still come on your preferred date.**

Log schoolhouse open house volunteer chaperon link:

[Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society: Chaperoning Log Schoolhouse Open House--Meet and Greet, Hand Out Self-Guided Tours, Oversee Artifacts \(signupgenius.com\).](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning1)

Letourneau Home/Museum open house volunteer chaperon link:

[Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society: Chaperoning Letourneau Home/Museum Open House--Meet and Greet, Hand Out Self-Guided Tours, Oversee Artifacts \(signupgenius.com\).](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning1)

Also, if you would like to volunteer as a BGHS table greeter at one of our two *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fairs on July 4 and/or December 7, please open this link for dates and times: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning1>.

### **Save the date September 24 for Seventh Annual Fleur-de-Lis Celebration Dinner**

Please save the date Tuesday September 24 from 5:30 – 9 pm for our Seventh Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club. The price for *hors d'ouvres*, wine, and French dinner this year will be \$65 each for members and \$75 each for non-members. An open house of the log schoolhouse from 4-5:15 pm will precede the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner. To make a reservation for the celebration dinner online, you may use the following link to “Make a Reservation” [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://bourbonnaishistory.org). After making your reservation, please email [bourbonnais.grove@gmail.com](mailto:bourbonnais.grove@gmail.com) with the names of all your dinner party

guests and who you would like to sit with at the dinner (tables of eight persons). See below for reservations by mail. All proceeds go toward the preservation of Bourbonnais Grove's first log schoolhouse (1837-48). The BGHS is a 501c3 organization.

**4:00-5:15 pm—Log schoolhouse open house**

**5:30-6:30 pm—Arrival at Kankakee Country Club, pick up name place cards with table number at welcome table; and enjoy social time with *hors d'œuvres*, cash bar, or complimentary wine at your table;**

**6:30 pm--Welcome, Dr. Jim Paul, President Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society;**

**Presentation of Sixth Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence;**

**6:45 pm—Blessing, French-Canadian dinner cuisine, Reserve *Perrin Côtes-du-Rhône* wine, non-alcoholic drink, and French dessert;**

**7:45 pm—Entertainment—Josue Savoie's French music ensemble; and**

**8:15-9:00 pm—Concluding Remarks.**

If making reservation by mail, please print, cut and return the information below.

Please send check (payable to "BGHS") with information below to Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society, PO Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL, 60914 **by August 23, 2024.**

- ☐ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member: Yes    No
- ☐ Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Email: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_ I will attend with a party of \_\_\_ and would like to sit with \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Find enclosed my check of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_ I am unable to attend but find enclosed my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

A block of rooms will be reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn (455 Riverstone Parkway, Kankakee, IL 60901, 815 932-4444) under the name "Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society" for overnight guests on October September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Please make your own independent reservations.

### **Illinois legislature recognizes all who volunteer in historical societies**

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Illinois 103<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly passed HJR58 which declares June 15, 2024, as History Day in the State of Illinois. The Joint Resolution recognizes all those who volunteer at historical societies in Illinois for all they do the preserve and spread our history. The Joint Resolution was sponsored by State Senator Patrick Joyce and State Representative Jackie Haas. BGHS Executive Vice-President Ken Ponton initiated the passage of this Joint Resolution. Thank you, Ken!

### **Who are we?—rolled over from last two months since no one provided the answer**

Vic Johnson wrote that Henry F. Tower, at the age of 92, reported in a 1929 interview with local historian Burt Burroughs that he attended the Bourbonnais Grove log school in 1847 at the age of 11 with two of Noel LeVasseur's children. We are those two children. One of us was born in 1838 and the other in 1840. **Who are we?** Tower also recalled that his teacher, Mr. Starr, boarded at Thomas and Margaret Durham's home.

### **2024 BGHS membership dues deadline is July 1**

If you have not paid your 2024 membership dues (individual--\$20, senior--\$10, family--\$30, business--\$50, business lifetime--\$500, and individual lifetime--\$300), they should be paid

by July 1. Individuals can pay at this link [Pay Dues \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://bourbonnaishistory.org) or mail checks to BGHS, PO Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL 60914.

### French Heritage Corridor website now features individual state modules

#### French Heritage in the Seven States



Here, you can explore history more in depth about IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO and WI and access additional resources such as teaching tools, suggested tours and connect to active groups.

Though each state has its own pages here, the entire region is united by its waterways, just as it was when the French first arrived. *A vous d'explorer! Dive in!*

Click on the links below to explore the French heritage of each state.



#### Illinois

New educational state modules have been added to the French Heritage Corridor website [French Heritage Corridor - Initiatives - French Heritage Society](#). You may click “French Heritage in the Seven States” (see above) and then you may explore each state. Enjoy!

### Bishop MacNamara Grade School visits log schoolhouse on May 20



Cindy McBarnes (in blue skirt) and Karen Duchene-Korup welcome and instruct the students at the log schoolhouse on Monday May 20.





Jean and Frank Koehler guided the tour of the Letourneau Home/Museum.

### Thursday June 6 Zoom meeting agenda

- 7pm—Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on June/July 2024 news eletter item “Who are We?”
- Approval of May 2, 2024 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s report (*see statements attached*);
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Executive Vice-President report;
- Curator report;
- Membership report;

- Ways and Means:
  - Craft show—volunteers needed for the BGHS table;
  - Website update;
  - Remnant log pieces—we need a committee to pursue this issue
  - Log schoolhouse history booklet; and
  - Chaperons and “openers/closers” needed for open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse and craft show. At the Letourneau Home/Museum, Ken Lewellen has volunteered for 6/2; Priscilla Dwyer has volunteered for 7/21, and Judy Smead has volunteered for 8/4 and 10/6. Ken Lewellen has volunteered for the log schoolhouse open houses on 7/7 and 8/4.
  - **Doris O'Connor has volunteered for an extra open house during the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival on Saturday June 29 from 1-4 pm. Would anyone like to accompany her?**
- Building and Grounds:
  - Levi Lawson's Eagle Scout garden structure plan has been tabled.
  - Work session dates: **Thursday June 6 from 9-10:30 am, Friday June 7 from 9-11 am, Saturday June 8 from 9-11 am; Saturday June 15 from 9-11 am; Monday June 17 from 9-11 am; Tuesday June 18 from 9-11 am; Friday June 21 from 9-11 am; and Tuesday June 25 from 9-11 am.**
- Old Business
  - Restructuring of BGHS update.
- New Business
  - Next meeting July 11 at 7 pm—Zoom only;
  - Special BGHS 2024 dates with links—**save the dates:**
    - Tuesday June 11 at 3:30 pm—BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee meeting
    - *Saturday June 15-- first History Day in State of Illinois;*
    - Thursday at 7 pm—Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee meeting
    - July 1—BGHS membership dues deadline;
    - Thursday July 4 from 9am – 3pm—*Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair [Les Artisans Fair \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://www.bourbonnaishistory.org); please volunteer at the BGHS table by clicking <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning1>
    - Sunday July 14—Bastille Day Brunch fundraiser at Kankakee County Museum;
    - August 1—deadline for nomination for annual Fleur-de-Lis Award of Excellence [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://www.bourbonnaishistory.org)
    - August 30—reservation deadline for annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://www.bourbonnaishistory.org)
    - Tuesday September 24, beginning at 5:30pm—*Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://www.bourbonnaishistory.org)
    - Saturday December 7 from 9am – 3 pm—*Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair [Les Artisans Fair \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://www.bourbonnaishistory.org)

Enjoy the rest of our beautiful spring! Best wishes,

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society