

Chocolate

Tim Conley, Expert Historic Preservationist

The first meal served on board the riverboat that was bringing seven year old Henry Brackenridge to Ste. Genevieve in 1793 so that he could learn to speak French was a hard biscuit, a piece of pork fat, and a tin cup of hot chocolate. It all tasted so bad that Henry tossed the meal into the Ohio River. In his memoirs, 16 years later, he shared that the hunger that followed convinced him to become a much less picky eater. Do you really think he threw away the hot chocolate? It was probably made with cocoa, a bit of cinnamon, and a trace of hot pepper but no milk—just water, like the American Heritage chocolate powder we sell in our shop. Chocolate was a popular drink in the late 18th century, made directly from cocoa beans. People did not start eating chocolate bars until the 19th century. We are thrilled that the American Heritage Chocolate Company of the Mars Candy Company is coming to train our interpretive staff to make chocolate as it would have been made in our period. In addition, they are going to provide a lecture on the history of chocolate for us as a fund-raiser for our museum. So, mark your calendar for Friday, February 7th at 6:30 PM and come to hear all about chocolate. Samples have been promised and we already make American Heritage Chocolate products available in our shop.



Starting in the 1970's Timothy L. Conley has devoted much of his life and untold amounts of his treasure to restoring some of the most important historic houses in Missouri. He began with the Blair House in the Lafayette Square Neighborhood of the City of St. Louis and went on to write a book about that neighborhood. Then he restored two important historic houses in Minnesota. Next, he returned to



Tim Conley—photo from www.ruralmissouri.org/2010Pages



The Old Academy in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

Missouri where he tackled the Old Academy on Fifth & Washington Streets in Ste. Genevieve. Built in 1809, this massive stone building housed the first American boys boarding school in Missouri. Next it belonged to the Rozier family for several generations. With Tim's meticulous restoration finished, the Old Academy has become the home of the Rolfe family. They make it available for tours upon request and is well worth taking the time

to see the next time you are in town. After the Old Academy, Tim moved to Louisiana, Missouri, where he restored the McQuie House before returning to Ste. Genevieve. Here, he purchased and restored the Jean-Baptiste Valle House at the corner of Market and Main Streets which is a vertical log house that was built in 1794. It was the seat of military and civil government in the relocated town until 1804 when Jean-Baptiste Valle presided over the transfer of the Post of Ste. Genevieve from France



The McQuie House in Louisiana, Missouri

to the United States following the Louisiana Purchase. He is reputed to have pronounced, "*Nous sommes tous americains,*" which means "We are all Americans now." Perhaps this was not said with much celebration. We are very grateful to Tim for selling us the Jean-Baptiste Valle House last May and we are incredibly thankful to Mary Pillsbury, her foundation, and the Ed & H Pillsbury Foundation for funding this acquisition. We look forward to facilitating many visitors to experience this beautiful home beginning later in 2014. But, what is next for Tim Conley? He's not leaving Ste. Genevieve. He's taking on another very early vertical log house, the Aubuchon House. He's restoring it back to its original look—documenting what he discovers—there is original bousillage with the hand-prints of the builders- and he plans to make it his new home. We expect to enjoy his company and to benefit from his experience as a historic preservationist for many more years.



The Jean-Baptiste Valle House in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

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The Aubuchon House in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

Classes & Events

Home School Tuesdays— The *first Tuesday* of every month from 10AM– Noon. Each month features a different program for homeschoolers including a themed tour of our museum, crafts, and activities. Cost: \$4.00/participant or \$10.00/family. Details on our Facebook page—click events.

Fourth Friday Ste. Genevieve Art Walk—The *fourth Friday* of every month February—November from 6-9PM.

The History of Chocolate—Friday, February 7, 2014, hear a lecture facilitated by American Heritage Chocolate Company, a Mars Candy Company. Come at 6:30PM. Cost: \$5/person. There will be samples of chocolate made using 18th and 19th century recipes and procedures.

Fifth Annual Louis Bolduc Days -Saturday and Sunday, August 23-24, 2014. Watch for details about this annual event where we invite the members of our first families to gather and enjoy being together at an ancestral home.

BOLDUC HOUSE NOUVELLES

A National Historic Landmark

125 South Main Street, Sainte Genevieve, MO 63670

573-883-3105

www.bolduchouse.org



Winter Edition 2014

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A Retrospective & A Preview of Things to Come



The Missouri Society of The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America purchased the Louis Bolduc House in 1949. It took the next nine years for them, aided by many employees of the Mississippi Lime Company, to complete its restoration based on the best research available to architect, Ernest Connally, and to furnish it with French colonial artifacts. The Bolduc House Museum opened in May 1958 with much fanfare, as the first completely restored French colonial building in Missouri. The Ste. Genevieve Women's Club served as the first docents. By 1960, the Linden House was added. It stands across Main Street from the Louis Bolduc House and serves as the state headquarters for the Missouri Society. We also use it today as our offices, archives, library, shop, and meeting space. In 1970, the LeMeilleur House had been restored under the direction of Dr. Connally, funded by the Mathews family of the Mississippi Lime Company. It was donated, fully restored and furnished, to the Colonial Dames. It sits just north of the Bolduc House on land that originally belonged to Louis Bolduc. After his death, the lot was purchased by his daughter-in-law, Catherine Janis Bolduc, who gave it to her daughter, Agathe, when she married René LeMeilleur, a refugee from the Haitian Revolution. Built circa 1820, the LeMeilleur House shows American architectural influence while retaining many French colonial features. So, these

three houses and their gardens and grounds have been the Bolduc House Museum that thousands of visitors from all over the world have come to explore since 1958.

Our dilemma came because we needed more space in order to become sustainable for the next fifty and more years. We needed gallery space and classroom space. We needed indoor space for wedding receptions and events so that families whose most memorable events happen in our fabulous historic gardens would have an indoor area in which to celebrate. We needed better, and handicap accessible restroom spaces and more room for our archives and library. So we began brainstorming. And, we decided to expand to tell the story of New France—the OTHER Colonial America in the Spanish Illinois Country of Upper Louisiana prior to the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

Then we decided to acquire the old First Bank building with its large parking lot at Market and Second Streets. It is a lovely stone building surrounded at the top by copper and has a huge center lobby area that will be perfect for a museum about New France. There are vaults for storage and the temperature, humidity and light values are controlled so that our artifacts and documents will be better protected than in our original houses. We can relocate the shop, offices, archives, and library and still have classroom space and the potential for a reception in that building which will become our museum's entry and educational wing.

Next, the Jean-Baptiste Valle House was for sale. He was the commandant when the Post of Ste. Genevieve was transferred to

the United States after the Louisiana Purchase. His house, a vertical log house like the Louis Bolduc House, was built circa 1794. It has a large collection of historic rose bushes as well as a grape arbor and a small orchard. His house has been pristinely restored by Tim Conley and represents the end of the colonial period. Mary Pillsbury and the Pillsbury family foundations made that acquisition possible and we are excited to be able to add it to our visitor experience and to make it available for small meetings, receptions, and weddings.

On December 30th we closed on the purchase of the Francois Valle House. This is a smaller vertical log house right next to our parking lot. Francois Valle was the commandant when the town relocated from its original site after repeated catastrophic Mississippi River floods. Our intention is to restore this house to its original configuration after involving architects and archeologists and then use it to tell the stories of colonial military and civil government here.

The houses, all located within about one square block, form the bones of the stories that we tell using a combination of artifacts, hands-on demonstrations, and living history methods. It is the story of the French in America, a story that started in the 1660s and lasted through 1804. It is the story of the Africans who were enslaved through the *La Traite* and the story of the American Indian tribes who lived among the French as well as those tribes who made it their goal to eradicate the French. 2014 will be a year of capacity building as we begin to utilize more of our newly acquired space. Stay tuned.

Eagle Scout, Ryan Kemper, Makes Dugout Canoe



Ryan Kemper is the third Boy Scout whose Eagle Scout project benefitted the Bolduc House Museum. Here he is in the dug-out canoe he built for our Eastern Woodland Indian Village outdoor living history area. It took all eight of the men pictured with him to lift the canoe off of his father's trailer and place it near the sugar maple tree in the Indian Village area. Before April, we plan to add interpretive signage to this area so it can be a self-guided aspect of our visitor experience. The other elements in this part of the museum are a wigwam, a traditional Three Sister's Garden, a corn watcher's platform, a ceramics firing pit, some puncheon benches, and a dye garden.

Joshua Malawey built the four new benches on the Linden House porch so that visitors who are waiting for their guided tour to start can enjoy being outside.

Brandon Dougherty built us shelves for the storage area in the attic of the Linden House where we keep the supplies for our games and activities, extra inventory for the Museum Shop, and office supplies.

Our own Robbie Pratte, himself an Eagle Scout, has taken over the responsibility for liaising between the candidates and the museum. Because the projects usually involve construction, our maintenance supervisor, Ed Luttrell, reviews the plans and gives advice about the project design. The scouts are responsible to raise the funds needed to do the project they propose after it has been approved both by us and by the Eagle Scout Board.

So, many local businesses and individuals are to be thanked for the very practical help that these Eagle Scout projects are to us on a daily basis. If you know a Boy Scout who is ready to start on his Eagle project, we may be a place for that to happen. The person to call is Robbie at the main office—573-883-3105.

Herbe à Bolduc

Another name for corn spurrey, a member of the pink family is *herbe à Bolduc*, which is thought to improve the quality of milk and butter if cows ingest it, according to a 1904 report of the Quebec Department of Agriculture. While it is generally thought to be a weed, it is cultivated in Belgium. Yan Bolduc discovered this report and shared it with us. So far, we do not know why it is associated with the Bolduc name but it may have something to do with the fact that Simon and Pierre Bolduc both served the Bourbon kings of France as apothecaries.



Thank you to our volunteers who include: **Barbara Fitzgerald** and **Jean Henson** in the archives; **Ray Faupel** for splitting wood and general handy-man help; **Rosemary Faupel** for assorted office tasks, **Bo Caldwell** for troubleshooting our computers when there are emergencies, **Michael Swope** for processing our found artifacts; **Jean Rissover** for doing all sorts of graphic design work and painting; **Joy and Terry Shoemaker** for doing anything we ask; **Gary Bourisaw** for making our wine press and advising us about how to turn our grapes into wine; **Gary Baudefeld** for making whatever we need out of wood; The **Ste. Genevieve Militia** for demonstrating, providing hands-on activities for our visitors, and staffing our day-camp; The **Molière cast members** for many weeks and hours of agony only to be laughed at by the audience; many individual community service volunteers, **Frank Ahne** and **Kathy Cornell** for pitching in whenever we need help; the **Scooter Club** and more than we can list here....

1770 Maker's Mark from St. Etienne, France



Ted Mueller is well known in the local living history community as a craftsman who knows how to do just about anything the way it would have been done in the area during the 18th century. By trade, he is a painter who has restored the interiors of historic churches on both sides of the river. He is also an expert on men's clothing and makes his own so when we needed help learning to make moccasins to wear with our period outfits, we called Ted. While he was here, we let him look around and, when he saw one of our rifles, he asked if he could come back, take some photos and try to reproduce the gun. It was donated in 1978 by Roy Krout, in honor of his wife, Roxy Janis Krout, who is a descendent of Louis Bolduc. The gun is a 1/2 stock cap and ball rifle with a maple stock, a poured pewter nose cap, and brass butt plate, trigger guard, and lock plate. It is a German gun but, according to Ted Mueller, it carries a 1770 maker's mark from St. Etienne, France. We have two guns in our collection, both are early and show evidence of having been adapted by their owners over time as was typical. In addition to the guns we own, when the Ste. Genevieve Militia is here, they bring their own guns and often demonstrate how to shoot them.



Photograph by Bruce Pendleton, © 2009 by the Bolduc House Museum, the gun is in the Louis Bolduc House collection.

From the Director

Lesley Barker

It almost seemed routine to move the furniture out of the Louis Bolduc House salon and set up tables and chairs for our fourth annual New Years Eve Watch Party for La Guignolee. We made our signature rum punch and set out appetizers and desserts in the hall. The salon, despite having no heat, was pretty warm after we ran several portable heaters for 24 hours straight. We added some make-shift lighting and replaced the batteries in our candles before putting them into the many brass and iron candlesticks.

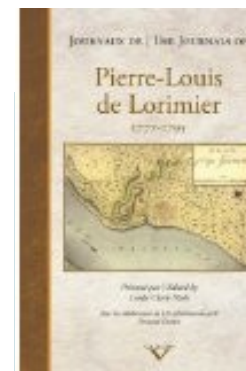
This is my favorite event of the Bolduc House Museum year and it brings out members of the local community. All we do is play 18th century parlor games, whist, plugging, soixante-neuf, mancala, and fox & geese until...the magic starts. First, Bill and Patti Naeger, and as many of their relatives as they can muster, appear. Patti's accordion provides the accompaniment for seasonal songs in French, English, and the occasional German. We keep playing while they sing because the stakes are high. We are gambling for pecans and the three highest winners get pretty enviable door prizes. And, as soon as the Guignolee arrives, we all have to hop up and push all the chairs and tables out of the way.

The Guignolee is a group of men who come in outlandish costumes—usually there is a Santa Claus and a priest as well as an array of more ridiculous be-hatted fellows alongside men in 18th century period clothing. They parade, single-file, into the Bolduc House and arrange themselves in a circle beneath the chandelier in the salon. Then Bill



Miller, in his red knitted tuque hat, begins playing the fiddle. The men stomp around the circle beating sticks on the floor and singing the traditional song in French that demands the master of the house to provide a 70 foot-long leg of mutton or else the oldest unmarried daughter....They repeat this several times and, on cue, end by shouting "Happy New Year" before tromping out the door shaking everyone's hands. We did not have either mutton nor an unmarried daughter to give them but they were pleased with a couple of bottles of wine, as is their modern habit. And, so, well before midnight, once the pecans were counted and the prizes distributed, we were done for 2013. But not until I posted the video on our YouTube Channel.

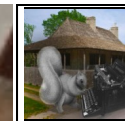
As I thanked our guests for joining us, one of them interrupted to say how pleased they all are that the Bolduc House has been coming "back to life." It is only because of the many volunteers, donors, and visitors online and on site who are producing the momentum and the energy and the funds to make us begin to thrive again. As a publically-supported non-profit project of The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in The State of Missouri, we depend on the participation of our community and I am proud to say that that support is growing.



Book Review

Linda Nash's Journals of Pierre-Louis de Lorimier 1777-1795 is a great vehicle for learning what was happening here then. Lorimier founded Cape Girardeau and was responsible for negotiating the Spanish invitation and land-grant to the Shawnee & Delaware Indian tribes. The journals show a connected regional multi-cultural community This book provides the original French and its English translation. It is available for sale in our Museum Shop.

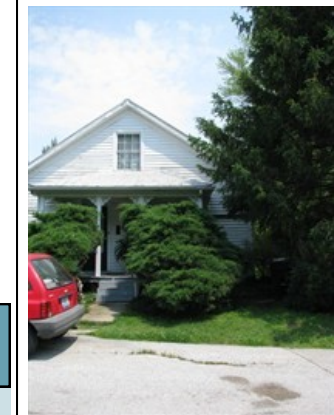
By Zuts the Squirrel



Check out these DELICIOUS hand-hewn oak logs in the attic of our newly acquired François Valle House. A lot of my friends already know about them because it is pretty easy to get inside by slipping under the metal roof. You do not even have to get scratched by any fiberglass because there is none up there. Outside this amazing



vertical log house that we plan to restore back to its original state so that we can add it to our visitor experience, there are lots of trees. There is even a black walnut tree which produces very nice nuts, indeed, but they are harder to get to than our more plentiful pecans. The house looks more modern than it should for a late 18th century house but that's because PEOPLE have been living in it until now. Don't ask me how long it will be before you can go inside this house—nobody tells me



The François Valle House

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anything. That's why I try to hang around the office and listen to the humans talking. Besides, then I get to eat the leftover cookie crumbs, candy bits