



# BOLDUC HOUSE NOUVELLES

A National Historic Landmark

125 South Main Street, Sainte Genevieve, MO 63670

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www.bolduchouse.com

Winter Edition 2011

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## 2010 Retrospective

2010 was a year of firsts for the Bolduc House Museum.

Connecting to New Audiences: We started a Friends of the Museum membership group where individuals who join receive free general admission as well as discounts on special programs and purchases. We also have developed special programs to attract specific groups including homeschoolers, boy scouts, girl scouts, and teachers.

Involving Interns and Volunteers: It was the first year for us to involve a student intern. LaDonna Garner, a graduate with a BS in Historic Preservation from South East Missouri State University, developed the file system for our archives. She contributed 400 hours of work to the museum last summer. In all, our volunteers contributed 862.62 hours of work to the museum.

Improving the Visitor Experience: We created the Hands-On History Room funded by generous gifts from six business sponsors: Oberle Meats, Mississippi Lime Company, Joe & Mary Claire Rozier, Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Inman, Dr. Frank Nickell, and Vernon Bauman Contracting. This was just one of the ways we have moved the visitor experience to be more interactive and family friendly.

Collaborations and Partnerships: 2010 was the first year that the four historic sites in Ste. Genevieve collaborated on a one-stop ticket, a Passport to Ste. Genevieve, through the city's Welcome Center. We also became very involved with the Missouri Humanities Council which is mentoring our transformation to a living history model of interpretation. They are also working with us and representatives of five American Indian tribes to develop an exhibit of the Shawnee and Delaware experience in this region between 1780-1830. In addition, our participation with the Fourth Friday Ste. Genevieve Art Walk led to a great collaboration with the St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. They loaned us an assortment of lithographs and a water color by Thomas Hart Benton for the Promenade des Arts festival last October.

Social Network Marketing: Our website, www.bolduchouse.com, was redesigned and is updated regularly with information about our programs and exhibits. We invite you to connect with the Bolduc House Museum on Facebook, Twitter, and our Blog. Our new mascot, Zuts the Squirrel, who descends from a long line of bilingual, literate squirrels at the Bolduc House, also has a Facebook page, a Twitter feed, and a blog. He is responsible to preserve and continue the squirrel's journal of the human activity at the Bolduc House. A mischievous squirrel, Zuts is always playing tricks on Sam, the curator. The banter between them occurs on Zuts' Facebook page's wall.

## La Guignolee New Years Eve Event



*Paula and Warren Keinath are playing whist with Mrs. Vernon Bauman and Mat Bourbon in the salon of the Bolduc House while they wait for La Guignolee*

We moved out the smaller artifacts, lit the Bolduc House using battery operated taper candles and invited our donors, staff, volunteers, and their guests to join us while we waited for La Guignolee. This is a 250 year old French New Years Eve tradition. Soon 22 men in costume, including a fiddle player arrived at the house. They danced around the room singing their demand in French for us to send out our eligible daughter so they may

warm her feet and heart. They also demanded a 30 foot long back bone to make a fricassee. We satisfied them with two bottles of wine from the Ste. Genevieve Winery. They, in French of course, apologized for intruding and promised to return next year. We intend to make this an annual holiday event.



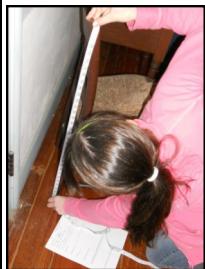
*Local men from the community re-enact La Guignolee going from place to place every New Years Eve. This is the first time since 1974 that the traditional celebration was held at the Bolduc House.*

## Colonial History Day

On October 9, 2010 we held the first Colonial History Day for Homeschoolers. The families spent the entire day doing hands-on activities such as may have been routine in around 1793. Pictured above right, the visitors learn about the role of draft horses in Missouri's early history. Lu Miller brought her team of horses, gave rides in the people mover, and taught the visitors to drive the team. Pictured below right, homeschooled students help repair the bousillage on the Bolduc House guided by our volunteer, Doug Sparks.



## Did You Know Project



Our teen staff and volunteers have been working on the **Did You Know Project** since Sam and Lesley returned from the *Connecting to Collections Raising the Bar Workshop* in Davenport, Iowa, last summer. At the workshop we were challenged to devise and carry out a project to involve youth in the issues of collections care and conservation and that also connects to a larger audience via social media sites like Facebook and Flickr around these issues. Each member of our teen interpretive staff selected an area of our collection to investigate. Sam mentors them as they learn to handle, measure, and evaluate the artifacts. Lesley mentors them as they researched available cultural and practical information about the items. Sam uses the data gathered by the teens to update our entries in Past Perfect, the museum management software system we use. Lesley edited the discoveries made by the teens before posting them to the discussion tab on Facebook. Each post is a short two or three sentence statement beginning with the phrase, "Did you know..." The **Did You Know Project** also serves as our first step towards providing the interpretive staff with intimate familiarity with the French colonial archives that make up our collections. As we move towards our goal of adopting a living history model of interpretation where we engage our visitors in period specific activities and events, we have to build our own knowledge base to a very high level.

## Christopher Bolduc's Recommendation

As a member of the Bolduc family, I always enjoy being able to visit the house our family built. I mean, how often do you get to tell your friends to visit a house built over 200 years ago by one of your relatives! I love the recent changes. In the past all you could do was stand and listen to the tour guide (which is not a bad thing), but now you can touch some of the things. I know that the Bolduc House has become more kid friendly which, I am sure, is how Louis would have wanted it to be thanks in large part to the wonderful work of the staff and all the volunteers. So, please take time to come and visit the beautiful Bolduc House Museum where history comes to life.

*Christopher Bolduc of St. Charles, MO*



## The Curator's Desk

For the first time we are able to keep the museum open during the winter. This is thanks to the help of two of our staff

members, Kirk Schenk and Mat Bourbon, who assisted me to install museum quality insulation along with five portable heaters that keep the Bolduc House at a steady 60 degrees. We monitor the temperature and humidity on a daily basis to protect the eighteenth century artifacts and furnishings appropriately. At some point in the future we would like to upgrade to a central heating and cooling system but the current arrangement works for now. To make the Bolduc House even more climate controlled and comfortable for our visitors, we also sealed the windows with a removable temporary clear calking.

In supervising all of this work I now understand why it took two full years to build the house. When I was screwing in a light bulb in the attic of the house over the salon I found six inch wide hand hewn beams. These beams are set just two inches apart.

Our new volunteer, Barbara Fitzgerald, has been my invaluable assistant in the Archives. Our summer intern, LaDonna Garner, developed the organization and file system for our archives and now Barbara is sorting through the boxes of documents and photographs, listing their descriptions and helping me make the files ready for researchers.

My priority is to continue to move this museum to the best practices in the industry documenting the proper procedures and protocols along with benchmarks to follow. It is a joy to be involved with this museum as we grow.

Sam Sampson, Curator

The Bolduc House Museum is owned and operated by The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri, a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. We depend on the generosity of our friends for support. Thank you for each tax deductible gift to the Bolduc House Museum.

*Our mascot, Zuts the Squirrel, playing cards in the Bolduc House Salon—Find him on Facebook and Twitter.*



## Coming Events & Attractions

**Art Walk & A Cause** the fourth Friday of every month from 6 –9 PM. Each month we feature a different artist along with a local charitable organization.

- **January 28th**—Picturing America on loan from the Missouri Humanities Council with Reading Express;
- **February 25th**– Teen Interpreter Danielle Naeger's Senior Show with Project Graduation;
- **March 25th** Artist to be announced with Make A Wish Foundation

### Caring For & Repairing Old

**Family Photographs**— Saturday, January 29, 2011 from 1–3PM. Curator, Sam Sampson will conduct this event. Friends of the Bolduc House Museum get in free. The cost of the event is \$35; Ste. Genevieve County Residents and members of the Missouri Society of the Colonial Dames receive a reduced rate of \$25; and students will be charged \$10. The cost of the workshop includes the supplies and membership in the 2011 Friends group.

### French Colonial Missouri History

**Class for Homeschoolers** aged 12-18—Fridays beginning February 11, 2011 from 1-3 PM. Each student pays \$25 for materials and commits to contribute 30 volunteer hours to the museum.

**Chocolate Walk**—Saturday, February 12, 2011—Shop Ste. Genevieve and get a chocolate treat at each participating shop (including ours). Tickets cost \$5.00.

Check our website at:

**www.BolducHouse.com.** Every week we update it with new activities and announcements. Some items from our shop are available for sale online.

## Book Review

Do you want to know more about the Bolduc family genealogy? Yan Bolduc, recently retired from the United States Air Force has done a fabulous job of compiling and translating information about the family. It focuses on that Louis Bolduc who was the first of his family to settle in North America. He arrived on August 17, 1665 with the Carignan Regiment to fight the Iroquois. Later he was disgraced, returned to France with his wife and left their children in Canada. The work is available for free online in English at: <http://www.mediafire.com/?kyz3z5kk3cgcz4w> . A more detailed French version is also available at: <http://www.mediafire.com/?pxtwc6w486dk6s3>.