

Coming Events & Attractions

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

- **April**—April 22 Religious Art in honor of Good Friday
- **May**— Art by John Audubon and the Youth *Plein Aire* paintings
- **June**—**To be announced**

Preservation Workshops—

- **April**— Saturday, April 9, 1:00-3:00 Antique Wood Furniture Care Workshop
- **June**— Saturday, June 11—Repairing and Preserving Old Documents Workshop
- **July**—Saturday, July 9—Wooden Window Care and Repair Workshop

This Community of Cultures & Ecole de Soldat—

Preview our new exhibit about the Shawnee and Delaware Indian experience in Eastern Missouri during the *Ecole de Soldat* weekend—re-enactors and experts on the French & Indian War era will be engaging in various activities all over town Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17, 2011

Garden Walk— An annual Ste. Genevieve event—consult our Senior Gardener, Patti Naeger, as your plant doctor; buy heirloom plants and herbs and stroll through the blooming gardens all around town. Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15, 2011

Audubon Celebration—Celebrate the bicentennial of when John Audubon lived and worked here starting with a free children's event (Meet John Audubon & Play Squirrel Games) at our Linden House from 1-3PM on Friday, May 20, 2011. The event continues around town May 20, 21, 22

French Festival—Another annual Ste. Genevieve Event with a parade, music, and assorted French heritage activities, June 11-12, 2011

Camera Camp— for 8-11 year olds, Saturday, July 16, 2011—Preregistration is required

Volunteers



Ste. Genevieve High School teacher, Terry Merz, and her social studies club provided 36 hours of volunteer work

“Volunteering at the Bolduc House Museum is like delving into a good book that you just can't put down. Every week I look with anticipation to my time spent working in the archives, as more and more fascinating facts and details are revealed.” This is what Barbara Fitzgerald said after spending another Wednesday morning upstairs in the archives. Her job is to list the contents of each folder so that she and Curator Sam Sampson (and hopefully a summer intern from South East Missouri State University) will be able to provide researchers with the detailed index of what we have available.

Sometimes groups volunteer together at the museum like the Historic Preservation Association from South East Missouri State University who helped us do some *bousilliage* last summer and then returned to decorate the museum for the Christmas Walk last December. On Saturday, April 2, 2011, the social studies club from Sainte Genevieve High School came as a group. Together they gave us 36 hours repairing the *bousilliage* on the Bolduc House. This mud and straw mixture fills in the gaps between the vertical logs. Next we can repair the lime whitewash to the exterior which has not been done since Dr. Ernest Connally restored the house in the 1950s.

Individuals who are at least 14 years old can volunteer. We ask new volunteers to submit an application, attend an orientation, and plan to work at least eight hours per month doing tasks and activities of their own selection.



We direct each visitor to this painting by Grant Kniffen because it illustrates how men like Louis Bolduc produced salt from the salt spring at the nearby Saline Creek during the late eighteenth century. Kniffen has generously permitted us to retain the painting while we raise the funds to buy it. Do you work for a company which has an employee matching gift program? Ask at work about how you can double the value of your gift in support of this National Historic Landmark .

Are you a member of the 2011 Friends of the Bolduc House Museum?

Call 573-883-3105 for information about joining this group



BOLDUC HOUSE NOUVELLES

A National Historic Landmark

125 South Main Street, Sainte Genevieve, MO 63670

573-883-3105

www.bolducouse.com

Spring Edition 2011

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“Swords Are Very Cold”



Photograph by Bruce Pendleton

The Bolduc House Museum is already a place where visitors can connect to the eighteenth century French colonial experience here on the west side of the Mississippi River. Entering the authentically restored vertical log home of Louis Bolduc and his third wife, Marie Courtois, provides that first impression. When a fifth grader touches the vertical logs on the outside of the Bolduc House, we ask them to understand that these logs have been here since George Washington was the president of the United States at the capitol of Philadelphia. Then we leave them with this riddle: George Washington was never the president of Ste. Genevieve. Entering the *salon*, where the family gathered to eat and entertain, our visitors stand where French colonial children may have learned to dance the minuet—on a Sunday afternoon at a children's ball after mass when the chandelier was raised and the center table moved out of the way. In the bedroom where there are not enough beds for all of the members of the multi-generational family, visitors can see a sword which

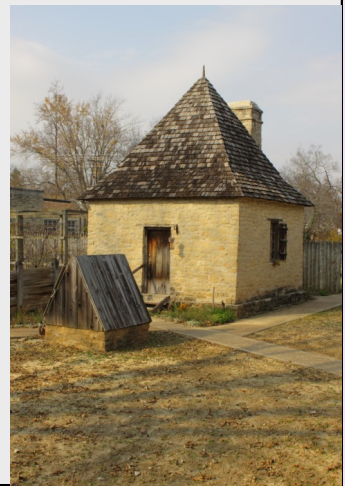
could have been taken by one of the Valle brothers to fight in the only American Revolutionary War battle on the west side of the Mississippi River at St. Louis. A four year old boy visitor who wanted his mother to give him some money to buy the sword got to touch it and concluded that “swords are very cold.” In the central hall, the hub of the Bolduc family enterprises, our visitors can see Louis Bolduc's desk. In the kitchen, built after Louis died in 1815, visitors consider the equipment of a gourmet French kitchen, predicting how many waffles they might choose to make if they had no recourse to a toaster but had to use the surprisingly heavy iron waffle iron.

All of these experiences enhance the imagination. In a matter of weeks, however, our visitors will be assisted to better envision eighteenth century French life here when they meet us dressed in period clothing. Each interpreter has adopted the persona of someone who lived in or visited Ste. Genevieve during 1793. Women will wear petticoats and pockets— Men will wear long chemises, short pants, and a finger-woven sash. All of us will wear moccasins because, as we can document three ways, the French in the Illinois (we used to be known as Spanish Illinois) did not buy shoes.

The adoption of period dress is a step towards transitioning the way we interpret our site to “living history.” Over the course of the next several years we will introduce more and more hands-on visitor activities that would have been routine chores.

This Community of Cultures

These two Eastern Woodland Indian tribes lived in a series of villages in Spanish Illinois from around 1780 until the 1830s. Because they lived here for such a relatively short amount of time, little is known about their experience here. But, had you visited Ste. Genevieve during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries you would have met members of these and other Indian tribes along with the French, Spanish, metis, and Africans who made up this community of cultures. Beginning this spring our visitors will be able to see a preview of an exhibit about the Shawnee and Delaware Indians who lived here then. The exhibit is a collaboration between us, three Shawnee tribes, two Delaware tribes, and the Missouri Humanities Council. The contextual portion of the exhibit will be located in the little stone cottage behind the Bolduc House and in a living history area including a Three Sisters' Garden which will be located in the outdoor space just west of the LeMeilleur gardens.



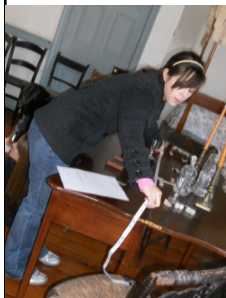
This cottage will be the location of the new exhibit. Working title: “This Community of Cultures—the Shawnee and Delaware Indian Experience in Eastern Missouri.” Photo by Bruce Pendleton

Congratulations Graduates



Taylor and Derrick are learning to finger weave with yarn. When they are proficient they will each make a sash from leather for their 18th century period

Three of our teen guides are graduating from Sainte Genevieve High School this spring. Congratulations are due Taylor Jokerst (upper left), Derrick Grieshaber (upper right), and Danielle Naeger (lower left). "Working here," said Danielle Naeger, has "helped me come out of my shell, become more social, and learn about my community's 200 year history." All three graduates plan to attend Truman State University.



Danielle (lower left) is measuring the table in the LeMeilleur House Period Room.

Word Picturing America Creative Writing Contest

Thanks to the Missouri Humanities Council during the month of January we displayed the *Picturing America Exhibit* which was developed by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Along with the Ste. Genevieve Downtown Renewal Project which funded the cash prizes, we sponsored a creative writing contest for 2-12th graders. The winners were presented their prizes during the Fourth Friday Art Walk.



The winners, their parents, Mary Peura of the Ste. Genevieve Downtown Renewal Project, Lesley Barker and Sam Sampson of the Bolduc House Museum, and Alisha Cole of the Missouri Humanities Council

Is the Longitude Noted?

A visitor asked me whether there was longitude noted on the 1755 map of the new world in our salon. "Let's look," I answered so we did. The longitude was carefully marked along the bottom margin of the map showing New Orleans at 70 degrees. "But it should say 90 degrees," the visitor stated. "That means we have new questions to ask and answer," I said, "like: When did Greenwich become adopted as the prime meridian? Surely the French would not have used a British starting point at that time in history!" The exchange took us to the internet to learn that until the late nineteenth century cartographers used a point in their own country's capital as their prime meridian so the maps by the French cartographer, D'Anville, would have started from a point in Paris. This is just one of the many times that our story has been enhanced because of what a visitor brings to the table.



1755 map of New France and Louisiana by the royal cartographer to the French king, Monsieur d'Anville

In the Garden

What's in a name? Well, I'm quite taken with wording so the heirloom varieties and their names really intrigue me. This year I've been growing 42 different varieties of heirloom tomatoes and four tried and true hybrids. The name, Brandywine, is well known for its unusual potato leaf vine. It is the taste by which every other tomato is judged, so, of course, we grow that—even though the tomato is the most controversial plant in our eighteenth century French gardens because the tomato was considered poisonous by the Europeans at this time. In addition to the Brandywine, we have the smoky flavored Cherokee Purple, the dark delicious Carbon, and the evocative Dad's Sunset, Ruby Gold, and Big Rainbow. We wouldn't leave out the paste tomatoes: Amish Past, Mr. Fumo, Long Tom, Speckled Roma, La Donna's Bib Roma (I named that one after our intern from last summer.) Besides all the tomato varieties, 28 heirloom peppers, and five different eggplant varieties, which are all available for sale now at our shop in the Linden House, I have grown and dug herbs and perennials out of the Bolduc House Museum's gardens for you to buy. They are ready now through the Ste. Genevieve Garden Walk, May 14-15. Plan to bring me any "plant doctor" questions at the Garden Walk—or whenever you visit and I'll try to be of assistance.

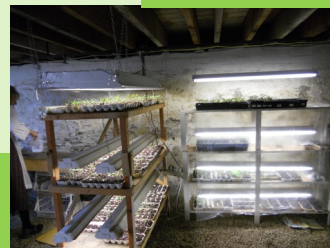
Patti's plant nursery. She has put in hours every day in the past several months getting the seedlings to sprout and grow strong enough to plant in our several gardens or sell to our visitors



Patti in the greenhouse basement of the Linden House



Heirloom tomato plants getting used to being outside



The Louis Bolduc House is one of just 37 National Historic Landmarks in the State of Missouri. Beginning in 2012 we will celebrate April 15th as Landmark Day at the Bolduc House Museum every year.

The Curator's Desk



My work continues on many fronts. Since the last newsletter we have processed many of the

items in the archives. In addition the work to create the proper records for each item in the collection with its own digital and hard copy files will take the rest of the year. Each file will include the item's provenance, maintenance schedule, and details about how to care for it.

As a way to engage our visitors and Friends in this important work of historic preservation, I am providing a series of four recurring practical workshops on the second Saturday of every month except May.

Caring for Antique Wood Furniture will be held April 9th. Participants will help me clean the 18th century armoire which belonged to Louis Bolduc, himself, that is in the salon of the Bolduc House. *Repairing and Preserving Old Documents* will be held June 11th; *Wooden Window Repair* will be held in July; and *Caring for and Repairing Old Family Photographs* will be held for the third time in August.

Each workshop is free to the Friends of the Bolduc House Museum. Other people pay \$35 registration which includes membership in the 2011 Friends program. The workshops always run from 1:00PM until 3:00PM.

Each workshop provides training and information which is important for anyone who lives in a historic community or who owns family heirlooms. Our photographs, furniture, documents, and proper windows tell a story. When any of these items are lost we lose part of the story. I, for one, am committed to making our history survive.



The Way We Worked

The Way We Worked is being made possible in Ste. Genevieve by the Missouri Humanities Council. This exhibit was created by the National Archives. It is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.

Our Museum has been chosen as one of only six Missouri sites to host this exhibit and we are pleased to be partnering with the City of Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center in the endeavor. The exhibit will be on display for 29 days from October 8 through November 5, 2011. We expect to collaborate with businesses, organizations, and individuals from the local region to tell the story of how work brought and keeps people in this part of Missouri. There will be a story kiosk where people can record their work-related stories. The stories will be catalogued and kept in our archives for posterity. Students, members of the work-force, and retired workers from the Ste. Genevieve region will be invited to share and help produce this celebration of work, past, present and future.

We are humbled and grateful to have been entrusted with the leadership of this project. Not only will it be an opportunity for us to learn more about the work of the people who lived in each of our three houses: miners, farmers, businessmen, a midwife, a blacksmith, educators, members of the clergy, slaves, and hospitality workers; this exhibit will provide a rich celebration of work in the greater Ste. Genevieve community for all of us to explore, experience, and honor. In addition, the local exhibit displays and activities will be collected in scrapbook and digital formats to be returned to the Smithsonian Institution. It is a local project with a national reach that should only provide more reasons for visitors to see our unique historic first colonial town in Missouri.

Je Veux Je Peux (I can do anything I want)



Zuts the Squirrel

I have adopted the Bolduc family motto: *Je veux, je peux*, because I CAN do anything I want no matter what Sam

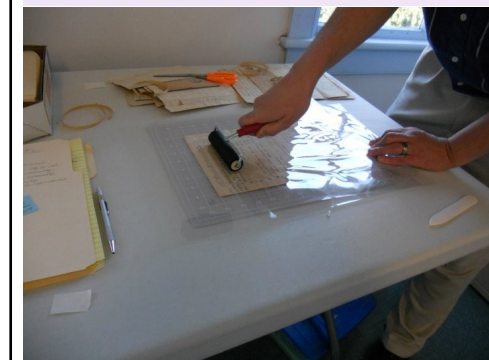
says. Sam likes being mean to me but lots of our visitors truly appreciate and love me.

Now there are youth caps and tee shirts with my picture for sale in the Museum Shop and you can "Like" me on Face Book. Are you 1-11 years old? Are you in my Birthday Club? Email your name, address, and birthday to zutsthesquirrel@gmail.com and I'll send you a birthday card!

Book Review

Old World Murder by Kathleen Ernst, is a cozy murder mystery that takes place at a living history farm. A donor dies and the mystery is solved by the brand new curator to the site. This novel is fun by itself, but if you want insight into what we are doing here at the Bolduc House, read it for pleasure.

Sam has the specialized professional training to address the condition issues of the original French documents we have to repair them, encapsulating them in archivally stable material for preservation, and to make them available to researchers.



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.