



BOLDUC HOUSE NOUVELLES

A National Historic Landmark

125 South Main Street, Sainte Genevieve, MO 63670

573-883-3105

www.bolduchouse.com

Summer Edition 2010

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SEMO Historic Preservation

Intern, LaDonna Garner



LaDonna Garner, a recent graduate (BA) from the Southeast Missouri State University's Historic Preservation program and a board certified genealogist, is the Bolduc House Museum's summer intern. Her assignment includes researching what we can learn about the 18th century African American experience in

and around Sainte Genevieve. She is also responsible to organize our archives. This implies identifying documents and images, assigning the appropriate index file numbers to them, creating scans and copies and making decisions about how best to conserve fragile materials. LaDonna also designed the exhibit, **Vertical Logs & High Heels**, which is in the Linden House Gallery display case. In addition to working on her own projects, LaDonna has been a huge asset to the Museum staff, always willing to take visitors through the historic houses and ever-hospitable to the customers in our Museum Shop. She is contributing a total of 400 hours to the Bolduc House Museum. Beginning in August, LaDonna will be working towards her master of arts degree in historic preservation at Goucher College.

Hands-On History



The Hands-On History Room is beginning to function as a place where children get to "play" with history. This Bolduc dollhouse, created by Wolf Harvey, opens so that several young children at the

same time can play with the cast of multi-cultural dollhouse dolls dressed in French Colonial garb by our volunteer, Hannah Clinton. The room also contains a felt board map of the Mississippi



River System and the animals that live there as well as an interactive timeline. More activities are in the works now. The Hands-On History Room has been funded by our

Business Sponsors: Oberle Meats, Mississippi Lime Company, Lakenan Insurance, Joe and Mary Claire Rozier, and Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Inman. While not officially open yet, children are beginning to explore the activities in the room while their parents enjoy the art hanging above the chair rail in the same space. The Hands-On History Room is located in the LeMeilleur House Gallery. Please plan to visit it soon.

Friends, Fans, & Tweets

Social Networks and the Bolduc House Online

You can "like" our Face Book Page, "follow" us on Twitter, "subscribe" to our blog, and "explore" our photos on Flickr. All of these are social networking websites, free to everyone. They are wonderful ways to engage new audiences world wide. Thanks to members of the Bolduc family, we have become acquainted online with some excellent resources. Pierre and Dany Bolduc have created five videos about Bolduc family history on You Tube. You can find them by logging onto the Bolduc House Museum's Face Book page. The videos show a portrait of Pierre Bolduc, the apothecary to Louis XIV. They also present maps and photographs of places in France where the family originated and even explain how the name Bolduc came to be used. While we were watching these You Tube videos for the first time we noticed a link to "La Bolduc!". This was how we learned about Mary Bolduc, the French Canadian folk-singer from the 1930s who became so famous that there is a Canadian postage stamp bearing her portrait. We purchased a compilation of her recordings on CD. The next time you visit the Museum Shop you can expect to hear her delightfully up-beat singing accompanied by an accordion and fiddles. If you have not already found us online, please search for us there today. Our events are posted on FaceBook which is also where our friends post questions, suggestions, and their photographs. And, if you are interested in knowing what is going on behind the scenes here at the Museum, subscribe to our blog: <http://bolduchousemuseum.blogspot.com>.

Louis Bolduc's Name Day Celebration

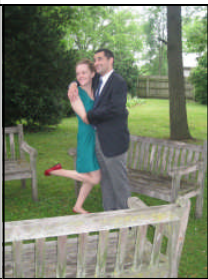
French Colonial Americans were loyal royal subjects of the Bourbon kings and faithful Roman Catholics as well. Each person celebrated the feast day of the saint for which they were named as their *Jour de Fete*, or Name Day Celebration. For Louis Bolduc, and anyone else who was named Louis in honor of Saint Louis IX, the party happened on August 25th, the feast of St. Louis. So.... Beginning this year we will have a party at the Bolduc House in honor of Louis Bolduc on the feast of St. Louis. We hope this will become a must-attend tradition especially for the members of the Bolduc family. This year we plan to have a program of surprises. Louis Bolduc himself (a.k.a. Sam Sampson) will host the evening which will begin at 6PM in the *salon* of the Bolduc House. Since it is traditional to bring a gift to the celebrant, we hope that you will bring your stories, pictures, and anything that you can share to add to what we know about the Bolduc House and family story. We'll make copies, take pictures, record tales, and combine the pieces to create digital stories that everyone can enjoy. We hope to see everyone there—especially if you know, are related to, or are a member of the Bolduc family or if you ever worked or volunteered at the Bolduc House Museum.

Regional Visions: Thomas Hart Benton and the Ste. Genevieve Art Colony

Thomas Hart Benton is known for his lithographs and murals that portray daily life in the 1930's when he, along with a number of other American artists, called Ste. Genevieve home. The town became known as an Art Colony. With the Fourth Friday Art Walks, the town is again hoping to regain its reputation as a place that values, makes, and displays art that matters. The Bolduc House Museum is privileged to announce that our LeMeilleur Gallery will house a collection of Benton's lithographs on loan from the St. Louis Mercantile Library beginning during the Regional Visions Celebration, October 8-10, 2010. Other local galleries will have Benton lithographs on loan from the Missouri Historical Society on display as well. Look for details about the Regional Visions Celebration at <http://benton.typetching.com> and plan now to join us then.

Tribute Gardens

The National Society of the Colonial Dames in America in the State of Missouri has installed a plaque on a giant cedar fleur de lis next to the three flower beds in the LeMeilleur Garden. The flower beds and the plaque are lasting signs of the appreciation of the Society for the Museum's two previous directors, Vergie Stange and her daughter, Lorraine Stange. The gardens are lovingly cared for by Patti Naeger who fondly remembers working for Vergie Stange when she was a teen guide at the Bolduc House.



Where Your History Happens and Forever Memories are Made

Audrey and Dave Deuel recently held their wedding reception at the Bolduc House Museum. *"Everything was better than we could have ever wished. There was plenty of space for all of our 60+ guests (even when the rain started.) The gardens and landscape are beautiful and make a gorgeous back drop for photographs!"*

The Museum also was the venue for a farm dinner fund-raiser by the Mississippi River Hills Association attended by about 30 guests including Congressman Russ Carnahan. The meal was served family style on quilt covered tables in the LeMeilleur Garden.

To plan your next special event at the Bolduc House, call us at 573-883-3105. We are listed on weddingwire.com as well.

We Need Your Help, Please



We are still in need of a few more Business Sponsors to complete the installation of the children's activities in the Hands-On History Room.

Call 573-883-3105 to learn more details about becoming one of our Business Sponsors. In addition, we continue to work towards raising the funds to purchase "Salt Making" by Grant Kniffen because it so beautifully depicts the colonial process of making salt. Louis Bolduc produced salt for sale in Upper Louisiana from the nearby Saline Creek just south of town. The painting is on display in the Hands-On History Room.



From the Curator's Desk

According to the *American Heritage Dictionary*, a curator is, "one who manages or oversees, as the

administrative director of a museum collection or a library." It simplifies this description in two words "legal guardian."

In light of this definition, I would like to outline what steps we have taken to secure the collection of the Bolduc House Museum Properties. Since November 2009, through the generosity of Bruce Pendleton we obtained digital images of each artifact in the collection of the three houses. These photos have been stored in the Pastperfect software developed for museums to manage their collections. Each artifact was assigned a unique number and a photograph of the artifact was attached to the file. The next step in this process is to mark and assess the condition of the artifacts. This is not a quick process but hopefully will be completed within the year.

We purchased and installed temperature and humidity monitoring devices in all three houses and the readings are being recorded on a daily basis. The wide fluctuations in both temperature and humidity are important reasons to find the funds to install better HVAC systems in the Museum so as to conserve the irreplaceable 18th century artifacts and furnishings.

The upstairs of the Linden House with the help of LaDonna Garner, an intern from Southeast Missouri State University, is being turned into an archives and collection processing area. The history of not only the Bolduc House Properties but the NSCDA – Missouri Chapter is being organized for future access.

In all, my commission is to protect the collection for future generations. I am very grateful to have a director who sees the bigger picture and is willing to respect my profession. I encourage you to visit the Bolduc House Museum in person and online and see for yourself what is happening.

Sam Sampson

Sam Sampson and Lesley Barker were privileged to attend the recent IMLS sponsored Connecting to Collections Conference in Davenport, IA, where they learned valuable information about funding collections care.

Coming Events & Attractions

Art Walk featuring: the work of **Joe Lawlor** of Kansas City, MO– July 23rd; the work of **Rodney Dierking**—August 27th; lithographs by **Thomas Hart Benton**—October 8-11th; **Peter Vagt** of Chicago, IL—November and December.

Jour de Fete— August 14-15th An annual downtown Ste. Genevieve event when Main Street will be filled with crafters, re-enactors, foods, and activities for all ages

Louis' Name Day Celebration— Wednesday, August 25th, 6-9PM— Louis Bolduc a.k.a. Sam Sampson will preside over a party in his (Louis') honor. We hope that many Bolduc family relatives will attend along with as many former teen guides and staff members as possible. Come for hors d'oeuvres and drinks from our gardens. Bring your stories, and if you have pictures, letters, diaries or items that add to what we can tell of the Bolduc story, bring them. We'll photograph them, record your stories, scan any documents and create digital stories for everyone to share.

Colonial History for Homeschoolers Day— Saturday, October 9th—see the website for details and a registration form. The day includes a timeless menu of old-world French colonial educational, craft and music activities for the whole family ages 4-84+. Hint: You don't have to be a homeschooler to come!

Check our website at: **www.Bolduchouse.com**. Every week we update it with new activities and announcements.

Teachers, It is time now to schedule your class field trip to the Bolduc House Museum. Check our website's Field Trip page for your options. We will be open all year—note: it gets cold in the winter until we fund a good heating and cooling system.

Book Review

Dr. Jay Gitlin of Yale University recently wrote **The Bourgeois Border**, c. 2010 Yale University Press, in which he explains why the contributions of French Colonial Americans have been so widely ignored and misunderstood. His research concentrates on the Chouteau family of St. Louis but here and there it touches Ste. Genevieve history, even naming Louis Bolduc as an important member of the community. The book, while written in an academic style, is accessible to the general reader. It is even available for download to the Kindle.