

# Pre-North Kankakee (Bradley)

## Chronology 1679-1890

1679

Lasalle comes down the Kankakee River in Dec. with thirty-three voyageurs, three priests and eight canoes. First known Europeans in Bradley area.

### Early 1700s

Potawatomi Indians infiltrate Kankakee River valley from Michigan and Wisconsin.

1721

Father Charlevoix travels down Kankakee.

1784

1 Oct: Thomas R. Durham born in Virginia.

1811

17 Oct: Durham marries Margaret Wyly in Blount County, Tenn.

7 Dec: Durham disowned by Quakers for marrying contrary to discipline.

1818

3 Dec: Illinois becomes a state.

1827

Durham arrives in Vermilion County, Ill.

1829

Francois Bourbonnais and family arrive in Bourbonnais Grove from Peoria.

1832

May through August: Black Hawk War. Some settlers from Joliet and Hickory Creek, fleeing



Indian raids, pass through Bradley area on the Danville to Chicago Road.

May: Noel LeVasseur is credited with establishing a trading post in Bourbonnais Grove.

20 Oct: Potawatomi of the Prairie and the Kankakee cede their Illinois land to the U. S. government. Jacques Vieau (Jonveau) and others of Indian descent are given reserve land along the Kankakee River.

1833

26 Feb: Iroquois County established by state legislature. Nearly all of present Kankakee County included. Gurdon S. Hubbard initiates creation of county while serving in the 8th General Assembly.

26 Sep: Treaty of Chicago. United Band of Potawatomi, Chippewa and Ottawa give up land in Illinois. Final debts settled.

14 Oct: Catfish Bourbonnais sells east half of her reserve to Samuel Russell.

3 Nov: Hubbard moves from Danville to Chicago where he becomes one of Chicago's leading businessmen.

1834

Jun: Daniel H. Beckwith surveys Indian reserves along Kankakee River.

Durham passes through Bourbonnais Grove on his way to Chicago to build brick warehouse for Gurdon S. Hubbard. He camps on Jonveau reserve and admires land so much he offers to buy it from Hubbard, who for some reason seems to have

control of the property.

15 Jul: LeVasseur buys one section of Mesheketeno's reserve.

28 Oct: LeVasseur and Hubbard buy the other section owned by Mesheketeno.

1835

11 May: Durham buys part of Jonveau reserve from Hubbard. Moves his family there.

1836

12 Jan: Will County formed out of part of Cook and Iroquois counties. All of what is now Kankakee County, north of the river, is in Will County.

Durham nominated and later elected Commissioner of Rock Village precinct. Will County.

During the spring of this year some Potawatomi bands go west.

6 May: Post office with William Rakestraw as postmaster is established in Iroquois County, near Aroma Park, south of the river.

29 July: Post office moved north of the river to "Kankakee" precinct of Will County. Hiram Todd made postmaster.

1837

Public school system established in Bourbonnais Grove. Log schoolhouse built.

10 May: Financial panic begins. Seven years of depression ahead.

Jun: First known Catholic Mass said in Bourbonnais Grove by missionary priest, from Vincennes, Father Lalumier. Andre Bray, young son of Dominic Bray is baptized.

22 Jun: William Baker replaces Todd as postmaster.

1 Jul: John Blackstone buys south half of Jonveau reserve from Hubbard.

4 Jul: LeVasseur's Indian wife, Watchekeke goes west with Potawatomi.

1 Nov: Samuel J. Russell appointed postmaster.

1838

29 Jan: Durham buys an additional 160 acres of the Jonveau reserve.

15 Mar: While Russell is postmaster name of post office is changed from Kankakee to Bullbonus Grove.

During summer, Cholera, malaria and typhoid fever are all epidemic in Chicago.

21 Nov: Blackstone sells south half of Jonveau reserve to Thomas R. Vanmeter.

1840

3 Jul: Durham and Blackstone pay Jacques Vieau \$800 for a quit claim deed to Jonveau reserve.

Blackstone goes to Washington D. C. to clear titles to Indian reserves ceded by the 20 Oct. 1832 treaty of Camp Tippecanoe.

21 Sept: Mason H. Gilbert becomes postmaster at Bullbonus Grove.

20 Oct: First known marriage in Bourbonnais Grove. John Flageole and Mary Marcotte by Father St. Palais.

1841

18 Feb: Act of Congress clears Indian reserve titles to land on the Kankakee.

David Perry and Phillip Worcester raise a mill and dam on the Kankakee, a half-mile upstream from the Durham farm, on Vanmeter property. Perry is married to Thomas Durham's daughter, Martha.

Sept: St. Leo's Chapel, a log church, built by Father Pontavis on ground provided by Noel LeVasseur.

1842

3 Feb: Patent to Jonveau reserve awarded to Durham and Blackstone.

24 Jun: Othniel Gilbert becomes postmaster of Bullbonus Grove.

15 Aug: The first funeral service in Bourbonnais Grove is that of Pierre Lami, conducted by Father Dunn of Chicago.

1844

23 Mar: William E. Russell becomes postmaster of Bullbonus Grove.

20 Jul: Thomas R. Vanmeter sells south half of Jonveau reserve to Daniel T. and Joseph H. Vanmeter.

1845

19 Sep: Charles LaFontain becomes postmaster of Bullbonus Grove.

Dec: R. I. Boylan surveys Jonveau reserve for Durham, Vanmeter and others. He subdivides it into 8 lots.

1846

15 Jun: Samuel J. Russell becomes postmaster of Bullbonus Grove, again.

9 Jul: St. Leo property transferred from Diocese of Vincennes to Diocese of Chicago.

1847

28 Apr: Mawteno sells her section of land at Soldier's village and Catish sells her remaining half-section to Isaac Elston of Crawfordsville, Indiana. The city of Kankakee was later platted on this land.

29 Apr: Father Renee Courjault, a native of France, becomes first resident pastor of Leo.

Sep: Father Courjault takes first census of parish: 77 families, 471 souls.

1848

9 Mar: Act of Congress saying reserves made by 20 Oct. 1832 treaty of Camp Tippecanoe were "an estate in fee simple."

15 Apr: Catish sells her 4/5 section of Washington's reserve to Augustus M. Wiley.

2 Oct: Antoine sells his 1/5 section of Washington's reserve to Wiley.

27 Oct: Harvey S. Higgins becomes postmaster of Bullbonus Grove.

1849

Parish at Bourbonnais Grove numbers 1,300 souls.

15 Feb: Cornerstone for new church laid at Bourbonnais Grove by Father Courjault and dedicated to the Divine Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

11 Jul: Blackstone releases the south half of the Jonveau reserve to Thomas Vanmeter.

2 Oct: Thomas Durham appointed postmaster of Bullbonus Grove and remains so until Kankakee County is established in 1853.

1850

20 Jan: Baptism of Alfred Delounay first ceremony held in new church.

1852

20 Oct: Joseph Vanmeter (Iowa County, Wisconsin) gives Daniel Vanmeter quit claim deed to south half of Jonveau reserve.

4 Nov: Father Charles Chiniquy takes charge of Maternity Church.

1853

Chicago Branch of the Illinois Central Railroad built through the county.

11 Feb: Kankakee County established. Bourbonnais township organized.

Jun: The city of Kankakee, originally named Bourbonnais, is platted.

21 Jun: Post office renamed Bourbonnais and "located in Kankakee."

Aug: The first newspaper, the *Kankakee Gazette*, established by A. Chester.

Sept: Fire destroys Maternity Church, Chiniquy blamed, he flees to St. Anne.

1854

13 Mar: Thomas Durham dies and is buried in his orchard.

1860

1 Oct: Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, recently arrived, open classes for 50 children in Bourbonnais Grove.

1861

15 May: "Under the call for troops a company went from Kankakee into the Twentieth Illinois Regiment of which James W. Burgess was Captain, John Tunnison, First Lieutenant, Cepahs Williams, Second Lieutenant.

"This was a fighting regiment, and an enviable reputation for valor. From its long list of battles fought may be mentioned Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Brittons Lane, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta and the famous Sherman march to the sea. It was badly decimated, and many times almost reduced to a single company of men in numbers."

30 Sep: Company K of the Fourth Illinois Cavalry mustered, Capt. Phillip Worcester, Captain.

12 Nov: "Sanitary Committee" organized in Kankakee County to "provide materials for the relief and comfort of our sick and wounded soldiers now in the battlefield in defense of our Government." Mrs. Harris K. Durham is appointed one of the directors.

1865

10 Sep: At the request of Father Cote, the Viateurian Order of Canada send Father Pierre

Beaudoin and Brothers Jean Baptist Bernard and Augustin Martel to establish a boys school in Bourbonnais Grove. Maternity Church becomes the first Viateurian pastorate in Illinois. This is the beginning of St. Viateur College.

18 Sep: Daniel Durham and his wife Margaret give quit claim deed for Durham farm to David Perry and his wife Martha Durham, in all 320 acres.

1875

13 Apr: Bourbonnais votes to incorporate.

1881

7 Jun: Hiram Goodwin receives deed to Daniel Vanmeter's north half of south half of Jonveau reserve, and north half of south half of Section 29, east of highway leading to Bourbonnais (140 acres), also the northeast quarter of Section 29 (160 acres), excepting right of way of I. C. railroad "(and other lands)."

1882

20 Feb: Margaret, wife of Thomas Durham dies.

1887

19 May: David Perry dies. Leaves farm, 355 acres more or less, to his wife and only son, Alvah.

14 Nov: Martha Perry dies. Alvah Perry inherits farm. Alvah, in a sworn statement, 19 May 1891, testifies that David Perry and his devisees were in the actual possession of Durham farm from first day of March, 1866, to the present time, and they paid taxes yearly on said land during said time. Thomas Durham and his devisees were in possession of said land from the year 1838 to March 1, 1866, and that Thomas, wife, Margaret died 20 Feb. 1882.