

Bishop Hill Heritage Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



First performance in the 1855 Dairy Building
(*Ellinor and Leonor*, June 26, 2014)

Bishop Hill, IL
February 7, 2015

Mission

Resolution adopted at regular meeting of the Board of Directors, February 10, 1970:

1. Retain Bishop Hill as a living community and do everything within its resources to enhance its development as an historic site and a desirable place to live by maintaining a natural environment.
2. Encourage all efforts to restore historic properties and maintain our cultural heritage.
3. Develop within our young people a sense of pride in their community for its past, present, and future.
4. Develop and maintain an archive and research library of material related to the area and make this available for study.
5. Maintain and encourage an active interchange of ideas with organizations of common interests and goals.

Bishop Hill Heritage Association
Steeple Building, Bishop Hill IL

Hours: April-December	Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5
January-March	Mon-Fri 10-4, Sat-Sun 12-4

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President's Letter

Letter from the BHHA President

Dear Bishop Hill Heritage Association and Friends,

2014 was a year of celebrations and successes. This was my first year as president and our dedicated group of board members and intrepid band of volunteers helped me settle in and were indispensable in putting together the kind of event-filled year that makes Bishop Hill such a success. Even the weather was cooperative in bringing out throngs of visitors to support the events we all work so hard on and to enjoy our newly restored buildings.

The focus this year has been the on-going work on our wonderful Dairy Building. Phase I has brought it from a scuffed-up elegant storage house filled with dirty mid-1800's farm gear, dusty cast iron stoves and stacks of old lumber to a gracious facility with excellent acoustics that work perfectly for lectures, classes, demonstrations, parties and musical events. The large room seats 50 to 70 in an intimate setting and the adjoining coffee room encourages lingering conversations with old friends and new. There is also an easy access public restroom, always a welcome addition in Bishop Hill.

This new venue has been host to some remarkable Swedish music in 2014. Instrumentalists Ellinor and Leonor debuted with haunting tunes on violin and viola. Ljom, an eclectic quintet, performed 16th century "cow calls", songs that were specific to a small region in Sweden. The "dairy" connection added a nice symmetry to a cozy evening. One lovely afternoon, we had so many come to hear our speaker on the Orphan Trains that we had everyone carry their chairs outdoors under the shady branches of the large walnut tree. There, 150 of us or so listened to the wondrous tales of how Henry County was forever changed by the orphans who came to stay. Phase II is nearly done, giving us a large upstairs room with only the kind of light a pre-Civil War building is blessed with. Stay tuned to Phase III, which will result in a finished 2 bedroom apartment at the south end of the building. The Dairy Building will be used and enjoyed into the next century due to the unflinching nature of our volunteers who have scraped, cleaned, painted, polyurethaned and performed many work-hours alongside Don Collinson, who has skillfully put our vision into concrete results. We are so proud of this project and grateful for all who have donated to ensure its success.

In September we celebrated the completion of the Steeple Building and Colony Store restorations with a grand dedication ceremony. These buildings deserved a big party and we pulled out all the stops with speakers ranging from the artisans who did the hands-on work to local politicians, Darin LaHood and Don Moffitt, all proven friends of Bishop Hill. The crowd of well-wishers feasted on a sumptuous Swedish sandwich smorgasbord whipped up by our crew of volunteers. A unique photo cake added to the fun as folks nibbled and lingered to visit, tour and shop late hours at the Colony Store's celebration sale.


Our hardworking committees continue in the important work that supports the BHHA projects.

Vicki Massie keeps our finances in order, always looking for ways to streamline and pinch another penny or two. Bob VerHeecke and Don Loveall head up the Building committee and continue work on our active wish-lists for our old buildings. Currently they are overseeing a porch-step upgrade and safety railing installation at the Steeple Building. Vicki Rabas heads the Gift Shop committee and teams with the Colony Store staff, as needed. Lou Lourdeau leads the Dairy Building committee and has shouldered the mighty tasks that have brought about the transformation of that facility in record time. I chair the Fundraising committee. We work hard to come up with appealing ways to raise money with everything from bags of hand-made marbles, distinctive calendars and mini-dairy buckets full of candy to home-grown heirloom produce and lovely door swags made from our own sorghum and broomcorn acres planted by the Blackhawk East Campus Agriculture Dept. Our broom maker, Frank Davison, donates the poles and his expertise to put the finishing touches on our unusual Swedish Bird feeders that have become so popular. Local carpenter, Harvey Johnson, made and donated a spectacular walnut bible table with tiger maple drawers similar to one in our permanent collection. We sold a boat-load of raffle tickets and thank him for his generosity.

Warren Schulz and Eldon Menken mowed acres of Heritage property, saving us hundreds of dollars. Jane Tornquist treats the Thursday morning volunteer group with her tasty cookies and baked goods each week. The ever popular Pippi Longstocking grade-school program is also in her capable hands. School groups get to learn about Swedish author Astrid Lindgren, hear a Pippi story, make a Pippi character, and play Colony era games of skill and stamina. Our cadre of helpers wear Pippi costumes so as not to overwhelm the kids with so many happy grandmas eager to work with them. Past president and volunteer, Cheryl Dowell, continues to work her way through the treasure trove of Jacobson family artifacts and ephemera that have been so generously donated. Her skill in assessing and archiving this large collection is invaluable and just one more example of the many ways our volunteers work behind the scenes to do things the right way so that future generations are assured a positive Bishop Hill experience. We are fortunate to be entrusted with valuable items that are donated.

In closing, I thank the board members and volunteers for their patience and support while I learn the ropes. Our administrator, Todd DeDecker, is key to the successes we had in 2014. His grant writing skill and persistence keep our projects funded. His enthusiasm for our unique village is why we have new events that bring more visitors to our doorstep. His ability to organize and motivate us all and his clear-thinking and foresight carries us into 2015 and makes it hard to top the past year. I also thank Colony Store manager, Marie Watson, and the clerks who make shopping there such a pleasure. They make it a one-of-a-kind place.

We all worked hard together to make the year a good one and I look forward to the successes of 2015. If you are overdue for a visit, come see us!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Deni Menken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Deni Menken
President, Bishop Hill Heritage Association

Administrator's Report

PROGRAMMING

This past, the BHHA greatly increased the amount of educational, folk art, and musical programming that was offered in Bishop Hill. Part of this growth was due to increased funding received from a variety of organizations. In addition, the June completion of the Conference Area ("Grand Room") in the Dairy Building provided an additional venue for a variety of activities. Listed below are the 2014 events, with the date and location, when applicable. Events that are in italics were ones solely or primarily sponsored by the Heritage:

- *Toy Tractor Weekend*; March 29 and 30; Steeple
- *Spring Jubilee (baseball speaker, exhibit, and movie)*; April 5; Steeple
- *Astrid Lindgren Festival*; April 10,11,24,25; Steeple
- *Quilt Challenge and Show*; May 16-18
- *Honor Flight Benefit*; June 8
- *Midsommar Music Festival*; June 21
- *Ellinor and Leonor Concert*; June 26; Dairy
- *Robert Bowlin and Wil Maring Concert*; June 28
- *Duck Decoy Demonstration*; July 12; Dairy
- *Psalmody Demonstration*; August 2; Dairy
- *Orphan Train Lecture*; August 9; Dairy
- *"Pie in the Park" Ice Cream Social and Clay/Fiber Fest*; August 16 and 17
- *Pysanka Workshop*; August 23; Dairy
- *Rededication Ceremony for the Steeple Building and Colony Store*; Sept. 5; Steeple
- *Bishop Hill Chautauqua*; September 6; Village Park
- *Swedish Hot Dog Stand and Jordbruksdagarna*; September 27 and 28
- *Ljom Concert and Dairy Maid Skit*; October 5; Dairy
- *Dala Horse Painting Workshop*; October 11; Dairy
- *Lydia and Andrea Concert*; October 19; Dairy
- *Collectors Weekend*; October 25-26; Steeple
- *Pipsel Workshop*; November 1; Dairy
- *Julmarknad and Make It/Take It Christmas Ornaments Workshop*; November 28-30; Steeple
- *Julmarknad and Make It/Take It Christmas Ornaments Workshop*; December 6 and 7; Steeple
- *Lucia Nights*; December 12 and 13; Steeple
- *Customer Appreciation Weekend*; December 20 and 21; Colony Store

The BHHA was involved with 24 Bishop Hill events during the past year. Programs of the Bishop Hill Heritage Association are sponsored, in part, by a grant from the **Illinois Arts Council**, a state agency, and the **Illinois Humanities Council**.



We also worked closely with the Bishop Hill Arts Council, splitting programming and advertising costs for the various festivals. BHHA paid for demonstrators and tour guides for the various tours. We worked diligently with the Bishop Hill State Historic Site and Bishop Hill Arts Council on events scheduling.

BUILDINGS



Steeple Building

Minor renovations continue on the 1854 Steeple Building. This summer, the clock faces were stained and repainted, and a handicapped ramp was built on the south side of the building as well. An updated fire and burglar alarm system was also added. This autumn, gaps in the cast iron balcony railing on the south side of the building were repaired or replaced. Starting in December, additional steps and a hand rail will be added to the west entry.

Colony Store



The Colony Store, managed by Marie Watson, continues to be the gift shop for the BHHA. Swedish foods and locally made items are sold in this 1853 Colony Building.



Krans Livery Stable and Shed

The 1908 Albert Krans Livery Stable continues as a stand-alone museum.

In addition, Black Hawk East Campus agricultural students, led by Professor Andrew Larson, once again created a large garden next to the Livery Stable at no cost to the Heritage. Broomcorn, sorghum, sweet corn, watermelon, tomatoes, and various other crops were grown. The produce from this garden was sold at the Colony Store and used for other fundraising events. We greatly appreciate the hard work of Professor Larson and his students.



Blacksmith Building (Prairie Arts Center)

Currently, this 1857 structure is being leased and used by various artisans. Pottery, rugs, and brooms are some of the items being sold by the craftspeople on the first floor. Vagnhall Galleri, on the second floor, is used for musical performances, art/craft exhibitions, and other programs. Jeff Goard is the resident potter and manager of the Galleri.





Dairy Building

The major construction project for the BHHA this year is the 1855 Dairy Building. The entire interior of the building is in the process of being repaired and restored. In June, the Conference Area (first floor northern half of the building) was opened for public use. Meetings, concerts, workshops, demonstrations, and more have taken place in this section of the Dairy Building. The intended completion date for this project is no later than January 2015. This project is partially funded by a grant from the **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois Office of Tourism, and Landmarks Illinois.**



Cobbler Shop (Mary's Simple Treasures)



This 1905 building is being leased as a gift shop.

MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Collections

BHHA has a repository of artifacts on the third floor of the Steeple Building (not open to the public). People from all over the United States donate items from Bishop Hill's past. Immigrant trunks, Colony letters, paintings, books, photographs of Colonists, and much more were donated to the Heritage during the past year. We greatly appreciate all of these donations.

Archives

The scanning of historic documents and artifacts is ongoing. The second floor archives (open by appointment only) house an extensive collection of Colony documents, letters by and interviews with former colonists, obituaries, secondary sources, family genealogical information, news accounts, maps, scholarly reports and articles, unpublished manuscripts, post-Colony pamphlets, and photographs. The third floor houses a collection of books relating to Swedish and Swedish-American culture (not open to the public).

Genealogy and Bishop Hill Colony Research

In 2014, over 45 visitors searched for information about their families or about the Bishop Hill Colony, using the BHHA Archives, which was managed by Cheryl Dowell. Requests have come from Sweden and researchers here in the United States as well.

EDUCATION

Exhibits

Six temporary exhibits were produced this year for the Steeple Building. In March, the BHHA hosted *Toy Tractor Weekend*, in which displays of all makes and models of toy farm implements and tractors were created by local collectors.



In April, for Spring Jubilee Weekend, there was an *All-American Girls Professional Baseball/Kewanee Ballhawks* exhibit and a lecture by author Barbara Gregorich about the first women to have played baseball.

The May *Quilt Show Exhibit* was as popular as ever. This year's theme was "Jars, Jewels and Jelly Rolls." Challenge Quilts were once again shown in the temporary exhibit room while BHHA volunteers created a display, based on the theme, in the projection room.

This year's summer exhibit was a traveling one from Company of Folk in Chicago, IL. Called "*From Generation to Generation: Folk Arts of Illinois*," this multi-panel display integrates the arts and stories of Illinois to create a visually engaging and educational perspective on the state's cultural heritage. Telling the stories of Illinois folk artists, the featured art forms represent a wide variety of traditions such as duck decoy carving, Irish fiddle, Mexican murals, broom making, and African American Quilts. *From Generation to Generation: Folk Arts of Illinois* was created with partial support by a grant from the **Illinois Arts Council**, a state agency, and the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

One of our new exhibit events for this year was *Collectors Weekend*, in which local collectors brought in their treasures for public viewing. Some of the objects on display were Hull pottery, cap guns, 1933 Chicago World Fair items, and VASA ship memorabilia. This October weekend-only exhibit was a hit with guests and will be returning next year.

“Swedish Christmas Traditions” was again the theme for the winter holiday exhibit in the Steeple Building. This exhibit briefly described some of the Swedish customs and legends associated with the holiday season. It also included a working model railroad that was popular with children and adults alike. A new addition to our exhibit was woodcarving demonstrations on Julmarknad and Lucia Nights weekends.



Visitors also enjoy the permanent exhibits on the first and second floors, complete with Colony furniture, copperware, quilts, tools, and much more. On the second floor, three new small displays were created for 2014: Antique Copperware; Steeple Building Clock History; and Quilts, Rugs, and Weaving.

Visitorship

Visitor count is based on the Livery Stable guest book; head count for Dairy Building programs, rentals, meetings, etc.; and the counter system at the Steeple Building. These figures also reflect the minimum number that visited each building.

- Steeple Building Museum: 9,061
- Krans Livery Stable Museum: 293
- Dairy Building: 542

Tours

In 2014, BHHA hosted 9 adult tour groups for a total of 181 visitors:

- Good News Travel- April 30
- Galena Questors- June 19
- America Classic Tours-June 20
- Carol Stream Park District-July 31
- Bickford House, Peoria- August 1
- Swedish American Historical Society- September 20
- St. Charles Park District-October 3
- Carriage Oaks of St. Charles-October 3
- Communal Studies Association-October 8

Astrid Lindgren Festival for students

In 2014, 127 local area students took part in the BHHA *Astrid Lindgren Festival*, involving stories, crafts, and games. The program has seen a steady increase since its inception in 2005 and has educated a total of 2,203 students about aspects of Swedish culture and exposed them to the Swedish heritage in



Bishop Hill. The following schools have taken part since its inception:

- Bradford Elementary – Bradford, IL
- AlWood Elementary – Alpha, IL
- Bureau Valley South – Buda, IL
- Cambridge Elementary – Cambridge IL
- Gale School – Galesburg, IL
- Galva Elementary School – Galva, IL
- Neponset Elementary – Neponset, IL
- Sherrard Elementary- Sherrard, IL
- Visitation Catholic Elementary, IL

School Groups

Aside from the school groups participating in the *Astrid Lindgren Festival*, BHHA hosted 8 scheduled schools tours in 2014, totaling 374 guests. The previously mentioned figure does not include the many students who were brought to Bishop Hill by their schools on impromptu field trips.

School Tours 2014 (8 schools)

- Winola Elementary-May 8
- Williamsfield Elementary -May 9
- Visitation Catholic School-May 14
- C.R. Hanna Elementary -May 22
- Princeville Grade School- May 29
- Broadway Presbyterian Church-July 18
- Countryside Private School-October 2
- Rock Island German Foreign Exchange program-October 30

V.I.P. Events

The BHHA organized and hosted two events for special guests in September. On September 5, the BHHA rededicated the Steeple Building and the Colony Store. State Representative Don Moffitt and State Senator Darin LaHood participated in the rededication ceremony. The ceremony and the open house were attended by over sixty Bishop Hill Heritage Association supporters.



On September 16, the Heritage hosted the quarterly Illinois Workforce Investment Board meeting in VagnHall Galleri. The IWIB facilitates workforce development services and programs in Illinois. This sixty member board is made up of leaders from state, business, industry, labor, education, and community-based organizations.



Crafts Program

In 2014, BHHA provided demonstrations starting in the Spring and continuing into the Fall. The Heritage sponsored demonstrations of the following crafts:

Spinning, Weaving, Triangular loom weaving, Pottery making, Woodcarving, Broom making, Coopering, Rope-making, and Leatherworking.

Also, in November and December, the BHHA organized two Christmas tree ornament workshops. Over 40 children made and took home several different types of Christmas tree ornaments.



**NUMBER OF CRAFT
DEMONSTRATION DAYS IN 2014:
at least 15**

Presentations

Various BHHA personnel have given educational programs to community groups. Administrator Todd DeDecker gave presentations to the following Illinois groups: Geneseo Public Library, Galesburg Public Library, Cambridge Jr. High 7th grade, Central Jr. High (Kewanee) 7th grade, Oneida Women's Club, and the Knox County Genealogical Society. The BHHA hired Brian "Fox" Ellis to do a historical performance at Galva, Cambridge, and Williamsfield schools as part of our Chautauqua outreach program. In honor of the Dairy Building Project, BHHA Board members and volunteers created a program about the Bishop Hill Colony Dairy Maids. They performed this Dairy Maid skit at several locations in western Illinois.



OPERATIONS

MEMBERSHIP

This past year, the BHHA received over \$13,000 in dues and renewals. BHHA currently has **452 members** registered, of which 36 are institutions such as museums, colleges, and local organizations. There were 40 new first-time members to the Association in 2014. Members come from 32 different states, including all corners of the country—Texas, California, Florida and Maryland, as well as a few members from Canada and Sweden. 68% of our members come from Illinois.

COMMUNICATIONS

BHHA published the *Newsbulletin* twice this year. Press releases, radio and TV interviews, advertisements, announcements and articles have generated publicity for BHHA in the following outlets this past year:

Internet

For our BHHA website (www.bishophillheritage.org) over 6,800 people visited our website from 10 different nations in 2014. The online store also made over \$1,800 in total sales during the past year. Also, the Colony Store displayed advertisements and announced events on its Facebook page.



BHHA and Bishop Hill events were publicized on the following websites: bishophill.com, starcourier.com, galvanews.com, wgil.com, regionaldailynews.com, visithenrycounty.com, peoria.org, visitquadcities.com, qconline.com, bishophillheritage.org, and galvail.gov. Emails announcing special events were sent to BHHA members and past guests.

Radio

WKEL, WJRE, WYEC, and WGIL

Television

KWQC-TV Channel 6 (Davenport, IA), WQAD-TV Channel 8 (Moline, IL)

Newspapers

Henry County Advertiser

Geneseo Republic

Cambridge Chronicle

Galva News

Galesburg Register-Mail

Orion Gazette

Kewanee Star-Courier

Peoria Journal-Star

Rock Island Argus

Daily Dispatch

Quad City Times

As well as many other Midwestern newspapers and several in Sweden.

In addition, Cheryl Dowell has a regular column in the *Bishop Hill Sällskapet's* (Society) *Bulletin* in Sweden.

VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers keep the BHHA running – working on the interior of the Dairy Building, helping with programs/workshops, etc., working at the front desk, creating displays, painting, cleaning, performing maintenance duties, fundraising activities, harvesting garden produce/historic crops, working on membership, and so much more.

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS = at least **2,481** (includes working the Jordbruksdagarna Food Stand, Pie in the Park, Astrid Lindgren Festival, and a host of other functions.)

Colony Store Manager's Report

WOW - What a year! 2014 was record-breaking in more ways than one for the Bishop Hill Colony Store. Our sales and attendance figures were higher in 2014 than any previous year since 2003! The mild weather (especially well into December) and increased advertising, coupled with new and interesting events around town, allowed for increased traffic throughout this past year.

Even though the 2013-14 winter was harsh, we still managed to stay open most of it (only taking 5 “snow days”). Despite the bitter cold and unyielding snow, people actually came out and shopped in January and February, which kicked off our increased traffic for the year. As soon as the weather “broke” in late March, people started flocking to the store in record numbers. Nothing like a hard winter to boost spring sales!

Several new events and celebrations around town only added to the Colony Store's success this year. 2014 boasted several “new to us” events, such as several Swedish musical events and various craft workshops, as well as our first Harvest Moon Evening and our 2nd annual Chautauqua. These new and varied events allow different kinds of people to enjoy Bishop Hill, many of them for the first time. And if they come to town, they usually come to the Colony Store. To prove this, each event weekend showed an increase in store sales over the same weekend in 2013.

In keeping with the upward trend for the year, our 2014 Jordbruksdagarna celebration was an unparalleled success. The lovely weather coupled with increased event promotion made Bishop Hill come alive that weekend. The Colony store sales and attendance during Ag Days have NEVER been higher as they were this past year. Several customers that weekend asked in astonishment, “Are you *always* this busy???” We could only hope!

Also, in direct contrast to last year, the lack of “winter” weather throughout the holiday season boosted sales to record numbers. Almost 1,000 customers flocked to the Colony Store during our two Julmarknad weekends to partake in the magic of the upcoming holiday season (and also for the free refreshments that we served each day). Lucia Nights also boasted an amazing turnout, with well over 700 customers at the Colony Store between the two nights. Of course, the delectable Swedish treats served both nights at the back of the store did not hurt sales. To top off the Christmas season, our Customer Appreciation Weekend during December had the highest attendance of any such weekend since attendance records have been kept!

Fresh items were added to the Colony Store this year to tie-in with the restoration of the Dairy Building. Early in the year, we began carrying Milkhouse Creamery Soy Candles in a glass milk bottle (available in several different scents), as well as various cheeses from Milton Creamery in Iowa, which produces several types of award-winning, delicious artisan milk products. Rounding out our promotion of the Dairy Building was the first of our “Colony Store Exclusives,” made for the store by Bishop Hill artist Lou Hansen of the Hantverk Galleri. This set of specialty pottery pieces depicted a Dairy Maid shouldering her buckets and could be purchased as an ornament, a mug or a lidded canister. Other new additions to the Colony Store include a second line of soy candles and scent products from a local company called “Hearts of a Mother”, crocheted linen items by Ulla Voss, as well as embroidered tea towels from Bishop Hill’s very own Dorothy Ann Clark, among others.



Advertising in its various forms was a key element of promoting the Colony Store this year. We participated in a Winter Auction (and subsequent Spring Auction) through the local radio station, where callers dialed in and purchased our gift certificates for a discounted price. That brought several people who had NEVER been to Bishop Hill to the store to redeem their certificates. Also, our Facebook page has acquired a steady following (almost 500 likes!), allowing us to keep our customers informed of various Bishop Hill activities and festivals. Through it, we can also advertise new items and in-store specials, as well as allowing for customer feedback and questions. Lastly, the 2014 Christmas season saw a steady increase in online sales through our website at www.bishophillheritage.org, which gave us the opportunity to send our unique products around the country. Two years into this online venture, we are now seeing many repeat customers. Food remains the most popular category for online sales, followed by books and Bishop Hill souvenirs.

Looking forward to what 2015 has “in store” for us at the Colony Store!

PEOPLE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The BHHA Board meets bi-monthly to do planning and oversee the work of the staff.

President Deni Menken, Bishop Hill, IL

Retired from Country Financial after 27 years as a Sr. Lease Rep. Moved to Bishop Hill 3 years ago from Bloomington, IL. Member of the BHHA, VASA, and the First United Methodist Church of Bishop Hill. Regular volunteer in town activities. Deni and her husband Eldon have 6 grown children and 10 grandchildren.

Vice President Vicki Rabas, Bishop Hill, IL

Vicki is a Colony descendant and pretty much a life-long resident of the village. She and her husband Mike have lived in Bishop Hill for over twenty two years and raised their two children here. Her family has contributed countless hours to volunteer activities in Bishop Hill. Vicki also currently serves as Finance Chairperson for the Bishop Hill Community United Methodist Church and is a member of the Old Settler's Association. A registered nurse by profession, she works on a part-time basis in the Surgery Department at Kewanee Hospital.

Vicki enjoys traveling, and especially her trips to Sweden. Gardening and antiquing are some of the activities that she enjoys in her spare time.

Treasurer Vicki Massie, Dahinda, IL

A legal assistant, Vicki also serves as Secretary of the Williamsfield School Board, Treasurer of Xi Kappa Gamma sorority (Beta Sigma Phi), and was past President of the Galva Rotary Club. Of Swedish descent, Vicki lived in Bishop Hill from 1968 through 1978 when she married and moved 20 miles south. A graduate of Knox College, she works in Galva and spends a lot of time in Bishop Hill. She also enjoys spending time with her five children and eight grandchildren and traveling.

Bill Owens, Secretary, Galva, IL

Bill is retired after 36 years in education. He taught for 8 years before taking a college administrative position at a small private college. After that he was an elementary principal and high school principal and then became superintendent of schools. He served as a superintendent for 19 years, eleven of which were at Galva CUSD #224, which includes Bishop Hill, and the remaining 8 were in Ottawa and Wethersfield (located in Kewanee) Districts. He enjoys traveling, reading, sports, and spending time with his wife, Linda, their two children and three grandchildren.

Jim Asplund, Oneida, IL

Born and raised on a farm near Oneida, IL. Graduated from ROWVA High School and Monmouth College. Following college served with the U.S. Army in Japan.

After discharge worked for Western Electric in Chicago area as recruiter for a short period and then came to Butler Mfg. Co. in Galesburg, IL.

Worked in human resource area for Butler for 35 years before retiring. Among my responsibilities with Butler were: Plant Personnel Manager, Corporate Labor Relations Manager, and as a member of the Corporate Committee seeking new plant sites. Negotiated labor

agreements, arbitrated grievances and dealt with organizational attempts/strikes at 14 U.S. locations and 2 in Canada which required me to be away from home for extended periods of time.

Met my wife Wanda at Butler. We have 3 grown children, who are each succeeding in their chosen fields, and 6 grandchildren.

Upon retirement farmed with dad for 5 years. Since second retirement have enjoyed civic involvement, spending time with our children and grandchildren and traveling. Wanda and I have taken several trips to Scandinavia and another to the British Isles and enjoyed them immensely.

I have served on more boards than I could or would care to remember over the years. Recently I've served or am currently serving as a board member or trustee for the Oneida Cemetery Association, Oneida-Wataga Fire District, Ontario Township, Altona, Oneida, Wataga Ambulance District, Faith Lutheran Church Council and the Bishop Hill Heritage Association.

Jeff Goard, Galva, IL

Jeff is the Bishop Hill Colony Potter, working here since 2006, and is the curator of the Vagnhall Galleri. He also serves as president of the Bishop Hill Arts Council. In his spare time, he is a long-distance cyclist.

Kerstin Lane, Chicago, IL

Kerstin was the founding executive director for the Swedish American Museum, Chicago from 1986-2006. She was also appointed Honorary Consul General for Sweden in 2003. Kerstin is active on a number of boards: Friends of House of Sweden, SWEA, Center for Scandinavia Studies at North Park University, Swedish American Historical Society, and the President of the Chicago Cultural Alliance. In 2011, she was named Swedish American of the Year by the VASA Order of America. Kerstin Lane is married to Joseph Lane. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Bob VerHeecke, Kewanee, IL

Retired Vice President 42 years with Peoples National Bank of Kewanee. Retirement is filled with fishing, traveling, growing Christmas trees and family. Enjoys a variety of community service projects as well. Serves on the Whiting Home Board, Social Service Board of Kewanee, and the *Peoples National Bank* Board of Directors.

Donald Loveall, Dahinda, IL

Don graduated from Galva High School; received his BS Degree from Illinois State; received a National Science Foundation Grant for Mathematics studies at Oberlin College in Ohio in 1959; and his Masters Degree from the University of Illinois in 1967. Don taught high school math and coached basketball at Grant Park, IL; United Township HS in East Moline, and 32 years at Glenbard West and College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn. Taught for 40 years before retirement.

He also worked for the Glen Ellyn Park District as swimming pool manager and started the first programs for the new Park District recreation (basketball, summer camp, and volleyball).

The Lovealls moved to Oak Run in 1997. Don served on the Property Owners Assn Board 1998-2001 (was President of the POA in 2001). He was asked to join the Bishop Hill

Heritage because his wife, Joyce, is a direct descendent of Dr. Olaf Nordstrom, one of the original Colony members. Don has also done a great deal of photography work for the Heritage and the Oak Run newspaper, as well.

Don has been on various committees: ran the Dutch Oven Chicken dinners for Ag Days and named Chairman of the Building Committee at the end of the renovation of the Blacksmith Building and beginning of the Steeple Building project with Co-Chair Bob VerHeecke. Don said the past several years have been the most productive in the history of the Heritage with a board that has been very active and dedicated to the preservation of these old buildings.

Warren Schulz, Bishop Hill, IL

Bishop Hill resident, Warren Schulz, spent his youth in Varna, Illinois. He attended Western Illinois University and graduated with a degree in Agricultural Education. After teaching for several years, Warren was then employed by Eagle Enterprises. At that time, through being exposed to recycling methods, he was able to help many schools with thousands of dollars for needed items.

Warren is a member of the local VASA Lodge, the Galva First United Methodist Church, Galva Lion's Club, and is a diligent volunteer for the BHHA. He has served as BHHA President in the past and has been a member of the Building Committee for several years. Warren's long-time passion is bowling and has participated in leagues in Galva and Kewanee.

Warren and his wife, Sue, have a son, Dr. Steven Schulz living in Rockford, Illinois. Stephen and his wife, Narina Schulz have provided Warren and Sue with their first grandchild, Cullen.

Lou Lourdeau, Bishop Hill, IL

Lou and his wife Janene moved to Bishop Hill from Kewanee in 2011. Lou retired from Walgreens. He enjoys photography, gardening, growing bonsai and traveling. He also enjoys doing community service in Bishop Hill.

Jane Tornquist, Kewanee, IL

Jane's deceased husband Richard previously served on the Board and as President. She volunteers at the Steeple Building and Kewanee Hospital Gift Shop. She served on the Henry/Stark Cancer Board and volunteers for Relay of Life. Jane is also treasurer of Area Church Fellowship.

Jane graduated from Galesburg High School and attended Iowa State and Knox College. She is a member of St. John Paul II Parish. Also, she is a member of the Altar and Rosary Society and the Catholic Book Club.

Jane enjoys traveling abroad and especially visiting her Swedish relatives. She has four children, eight grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

Bill Craig, Galva, IL

Not available at press time.

BISHOP HILL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

ACTIVE COMMITTEES FOR 2014

FINANCE

Vicki Massie – Chair

Bill Owens
Morris Nelson
Bob VerHeecke

GIFT SHOP

Vicki Rabas - Chair

Dianne Lindbom
Jane Tornquist
Lynne Myhre
Sue Schulz

FUNDRAISING

Deni Menken - Chair

Jane Tornquist
Vicki Massie
Cheryl Dowell
Vicki Rabas
Don Loveall

BUILDING/Pres. & RESTORATION/

Bob VerHeecke-Chair

Don Loveall– Chair

Cheryl Dowell
Warren Schulz
Lou Lourdeau
Jim Asplund
John Anderson
Morris Nelson

DAIRY BUILDING

Lou Lourdeau – Chair

Cheryl Dowell
Jeff Goard
Vicki Massie
Kerstin Lane
Deni Menken

PERSONNEL

Committee Chairmen and
BHHA Officers

STAFF

Todd DeDecker, Administrator

Todd DeDecker became the administrator for the Heritage during the summer of 2012. Todd was raised in Henry County, graduating from Cambridge High School. After college graduation, he taught secondary social studies for sixteen years in southeast and south-central Iowa. Todd also earned a Master's Degree in Museum Studies from Western Illinois University and worked at several museums, including the Geneseo Historical Museum and the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum.

Marie Watson, Colony Store Manager

Marie Watson was hired as the manager of the Colony Store in 2012. She received her BA in English Literature from Western Illinois University in 2002. Her work history is in retail and restaurant management and most recently was employed by Black Hawk College East Foundation. She was born and raised in rural Fulton County, Illinois, and currently resides in Kewanee with her husband, Kirk, and three sons: Jackson, Griffin, and Samuel.

Dianne Lindbom, Bookkeeper

Dianne's ancestors were early settlers of nearby Wethersfield in Colony times, and her grandmother was told by her own grandfather, Hazelton Page, of how the Swedes came walking through Wethersfield, and they gave cold water and fresh bread to them on their way to the Colony. Originally trained as a nurse, Dianne lives in rural Kewanee, IL and had worked in Bishop Hill since 1992. Her husband Ron is a Colony descendant. Dianne is a member of the Old Settlers Association and the VASA. She likes collecting antiques.

V.I.P. VISTORS



State Senator Darin LaHood



State Representative Don Moffitt

Walker Johnson

Nationally recognized, award winning architect

Illinois Workforce Investment Board,

Mr. John Rico, President and CEO of Rico Enterprises

Mr. Adam Pollet, Director, IL Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Dr. James Applegate, Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education

Ms. Teresa Payne, Assistant to the Secretary Treasurer, AFL-CIO

Mr. Tom Ashby, Coordinated Transportation Development, Inc.

Mr. Michael Perry, Director of Education & Employee Involvement, AFSCME Council 31

Mr. Henry Beards, Director of Human Resources, United Parcel Services

Honorable. Sandra Pihos, State Representative
Mr. Joseph Costigan, Executive Director, Illinois Department of Labor
Mr. Tom Prinske, CEO of T. Castro Produce
Ms. Elizabeth Dickson, Director of Human Resources of Engineered Glass Products, LLC
Mr. Jay Rowell, Director, Illinois Department of Employment Security
Mr. Scott Frick, Manufacturing Executive of Kraft Foods
Ms. Michelle Saddler, Secretary, Illinois Dept. of Human Services
Honorable Esther Golar, State Representative
Mr. Eloy Salazar, Executive Director, Illinois Migrant Council
Mr. David Hanson, Office of Rehabilitation Services, Illinois Department of Human Services
Mr. Juan Salgado, President, Instituto De Progreso Latino
Dr. John K. Holton, Director, Illinois Department on Aging
Ms. Margi Schiemann, Director, Infrastructure Programs and Support for Nicor Gas
Ms. Justine Hood, Senior Vice President of Human Resources & Employment Development and Training, Centerpoint Properties
Ms. Sophia Shaw, President and CEO, Chicago Botanic Gardens
Dr. Karen Hunter-Anderson, President, Illinois Community College Board
Mr. David Stoecklin, Executive Director, Madison County Employment and Training, Wood River Facility
Dr. Chris Koch, Superintendent, Illinois State Board of Education
Mr. Gary Swango, Vice President, Human Resources & Compliance, Growmark, Inc.
Honorable Andy Manar, State Senator
Mr. Lawrence M. Walsh, Will County Executive
Mr. Michael Massie, Attorney at Law
Mr. Grover Webb, Owner of Tanglefoot Ranch
Mr. Francisco Menchaca, Board Member, MacNeal Hospital
Mr. Tom Wendorf
Mr. Sandeep Nain, President, SNTial Technologies, Inc.
Mr. Terry Wilkerson, President, Rend Lake College
Ms. Barbara Oilschlager, Regional System Director, Lake County Area Vocational System
Ms. Diane Williams, Executive Director, Safer Foundation
Ms. Janet Payne, Vice President of Human Resources, Provena United Samaratin Medical Center
Mr. Michael Williams, Executive Director, Rock River Training Corporation

Allies and Supporters

LOCAL

- Bishop Hill Arts Council
- Bishop Hill Community United Methodist Church
- Bishop Hill Fiber Guild
- Bishop Hill Old Settlers Association
- Bishop Hill State Historic Site
- Bishop Hill Village Board
- Bishop Hill Volunteer Firemen
- Henry County Historical Society
- Prairie Queen Quilt Guild
- VASA Order of America

MUSEUMS

- Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Bishop Hill State Historic Site
- American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis MN
- Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle WA
- Norwegian American Museum, Decorah, IA
- Swedish American Museum Center, Chicago, IL

HISTORICAL

- Andover Tourism Council-Historical Society, Andover IL
- Galva Public Library, Galva IL
- Grove Heritage Association, Glenview, IL
- Henry County Historical Society
- Illinois Heritage Association, Champaign, IL
- Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield IL
- Kewanee Historical Society, Kewanee IL
- Lindstrom Historical Society, Lindstrom, MN
- Swedish American Historical Society, Chicago, IL
- Swedish Heritage Society, Swedesburg, IA
- The Swedish Historical Society, Rockford, IL

TOURISM

- Galesburg Visitors Bureau, Galesburg, IL
- Henry County Tourism Bureau
- Western Illinois Tourism, Macomb, IL
- Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau

ACADEMIC

- Augustana College
- Black Hawk College East
- Concordia College
- Gustavus Adolphus College
- Knox College
- Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College
- Univ. of Southern Indiana Center of Communal Studies, Evansville, IN
- Communal Studies Association, Amana, IL

CULTURAL AND CIVIC

- American Scandinavian Association, Moline, IL
- Clara Lodge No. 18, Independent Order of Vikings (I.O.V.), Moline IL
- Dalesburg Scandinavian Association, Vermillion, SD
- Galva Lion's Club, Galva IL
- Illinois Artisans Program, Chicago, IL
- Illinois Arts Council
- Illinois Humanities Council, Chicago, IL
- Swedish Club Foundation, Lake Forest, IL
- Swedish Council of America, Minneapolis, MN
- Swedish Women's Educational Association (SWEA) International
- Vasa Brage Lodge #29, Germantown Hills, IL
- Vasa Lodge Jubilee #692, DeLand, FL
- Svithiod Verdandi #3, Chicago, IL

GENEALOGICAL

- Henry County Genealogical Society
- Bishop Hill State Historic Site
- Bishop Hill Old Settlers' Association
- Knox County Genealogical Society, Galesburg, IL

SWEDISH

- Bishop Hill Sällskapet, Biskopskulla, Sweden
- Consulate General of Sweden, New York, NY
- Embassy of Sweden, Washington, DC
- Emigrantinstitutet, Växjö, Sweden
- HRM Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden
- Migranternas Hus, Alfta, Sweden

FINANCES

The Bishop Hill Heritage Association is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization registered in the State of Illinois. Members have the opportunity to review the annual financial report and results of the internal audit at the annual membership meeting in February.

INCOME

BHHA strives for a diverse income stream. Ongoing sources include Colony Store sales and smaller sales, annual membership dues, admissions, rentals, and fundraising events in Bishop Hill. Memorials are also much appreciated. Grants continue to be a major source of funding.

Direct Appeal – Dairy Building Project

For the Dairy Building project, various individuals and organizations have contributed over \$22,000.

Dues

New Members and Renewals resulted in over \$13,000.

Memorials

Memorials for the BHHA in the names of Wayne Troline, John Sloan, Roger Spiegel, Judy Crain, Harry Laub, Erick Hedberg, Minerva Hancock, and Ella Wood for a total of \$1,340 to the Heritage.

Admission

Museum & Archives Donations totaled \$4,162.83

Tour Groups

Income from 17 adult and school tour groups totaled \$1,302. We served 555 visitors.

Fundraising Events

Fundraising events brought in \$8,639.24 and included the *Pie and Ice Cream Social* at the *Clay and Fiber Fest*, the *Swedish Hot Dog Stand* at *Jordbruksdagarna* (Agriculture Days), *Bible Table Raffle*, *Bishop Hill Official Walking Tour booklet*, *Faces of Utopia*, *2015 Bishop Hill Calendar*, and *produce/historic crops from the BHHA Garden*.

Grants

- Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation - \$20,000 grant for the Dairy Building Interior Restoration Project.
- Community Foundation of the Great River Bend-\$2,000 for the Steeple Building Front Entry Renovations Project.
- Galesburg Community Foundation-\$250 for the 2014 Historical Reenactor Program.
- Illinois Arts Council-\$9,100 award for operating expenses for 2014.

- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois Office of Tourism-\$30,000 for the Dairy Building Interior Restoration Project.
- Illinois Humanities Council-\$1,400 grant given for the 2014 Bishop Hill Chautauqua.
- Landmarks Illinois-\$2,000 for the Dairy Building Interior Restoration Project.
- Bill & Susan Sherrard Foundation-\$1,000 for the 2015 Bishop Hill Civil War Days and the 2015 Bishop Hill Chautauqua.
- Swedish Council of America-\$500 for a permanent exhibit about Bishop Hill Colony Dairy history in the 1855 Dairy Building.

EXPENSES

In 2014, the bulk of BHHA spending involved repair and restoration of the Colony buildings. The second largest expense was for operations staff; BHHA has 1 full-time employee, a part-time store manager, and several part-time store clerks. The education programming and Museum & Archives constitute smaller expenses. To save costs, BHHA relies on volunteers for custodial and grounds work and many other tasks. BHHA also collaborates with other organizations to co-sponsor events and share publicity.

HISTORY

In the summer of 1961, the village of Bishop Hill demolished the abandoned Colony Bakery/Brewery building, which had partially collapsed. This was the catalyst that led to the formation of the Bishop Hill Heritage Association (BHHA) in the fall of 1962. A small group of descendants met to preserve the rich history of the Bishop Hill Colonists and began to acquire threatened Colony buildings. The founders were: Ron Nelson (President), John W. Bogren (V.P.), Merrill Nystrom (Secretary), Berenice Florine (Treasurer), Janet Nystrom, Mrs. Frieda Boland, Mrs. William Henry, Gilbert Swanson, George Swank, Reynolds “Rip” Everett, Sr., and Sam Mendel.

The following is a brief timeline of the major building acquisitions of the Heritage:

- ✚ 1963 – Steeple Building; BHHA museum, offices, and archives.
- ✚ 1966 –Colony Blacksmith Shop; houses craftspeople, artisans, and shops.
- ✚ 1969 –Colony Store; now the BHHA gift shop, a major source of renovation revenue.
- ✚ 1971 –Cobbler Shop, now a gift shop.
- ✚ 1976 –Colony Hospital (now in private ownership)
- ✚ 1976 –Poppy Barn (now in private ownership)
- ✚ 1985 –Colony Dairy Building; BHHA education center
- ✚ 1987 –Colony Apartment House (now in private ownership)
- ✚ 2011 –Albert Krans Livery Stable; second BHHA museum.

Make a Difference

*Help preserve the unique and rich architectural and cultural heritage
of Bishop Hill*

Make a Donation...

Mail a check to PO Box 92, Bishop Hill IL 61419
Make BHHA part of your estate planning
Give gift memberships to family and friends
Ask your employer about corporate matching funds
Make a donation in memory of a loved one
Donate family documents or artifacts



Volunteer to Help

Clerical work or installing exhibits
Fund-raising events
Grant-writing
Greeting visitors or guiding tours
Maintenance, carpentry or grounds-keeping
Publicity or photography
Speaking to groups

BHHA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM
Please print your information as you wish it
to appear on your membership card.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email address _____

Telephone
number _____

Make checks payable to the BHHA.

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Exp. Date _____

Card Number _____

Name as it appears on the
card _____

Signature of cardholder _____

A BHHA Membership fee can be as little
as \$10, but for \$35 or more you will
receive a 10% discount at the Colony Store
and workshop discounts. For \$50 or more,
you will receive your 10% store discount,
workshop discounts, and an ornament
featuring a Bishop Hill Building!

Dollar amount of
membership _____