

Bishop Hill Heritage Association ***ANNUAL REPORT 2015***



Bishop Hill Civil War Days
(May 8th and 9th, 2015)

Bishop Hill, IL
February 6, 2016

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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BHHA Annual Report format first created by Brita Butler-Wall

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President's Letter

Letter from the BHHA President

Dear Bishop Hill Heritage Association and Friends,

2015 marked another year of projects and progress for Bishop Hill. We hosted events of interest at the phenomenal rate of every other weekend from April through November to attract and entertain our visitors. We stayed the course with our Dairy Building, finishing the apartment on the South end and adding the exterior finishing touches with sidewalks, new lighting and storm windows. New performers were treated to enthusiastic audiences and many a packed house with standing room only in the welcoming main hall there. In October, we rededicated the Dairy Building with an open-house event featuring the debut of a new educational Bishop Hill skit, "To the Church", written by local descendant, archivist and board member, Cheryl Dowell. We hosted special guests and longtime supporters and were so pleased to welcome Barbro Osher the San Francisco Honorary Consul General for Sweden, Goran Lithell the Deputy Chief of Mission from the Swedish Embassy in Washington D.C. and Gerd Sjogren the Chicago Honorary Consul General for Sweden. We served a lovely assortment of Swedish fare and celebrated the revival of this historic venue that has generated many new social gatherings and is such a welcome addition to the village. We have the apartment rented and a professional photography studio is now a resident of the upstairs great room. Everyone who gave a dollar or an hour of help gets a gold star. You know who you are and it just would not have come together without your involvement.

Our events thrive or wither based on the weather and we count ourselves lucky this year. Each big weekend shook off the rain just in time to pack the park and town for the special two day Civil War Days event, the Pie in the Park afternoon and the extended Chautauqua and Jordbruksdagarna (Ag Days) extravaganzas. Our heirloom crops suffered a bit and we hope to have better broom corn and sorghum harvests next summer. We had plenty of interesting varietal tomatoes and good sweet corn which were a draw for folks hungry for heirloom produce at our wagon in front of the Colony Store.

We welcomed our new Colony Store manager, Glenda Wallace, in June. She brings great ideas and true enthusiasm to this ever important enterprise. Stop in and introduce yourself. Glenda and all our hardworking staff will help you find just what you were looking for and some things you didn't even know you needed.

Our volunteers continue to make everything come together. They set up and dismantle chairs, tables and displays for our events. They clean and fix things. They mow and shovel. They load and unload used bricks, bales of hay and crates of apples. They make door swags and Swedish bird feeders. They plant, tend and harvest our crops. They bake for all kinds of celebrations. Mike Rabas made two cherry clock shelves (like our colonists prized) for our annual fundraiser raffle. Volunteers install storm windows. We hosted busloads of Swedes on two different occasions with our version of Fika (feeka), Swedish midmorning snacks and strong coffee at the Dairy Building. They offer "make and take" holiday crafts for the kids who come

for Julmarknad Christmas Market. They cook and serve entire meals at our food stand during Ag Days. All of our volunteers add to the quality of our traditions and help us make a positive and memorable impact on our visitors. I cannot thank you all individually but please know that we rely on and are so grateful for everyone's willingness to pitch in. Our board members take time out of busy lives to carefully deliberate over the issues brought before them so that BHHA can continue to do the things necessary for our historic buildings to tell the unique stories of our colonists to new generations eager to understand them.

I encourage you to read the list of events our administrator, Todd DeDecker, has addressed in the next pages. He is behind each and every one of them, old and new. His abilities and contacts are simply invaluable and we follow his lead in trying new things here. Watch for a Nordic Encampment and some unique opportunities to learn from new speakers in the coming year. Our events are free of charge and open to all. We thank Todd for inspiring us and keeping us on track.

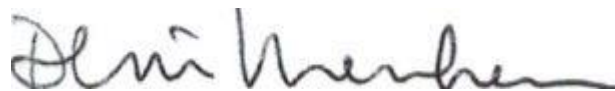
I look back on the past year with a real sense of accomplishment. Please come see for yourselves all the good things going on. Our storefronts are filled with creative new and existing businesses. Our museums welcome you with interesting exhibits and our restaurants offer you pie(!) Bishop Hill is a one of a kind experience that shouldn't be missed.

My final thought is to lay out a wish list for the coming year.

We at BHHA need:

- More volunteers: (call Todd at 309 927-3899)
You will meet wonderful people and have fun while getting things done.
Volunteering is good for the soul.
- Your ideas:
If you have seen or experienced something that would relate well to our Swedish roots or a way to display, demonstrate or exhibit our specific story in an effective way, please share that with us.
- Your good wishes:
In these days of Illinois uncertainty, please tell your friends about us and send them our way. Our visitors sustain our businesses and bolster the success of our wonderful roster of events. Who better to promote us than you!

Put us on your 2016 calendar. We look forward to seeing you!



Deni Menken
President, Bishop Hill Heritage Association

Administrator's Report

PROGRAMMING

This past year, the BHHA continued to provide a variety of educational, folk art, and musical programming. Besides our usual annual events, the Heritage brought in a variety of new programs, the largest one being Civil War Days. In addition, the BHHA took over the leadership role for Jordbruksdagarna. Listed below are the 2015 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 28 and 29; Steeple
- *Astrid Lindgren Festival*; April 9,10,16, and 17; Steeple
- *Spring Jubilee (John Deere performance)*; April 11; Dairy
- *Swedish Immigration Program*; April 21; Dairy
- *Bishop Hill Civil War Days*; May 8 and 9
- *Quilt Challenge and Show*; May 15-17
- *Dulcimer Festival (Fiddle Workshop)*; May 23; Steeple
- *The Humor of Abraham Lincoln program*; June 13; Dairy
- *Honor Flight Benefit*; June 14
- *Midsommar Music Festival*; June 20
- *"Pie in the Park" Ice Cream Social and Clay/Fiber Fest*; August 15 and 16
- *Akervinda workshop and concert*; August 16; Dairy
- *Bishop Hill Chautauqua*; August 29 and 30; Village Park
- *Sofia Talvik concert*; September 13; Dairy
- *Swedish Hot Dog Stand and Jordbruksdagarna*; September 26 and 27
- *Dairy Building Rededication*; October 2; Dairy
- *Collectors Weekend*; October 24 and 25; Steeple
- *Collectibles and You program*; October 25; Dairy
- *Julmarknad and Make It/Take It Christmas Ornaments Workshop*; November 27-29; Steeple
- *Julmarknad and Make It/Take It Christmas Ornaments Workshop*; December 5 and 6; Steeple
- *Lucia Nights*; December 11 and 12;
- *Customer Appreciation Weekend*; December 19 and 20; Colony Store

The BHHA was involved with 22 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**.



Illinois Humanities Council

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17 NORTH STATE ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60602.3296
312.422.5580
www.prairie.org

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 spring, additional steps and a handrail was added to the west porch. In July, both the upper and lower west porches were treated with linseed oil. This past November and December, the clock tower was leveled.



Colony Store

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

In July, the front porch and the west 2nd story steps were treated with linseed oil.



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, flax, 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 these Black Hawk East professors and 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.

In July, the east porch and steps were treated with linseed oil.





Dairy Building

The major construction job for the BHHA this year was the completion of the 1855 Dairy Building project. By July, the interior work was finished. By September, sidewalk installation was completed, and by November, storm windows installation was also done. By the end of the year, the BHHA had not only rented out the south apartment but also rented out the north side second floor as an office area and later, a photography studio. Throughout the course of the year, meetings, concerts, bridal showers, reunions, and other programs took place in the Dairy Building Conference Area.



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. 19th and early 20th century photographs; 19th century books; a kick sled; and much more were donated to the Heritage during the past year. We greatly appreciate all of these artifact donations.

Archives

The scanning of historic documents and the accessioning of artifacts are 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). In addition, the BHHA has started an oral history project in which Colony descendants and long-time Bishop Hill residents' memories and stories about Bishop Hill are filmed.

Genealogy and Bishop Hill Colony Research

In 2015, over 30 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

Five temporary exhibits were produced this year for the Steeple Building Museum. 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.



The May *Quilt Show Exhibit* was as popular as ever. This year's theme was "Wine, Women, and Windows." BHHA volunteers created a display with Bishop Hill Colony women featured in the windows.



In honor of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, this year's summer exhibit was *Bishop Hill's Civil War Company: Company D, 57th Illinois Volunteer Infantry "Swedish Union Guard."* Created by the BHHA, this display summarized the history of this infantry company, made up of mostly Bishop Hill Colonists. This exhibit was funded by the **Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation**, the **Illinois Arts Council Agency**, and the **Swedish Council of America**.



Collectors Weekend, in which local collectors brought in their treasures for public viewing, returned for a second year in October. Some of the objects on display were Depression-era glass, walking sticks, spice tins, pocket watches, and Skookum dolls. An addition to this event was Mr. Jim Folger, of Folger Auction Service, coming in to identify and evaluate collectibles that were brought in by guests.



“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 and a vintage toy display. For a second straight year, woodcarvers presented 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, artifacts concerning the Jacobson family are on display, in place of last year's quilt display.

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: 8,850
- Krans Livery Stable Museum: 165
- Dairy Building: 842

Tours

In 2015, BHHA hosted 8 adult tour groups for a total of 278 visitors:

- Midway Village- May 15
- Sunrise Tours- June 1
- Rockford Tour-June 4
- Lincoln Land Community College Academy of Learning-June 17
- American Classic Tours- June 19
- American Classic Tours- July 24
- Trackers-October 5
- Tackers-October 26

Astrid Lindgren Festival for students

In April 2015, 86 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 2,289 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 our annual *Astrid Lindgren Festival*, BHHA hosted 4 scheduled schools tours in 2015, totaling 184 guests. The significant drop in school tours was due to the large participation of schools at our Civil War Day for Schools program on May 8. On that day, a total of 821 students, teachers, and parents rotated through 19 different stations to learn about Civil War era and 19th century topics. The previously mentioned figure also does not include the many students who were brought to Bishop Hill by their schools on impromptu field trips.

School Tours and Special Programs for 2015 (12 schools)

- Civil War Day for Schools-8 schools-May 8
- Winola Elementary tour-May 14
- Princeville Grade School tour- May 15
- Williamsfield Elementary tour -May 22
- Out of Egypt Academy tour-October 30

V.I.P. Events

The BHHA organized and hosted several events for special guests in 2015.

On January 17, David Isaksson, CEO of Global Reporting in Stockholm, Sweden, and his daughter Lovisa visited Bishop Hill. They had lunch with the BHHA and toured several of the Colony Buildings. David's father, Olov Isaksson, wrote the highly regarded book, *Bishop Hill A Utopia on the Prairie*.

On August 4, the BHHA set up a tour of Bishop Hill for U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos. She was able to visit several Colony buildings and had lunch at the Filling Station Café.



On October 2, the BHHA rededicated the Dairy Building. State Representative Donald Moffitt; Barbro Osher, San Francisco's Honorary Consul General for Sweden; Gerd Sjögren, Chicago's Honorary Consul General for Sweden; and Göran Lithell, Deputy Chief of Mission from the Embassy of Sweden in Washington D.C. all participated in the rededication ceremony. The ceremony and the open house were attended by over seventy Bishop Hill Heritage Association supporters.



Crafts Program

In 2015, 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, Wheatweaving, and Leatherworking.

Also, in November and December, the BHHA organized two Christmas tree ornament workshops. Over 50 children made and took home several different types of Christmas tree ornaments.

**NUMBER OF CRAFT
DEMONSTRATION
DAYS IN 2015: at least
14**



Presentations

Various BHHA personnel have given educational programs to community groups. During the past year, Administrator Todd DeDecker gave presentations to the Galva Senior Citizen Center, the Kewanee Rotary, and other groups.

The past two years have found the BHHA's acting troupe performing Bow to the Cow, an entertaining historical sketch of Colony dairy maids' life. The latest skit, To The Church!, reveals a few of the Colonists who took part in the mass marriages of 1848 and 1849. BHHA board members and volunteers taking part in the skits are Marie Watson, Dianne Lindbom, Vicki Massie, Mary Bjorling, and Deni Menken. Skits were created by Cheryl Dowell.



From left to right, Dairy Maids Mary Bjorling, Dianne Lindbom, and Vicki Massie

AWARDS

Landmarks Illinois awarded the BHHA the **2015 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award for Stewardship**. Landmarks Illinois is a non-profit organization that recognizes excellence in historic preservation. The Heritage was recognized for its restoration work on the Blacksmith Shop, the Steeple Building, the Colony Store and the Dairy Building.



OPERATIONS

MEMBERSHIP

This past year, the BHHA received over \$13,000 in dues and renewals. BHHA currently has **457 members** registered, of which 33 are institutions such as museums, colleges, and local organizations. Members come from 32 different states, including all corners of the country—Texas, California, Florida and Maine, as well as a few members from Sweden. 85% 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 8,000 people visited our website from 10 different nations in 2015. 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 various Facebook accounts. 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

<i>Henry County Advertiser</i>	<i>Geneseo Republic</i>	<i>Cambridge Chronicle</i>
<i>Galva News</i>	<i>Galesburg Register-Mail</i>	<i>Orion Gazette</i>
<i>Kewanee Star-Courier</i>	<i>Peoria Journal-Star</i>	<i>Rock Island Argus</i>
<i>Daily Dispatch</i>	<i>Quad City Times</i>	

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 and has contributed to the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association Newsletter *Inklings and Idlings*.

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 **2,437** (includes working the Jordbruksdagarna Food Stand, Pie in the Park, Astrid Lindgren Festival, and a host of other functions.)

Colony Store Manager's Report: 2015 a year of change at the Colony Store

In June of 2015 Marie Watson Store Manager, handed the Store operations over to new store manager Glenda Wallace. The summer months flew by with great weather weekends and increased guest traffic and sales. July car show weekend showed many more transactions and an increase in sales for the weekend over the previous year. Pie in the Park weekend also showed a large increase in both guest count and sales over last year.



Glenda Wallace

Rep. Cheri Bustos



Jordbruksdagarna-brought increased sales for the week, but the actual guest count was down, which means the customers were spending more per transaction while at the Colony Store. New items Glenda was able to purchase at the Minneapolis Mart in August, most definitely help attribute to the increased sales for "Ag Days" and the great sales the Colony Store experienced in October.

Fall at the Colony Store brought a huge increase over last year's sales for the month of October. New items, great sales clerks, and great weather were all factors in the great month we experienced at the Colony Store. New items help drive sales and repeat customers. We also hit the social media scene, keeping the Facebook page up to date daily with great pictures and commentary for our 1100+ followers, an increase of 600 plus followers since June '15. 15% of our increased sales for the year occurred in October! Social media does work; one post about the Tomte needed for Christmas Market was viewed and shared by over 4500 people. It's great to see that it really does work. Posting pictures of new arrivals, bring daily calls or drop in's from people wanting what they've seen on the FB page!! We also started advertising on the local Kewanee Radio Station. Look forward in 2016 to a Colony Store Instagram and Twitter account! It's all about getting the word out about the Colony Store and all the events Bishop Hill has to offer each year.

The Holidays went by very quickly with only 1 snow day prior to Christmas. Again great weather weekends attributed to our increase in sales, and guest traffic for both November and December. Both weekends of Christmas Market saw increase in Sales, the second weekend was our big weekend with almost 100 more customers!

Bringing us to the much anticipated "Lucia Nights" for the 2 nights we had about a 1300 dollar sales increase. Our Friday was the big increase day; Saturday we stayed neck in neck with the previous year's whooping sales! We had a great bunch of volunteers to help wait on our customers. The sampling event was a huge success, selling out of both Lingonberries and Glogg! The new Apple Glogg was also a hit with our customers during the samplings.



Thanks to all the great volunteer support! Customer appreciation weekend was a huge success with great discounts and treats for our awesome customers!



Sales overall for 2015 brought in a 4% increase over 2014 with increase of 10k in sales. Our customer count for 2015 was up 1% with increase of 202 transactions over 2014. Looking forward in 2016 to updating the website with new items that we currently carry in the store and promoting the website on our FB page as well as the radio. Focusing on controlling inventory levels, but still providing new and existing favorites to all of our new and repeat customers!

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 four 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.

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.

Cheryl Wexell Dowell, Bishop Hill

Cheryl is a Bishop Hill Colony descendant of ancestors from Halsingland, Sweden. Her Great Great Grandmother, with a clan of about 13, arrived in Bishop Hill with the first Bishop Hill Colonists on the brig, The Charlotta, under the leadership of her great uncle, Jonas Olsson.

Campbell Center, Mt. Carroll, provided courses that trained Cheryl in historic landscaping, historic furniture restoration, archival photography, conservation techniques for artifacts and textiles. She worked at the Bishop Hill State Historic Site for 28 years from which she retired as Assistant Site Manager. At the State Site she trained under Historians Ron Nelson and Martha Downey. In those years she was responsible for the State Site artifact and archival collections while creating a genealogy research source for Bishop Hill Colonists. Upon volunteering at the BHHA, Cheryl continued to enhance the BHHA genealogy program and answers genealogy requests.

The State Site's Live-In program for grade school children was created and put into action in 1980 under Cheryl's guidance. She also developed a "One Room School" program for children, presented at the Colony School, sponsored by the BH Old Settlers' Association. The Bishop Hill Society at Biskopsulla, Sweden, chose Cheryl to receive the Olov Isaksson award in 2008. That award is given annually to a person that has helped bridge relationships between the two countries.

At this time, Cheryl serves not only on the BHHA board, but also on the boards of Bishop Hill Community United Methodist Church, Bishop Hill Old Settlers' Association and is also a member of the local VASA Lodge. In 1996 at the time of Their Majesties, King Carl Gustav XVI and Queen Silvia's visit to Bishop Hill's sesquicentennial, Cheryl was serving as BHOSA President and was hostess to the Royal couple.

Cheryl has always lived in Bishop Hill with the exception of her first three years when her parents farmed near Ulah, Illinois. She has traveled to Sweden twelve times and is an avid collector of Swedish glass and other 1850 items for the Swedish Stuga (Cottage) on her property.

Bette Themanson, Kewanee, IL

Bette lives with her husband Jim, in Kewanee, IL. She is a retired registered nurse having worked at Kewanee Hospital, Proctor Hospital and United Healthcare. Bette graduated from Black Hawk College and Western Illinois University. Bette and Jim have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. She is also Co-President of the Freedom House Board of Directors. She enjoys her family, friends, golf, reading and cooking.

Mary Bjorling, Altona, IL

Mary was reared in the Coal Valley area, graduated from Moline High School, MIC and attended University of Illinois School of Journalism. She was married to the late Lowell Bjorling, one of the first active members of the BHHA, in 1983. Mary has 5 children, 18 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. She was an editor at The Daily Dispatch in Moline for 27 years and then wrote for the Swiss Valley Cooperative magazine and other publications for 13 years. In 1978, Mary Bjorling was the first woman president of the Newspaper Farm Editors of America and later, co-founder and first president of the Illinois Farm Editors Association.

BISHOP HILL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

ACTIVE COMMITTEES FOR 2015

FINANCE

Vicki Massie – Chair

Bill Owens
Morris Nelson
Bob VerHeecke

GIFT SHOP

Vicki Rabas - Chair

Dianne Lindbom
Jane Tornquist

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
Lou Lourdeau
Jim Asplund
John Anderson
Morris Nelson
Warren Schulz

DAIRY BUILDING

Lou Lourdeau – Chair

Cheryl Dowell
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 (resigned June 2015)

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.

Glenda Wallace, new Colony Store Manager

Glenda Wallace was hired as manager in June of 2015. Glenda graduated from Kewanee High School, Black Hawk East College and the American Institute Of Commerce in Davenport IA with a certificate in Fashion Merchandising. Glenda has 30 years retail management experience. She previously managed Chess King/Merry go Round for 10 years, than 18.5 years with Target Corporation. Glenda is married to Mike Wallace who is a painter at Martin Engineering in Neponset IL. Glenda and Mike have one son Nicholas Wallace who currently resides in Selmer TN, where he works for General Electric. Glenda's hobbies when not at the Colony Store are woodworking, painting, traveling, fishing and spoiling her rescue puppy Brewster!

V.I.P. VISTORS



**Göran Lithell, Deputy Chief of Mission
from the Embassy of Sweden in Washington D.C**



Barbro Osher



Dr. Anne-Charlotte Harvey



Former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar

Congresswoman Cheri Bustos

State Representative Donald Moffitt

State Senator Chuck Weaver

Gerd Sjögren, Chicago's Honorary Consul General for Sweden

David Isaksson, CEO of Global Reporting in Stockholm, Sweden

**Professor Birgitta Svensson, Secretary General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters ,
History, and Antiques**

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 \$7,008.50.

Dues

New Members and Renewals resulted in \$13,798.47.

Memorials

Memorials for the BHHA in the names of Lorraine Owens, Ruby Anderson, Emmelyne Hedstrom, Roger Spiegel, David Wexell, Frank Peterson, Nancy Craig, William Frisby, and Judy Crain for a total of \$3,143.97 to the Heritage.

Admission

Museum & Archives Donations totaled \$6,548.06

Tour Groups

Income from 12 adult and school tour groups totaled \$1,581.00. We served 462 visitors.

Fundraising Events

Fundraising events brought in \$5,895.93 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*, *2016 Bishop Hill Calendar*, and *produce/historic crops from the BHHA Garden*.

Grants

- Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation - \$11,000 grant for Civil War Days, repair of permanent exhibit in the Steeple Building Museum, and Bishop Hill Colony traveling exhibit.
- MidAmerican Energy Foundation-\$2,000 for the Steeple Building Front Entry Renovations Project.
- Galesburg Community Foundation-\$250 for Civil War Day for Schools
- Illinois Arts Council-\$9,350 award for operating expenses for 2015.

- Illinois Humanities Council-\$1,700 grant given for the 2015 Bishop Hill Chautauqua.
- Swedish Council of America-\$2,000 for Bishop Hill Colony traveling exhibit.

EXPENSES

In 2015, 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



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 _____

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