

Bishop Hill Heritage Association ***ANNUAL REPORT 2016***



1851 Colony Carpenter Shop

Bishop Hill, IL
February 4, 2017

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-Fri 10-5, Sat 11-4, Sun 12-4
January-March	Mon-Fri 10-4, Sat 11-4, 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,

The last three years have flown by faster than I could ever have imagined. 2016 was a sustaining year. We took a collective breath before diving into another busy year. Our core events continue to attract visitors, eager to experience the unique quality of our lovely village and to enjoy the charm of our small-town gatherings.

BHHA hosted the Swedish Ambassador to the United States in early May. We set up a beautiful breakfast reception in our Dairy Building and as the Spring sunshine shone through those old windows we got to chat with the charming Ambassador Björn Lyrvall, who was delighted to finally see for himself the town that holds a place in so many Swedish hearts. We were proud to welcome him and put together the walking tour that he enjoyed so much.

We had great weather days for the Vintage Baseball weekend in mid-May and folks were entertained by the unusual rules by which the game was played and the authentic uniforms the players wore. Our volunteers fed the old-time teams a hearty luncheon while they were between games. Our board member, Bill Owens, gave a talk on his Bishop Hill themed baseball book, *The Scorecard*, to a packed hall. We had some wonderful displays of local baseball memorabilia set up in the Steeple Building to bring in the crowd from the ball field.

We added a Rhubarb Fest to the Midsommar celebration in June. All things deliciously rhubarb were sold from the gracious front porch of the Steeple Building. Visitors could perch on hay bales and benches in the park with their treats or sit at tables tucked onto our shady porch and enjoy coffee with home-baked sweets. It was a pleasant way to add to the BHHA funds and we plan to host it again this year.

Our big news is that we had an opportunity to purchase a Colony era building just north of the Steeple Building. It had been the Carpenter Shop where furniture and household items were once made. It currently serves as our Post Office and has one of our charming shops on the North side. It is a smaller version of the graceful brick buildings along the main road through town and we are so pleased to be able to give it some TLC.

We hosted over 20 events, programs, and entertainments in 2016. Our volunteer group is the engine that makes it all run. They set up displays and programs. They clean and fix things.

They mow and shovel. They make door swags and tend crops. They bake for everything. They put together "make and takes" for the youngest Julmarknad Christmas Market visitors. They cook and serve entire meals at our AG Days food stand. They decorate every window in our buildings with a single candle for Lucia Nights. Our board members take time out of busy lives to carefully deliberate over the issues set before them so that BHHA can continue to fund our historic buildings. To everyone who donated a dollar or an hour, a heartfelt thank you!

My term as president has ended. It has been an honor serving you and a privilege working with the board, the volunteers and our fabulous Colony Store team led by our village cheerleader, Glenda Wallace. Working with our capable, enthusiastic administrator, Todd DeDecker, whose energy propels us week to week, has been a rewarding experience year to year. Thank you all for the years of friendship and support!!

I invite you to visit Bishop Hill this year. Our events are free of charge and charged with fun. Our storefronts are filled with wonderful things. Our museums welcome you with surprising exhibits and our restaurants offer pie! Put us on your calendar.

Lastly my annual wish list for 2017 looks like this:

More volunteers: (call Todd at 309-927-3899)

You will meet wonderful people and have fun while getting meaningful things done.

Volunteering is good for the soul! I'm sure I read that in Reader's Digest.

Your ideas:

If you have encountered something that would relate well to our Swedish roots or a different way to display or demonstrate our specific story more effectively, please share that with us. We welcome your suggestions.

Your good wishes:

In these days of continued Illinois uncertainty, please tell your friends about us and send them our way or bring them with you. Visitors support our businesses and bolster the success of our amazing roster of events. Who better to promote us than you!

See you soon!!

Deni Menken

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.

BHHA President

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 continued to create new programming, the largest one being the Bishop Hill Folk Festival. Listed below are the 2016 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*; April 2 and 3; Steeple
- *Windjammer, Sternwheeler, and Tin-Stackers: Working Waterways of Illinois concert*; April 9; Dairy
- *Ambassador Björn Lyrvall visit*; May 5
- *Quilt Show*; May 13-15
- *Vintage Baseball Weekend*; May 21 and 22
- *Poet of Community and Human Struggle: Carl Sandburg program*; June 11; Dairy
- *Honor Flight Benefit*; June 12
- *Rabarber fundraiser and Midsommar Music Festival*; June 18
- *Pipspel workshop*; July 30; Dairy
- *Bishop Hill Folk Festival*; July 30 and 31; Village Park and Steeple
- *"Pie in the Park" Ice Cream Social and Clay/Fiber Fest*; August 13 and 4
- *Bishop Hill Chautauqua*; August 27 and 28; Village Park
- *Old Settlers' Day*; September 10
- *Sofia Talvik concert*; September 22; Dairy
- *Swedish Hot Dog Stand and Jordbruksdagarna*; September 24 and 25
- *Dala Horse Painting workshop*; October 8; Dairy
- *Collectors Weekend*; October 22 and 23; Steeple
- *Sons of the Civil War in WW2 program*; November 12; Dairy
- *Julmarknad and Make It/Take It Christmas Ornaments Workshop*; November 25-27; Steeple
- *Julmarknad and Make It/Take It Christmas Ornaments Workshop*; December 3 and 4; Steeple
- *Rydval/Mjelva concert*; December 5; Dairy
- *Lucia Nights*; December 9 and 10
- *Customer Appreciation Weekend*; December 17 and 18; Colony Store

The BHHA was involved with 23 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 Agency**, a state agency, and the **Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation**.

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

BUILDINGS



Carpenter Shop

This 1851 structure was purchased by the BHHA this past May. One of the oldest remaining Colony brick buildings in existence, it currently holds the U.S. Post Office and Garden Thyme. The BHHA is planning an exterior historic restoration of this building in the near future.



Steeple Building

The 1854 Steeple Building Museum continues to be the main museum, archives, and offices for the BHHA. Plastering was done on first and second floor ceiling sections in September.



Colony Store

The Colony Store, 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 September, the village replaced the sidewalk in front of the Store porch.

Livery Stable Museum and Shed

The 1908 Albert Krans Livery Stable continues as a stand-alone museum. In addition, Black Hawk East Campus agricultural students 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 Shop

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. A photography studio is located on the second floor.

Dairy Building

The 1855 Dairy Building continues to host meetings, concerts, bridal showers, reunions, and other programs throughout the year and is available for event rental in 2017. The south apartment continues to be rented, and the north side second floor was rented as a photography studio for part of the year.



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 and documents; sheet music; 19th century clothing and shoes; a Colony cabinet; 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 2016, the BHHA had over 30 research requests concerning genealogy and Bishop Hill Colony history. Besides the United States, requests have been received from people in Sweden and Germany. Archivist Cheryl Dowell answered many of these requests and also maintains the genealogy files for the Heritage. Finally, the genealogy files have been moved to the first floor of the Steeple Building to provide easier access to researchers.

EDUCATION

Exhibits

Five temporary exhibits were produced this year for the Steeple Building Museum. In April, 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 "Lattice, Leaves, and Landscapes." BHHA volunteers created a quilt display based on the show's theme and Olof Krans' paintings. The Illinois Association of Wheat Weavers also did demonstrations in the Steeple Building Museum.

This year's summer exhibit was *Hälsingland: Today and Yesterday*. Created by BHHA board members Cheryl Dowell and Kerstin Lane, this display describes the history and culture of Hälsingland, a Swedish province where many of the Bishop Hill Colonists came from.



Collectors Weekend, in which local collectors brought in their treasures for public viewing, returned in October. Some of the objects on display were dolls, kitchen utensils, nutcrackers, and books.



"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. In addition, woodcarvers demonstrated on Julmarknad and Lucia Nights weekends.



Visitors also enjoy the permanent exhibits on the first and second floors, complete with Colony furniture, copperware, tools, and much more. On the second floor, artifacts concerning the Jacobson family were on 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: 8,501
- Krans Livery Stable Museum: 129
- Dairy Building: 1,029

Tours

In 2016, BHHA hosted 2 adult tour groups for a total of 78 visitors:

- American Classic Tours- July 22
- Junior Travel Concepts- October 6

School Groups

BHHA hosted 9 scheduled school tours in 2016, totaling 410 guests. These numbers do not include classes brought to Bishop Hill by their schools on impromptu field trips.

School Tours and Special Programs for 2016 (9 schools):

- Winola Elementary-May 16
- Williamsfield Elementary -May 19
- C.R. Hanna Elementary-May 20
- Princeville Grade School-June 1
- Cambridge IL Summer Program-July 22
- Augustana University-October 13
- Countryside Private School-October 20
- Temple Christian School-October 21
- Rock Island High School GAPP Exchange-November 2



Crafts Program

In 2016, BHHA provided demonstrations throughout the year. The Heritage sponsored demonstrations of the following crafts: spinning, weaving, triangular loom weaving, pottery making, woodcarving, broom making, rope-making, brick making, and blacksmithing. 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. Finally, the BHHA sponsored workshops in Dala Horse painting and pipspel (clay toy whistle) creation.



**NUMBER OF CRAFT
DEMONSTRATION DAYS IN
2016: at least 15**



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

Plays and Community Presentations

This past year, the Heritage Acting Troupe was busier than ever, performing their latest skit, *To the Church!* This entertaining, historical one act play describes the mass marriages that took place in the Bishop Hill Colony during late 1840's. Mary Bjorling, Dianne Lindbom, Vicki Massie, and Deni Menken were the performers, with Cheryl Dowell being the scriptwriter and researcher.

In addition, Administrator Todd DeDecker gave presentations about the Bishop Hill Colony and the Swedish Union Guard at the Galva Library, Kewanee Library, and the Orion Library, just to name a few locations. BHHA Board Member Bill Owens did a program called "The Scorecard: A Glimpse into Vintage Baseball Through a Bishop Hill Lens" at Vintage Baseball

Weekend. On October 6 at the Conference on Illinois History, Doug Dowell, professor at Heartland Community College and BHHA Board Member Cheryl Dowell presented “From Religious Commune to Fenway Park: Forrest Cady’s rise to Major League Baseball.”

Concerts and Programs



As part of our educational programming, the Heritage organized and hosted a variety of concerts and programs throughout the year in the Dairy Building. For concerts, the BHHA sponsored the folk music of Lee Murdock, Sofia Talvik, and **Rydvall/Mjelva.**

For programs, the Heritage organized presentations about poet Carl Sandburg and about Civil War sons fighting in World War II.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers keep the BHHA running – helping with programs/workshops, working at the front desk, creating displays, painting, cleaning, performing maintenance duties, fundraising activities, working on membership, and so much more. Without the assistance of the volunteers, many of the BHHA’s activities would not be possible. At least **2,969 hours were spent by BHHA volunteers** working at the Jordbruksdagarna Food Stand, Pie in the Park, and a host of other functions. The BHHA greatly appreciate all the time and hard work provided by over forty volunteers.



V.I.P. EVENTS

The BHHA was pleased to host several special guests in 2016. Mr. and Mrs. Staffan Ander, owners of the largest newspaper chain in Sweden, and State Senator Chuck Weaver toured historic Bishop Hill this past year.

On May 5, the Heritage hosted Sweden's Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Björn Lyrvall, Ambassador Lyrvall is the highest ranking Swedish official to visit Bishop Hill in 20 years. After having Fika at the Dairy Building, the Ambassador took a walking tour of Bishop Hill before returning to Washington D.C.



His Excellency Björn Lyrvall

OPERATIONS

MEMBERSHIP

This past year, the BHHA received over \$13,500 in dues and renewals. BHHA currently has **473 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 8,400 people visited our website from 18 different nations in 2016. 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

WKEI, WJRE, WYEC, WKEI, WIRL, and WGIL

Television

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

Newspapers

Henry County Advertiser
Galva News
Kewanee Star-Courier
Daily Dispatch

Geneseo Republic
Galesburg Register-Mail
Peoria Journal-Star
Quad City Times

Cambridge Chronicle
Orion Gazette
Rock Island Argus

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.

Colony Store Manager's Report: 2016 the Colony Store goes around the World

What an amazing year 2016 was for the Colony Store. Starting with a bang, our winter months carried double digit increases in both revenue and visitors. With the mild winter weather our numbers of winter customers stayed strong and steady. We had a great turn out for our Valentine's Day Coupon. Lots of new delectable chocolates for your "swedee's" were available! With double digit increases for the first 3 months of the year we couldn't contain our excitement for Spring Jubilee. We started a world map, so our customers could let us know where they live. We enjoyed talking with over 100 families from Sweden, we had visitors from 30 different countries, and 48 of our United States. Spring Jubilee was a great kick off to the official season in Bishop Hill. We did a flower planting at the back of the store for the little ones to plant flowers, with the help a several volunteers we had a great turn out of youngsters. May brought a special visitor to Bishop Hill and the Colony Store. We were able to attend the "Fika" Swedish coffee break at the Dairy Building, with the Swedish Ambassador Björn Lyrvall. He also made a quick stop at the Colony Store where he was kind enough to take some photos with us.



Special Spring Visitor to the Colony Store
His Excellency Björn Lyrvall Ambassador of Sweden, pictured with clerk Melody Sloat and
Store Manager Glenda Wallace

With new and old events throughout the summer the crowds continued to visit the Colony store. Old favorites were a must have on most visitors wish lists, from Swedish Fish to potato sausage (made fresh from our friends at Highland Packing in Colona, IL. Some of our most popular items for visitors, as well as our top items to ship all over the country, were our Jacobson's Rusks, and our Lingonberry Crème Brulee coffee. Near and far, from Maine to Hawaii, we've shipped to 30 states this past year.

The month of July set some records for visitors in the Colony Store. We had such a great line up of events on the July weekends: Antique Market, Car Show, and the Folk Music Festival. With beautiful weather and record crowds, the Colony Store rocked the record books.

September was just as awesome with the Old Settler's parade, and the Annual Jordbruksdagarna celebration. The Harvest festival brought over 700 visitors to the Colony Store for the weekend events. Sweden's own Ulla Voss did a great job volunteering outside the Colony store for the weekend. Ulla dressed in traditional Swedish garb, and took photos of children, families, and our favorite local fur babies. The crowds loved the photo opportunities, and the Colony Store takes great pride in the harvest displays created for our many visitors during the fall season. It's awesome feeling to have hundreds of photos being taken outside the store to be shared all around the world. Bishop Hill is truly a magical place.



The Holidays always pass too quickly at home and the Colony Store. We kicked off the Holiday Season on Black Friday, our 1st weekend for Christmas Market. We enticed our customers with the release of the new line of *The Christmas Wish* products for the Holiday Season. A much loved series of books *The Christmas Wish*, *The Reindeer Wish*, and *The Brave Little Puppy* (new this season) were all well received. Sales for the 1st weekend were above last year's sales. The 1st three weekends in December were cold and snowy, sales were down all 3 weekends, but the last 2 weeks of December helped make up for a big portion of the loss during the bad weather weekend.

We ended the year with a bang and held strong to another great increase over last year's sales. We are looking forward to another great year and the Colony Store breaking records with visitors from around the world. Keep following and sharing our page on Facebook. It really does put us on the map all over the world. We are welcoming 2017 in with our very 1st visitors on January third visiting us from Maui Hawaii!!

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 since 1989 and raised their two children here. Her family has contributed countless hours to volunteer activities in Bishop Hill. Vicki also is a member of the Old Settler's Association and has served as its secretary in the past. She is a regular volunteer at the Galva Food Pantry. A registered nurse by profession, she works on a part-time basis in the Surgery Department at OSF St. Luke's Medical Center.

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: SWEA, Center for Scandinavia Studies at North Park University, and the Swedish American Historical Society. In 2007, Kerstin was presented with the Swedish Order of the Seraphim medal by King Carl XVI Gustaf at an awards ceremony in Stockholm. 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

Bill is a lifelong resident of Galva, IL. He has always taken an interest in the history of the Galva/Bishop Hill communities. He attended school in Galva, and then continued his education at Illinois State University, graduating with a degree in Construction Management. He is currently employed at Menard's in Kewanee, in management. He and his wife Kristi live in Galva where they are both involved with church activities at Galva 1st UMC, plus they also assist when they have time, with Galva: Ready, Set, Grow, which works for the betterment of Galva.

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.

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.

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, 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 over 30 years of retail management experience. She previously managed Chess King/Merry go Round for 10 years, then 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!

Sierra McVetty, Summer Intern

Sierra was born and raised in Geneseo, Illinois. She grew up going to Bishop Hill with her parents and grandparents due to her love of history. Sierra graduated from Geneseo High School in 2013 and then graduated in 2015 from Black Hawk College-Quad Cities with an A.A. degree in history. She is currently attending the University of Iowa, working on a double major of history and political science, with a museum studies certificate. At the BHHA, Sierra assisted with historical research, display creation, and event organization.

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
- 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
- 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. The following is an overview of some of the Heritage's major income sources.

Dues

New Members and Renewals resulted in \$13,647.32.

Memorials

Memorials for the BHHA in the names of Dennis Anderson, Don Anderson, Roger Anderson, Lucille Barlow, Arnie Hanson, Jack Hathaway, Mary Hathaway, Reece Heinle, Donna Soderberg Krause, Morris Nelson, John Sloan, Roger Spiegel, Wayne Trolene, David Weedman, and Dick Westergren for a total of \$2,610.00 to the Heritage.

Admission

Museum & Archives Donations totaled \$9,090.28

Tour Groups

Income from 12 adult and school tour groups totaled \$956.00. We served 488 visitors.

Fundraising Events

Fundraising events brought in \$6441.19 and included the *Rabarber fundraiser* at *Midsommar Music Festival*, *Pie and Ice Cream Social* at the *Clay and Fiber Fest*, the *Swedish Hot Dog Stand* at *Jordbruksdagarna* (Agriculture Days), *Bishop Hill Official Walking Tour booklet*, *Faces of Utopia*, and *produce/historic crops from the BHHA Garden*.

Grants

- Ameren Illinois Foundation-\$2,500 for the 1851 Carpenter Shop Exterior Restoration Project.
- American Scandinavian Foundation-\$300 for two Swedish workshops
- Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation -\$15,000 grant for a variety of Bishop Hill events, such as the Midsommar Music Festival, Bishop Hill Folk Festival, the Bishop Hill Chautauqua, Julmarknad, and Lucia Nights.
- Galesburg Community Foundation-\$250 for Vintage Baseball Weekend

- Illinois Arts Council-\$6,400 award for operating expenses for 2015 and 2016
- National Endowment for the Arts-\$10,000 for the Bishop Hill Folk Festival
- Bill and Susan Sherrard Foundation-\$1,500 for the Bishop Hill Folk Festival and the Bishop Hill Chautauqua
- Swedish Council of America-\$1,800 for Jonas Olson performance at the Bishop Hill Chautauqua
- TGF-\$1,000 for Jordbruksdagarna











EXPENSES

In 2016, 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, exhibits, and 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.
-  2016 –Colony Carpenter Shop; now a gift shop and U.S. Post Office

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 _____

☐ Check this box if you do **not** want your
ornament.

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 _____