

Bishop Hill Heritage Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Spets Stuga

Bishop Hill, IL
February 3, 2018

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

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BHHA Annual Report format first created by Brita Butler-Wall

CONTENTS

Mission, 2
Contact information, 2
President's Letter, 4
Administrator's report, 5
Programming, 5
Buildings, 6
Museum & Archives, 10
Education, 10
Exhibits, 10
Visitorship, 13
Tours, 13
School Groups, 13
Craft Programs, 14
Plays, 14
Concerts and Programs, 15
Volunteers, 15
V.I.P. Events, 16
Operations, 17
Membership, 17
Communications, 17
Colony Store Manager's report, 18
People, 19
Board of Trustees, 19
Staff, 23
Allies & Supporters, 24
Finances, 26
History, 29
Make a Difference, 30

President's Letter

Dear Bishop Hill Heritage Members and Friends,

You are all involved with a most special organization. There is none like it in the USA. Just imagine walking around these old buildings, many of them built more than 150 years ago and built by people who came to Bishop Hill with nothing more than the desire to make a better life for themselves and their family. That was good hardy Swedish stock, which we still see in the residents of Bishop Hill.

The Bishop Hill Heritage Association has a wide ranging mission statement as you can find on the previous page. We have right now taken on the enormous challenge of restoring the Carpenter Shop. The dedication to these old buildings by the board is evident in the decision that was made to restore it to its original being. This is of course more expensive and requires more expertise from the restorer. We are, however, well on our way.

The Heritage has also this year received a very important building not because of its age but because of its purpose for Bishop Hill, the Spets Stuga, a wonderful little house next to the Dairy Building. It will become a special place for the children who visit Bishop Hill or who live in Bishop Hill. Cheryl Dowell adopted the stuga and the hours and hours she has spent painting and planning can not be counted. Wait for a special opening this spring.

A new addition to Bishop Hill is also the very large tapestry about Bishop Hill that is placed at the entrance to the Steeple Building. Thanks to a very generous donation by American Daughters of Sweden, it was possible to purchase the tapestry from the artist Asa Bengtson. A number of prominent guests made the "unveiling" a memorable event.

Bishop Hill has been teaming with activities as usual and you will find a detailed report of the programs in the administrator report. The press, radio, and TV have observed the activities of Bishop Hill as well as our politicians.

As I have got more involved with Bishop Hill, I have been able to see Bishop Hill not just from inside the community but also from the perspective of the big city where I live. I am so impressed not just with the buildings but maybe even more so with the volunteers. I have worked with many volunteer organizations but I have never seen the dedication I see in Bishop Hill. We are so fortunate to have our volunteers and I stand up and salute them.

The spider in the web is our administrator, Todd DeDecker. We are extremely fortunate to have him. His excitement for Bishop Hill makes us all excited. Thank you Todd!

We are now looking forward to another exciting year with more members and more volunteers, and we look forward to seeing many of you at our interesting programs.

All the best
Med vänliga hälsningar

Kerstin Lane
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. Listed below are the 2017 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 1 and 2; Steeple
- *The Humor of Abraham Lincoln program*; April 22; Dairy
- *Quilt Show*; May 19-21
- *Workers of the World, Awaken! The Life and Legacy of Joe Hill Exhibit Opening and Concert*; June 3; Steeple
- *Gypsy Coeds program*; June 10; Dairy
- *Honor Flight Benefit*; June 11
- *Oskar Stenmark Trio Concert*; June 20; Dairy
- *Rabarber fundraiser and Midsommar Music Festival*; June 24; Village Park
- *"Pie at the Steeple" Ice Cream Social and Festival of the Arts*; August 12 and 13
- *Bishop Hill Chautauqua*; August 26; Village Park
- *Svensk Varm Korv Stand and Jordbruksdagarna*; September 23 and 24
- *The Blue Eyed Blondes Concert*; October 12; Dairy
- *Dinner and Drama at the Dairy*; October 14; Dairy
- *Collectors Weekend*; October 14 and 15; Steeple
- *Bishop Hill Tapestry Celebration*; October 28; Steeple
- *Grant Workshop for Artists*; November 11; Dairy
- *Julmarknad and Make It/Take It Christmas Ornaments Workshop (Sat. only)*; November 24-26; Steeple
- *Julmarknad and Make It/Take It Christmas Ornaments Workshop (Sat. only)*; December 2 and 3; Steeple
- *Lucia Nights*; December 8 and 9

The BHHA was involved with 19 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 in 2016. One of the oldest remaining Colony brick buildings in existence, it currently holds the U.S. Post Office and Garden Thyme. The BHHA is currently raising money for an exterior historic restoration project for this structure. The 2nd floor apartment windows are being repaired or replaced in preparation for rental of the apartment in 2018.



Colony Store

The Colony Store continues to be the gift shop for the BHHA. Swedish foods, Dala horses, Lucias, Tomte, and locally made items are sold in this 1853 Colony Building. Repairs were done on the ground level flooring in May.



Steeple Building

The 1854 Steeple Building Museum continues to be the main museum, archives, and offices for the BHHA. Plastering was done on the third floor in May.



Livery Stable Museum and Ericson Shed

The 1908 Albert Krans Livery Stable continues as a stand-alone museum. The Ericson Shed's south doors were repaired, and the entire building was painted red. In addition, Black Hawk East Campus agricultural students once again planted a large garden next to the Livery Stable. The broomcorn and sorghum from the garden were sold at the Colony Store as a BHHA fundraiser and were used for demonstrations.



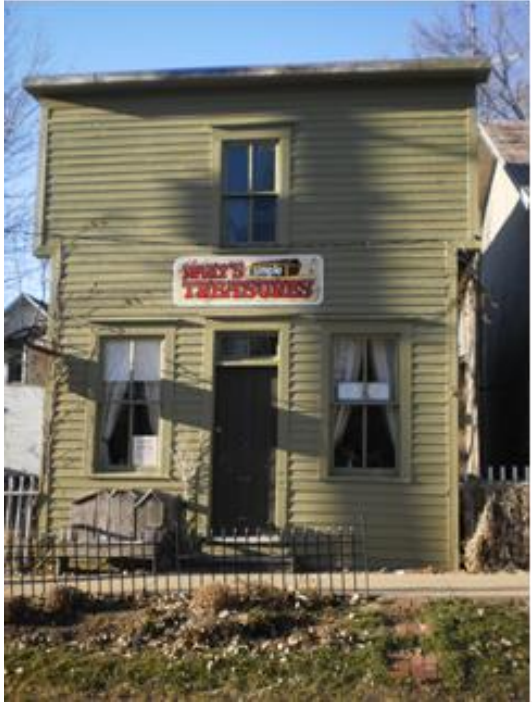
Blacksmith Shop

Currently, the first floor of this 1857 structure is being leased by the Prairie Arts Center. Pottery, rugs, and brooms are some of the items being sold by the craftspeople on this 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 2018. The south apartment continues to be rented. The beautiful second floor is available for rent as an office space, workshop, or any other fitting business.



Cobbler Shop

This 1905 building was leased as Mary's Simple Treasures in 2017. In 2018, it will become an antique shop.



Spets Stuga

This property, located south of the Dairy Building, was acquired in 2017. It is being converted to a children's playhouse that will be open to the public. The grand opening is planned for 2018.

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. Ljuskrona, Bishop Hill Colony Coverlet section, Olof Krans family photographs, 1857 vest, 19th century carpenter tools, and a Bishop Hill Colony yarn winder were just some of the artifacts that were donated to the Heritage in 2017. We greatly appreciate all of these 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 transferring some of our film archives onto DVDs.

Genealogy and Bishop Hill Colony Research

In 2017, the BHHA had over 30 research requests concerning genealogy and Bishop Hill Colony history. Archivist Cheryl Dowell answered many of these requests and also maintains the genealogy files for the Heritage. In addition, high-resolution photographs are being taken of our genealogy materials for preservation purposes.

EDUCATION

Exhibits

Five temporary exhibits were displayed in the Steeple Building Museum. The first exhibit was *Toy Tractor Weekend* in April, in which displays of all makes and models of toy farm implements, barns, and tractors were proudly shown off by their owners.



The May *Quilt Show Exhibit* was as popular as always. This year's theme was "Cats, Calico, and Cross Stitch." The Quilt Show Challenge Quilts were displayed in the Steeple Building Museum. BHHA volunteers also created a quilt display based on the show's theme.



This year's summer exhibit was *Workers of the World, Awaken!: The Life and Legacy of Joe Hill*. This traveling display from the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia, describes the life of Joe Hill, an early 20th century Swedish-American labor activist, cartoonist, and songwriter, who coined the phrase "pie in the sky." As part of the exhibit opening, Bucky Halker performed a concert based on Joe Hill songs.



Joe Hill

Collectors Weekend, in which local collectors brought in their treasures for public viewing, returned in October. Some of the objects that were on display were foxes, Swedish province napkin dolls, clowns, doll furniture, and rhinestones.



"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.



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 and the Civil War 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: 7,913
- Krans Livery Stable Museum: 121
- Dairy Building: 1,217

Tours

In 2017, BHHA hosted 5 adult tour groups for a total of 122 visitors:

- Central Illinois Antique Association- May 18
- American Classic Tours- June 16
- Klockenga group- June 24
- Scandorama- September 29
- The University Club- October 4

School Groups

BHHA hosted 7 scheduled school tours, totaling 361 guests. These numbers do not include classes brought to Bishop Hill by their schools on impromptu field trips.

School Tours and Special Programs for 2017 (7 schools):

- Winola Elementary- May 4
- Crossroads HS- May 4
- Princeville Elementary- May 5
- Williamsfield Elementary - May 11
- Galva 1st grade- May 12
- St. Malachy 3rd grade- May 18
- C.R. Hanna Elementary- May 24



Crafts Program

In 2017, 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 70 children made and took home several different types of Christmas tree ornaments.



**NUMBER OF CRAFT DEMONSTRATION
DAYS IN 2017: at least 13**

Plays

The Heritage Acting Troupe took their show on the road once again this year! A new skit has been created each year for the past 3 years. For 2017, this all-volunteer acting group performed “Rip, Stitch, Wind” all over Illinois.

Many of you will remember your Grandmother or Mother using old clothing to make rag rugs. Re-cycling was nothing new to them! This is the basis for the Heritage Acting Troupe’s historical conversation as they prepare to make rag rugs. Anna (Vicki Massie), Brita (Dianne Lindbom), and Maria (Mary Bjorling) continued their adventures and mis-adventures revealing how women’s contribution to the Colony work made things happen. Deni Menken once again presented the introduction to the unpredictable happenings in the skit written by Cheryl Dowell.



In front, Dianne Lindbom, Vicki Massie, and Mary Bjorling
In back, Deni Menken

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 musical performances, the BHHA sponsored the Joe Hill Concert, the Oskar Stenmark Trio, and the **Blue Eyed Blondes**.



For programs, the Heritage organized presentations about the Humor of Abraham Lincoln and the Gypsy Coeds.

VOLUNTEERS

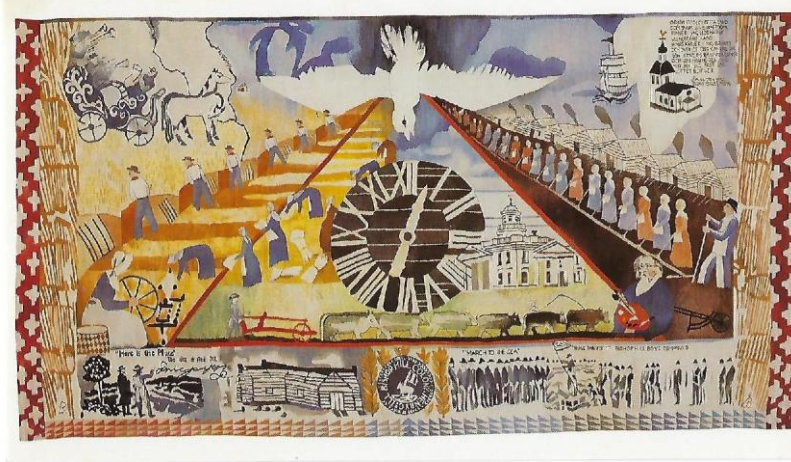
Volunteers keep the BHHA running – helping with programs/workshops, working at the front desk, creating displays, painting, cleaning, performing maintenance duties, fundraising activities, working on membership, and so much more. Without the assistance of the volunteers, many of the BHHA's activities would not be possible. At least **3,365 hours were spent by BHHA volunteers** working at the Jordbruksdagarna Food Stand, Pie at the Steeple, and a host of other events. The BHHA greatly appreciate all the time and hard work provided by over fifty volunteers.



V.I.P. EVENTS

The BHHA is always pleased to host special guests in Bishop Hill. This year, the Heritage was happy to organize a celebration to thank several groups for a special donation. On Saturday October 28, the Bishop Hill Heritage Association celebrated the gift of the Bishop Hill Tapestry. Newly installed at the Steeple Building Museum, the 12' 3" by 6' 7" tapestry was designed by Swedish artist Åsa Bengtson of Stockholm and sponsored by the late gallerist Carl Axel Valén. This work of art depicts the Bishop Hill Colony in the mid-19th century and is part of a series of nine tapestries telling the story of Swedish immigration to the USA. The American Daughters of Sweden made this gift possible thru a generous financial donation

Over forty people attended the Bishop Hill Tapestry Celebration. State Representative Dan Swanson spoke of the importance of Bishop Hill to the area. Gerd Sjögren, Chicago's Honorary Consul General for Sweden, remarked on the strong ties between Bishop Hill and Sweden. Both Mattias Hallendorff, president of the Carl Axel Valén Foundation; and Janet Nelson, president of the American Daughters of Sweden, described their organizations' roles in bringing this wonderful tapestry to Bishop Hill and the BHHA.



Bishop Hill Tapestry



From left to right, State Representative Dan Swanson, Gerd Sjögren, Mattias Hallendorff, Janet Nelson, and Kerstin Lane, president of the BHHA

OPERATIONS

MEMBERSHIP

This past year, the BHHA received over \$14,600 in dues and renewals. BHHA currently has over **475 members** registered, of which 33 are institutions such as museums, colleges, and local organizations. Members come from over 30 different states, including all corners of the country—Texas, California, Florida and Maine, as well as a few members from Sweden. At least 80% of our members reside in 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 7,300 people visited our website from 10 different nations in 2017. 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, WRHL, 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.

Colony Store Manager's Report

When you think about the Colony store what comes to mind, herring, Dala horses, candy sticks?? We like to think of the Colony Store as the hub of goods and information. If it is lost you can find it at the colony store, if you need information Colony store, food or Candy the Colony store. But did you know.....

Every January, 20 or more volunteers come to the Colony Store and help the clerks count every item in the store for the annual inventory. Thanks to the Filling Station for always providing us with an awesome lunch that is greatly appreciated.

Did you know we sold 2700 lbs. of coffee last year? Yikes, that's a lot of grinding! So much grinding that the Colony Store had to make the purchase of new grinder. I like to think because of so many sales we also had to purchase a new improved cash register. Great investment in the stores future.

With the winter months upon us, during February and March we need to create events to bring in the customers. We had a great Valentines week event by having a redo on the Customer appreciation weekend that was snowed out in December 2016. For a week prior, we welcomed customers to get an additional 10% off their purchase. March brings the new spring, and Easter merchandise to the Colony Store. Spring Jubilee always brings the crowds to the Colony Store. During Spring Jubilee, volunteer Mike Wallace gave Origami demonstrations for kids of all ages.



May brought warmer weather, more events, and lots of school kids. The kids were intrigued by the over 100 types of candy and fudge, including favorites like Swedish fish and rock candy suckers. The mini Dover books are always a hit with the great price point of \$1.50-1.99.

June brought the Honor Flight Benefit and Midsommar. The clerks all enjoy donating their goods and services to the Honor Flight Benefit. Midsummer at the Colony store is just fun. We all made our own crown of flowers to wear, which helped us sell out of the store crowns.

Summer flew by bringing us to the warm days, and cool nights of Fall. We filled our shelves with our Swedish vendors' goods and food. The Colony Store carries a large assortment of Swedish Dala Horses and hundreds of everyone's favorite Tomte's. Great gift items for members of your family.



State Representative Dan Swanson

November and December didn't bring cold snow or ice, instead dry mild days. Every weekend from November through end of December brought the largest crowds in the record books. Julmarknaden was doing record-breaking sales. We ended the year with sales numbers for the record books. We cannot thank our loyal customers enough, but we will continue to keep the favorites and bring new items to keep them coming. Bring on 2018! So when someone asks you about the Colony Store remind them.

We carry Swedish Christmas ornaments all year long, 25 flavors of regular, decaf and Swedish coffees. We carry cards for every occasion imaginable. Do not forget we carry hard to find taper candles, ball candles and Swedish wooden candleholders and candles. We have a huge selection of children's books, cookbooks, and history of Bishop Hill Books. Remember the Colony Store is a great destination any day of the week to bring visitors, friends and family in 2018!

PEOPLE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

President 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.

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.

Secretary Cheryl Wexell Dowell, Bishop Hill, IL

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.

Deni Menken, Bishop Hill, IL

Retired from Country Financial after 27 years as a Sr. Lease Rep. Moved to Bishop Hill 4 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.

Bill Owens, 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.

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 New York. 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.

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.

Jean Combites, Moline, IL

My ancestors on the Olson side were some of the original Colonists. My Great-Grandmother was Mary Malmgren Olson, the first child born in the Colony. She was born in a dug-out that

first winter of 1846, just a few months after they left Sweden! Andrew Arnquist came with his family in 1870 and established the Arnquist General Store.

Both of my parents, Howard Sundberg and Mildred Olson Sundberg, were born and raised in the Bishop Hill/Galva area. I spent summers staying and playing at Grandma and Grandpa Olson's farm south of Bishop Hill. I even rode horses through the park before the fence was put up!

I grew up in Geneseo, graduated from GHS, University of Iowa, and taught in Rock Island, Chicago suburbs, and the last 24 years in Cambridge. I retired in 2007. After raising our two sons, and living in Orion for 40 years, we moved to a condo in Moline in 2014.

Many aunts, uncles, and cousins grew up in Bishop Hill and were teachers, carpenters, shop keepers, and farmers. I'm especially proud of the importance and value my Swedish ancestors put on education, especially for women, so many years ago! I've always felt that Sweden is "ahead of the times" in so many areas, and I'm proud to say, "I'm Swedish"!

Bob VerHeecke, Kewanee, IL (retired from the Board in June 2017)

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.

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.

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!

April Kleckner, Bookkeeper (hired in May 2017)

Matthew Hamps, Summer Intern

Dianne Lindbom, Bookkeeper (retired in May 2017)

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

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
- Communal Studies Association, Amana, IA
- Galva Public Library, Galva IL
- Northern Illinois Historic League, Crystal Lake IL
- Illinois Heritage Association, Champaign, IL
- Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield IL
- Illinois Association of Museums, 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 Daughters of Sweden
- American Scandinavian Association, Moline, IL
- Dalesburg Scandinavian Association, Vermillion, SD
- Galva Lion's Club, Galva 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 and Chicago
- 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 report, with a summary of financial information, in February and review results of the internal audit later in the fall.

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 \$14, 941.64, an increase of over \$1,300 from 2016.

Memorials

Memorials for the BHHA in the names of Dennis L. Anderson, Donald P. Anderson, Roger L. Anderson, Ione C. Berg, Jack Hathaway, Ruth. E. Johnson, Donna Soderburg Krause, Catherine Larson, John Sloan, Roger Spiegel, Wayne Troline, David E. Weedman, and Dr. Richard Westergren for a total of \$4,730.00 to the Heritage.

Admission

Museum & Archives Donations totaled \$8,242.61

Tour Groups

Income from 12 adult and school tour groups totaled \$1,358.00. We served 483 visitors.

Fundraising Events

Fundraising events brought in \$6837.19 and included the *Rabarber fundraiser* at *Midsommar Music Festival*, *Pie at the Steeple* at the *Bishop Hill Festival of the Arts*, the *Svensk Varm Korv Stand* at *Jordbruksdagarna* (Agriculture Days), *Dinner and Drama at the Dairy*, *Bishop Hill Official Walking Tour booklet*, *Faces of Utopia*, and *historic crops from the BHHA Garden*.

Through donations and grants, \$147,914.18 was raised for the 1851 Carpenter Shop Exterior Restoration Project in 2017.

Grants

- American Daughter of Sweden-\$25,000 for the Bishop Hill Tapestry
- American Scandinavian Foundation-\$500 for the Oskar Stenmark Trio concert
- Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation -\$50,000 grant for the 1851 Carpenter Shop Exterior Restoration Project
- Galesburg Community Foundation-\$250 for Jordbruksdagarna
- Illinois Arts Council Agency- \$6,400 grant for 2017 operating expenses
- Landmarks Illinois-\$2,500 for the 1851 Carpenter Shop Exterior Restoration Project.
- Swedish Council of America-\$500 for Joe Hill exhibit and concert

DONORS FOR THE 1851 CARPENTER SHOP EXTERIOR RESTORATION PROJECT



HOD OF BRICKS



Gil and Roberta Achterhof (2 hods of bricks)
Barbara and Richard Andersen (285 hods of bricks)
Roger and Judith Anderson (2 hods of bricks)
Jim and Wanda Asplund
Bishop Hill Old Settlers Association
Ann and William Barnes
Carol and Duane Curry
Ella and Frank Davison
A. Faith DeDecker
Cheryl Dowell
Greg and Emily Dowell
Gerald and Carol Erickson
Faye Ferguson
Doris Friend (2 hods of bricks)
Marlene Grover
Barbara Glick
David Johnston (30 hods of bricks)
Joe and Kerstin Lane (2 hods of bricks)
Deni and Eldon Menken
Harlan and Sally Nelson
Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation (225 hods of bricks)
M. Carolyn Ossian
Bill and Linda Owens
Judith Roe
Independent Order of Svithiod
Bette and James Themanson
VASA National Archives
Gary and Dawn Wexell
Barbara Weedman
Verdandi Lodge, No. 3 (15 hods of bricks)
Andrea Vitale
Xi Kappa Gamma

DONORS FOR THE 1851 CARPENTER SHOP EXTERIOR RESTORATION PROJECT



WINDOW



Gil and Roberta Achterhof
Ameren Illinois (5 windows)
Barbara and Richard Andersen (3 windows)
Charles Andersen
Bishop Hill Old Settlers Association (2 windows)
Mary Bjorling
Cheryl Dowell
Greg and Emily Dowell (2 windows)
Coralyn Duhlstine, in memory of Ione C. Berg
Dorothy Ericson
Patricia Hallbick (2 windows)
Janet and Stephen Kenyon, in memory of Wayne Trolene (2 windows)
Richard and Lillemor Horngren (2 windows)
David Johnston (3 windows)
Landmarks Illinois (5 windows)
Christopher Lane
Joe and Kerstin Lane (2 windows)
Lou and Janene Lourdeau
Lori and Kerry Maloney, in memory of Wayne Trolene
Mike and Vicki Massie
John H. Nelson
Sarah Nordstrom Nelson
Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation (10 windows)
H. Joan Pardieck (2 windows)
Mike and Vicki Rabas
Roger Spiegel
Philip St. John (2 windows)
Jane Tornquist
Verdandi Lodge, No. 3 (4 windows)
Bob VerHeecke
Mary Yarger

EXPENSES

In 2017, 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
- ✚ 2017-Steven Royce Property, now called the Spets Stuga



Shown as purchased by the BHHA.

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
Town festivals
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 _____

Dollar amount of membership _____

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.**

**For \$50 or more, you will
receive your 10% store
discount and 2 coupons to be
used during the year for 20%
discount of total Colony Store
sales for one purchase!**

You can also pay for your
membership online at
www.bishophillheritage.org

Kate, The Colony Brickmaker

Wants you

To Help Save the Colony Carpenter Building



Kate Danielsdotter, Bishop Hill Colonist

Please donate

One Hod of Bricks.....\$200.00

One Window.....\$500.00

**Checks made payable to Bishop Hill Heritage Assoc., P.O.
Box 103, Bishop Hill, Illinois 61419**

Or Pay on Line: bishophillheritage.org

For more information, phone 309-927-3899 or inquire at the Historic Steeple Building

The Historic Colony Carpenter Building, purchased by the BHHA in 2016 to help save this early original structure.

A free first-time BHHA membership is an option with donation.

Your historic and heritage interest is appreciated and has the option to be noted on a gift board.