

# **Bishop Hill**

# **Heritage Association**

## ***ANNUAL REPORT 2018***



**Restored 1851 Colony Carpenter Building**



**Completed Spets Stuga**

Bishop Hill, IL  
February 2, 2019

# 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 1-3  
January-March              Mon-Fri 10-4

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bhheritageassociation>

BHHA Annual Report format first created by Brita Butler-Wall

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# President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends of Bishop Hill,

Gott Nytt År! Happy New Year!

It is quite an overwhelming task to try to summarize all the wonders of Bishop Hill in 2018.

First of all, I would like to take my hat off to the Heritage Board. They are an extremely dedicated bunch who complete one task after the other, no pay just true interest in the many things that need to be accomplished. We certainly have a very hands-on-board. Thank you so much!

It was a tremendous leap forward when the board decided to restore the Carpenter Building, built in 1851. It is now almost done and it looks glorious, a real jewel right there on the main street. The task is however not complete yet as more funds still need to be raised, a great task for this year.

One of the highlights of the year was the dedication of the Spets Stuga, with the attendance of the Spets family. A group of children organized by Chanda Dowell played games. Chanda prepared a pretend meal in the kitchen and gave us a flavor of what is to come when we open the house for the children in the spring.

Bishop Hill shines like a diamond in the prairie. The history of the Colony and the present village is so special with many of the original buildings still here. The entertainment and the educational programs make it all come alive.

I feel very fortunate to have got involved with Bishop Hill. As many of you know I live in Chicago and the drive from Chicago to Bishop Hill makes it impossible for me to come out as often as I would like to but every time is so invigorating.

Bishop Hill would not be what it is today without the dedication of our administrator Todd DeDecker. Thank you Todd.

We look forward to another great year in Bishop Hill and I hope many of you will attend the great programs and exhibits that are offered.

All the best,  
Med vänliga hälsningar

Kerstin Lane  
BHHA Board 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 2018 events, with the date and location, when applicable. Events that are in italics were ones solely or primarily sponsored by the Heritage:

- *Collector/Toy Tractor Weekend*; April 7 and 8; Steeple
- *From Prairie to Farm to City: Music to Commemorate Illinois Bicentennial*; April 14; Dairy
- *Booth Shot Lincoln: Folksongs of Illinois, 1818 to 1960*; May 5; Dairy
- *Quilt Show*; May 18-20
- *Greeting Card Workshop*; May 19, Steeple
- *Bishop Hill Civil War Day*; May 26
- *Bishop Hill In WWI exhibition opening*; June 9
- *Honor Flight Benefit*; June 10
- *Rabarber fundraiser and Midsommar Music Festival*; June 23; Village Park
- *"Pie at the Steeple" Ice Cream Social, Meatballs at the Steeple, Wheat Weavers, Hammer and Pick Concert, and Festival of the Arts*; August 11 and 12
- *Bishop Hill Chautauqua*; August 25; Village Park
- *Svensk Varm Korv Stand and Jordbruksdagarna*; September 29 and 30
- *Spets Stuga Dedication*; September 30
- *Communal Studies Association National Conference*; October 4-6
- *Women of the Bishop Hill Colony Program*; October 7; Steeple
- *Nuns, Nazis, and Notre Dame Program*; October 27; Dairy
- *Black Hawk's View of Illinois History Program*; November 13; Dairy
- *Julmarknad and Make It/Take It Christmas Ornaments Workshop (Sat. only)*; November 23-25; Steeple
- *Julmarknad and Make It/Take It Christmas Ornaments Workshop (Sat. only)*; December 1 and 2; Steeple
- *Lucia Nights*; December 7 and 8
- *Public Showing of 1979 Bishop Hill Documentary*; December 15

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. 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***



Before restoration



After restoration

### **Carpenter Building**

This 1851 structure was purchased by the BHHA in 2016. During Colony times, furniture, wagon frames, implements, and more were made here. One of the oldest remaining Colony brick buildings in existence, it currently holds the U.S. Post Office and Garden Thyme. The BHHA is finishing an exterior historic restoration of this structure. Most of the work is completed, with some minor touch-up work scheduled to be done during the spring of 2019.





### **Blacksmith Building**

Six blacksmiths worked in this structure during Colony times. Today, the first floor of this 1857 structure is leased by the Prairie Arts Center. Pottery, rugs, and brooms are some of the items being sold by the artisans on this floor. A photography studio is located on the second floor.



### **Cobbler Shop**

This 1905 building was used not only as a cobbler shop but later as a coffee shop and gift shop. In 2018, Willie's Antiques leased it. It is now available to rent in 2019.



### **Colony Store**

During Colony times, this structure was a general store for the Colonists and outsiders, with the storekeeper and his family living on the second floor. Today, the Colony Store is the gift shop for the BHHA. Swedish foods, Dala horses, Lucias, Tomte, and locally made items are sold in this 1853 Colony Building.



### **Dairy Building**

The 1855 Dairy Building was the dairy processing center for the Colony. Today, it hosts meetings, concerts, bridal showers, reunions, and other programs throughout the year and is available for event rental in 2019. The south apartment continues to be rented. The beautiful second floor is available for rent as an office space, workshop, or any other business.





### **Livery Stable Museum and Ericson Shed**

The 1908 Albert Krans Livery Stable continues as a stand-alone museum. In addition, Black Hawk East Campus agricultural students once again planted historic crop next to the Livery Stable. The broomcorn, flax, and sorghum from these fields were sold at the Colony Store as a BHHA fundraiser and were used for demonstrations.



### **Spets Stuga**

This property, located south of the Dairy Building, was acquired in 2017. It has been converted to an early 1900's children's playhouse that was opened to the public in September 2018.



### **Steeple Building**

The 1854 Steeple Building Museum was initially used as a school, offices, and living quarters for the Colonists. Today, it is the main museum, archives, and offices for the BHHA.

## ***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. A psalmodikin, 19<sup>th</sup> century letters, photographs, and a Bishop Hill Colony child's chair were just some of the artifacts that were donated to the Heritage in 2018. We greatly appreciate all of these donations.

### **Genealogy and Bishop Hill Colony Research**

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 shot of our genealogy materials for preservation purposes, courtesy of Bob Nelson.

### **Archives**

The scanning of historic documents and the accessioning of artifacts are ongoing. The first and 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).

The BHHA continues to transfer some of our film archives onto DVDs. One of the more interesting films that was transferred was the *1979 Bishop Hill Documentary*, which included not only the documentary itself but also all the interviews and background footage that did not make the final cut. This DVD is available to purchase at the Colony Store by calling 309 927-3596.



Also, the Heritage is continuing its Oral History Project, which involves interviewing area residents about their family histories and life in Bishop Hill. This year, Art Sandburg and Jean Combites were videotaped.

## EDUCATION

### Exhibits

Four temporary exhibits were displayed in the Steeple Building Museum this year. The first exhibit was *Collector/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. In addition, local collectors brought in their treasures for public viewing. Some of the objects that were on display were patent medicine, circus memorabilia, Valentines, and Buddy L vehicles.





The May *Quilt Show Exhibit* was as popular as always. This year's theme was "Teapots, Toys, and Tumbling Blocks." BHHA volunteers created a quilt display based on the show's theme. The Quilt Show Challenge Quilts were displayed again in the Steeple Building Museum.



The Steeple Building Museum's summer exhibit was *Bishop Hill in World War I*. This BHHA-created display told the story of the Great War through the eyes of the Bishop Hill men who were "over there." Part of this display was also shown at the Two Rivers YMCA in Moline, IL





*“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.

### **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: 6,822
- Krans Livery Stable Museum: 146
- Dairy Building: 1,215

### **School Groups**

BHHA hosted 9 scheduled school tours, totaling 457 guests. These numbers do not include classes brought to Bishop Hill by their schools on impromptu field trips.

#### **School Tours and Special Programs for 2018 (9 schools):**

- Princeville Elementary
- Winola Elementary
- C.R. Hanna Elementary
- Williamsfield Elementary
- Sherrard Elementary
- Cambridge Summer School
- Countryside Private School
- Eureka Private School
- Rock Island High School German Foreign Exchange

### **Tours**

In 2018, BHHA hosted 8 adult tour groups for a total of 215 visitors:

- Collier Group
- Janshugs Folk High School in Sweden
- Illinois Central College Adult Community Program
- American Classic Tours
- Eason Group
- Communal Studies Association National Convention
- Mid-American Classic Tour
- ROWVA History Teachers



### **Crafts Program**

In 2018, BHHA provided demonstrations throughout the year. The following are some of the craft demonstrations sponsored by the Heritage this year: 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.



### 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 Phil Passen, Bucky Halker, and the **Nordland Band**.



The Heritage organized and hosted presentations by the Communal Studies Association National Conference, Tim Pletkovich, and Brian “Fox” Ellis in the Dairy Building. In the Steeple Building Museum, the BHHA hosted a program by Brita Butler-Wall on women in the Colony, as well as two movie showings.

## ***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 **2,847 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!

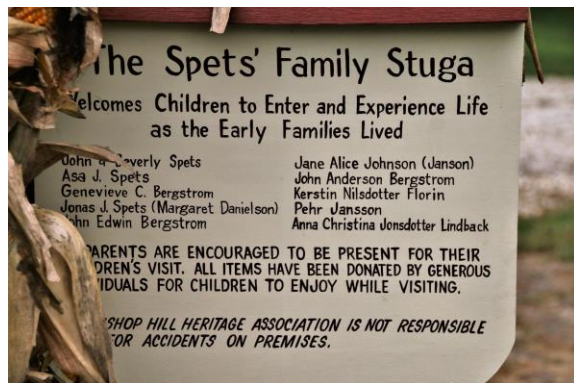




## V.I.P. EVENTS

The BHHA is always pleased to host special events in Bishop Hill. This year, the Heritage was happy to organize a grand opening of one of our latest building acquisitions, the Spets Stuga. Through the hard work of our BHHA volunteers, this structure has been transformed into a pioneer children's playhouse, which is open to the public during tourist season.

On Sunday September 30, the Bishop Hill Heritage Association dedicated this family-friendly building with children activities; speeches given by BHHA Administrator Todd DeDecker, BHHA President Kerstin Lane, and State Representative Dan Swanson; and followed by light refreshments. Special thanks was given to the Spets family for their contributions toward this project. A large crowd attended the Spets Stuga Dedication.





# OPERATIONS

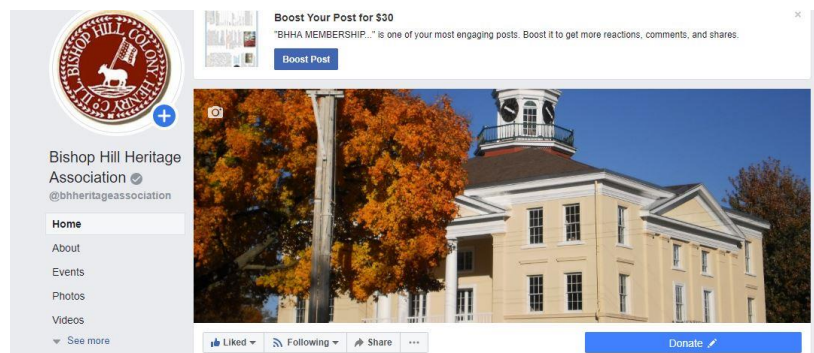
## COMMUNICATIONS

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](http://www.bishophillheritage.org)) over 8,100 people visited our website from 9 different nations in 2018. Also, in February, the BHHA created its own Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bhheritageassociation>. By the end of the year, it has over 650 Followers and growing.



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, and whrl.net. Emails announcing special events were sent to BHHA members and past guests.

### Radio

WKEL, WJRE, WYEC, WKEI, WHRL, WAIK, WRAM, WAAG, and WGIL

### Television

KWQC-TV Channel 6 (Davenport, IA), WQAD-TV Channel 8 (Moline, IL), and WHBF-TV Channel 4 (Rock Island, IL).

### Newspapers

*Henry County Advertiser*

*Geneseo Republic*

*Cambridge Chronicle*

*Galva News*

*Galesburg Register-Mail*

*Orion Gazette*

*Kewanee Star-Courier*

*Peoria Journal-Star*

*Rock Island Argus*

*Daily Dispatch*

*Quad City Times*

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

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

## *MEMBERSHIP*

This past year, the BHHA received over \$14,800 in dues and renewals. BHHA currently has over **500 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 members from Sweden. At least 80% of our members reside in Illinois.

## *Colony Store Manager's Report: Favorites of 2018*

Valentines Week is at the top of our favorites list for 2018. This is our first of many customer appreciation events throughout the year. Our goals for this middle of the winter event are getting BHHA members into the Store and signing up new members.

Marching right into spring, ordering for the Colony Store's merchandise begins early, as usual. Many people do not realize we have to start ordering summer, fall, and holiday merchandise as early as February. Most of our vendors give us discounts on shipping the earlier we order. Our favorite Swedish vendor Gunnar arrives at the end of February each year; he has been visiting the Colony Store since 1987 to take our largest order of the year for imported Swedish goods. This past year, the Colony Store was also very fortunate to purchase someone's personal Dala horse collection for a fraction of the importing cost. I am so pleased to say we have sold the majority of that collection.

The month of May brought many favorites, from the Quilt Show to a new favorite, Civil War Day. The women of the Colony Store dressed in 1850's garb and joined in the fun. We also order Dala Horses once a year from Grannas Olsson in Sweden during this month.

June always brings another Store favorite: the Midsommer Music Festival. This year we handcrafted 20 floral crowns, which we sold out of very quickly. Our motto is "who doesn't want to wear flowers in their hair."



Fall brings so many new favorites to the Colony Store, from seasonal décor, coffee, candy and food. November and December brought us our favorite weather for the year, clear and mild for our holiday events. December went down in the record book for sales. Thanks to all our favorite customers for coming back repeatedly.

Our next favorite thing will be to see you in 2019!

# ***PEOPLE***

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

### **President Kerstin Lane, Glenview, 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 and husband, Joseph Lane, have three children and six grandchildren.

### **Vice President Bette Themanson, Kewanee, IL**

Bette and husband, Jim, lives 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.

### **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 on the BHHA board, a member of the Bishop Hill Community United Methodist Church, the Bishop Hill Old Settlers' Association and is the BHOSA Secretary. 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.

#### **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. After 39 and a half years as a registered nurse, Vicki retired from OSF St Luke's Medical Center's Surgery Department in December 2018. Vicki enjoys traveling, and especially her trips to Sweden. Gardening and antiquing are some of the activities that she enjoys in her spare time.

#### **Deni Menken, Bishop Hill, IL**

Retired from Country Financial after 27 years as a Sr. Lease Rep. Moved to Bishop Hill 7 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 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, plus they also assist when they have time, with Galva: Ready, Set, Grow, which works for the betterment of Galva.

### **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"!

## **STAFF**

### **Todd DeDecker, Administrator**

Todd DeDecker became the administrator for the Heritage during the summer of 2012. He 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. He has two daughters who live in Kitchener, Ontario. During the summer of 2018, Todd married Janna Miller of Colona, IL.

### **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**

## **Allies and Supporters**

### **LOCAL**

- Bishop Hill Arts Council
- Bishop Hill Community United Methodist Church
- 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
- Bishop Hill businesses

### **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, Chicago, IL
- 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) Chicago
- Vasa Lodge #683, Bishop Hill, IL
- Vasa Brage Lodge #29, Germantown Hills, IL
- Vasa Lodge Jubilee #692, DeLand, FL
- Svithiod Verdandi #3, Chicago, IL
- Svithiod Hall of Peoria County, Peoria, IL

## GENEALOGICAL

- Henry County Genealogical Society
- Bishop Hill State Historic Site
- Knox County Genealogical Society, Galesburg, IL



## SWEDISH

- Bishop Hill Sällskapet, Biskopskulla, Sweden
- Consulate General of Sweden, Chicago, IL
- 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.

#### Membership Dues

New Members and Renewals resulted in \$14, 831.04.

#### Admission

Museum Admissions and Donations totaled \$3,696.27.

#### Tour Groups

Income from adult and school tour groups totaled \$1,324.00.

#### Fundraising Events

Fundraising events brought in \$6,273.10 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), *Bishop Hill Official Walking Tour booklet*, *Faces of Utopia*, and *historic crops from the BHHA Garden*.

#### Grants

- American Scandinavian Foundation-\$500 for the Nordland Band performance at the Midsommar Music Festival
- Community State Bank-\$500 for Bishop Hill Civil War Day
- Illinois Arts Council Agency- \$550 for musical performances
- Galesburg Community Foundation-\$250 for Bishop Hill Civil War Day
- Stifetlsen Konung Gustaf VI Adolfs Fond for svensk kultur-\$20,958.11 grant for the 1851 Carpenter Shop Exterior Restoration Project
- Leader Change Illinois-\$1,000 for social media promotion of Bishop Hill
- Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation -\$20,000 grant for the 1851 Carpenter Shop Exterior Restoration Project
- Bill and Susan Sherrard Foundation-\$1,000 for educational programming.

- Swedish Council of America-\$450 for the Nordland Band performance at the Midsommar Music Festival
- SWEA Chicago-\$1,000 for Midsommar Music Festival

### **Carpenter Shop Project Fundraising**

The BHHA Fundraising Committee created the successful *Adopt a Window & Hod of Bricks* campaign for this project. Through window/hod of bricks adoptions, memorials, donations, bequests, and grants, \$281,507.60 total was raised for the 1851 Carpenter Shop Exterior Restoration Project by the end of 2018. Donors to this project are listed on the following pages.

## **EXPENSES**

In 2018, 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, Frieda Boland, Mrs. William Henry, Gilbert Swanson, George Swank, Reynolds 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- Spets Stuga



## DONORS FOR THE 1851 CARPENTER SHOP EXTERIOR RESTORATION PROJECT

### HOD OF BRICKS

Gil and Roberta Achterhof (2 hods of bricks)  
American Daughters of Sweden  
Barbara and Richard Andersen estate (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  
Mary Bjorling  
Carol and Duane Curry  
Ella and Frank Davison  
A. Faith DeDecker  
Cheryl Dowell  
Greg and Emily Dowell  
William and Judith Eaton  
Gerald and Carol Erickson  
Faye Ferguson  
Doris Friend (3 hods of bricks)  
Marlene Grover  
Barbara Glick (2 hods of bricks)  
Linda Holden estate (126 hods of bricks)  
David Johnston (32 hods of bricks)  
Janet and Stephen Kenyon, in memory of Wayne Troline (5 hods of bricks)  
Joe and Kerstin Lane (2 hods of bricks)  
Stephen Lindbom  
Mike and Vicki Massie (10 hods of bricks)  
Deni and Eldon Menken  
Harlan and Sally Nelson  
Morris Nelson estate ( 10 hods of bricks)  
Robert Olson estate  
Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation (225 hods of bricks)  
M. Carolyn Ossian  
Bill and Linda Owens (2 hods of bricks)  
Judith Roe  
John Sederwall  
Independent Order of Svithiod  
Svithiod Hall of Peoria County (15 hods of bricks)  
Don and Marlene Talbot  
Bette and James Themanson  
Evelyn Troline  
VASA National Archives  
Verdandi Lodge, No. 3 (17 hods of bricks)  
Andrea Vitale  
Gary and Dawn Wexell  
Barbara Weedman  
Xi Kappa Gamma X Beta Sigma Phi (2 hods of bricks)  
Mary Yarger (5 hods of bricks)



## DONORS FOR THE 1851 CARPENTER SHOP EXTERIOR RESTORATION PROJECT

Gil and Roberta Achterhof (3 windows)  
Ameren Illinois (5 windows)  
Barbara and Richard Andersen estate (3 windows)  
Charles Andersen  
Carolyn Anderson  
Bishop Hill Old Settlers Association (2 windows)  
Mary Bjorling  
Richard Carlson  
In memory of Charles and Verna Colmark  
Cheryl Dowell  
Greg and Emily Dowell (2 windows)  
Coralyn Duhlstine, in memory of Ione C. Berg  
Mary Erickson (3 windows)  
Dorothy Ericson  
Patricia Hallbick, in memory of Wilma Florine Hallbick (2 windows)  
Linda Holden estate (50 windows)  
Richard and Lillemor Horngren (2 windows)  
David Johnston (10 windows)  
Janet and Stephen Kenyon, in memory of Wayne Trolene (3 windows)  
Landmarks Illinois (5 windows)  
Christopher Lane  
Joe and Kerstin Lane (6 windows)  
Lou and Janene Lourdeau  
Lori and Kerry Maloney, in memory of Wayne Trolene  
Mike and Vicki Massie (7 windows)  
Morris Nelson estate (6 windows)  
John H. Nelson  
Sarah Nordstrom Nelson  
E. Irene Nordstrom  
Wade and Elaine Nystrom  
Robert Olson estate (9 windows)  
Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation (50 windows)  
H. Joan Pardieck (2 windows)  
Mike and Vicki Rabas  
Svithiod Hall of Peoria County (14 windows)  
Roger Spiegel estate  
Philip St. John (2 windows)  
Jane Tornquist  
Verdandi Lodge, No. 3 (18 windows)  
Bob VerHeecke  
David Wall and Brita Butler Wall, in memory of Janice Florine Butler  
Walter Weedman  
Steven Westerlund  
Carl Wexell (4 windows)  
Mary Yarger (2 windows)



## 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](http://www.bishophillheritage.org)