

# Bishop Hill Heritage Association *ANNUAL REPORT 2020*



*From Shore to Shore*

Bishop Hill, IL  
February 6, 2021

# 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

Tel.: 309-927-3899

Email: [bhha@mymctc.net](mailto:bhha@mymctc.net)

Website: [www.bishophillheritage.org](http://www.bishophillheritage.org)

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 Ar! Happy New Year!

WHAT A YEAR! I am sure we are all happy to leave it behind us. Although we have had a tough year I am sure many of us have had some good times in our gardens, with our puzzles or books. This year we are looking forward to those great hugs from family and friends that we have had to hold back for so long.

I am happy to report that despite it all Bishop Hill has managed very well. We have had to cancel most programs, which is so hard as our very able administrator, Todd DeDecker, spends much time on every single event.

Our membership is slowly growing which is very encouraging. If you need to give a gift to someone that has everything think about a gift membership to the Bishop Hill Heritage Association.

Chautauqua was a great success in the middle of the pandemic with all the necessary precautions taken.

Two major gifts were received this year, one from Verdandi lodge in Chicago and one from our very special friends Vicki and Michael Massie. Thank you so much and thank you to so many others who contributed to make Bishop Hill stay in the black during this difficult year with much fewer visitors.

Thank you also to all our volunteers and staff who work so diligent for the good of Bishop Hill.

All the best for the New Year!

Kerstin Nordqvist Lane  
BHHA Board President

# Administrator's Report

## PROGRAMMING



Due to the pandemic, the BHHA had to cancel a variety of 2020 events, such as the Midsommar Music Festival, Jordbruksdagarna, the ABBA Tribute Band concert, and more. Some programs were modified so they could continue. Listed below are the 2020 events that were solely sponsored or cosponsored by the BHHA, with the date and location listed, when applicable:

- **Bishop Hill Colony Papers exhibition opening;** July 1; Steeple Building
- **Bishop Hill Chautauqua and Lilly Setterdahl book signing;** August 22; Village Park
- **Basic Woodcarving Workshop;** October 17; Dairy Building
- **Dala Horse Painting Workshop;** November 7; Blacksmith Shop
- **Julmarknad;** November 27, 28, and 29
- **Julmarknad;** December 5 and 6
- **Lucia Nights;** December 11 and 12

Due to the coronavirus situation, the BHHA focused more on online educational programming. This past spring, the Bishop Hill Heritage Association created its own YouTube Channel for historical videos that were too large to be placed onto our website. The BHHA YouTube channel is located at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRqKS9GgGjs8oJ99VjnlAZg>. Videos on this channel include Colony descendent interviews, lectures about Bishop Hill Colony history, past Midsommar Music Festivals, and much more.

The week after the Bishop Hill Chautauqua, the Heritage partially sponsored a Virtual Chautauqua in which people can register online for free to watch live performances. In a Chautauqua, historians, storytellers, and actors perform first person portrayals of historical figures. The BHHA sponsored the following performances: Julia Ward Howe portrayed by Jessica Miller, Caroline Nichols Churchill portrayed by Liesl Jensen, and Walt Whitman portrayed by Brian "Fox" Ellis.

In November, the Bishop Hill Heritage Association, in partnership with Fox Tales International and Twin Cities Productions, launched a multimedia walking tour of the entire town. Built using the free app [TheClio.com](https://www.theclio.com), this tour includes historic and modern photographs, brief historic text, a text to voice audio app, and professionally filmed narration. The Clio app uses your phone's GPS coordinates to recognize where you are and then shows you the information about that specific historic site. With the walking tour app, a simple map gives you directions on where to go next. The link to this free tour is <https://www.theclio.com/entry/95114/tour>. The BHHA is one of only a handful of small historical organizations in the country that has a video component to its walking tour app.



## ***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 much 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 finished an exterior historic restoration of this structure in 2019. Storm windows were installed in 2020 to protect the historic windows.



### **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. The second floor will become an antique store in 2021.



### **Cobbler Shop**

This 1905 building was used not only as a shoemaker's shop but was later used as a coffee shop and gift shop. It is currently the home of Grapevine Country Studio, an art and crafts studio.





### **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, Tomten, 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 may be rented for meetings, concerts, bridal showers, reunions, and other programs. The south apartment continues to be rented. The beautiful second floor is now the home to Line of Sight Studios, a photograph studio.





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

The 1908 Albert Krans Livery Stable continues as a stand-alone museum. In addition, volunteers once again planted historic crops next to the Livery Stable. The broomcorn, flax, and sorghum from these fields were used for decorations and fundraisers.



### **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 first opened to the public in September 2018. Its operating days are from April to October.



### **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 World War I Bishop Hill soldier's diary and a Bishop Hill Colony Table were just a couple of the items that were donated to the BHHA this year. We greatly appreciate these donations!

### **Research**

The Heritage had over 40 research requests concerning genealogy, Bishop Hill Colony history, and Bishop Hill 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 made of our genealogy materials for preservation purposes, courtesy of Bob Nelson.

### **Archives**

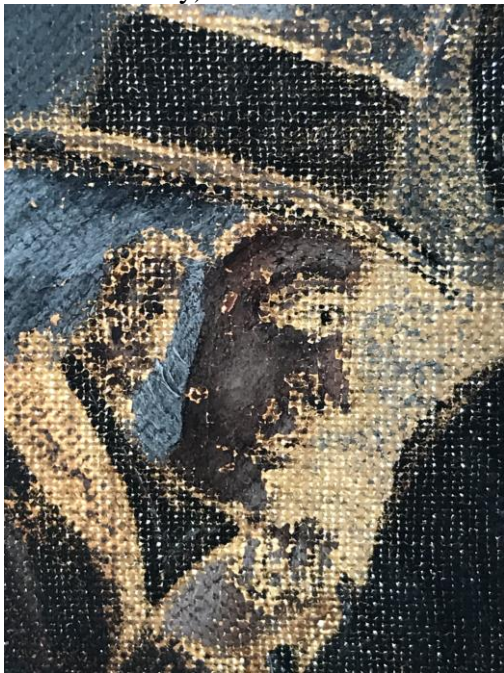
The scanning of historic documents and the accessioning of artifacts are ongoing. The first and second floor archives (open by appointment only) house an extensive collection of Colony documents, letters by and interviews with former colonists, obituaries,



secondary sources, family genealogical information, news accounts, maps, scholarly reports and articles, unpublished manuscripts, post-Colony pamphlets, and photographs.

### **Painting Restoration**

This past summer, the BHHA had one of our Olof Krans' paintings (*From Shore to Shore*) cleaned and restored. We plan to put this painting back on display in 2021 at the Steeple Building Museum (for the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Bishop Hill Colony).



Examples of Damage Using Backlight

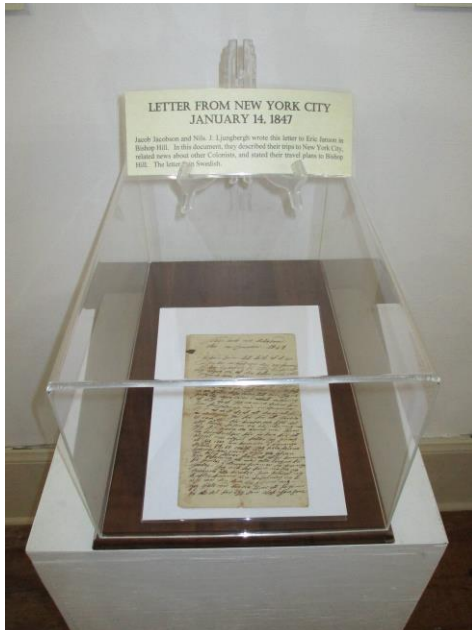


Fully Restored Painting

# EDUCATION

## Exhibits

Two temporary exhibits were displayed in the Steeple Building Museum this year.



The summer exhibition was *Bishop Hill Colony Papers*. This exhibit displayed original Bishop Hill Colony documents from the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. These artifacts have **never been on public display** before but have been the source material for a variety of books and articles about Bishop Hill over the decades.

*Swedish Christmas Traditions* was again the theme for the winter holiday display. This exhibit briefly described some of the Swedish customs and legends associated with the holiday season. As always, the display included a working model railroad set.



Visitors also enjoyed the permanent exhibits on the first and second floors, complete with Colony furniture, tools, and much more.



### Museum Visitorship

Visitor count is based on the Livery Stable guest book and the counter system at the Steeple Building. It does **not** include the number of guests who visited the Spets Stuga. Due to the pandemic, our museums were closed for the following months: half of March, April, May, half of November, and December. In addition, the museums were closed most weekends due to COVID-19 concerns. These figures reflect the **minimum** number that visited each museum.

- Steeple Building Museum: 635
- Krans Livery Stable Museum: 10

### School Groups

No school tours were conducted in Bishop Hill due to COVID-19.

### Tours

Due to the pandemic, no adult tour groups were provided tours this year.

### Crafts

The BHHA organized two workshop: a basic woodcarving workshop and a Dala Horse painting workshop. We were unable to host more workshops and demonstrations this year due to COVID-19.



### Historic Signs

With the assistance of the Bishop Hill State Historic Site and the Village of Bishop Hill, the BHHA created two exterior signs to recognize the importance of the Big Brick and the Dugouts to Bishop Hill Colony history. In the spring, the Heritage placed these signs at the original locations of these historic structures for the public to view.



### ***VOLUNTEERS***

Volunteers keep the BHHA running – helping with programs/workshops, creating displays, painting, cleaning, performing maintenance duties, gardening, working on membership, fundraising, and so much more. Without the assistance of the volunteers, many of the BHHA's activities would not be possible. **BHHA volunteers worked over 1,200 hours in 2020.** The BHHA greatly appreciate all the time and hard work provided by over twenty-five volunteers!



# 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:

### Radio

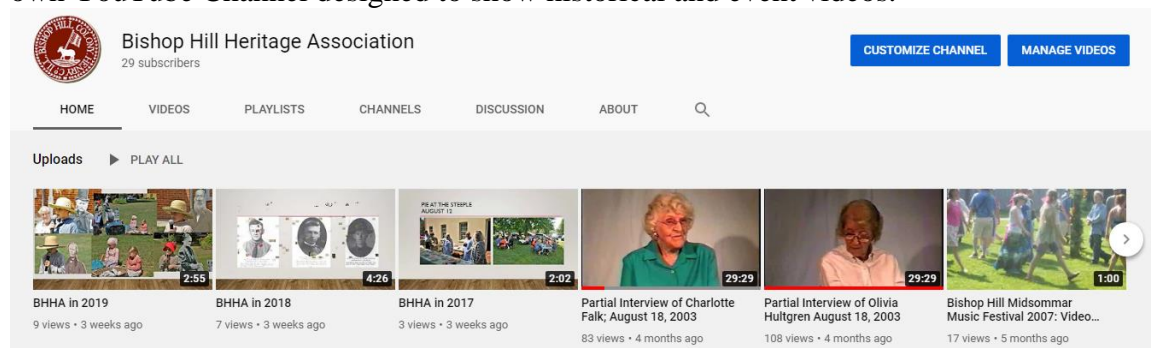
WJRE, WKEI, JACK FM, WZOE, Z98, KQCJ, WVIK, WRHL, WAAG, and WGIL

### Television

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

### Internet

For our BHHA website ([www.bishophillheritage.org](http://www.bishophillheritage.org)) over 8,000 people visited our website from over 10 different nations in 2020. The Colony Store has an online store at [www.bishophillcolonystoreb.com/](http://www.bishophillcolonystoreb.com/). The Bishop Hill Heritage Association also has its own Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bhheritageassociation>. By the end of the year, it has over 1,600 Followers and growing. In the spring, the Heritage started its own YouTube Channel designed to show historical and event videos.



BHHA and Bishop Hill events were publicized on the following websites: starcourier.com, wgil.com, regionaldailynews.com, visithenrycounty.com, peoria.org, visitquadcities.com, qconline.com, Go Galesburg, and whrl.net. Emails announcing special events were sent to BHHA members and past guests.

### Newspapers

<i>Henry County Advertiser</i>	<i>Henry County Republic</i>	<i>Prairie News</i>
<i>Galesburg Register-Mail</i>	<i>Rock Island Argus</i>	<i>Quad City Times</i>
<i>Kewanee Star-Courier</i>	<i>Peoria Journal-Star</i>	<i>Daily Dispatch</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.



## *MEMBERSHIP*

This past year, the BHHA received over **\$16,500** in dues and renewals. BHHA currently has over **500 members** registered, of which over 30 are institutions such as museums, colleges, and local organizations. Members come from over 35 different states, including all corners of the country—Oregon, Washington, Florida and Maine, as well as members from Sweden and Mexico. At least 69% of our members reside in Illinois.

## *Colony Store Manager's Report: 2020 Retrospective by Glenda Wallace*

The reason for a Colony Store retrospective is to look at what took place, what work, and what didn't work. Looking back to March 2020, was like looking into a deep well; it was dark, murky, and a bit nerve racking. Our journey took us down a road not traveled. For a retail manager of over thirty-five years, it was uncharted territory. All small businesses were struggling to stay afloat. The Colony Store was closed to the public for over a month, with only online and phone orders being taken. In May, we were able to add curbside pickup.

June 1st had us opening back up to the public with restrictions in place, a facemask requirement and a capacity limit of 10. Nonstop sanitizing of surfaces was now part of our daily routine. However, the Colony Store team was resilient and worked so hard every day. Without our usual village events, our team worked for every dollar at the Colony Store.

We were optimistic when autumn arrived, but soon we were required to lower our capacity limit to five customers in November and December. In retrospect, 2020 taught us to keep reaching out to our customers through social media, to get personal, and to send care packages to show our appreciation. We have the best, most loyal customers at the Colony Store! Keep coming, calling, and writing; we will be here for you! 2021, you never looked so good!





# ***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 seven 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 enjoys her family, friends, golf, reading and cooking.

### **Treasurer Vicki Massie Dahinda, IL**

A legal assistant at Massie & Quick Law Office, Vicki also serves as 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 her husband Mike 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 nine 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, and the Bishop Hill Old Settlers' Association. 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**

Jim was born and raised on a farm near Oneida, IL. Following graduation from ROVA H.S. and Monmouth College, he served with the U.S. Army in Japan. After discharge and brief employment in Chicago, he worked for 35 years in Human Resources for Butler Manufacturing, working primarily out of Galesburg as the Plant Personnel Manager. He also served as the Company's Corporate Labor Relations Manager for the Company's 14 domestic and 2 Canadian plants. Since retirement, Jim and his wife Wanda have enjoyed spending time with their 3 children and 6 grandchildren, plus traveling to Europe multiple times, including a visit to Smaland, the province of his grandparents. Jim has recently served on the boards of the Ontario Township, Faith Lutheran Church, Oneida Cemetery Association and the Oneida-Wataga Fire and Ambulance Districts.

### **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. He still loves his farming roots and helps farmer friends with the harvest each year.

Warren and his wife, Sue, have a son, Dr. Steven Schulz, living in New York. Steven and his wife, Narina, 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 three great grandchildren.

### **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.

### **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"!

### **John Asplund, Oneida IL**

John earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Augustana College. After teaching in Ecuador and working briefly in Minneapolis, he moved home and earned his teaching degree from Monmouth College. He began his education career as an English teacher and coach at Knoxville High School. John later earned his Master of Science and Education Specialist Degrees from Western Illinois University and his Doctor of Education degree from Illinois State University. He has been a school administrator in several districts throughout the state of Illinois. He is currently the Superintendent of Schools at Galesburg District 205. John and his wife Julie are the proud parents of Isaac, Eli, and Clara.

### **Jim Nolan, Bishop Hill IL**

Jim worked 50 years as a union carpenter. He also retired from 20 years of police work in Arizona. When his wife retired, they moved to Galva IL. Later, Jim moved to Bishop Hill when his wife passed away. He continues woodworking today and enjoys rehabbing antiques.

## **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 in June of 2015. She 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 35 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. They have one son, Nicholas Wallace, who currently works for Verizon in Peoria, IL. Glenda's hobbies, when not at the Colony Store, are woodworking, painting, traveling, fishing, and spoiling her rescue puppy Brewster! Beginning in 2020, Glenda is renting the 1905 Cobbler Shop for her Grapevine Country Studio.



## 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 Department of Natural Resources, 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
- 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
- Cambridge Historical Society, Cambridge 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
- North Park University

## CULTURAL AND CIVIC

- American Daughters of Sweden, Chicago, IL
- American Scandinavian Association at Augustana, Rock Island 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, annual membership dues, 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 for 2020.

#### **Membership Dues**

New Members and Renewals resulted in \$16,633.78

#### **Donations**

Memorials, Bequests, and other Donations totaled \$73,809.92

#### **Grants and Business Sponsorships**

- Community State Bank-\$1,500
- Geneseo Foundation-\$500 for Bishop Hill Chautauqua
- Galesburg Community Foundation-\$2,500 for educational programming for 2021
- G&M Distributors-\$100
- Henry County Independent Insurance Agents-\$300
- Illinois Arts Council Agency-\$15,500 grant for general operating expenses
- Illinois Arts Council Agency COVID-19 Emergency Relief-\$3,000
- Illinois Humanities Council COVID-19 Emergency Relief-\$2,500
- Wilbur Nelson Farms-\$500
- Bill and Susan Sherrard Foundation-\$1,000 for educational programming.
- Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation -\$15,000 grant for educational programming, festivals, and other projects for 2021
- State Bank of Toulon-\$500
- SWEA Chicago-\$300 for Dala Horse Painting Workshop
- Swedish Council of America-\$2,500




### **EXPENSES**

In 2020, the largest expense was for operations staff; BHHA has 1 full-time employee, a part-time store manager, and several part-time store clerks. Building maintenance, 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 an art studio.
-  1976 –Colony Hospital (now in private ownership)
-  1976 –Poppy Barn (now in private ownership)
-  1985 –Colony Dairy Building; education center, photography studio and apartment
-  1987 –Colony Apartment House (now in private ownership)
-  2011 –Albert Krans Livery Stable; second BHHA museum.
-  2016 –Colony Carpenter Shop; now a gift shop, apartment, and U.S. Post Office
-  2017- Spets Stuga; children pioneer playhouse



# Make a Difference

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

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

CVC or CVV number \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on the  
card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

A BHHA Membership fee can be as little as \$10, but for \$35 or more you will receive a 10% discount at the Colony Store. For \$50 or more, you will receive your 10% store discount, workshop discounts, and a special Colony Store coupon.

Dollar amount of membership \_\_\_\_\_

## 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