

Bishop Hill Heritage Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Bishop Hill, IL
February 5, 2022

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 10-4, Sat 12-4, Sun 1-3
January-March Mon-Fri 10-4

Tel.: 309-927-3899

Email: bhha@mymctc.net

Website: www.bishophillheritage.org

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

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRqKS9GgGjs8oJ99VjnlAZg>

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!

It is 175 years since a group of Swedes came to settle in their new country and their new hometown. It was a very brave move. As an immigrant from Sweden myself, I can sympathize with them although I arrived to a warm house and everything settled. Sometimes I sit back and think about the colonists' reaction if they could come back and see the wonderful community that they started. Pride and amazement are two words that come to my mind. Bishop Hill is the shining star of Henry County today and I hope that we will all honor the first settlers by spreading the word to come and experience what they started.

The pandemic has again affected our community and our activities but we have still been able to hold many programs on a smaller scale. The ABBA concert, held outside, was very well attended and calls have been made for a repeat next summer.

Ag Days were a great success thanks to the very hard work of our very special administrator, Todd DeDecker.

Bishop Hill would not be what it is without our dedicated volunteers, board members, and staff. Do not know how to thank you enough. That also goes for all the friends of Bishop Hill who so generously have opened their wallets to keep the work going. Thank You!

We look forward to a new year with new challenges and are convinced that we are ready to meet them just as the colonists did.

All the best,

Kerstin Nordqvist Lane
BHHA Board President

Administrator's Report

175th ANNIVERSARY SIGNS

2021 was the 175th anniversary of founding of the Bishop Hill Colony. To help notify the public about this anniversary, the BHHA placed several 175th Anniversary signs around Bishop Hill.



175th ANNIVERSARY BRICKS

Between the Steeple Building Museum and the Carpenter Building is the BHHA Brick Garden. This garden contains handmade bricks that are stamped with the names of BHHA supporters and deceased loved ones. This garden is open to the public year- round. For the 175th anniversary, the Heritage offered a limited edition brick. Proceeds from the brick sales will be used to support future BHHA activities. Thank you to everyone who purchased a 175th Anniversary Brick!



PROGRAMMING

To celebrate the 175th Anniversary, the BHHA added additional programming focused on various aspects of Bishop Hill's heritage. For example, at the Dairy Building, the BHHA hosted ten lectures, concerts and workshops that focused on Colony, Swedish, and rural roots. Due to the continuing pandemic, some programs were modified so they could be conducted. Listed below are the 2021 events that were solely sponsored or cosponsored by the BHHA, with the date and location listed. Overall, the Heritage organized a total of twenty-three educational programs, festivals, and exhibits:

- **Colonists and Their Descendants: In Their Own Words exhibition opening;** April 1; Steeple Building
- **Dr. Jon Wagner's presentation on the History of the Bishop Hill Colony;** May 22; Zoom
- **Dr. Carolyn Anderson's program on the Material Culture of the Bishop Hill Colony;** June 5; Zoom
- **Lilly Setterdahl's program on the Women of the Bishop Hill Colony;** June 19; Dairy Building
- **Dr. Larry Cook's program on U.S Presidents from Illinois;** June 20; Dairy Building
- **Midsommar Music Festival;** June 26; Village Park
- **Dr. Troy Swanson's program on the Bishop Hill Colony & the Development of the Prairie;** July 10; Dairy Building
- **Professor Doug Dowell's presentation on Forrest Cady: Bishop Hill's Major Leaguer;** July 17; Dairy Building
- **Dancing Queen: ABBA Tribute Band concert;** August 7; Village Park
- **Bishop Hill Chautauqua;** August 28 and 29; Village Park
- **Dr. Brita Butler-Wall's program on Anna Sophia Bengtsson, Eric Janson's Second Wife;** September 18; Dairy Building
- **Jordbruksdagarna;** September 25 and 26; Village of Bishop Hill
- **Basket Weaving Workshop by Linda Simmons;** October 9; Dairy Building
- **Dr. Adam Kaul's program on Bishop Hill, Tourism, and Heritage;** October 16; Dairy Building

- **John Norton's presentation on Eric Janson's Last Two Letter to Bishop Hill;** October 23; Dairy Building
- **This Land is Your Land: the Folksongs of Woody Guthrie by Bucky Halker;** October 29; Dairy Building
- **19th Century Folk Music Concert by Chris Vallillo;** November 6; Dairy Building
- **Brian "Fox" Ellis' performance as Benjamin Dunn Walsh;** November 13; Dairy Building
- **Dala Horse Painting Workshop by Carol Curry;** November 20; Dairy Building
- **Swedish Christmas Traditions exhibition opening;** November 26; Steeple Building
- **Julmarknad;** November 26, 27, and 28; Village of Bishop Hill
- **Julmarknad;** December 4 and 5; Village of Bishop Hill
- **Lucia Nights;** December 10 and 11; Village of Bishop Hill

BUILDINGS



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.



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 other Swedish items are sold in this 1853 Colony Building.



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.



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 the home to Line of Sight Studios, a photograph studio.



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. In 2021, the second floor became an antique store called Vintage Goods of Bishop Hill.



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. The entire exterior of the building was painted this year. It is currently being rented.



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, demonstrations, 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.

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 toddler bed and 19th century documents relating to Bishop Hill were a couple of the items that were donated to the BHHA this year. We greatly appreciate these donations!

Research

The Heritage had over 35 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.

EDUCATION

Exhibits

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

The summer exhibit was *Colonists and Their Descendants: In Their Own Words* exhibition. This multi-media exhibition consisted of never before seen video interviews of Bishop Hill Colony descendants that tell the story of Bishop Hill from their viewpoint. Some of the items in the display include audio clips from Jonas Bergren's wax cylinder recordings; video interviews of Charlotte Falk, Morris Nelson, and Oliva Hultgren; audio only interviews of Ron Nelson, Ruth Melton, and Steve Stoneberg; photographs produced from recently donated glass plate negatives of Bishop Hill; and much more.



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 many other artifacts.

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, visitation numbers were down compared to past years. These figures reflect the **minimum** number that visited each museum.

- Steeple Building Museum: **3,193**
- Krans Livery Stable Museum: **115**

Tours

Due to the pandemic, the BHHA did not host any public school field trips. We did host various homeschool groups. A total of **184** homeschool students, teachers, and parents participated in BHHA's walking tours of Bishop Hill. An additional 23 adults also took part in our walking tours.

Crafts

The BHHA organized two workshop: a basket weaving workshop and a Dala Horse painting workshop. During Jordbruksdagarna in the park and behind the Bjorklund Hotel,, we were able to host outside demonstrations on rope making, woodcarving, brickmaking, and many other 19th century crafts.



BHHA Acting Troupe

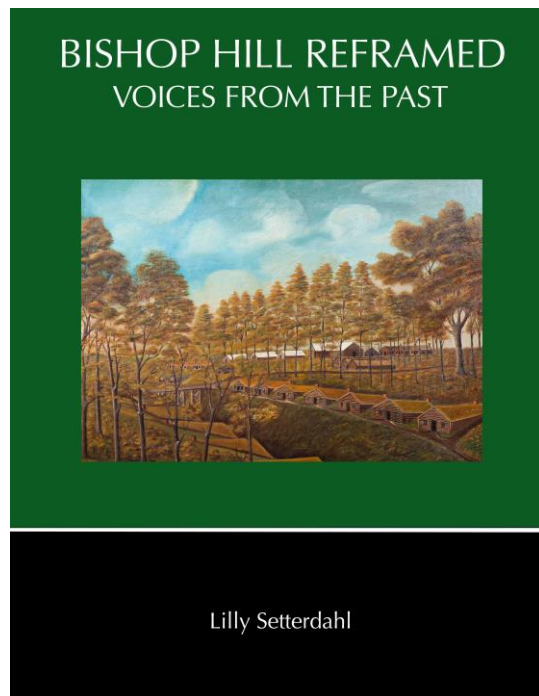


Our volunteer acting group was able to perform several times this year, including at Jordbruksdagarna. Their entertaining skit helps the audience to understand life in the Bishop Hill Colony. Thank you to our volunteer performers for all of their hard work!

New Book About Bishop Hill History

Bishop Hill Reframed Voices from the Past is the latest book about Bishop Hill history. Authored by Lilly Setterdahl and designed by Stephan Setterdahl, *Bishop Hill Reframed Voices from the Past* was published by the BHHA in honor of Bishop Hill's 175th anniversary. It can be purchased at the Colony Store. The sale of this book is also a fundraiser for the BHHA.

Bishop Hill Reframed Voices from the Past presents a wide-ranging description of the Bishop Hill Colony. It begins with a look at the principal founder, his beliefs, and escape from Sweden's unfree society in the 1840s. It continues with letters penned by colonists and other eyewitnesses, articles on specific subjects, conversations with descendants, Civil War letters, and a Roster of Officers and Men of Company D, 57th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1865. The book's cover shows the primitive housing in 1846 and the prosperous town in 1855, both scenes painted by the Colony's own artist Olof Krans. The book is illustrated with photographs from Sweden and Bishop Hill, the historic buildings in the village, past activities, and images of the stoic pioneers, men and woman, who built this town.



Online Educational Programming

Due to the continuing pandemic, the BHHA continued its online educational programming. As noted above, our first two presentations about Bishop Hill Colony history were conducted live over Zoom. In addition, every presentation at the Dairy Building about Bishop Hill history was recorded and placed on the Bishop Hill Heritage Association's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRqKS9GgGjs8oJ99VjnlAZg>. These programs can now be viewed by future generations.

On April 10, 2021, the BHHA collaborated with instructor Carol Curry and the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia to conduct a Dala Horse Painting Workshop on Zoom. Mrs. Curry taught the class from the Steeple Building to members of the American Swedish Historical Museum over Zoom. We are planning on other collaborations in the future

Herb/Flower Garden

Memorials were given to the BHHA to create a herb garden in memory of Doris Friend and a flower garden in memory of Glenda Wallace. Both of those projects were completed on the east side of the Colony Store with the purchase of three large planters. Herbs that were used during the 19th century were grown in two planters for educational purposes. Flowers from the 1800's were grown in the other planter.



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 2,000 hours in 2021.** The BHHA greatly appreciate all the time and hard work provided by over seventy-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).

Online

For our BHHA website (www.bishophillheritage.org) over 12,000 people visited our website from over 10 different nations in 2021. The Colony Store has an online store at 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 2,500 Followers and growing. The BHHA YouTube channel is located at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRqKS9GgGjs8oJ99VjnlAZg>. This channel contains interviews of Colony descendants, lectures on Bishop Hill topics, and much more.

BHHA and Bishop Hill events were publicized on the following websites: geneseorepublic.com, starcourier.com, wgil.com, regionaldailynews.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 **\$16,700** 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 70% of our members reside in Illinois.

Colony Store Manager's Report: ***by Ronda McQueen***

We entered 2021 full of hope that the craziness of 2020 was all behind us and we could get back to business. Little did we know that this year would be like none many of us had ever known in retail. Besides the continuing COVID 19 restrictions, we suffered the devastating passing of Glenda Wallace. Glenda was so much more than just a manager she was a mentor and a true friend. We loved her and were devastated along with so many others at her loss. We all knew how dedicated to Bishop Hill Glenda was and that she would want us to just keep moving forward.



Former Colony Store Manager Glenda Wallace
Passed away from cancer April 2021

We did our best as COVID-19 continued to throw us curveballs in the form of product shortages and shipping delays. We once again had to require masks to be worn inside the store regardless of vaccination status, and it caused some undo stress at times. Even so, we were happy to have people back in the store and being able to hold our events. It was beginning to feel a little bit normal again. As we enter 2022, we look forward with hope and optimism that the shortages and delays will ease and we can continue to move forward to better times ahead.



Current Store Manager Ronda McQueen

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 ten 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 10 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.

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 1st 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 currently live with him. During the summer of 2018, Todd married Janna Miller of Colona, IL.

Ronda McQueen, Colony Store Manager

Ronda McQueen was hired as a clerk in April of 2015. She assumed the Manager position in May of 2021 after the passing of Glenda Wallace. She graduated from ROVA High School and attended Carl Sandburg College. Ronda has 37 years of retail experience. She began her retail career at Brooks Fashions in the Sandburg Mall. She then spent six years working at The Altona Shopping Center. After the Shopping Center closed, she spent the next twenty-five years working at the convenience store in Altona, IL. She spent four of those years as Assistant Manager.

Ronda is married to Don McQueen. He has worked for Harsco Metals in Muscatine, IA for the past twenty-four years. They have two children: Kaitlyn, who is married and lives in Lexington, SC and Connor, who is at home. They also have two fur babies, Izzy and Oliver.

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 can review our 990 form on the IRS website. In addition, each year, the BHHA conducts an independent audit.

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 2021.

Membership Dues

New Members and Renewals resulted in \$16,782.64

Donations

Memorials, Bequests, 175th Anniversary Bricks, and other Donations totaled \$38,490.00

Foundation Grants and Business Sponsorships

- American-Scandinavian Foundation: \$500 for Bishop Hill Chautauqua
- Brookfield-\$500 for Jordbruksdagarna
- Geneseo Foundation-\$1,000 for educational programming
- Galesburg Community Foundation-\$3,000 for general operating expenses
- Henry County Independent Insurance Agents-\$300 for Jordbruksdagarna
- Illinois Arts Council Agency-\$13,700 grant for general operating expenses
- Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation -\$10,000 grant for construction projects
- Bill and Susan Sherrard Foundation-\$2,000 for educational programming.
- SWEA Chicago-\$500 for Bishop Hill Chautauqua
- Swedish Council of America-\$2,618.80




EXPENSES

In 2021, the largest expense was for operations staff. The BHHA has one 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