

Bishop Hill Heritage Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



60th Anniversary of the BHHA

Bishop Hill, IL
February 4, 2023

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 11-3, 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,

Happy New Year!

It's been 176 years since the Swedes came to settle in what is now Bishop Hill. So many immigrants passed away on the voyage to the New World, many more died after arriving due to cholera. They gave up so much to come here, family, farms, and possessions. It is amazing to see so many of their original buildings still standing and are actually being used to this day.

It is the goal of the BHHA to keep our buildings in good repair so that future generations can appreciate what the colonists left for THEIR future generations.

Covid has finally lessened its grip and tourists have once again started to return to Bishop Hill. This is evident by the attendance figures for Ag Days and the "ABBA" concert in the park (thank you to the state site for use of the park).

I want to thank our board for all they have done to help make this last year a success. As usual our administrator, Todd DeDecker, has done a fantastic job managing our events. We could not have successfully managed our many events without the volunteers and contributors to the BHHA. I would also like to thank the friends of the BHHA who have graciously donated monetarily to our cause.

I am sure that this year will be as successful as last year. Our events are expanded this year and they are sure to be a hit with the whole family.

Thank you all,

Lou Lourdeau
BHHA Board President

Administrator's Report

PROGRAMMING

This past year, the BHHA continued to provide a variety of educational, folk art, and musical programming. Listed below are the 2022 events that were solely sponsored or cosponsored by the BHHA, with the date and location listed. Overall, the Heritage organized a total of fifteen educational programs and festivals:

- **Virtual Chautauqua;** March 7-9; Online
- **Virtual Dala Horse Painting Workshop with the American Swedish Historical Museum;** April 2; Online
- **Bishop Hill Quilt Show: Celebrating Bishop Hill 175 Years Plus One;** May 13-15; Steeple Building
- **Dancing Queen: ABBA Tribute Band Concert;** June 4; Village Park
- **Midsommar Music Festival;** June 25; Village Park
- **Basket Weaving Workshop by Linda Simmons;** July 9; Dairy Building
- **CPR Class;** July 16; Dairy Building
- **Bishop Hill Chautauqua;** August 27 and 28; Village Park and Dairy Building
- **Symbio Concert;** September 20; Dairy Building
- **Jordbruksdagarna;** September 24 and 25; Village of Bishop Hill
- **Bishop Hill Pottery Festival;** October 9; Village Park
- **Basic Wood Carving Workshop with Dennis Carlson;** October 22; Dairy Building
- **Rooster Painting Workshop with Carol Curry;** November 5; Dairy Building
- **Julmarknad;** November 25, 26, and 27; Village of Bishop Hill
- **Julmarknad;** December 3 and 4; Village of Bishop Hill
- **Lucia Nights;** December 9 and 10; Village of Bishop Hill

BUILDINGS AND OTHER FACILITIES

This past year, the BHHA hired Heath Rodseth as part-time facilities manager. Besides building and landscape maintenance, Heath also helped with festivals and Dairy Building rentals. Welcome to the Heritage, Heath!



Besides normal building maintenance, the Heritage completed several significant projects in 2022. BHHA volunteers assembled a large outdoor wooden play ship for the kids to play in and on. This ship is located next to the Spets Stuga. An indoor chairlift to the second floor of the 1857 Blacksmith Building was installed. The Steeple Building front porch was painted, and plaster repairs were done on the first and second floors. Finally, the Colony Store's roof was replaced and storm windows were added.



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.



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, a gift shop. The BHHA finished an exterior historic restoration of this structure 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, Tomten, and other Swedish items are sold in this 1853 Bishop Hill 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 leased by Line of Sight Studios, a photography studio.

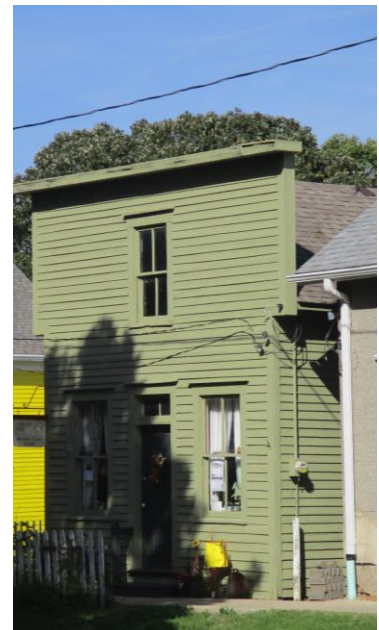


Blacksmith Building

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. The second floor is rented by Vintage Goods of Bishop Hill, an antique store.

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. This building is currently leased as an art studio called Mother Corn Studio.





Livery Stable Museum

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, popcorn, 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. An outdoor wooden play ship was added this year. The operating days for the Spets Stuga 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 quilt, photographs, and documents were several of the items that were donated to the BHHA this year. We greatly appreciate these donations!

Research

The Heritage had over twenty 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 *Rarely Seen Treasures from the Attic: Part Två* exhibition. The Bishop Hill Heritage Association exhibited various objects from its collection that have never been displayed before!! Some of these artifacts included an 18th century Swedish corner cabinet, Bishop Hill Colony papers, World War I memorabilia, and much more. This exhibit contains objects from United States, Swedish, Illinois, and Bishop Hill history. Artifacts in this display were donated to the BHHA during the past ten years.



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. These figures reflect the **minimum** number that visited each museum.

- Steeple Building Museum: **4,618**
- Krans Livery Stable Museum: **47**

Tours

This year, the BHHA returned to hosting school field trips and other tours. A total of **239** students, teachers, and parents participated in BHHA's walking tours of Bishop Hill. An additional **110** adults also took part in our walking tours.

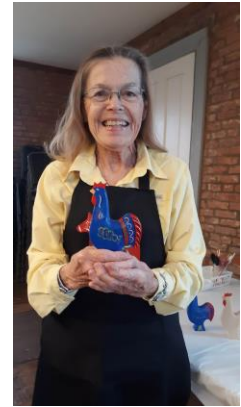


Presentations

BHHA Administrator Todd DeDecker presented three programs to area civic groups about the Bishop Hill Colony history and Bishop Hill events.

Crafts

The BHHA organized four workshops: a virtual Dala Horse painting, basket weaving, wood carving, and Dala Rooster painting. During Jordbruksdagarna in the park and behind the Bjorklund Hotel, the Heritage was able to host outside demonstrations on rope making, woodcarving, brickmaking, and many other 19th century crafts. The BHHA was also one of the sponsors of the newly created Pottery Festival that occurred in October. This festival was organized by Jeffery Goard, local potter.



BHHA Acting Troupe

Our volunteer acting group was able to perform numerous times this year, including at the Kewanee Public Library, Geneseo Public Library, Colona Public Library, Butterworth Center, Coal Valley Lutheran Church, and at Jordbruksdagarna. The Acting Troupe performed two different skits this season: *Dirty Laundry* and *To America*. These skits were written by Cheryl Dowell and were performed by Jean Combites, Dianne Lindbom, Vicki Massie, and Deni Menken. Thank you to our volunteer performers for all of their hard work!



Online Educational Programming

The BHHA continued its online educational offerings in 2022. On March 7, 8, and 9, the Heritage cosponsored a Virtual Chautauqua with History in Person. Taped performances of the 2021 Bishop Hill Chautauqua were used for this program. On April 2, 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 Museum to members of the American Swedish Historical Museum. Of course, the BHHA still offer free pdfs and videos about Bishop Hill history on its website and YouTube Channel.

Ron Nelson Program

On Saturday August 27, the BHHA hosted a program recognizing the lifelong preservation work of Ron Nelson. The program was conducted in the park as part of the Chautauqua. As an Illinois State Historian and President of the Bishop Hill Heritage Association, Ron dedicated his life to preserving Bishop Hill Colony history. Partly due to his efforts, historic Bishop Hill still remains today.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers keep the BHHA running – helping with programs/workshops, creating displays, painting, cleaning, performing maintenance duties, gardening, 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 1,825 hours in 2022. 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 12,600 people visited our website from over 50 different nations in 2022. 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 3,200 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, qctimes.com, visitquadcities.com, qconline.com, [Go Galesburg](http://GoGalesburg.com), 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.

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***



As we enter into 2023 and look back on 2022, we say to ourselves “Well, that was interesting!” We continued to see shipping delays and when we did receive shipments, we were met with sticker shock over increased delivery charges and price increases as well as continued outages of products. As we moved through the year, we then experienced the summer of high gas prices and food. Our numbers were down from previous years as far as sales went, but we did seem to still have a good flow of visitors. Fall in Bishop Hill is always beautiful, it made for great visitor and sales numbers, and we ended November with a record month going as far back as 2014. Entering the holidays, we were excited as always for our many events and with the weather cooperating, with the exception of the couple of days before Christmas; we had a great holiday season. We get so many compliments from our patrons on how much they love and appreciate The Colony Store. Our goal as always in 2023 is to continue to provide a place for visitors to enjoy their visit as well as purchase Swedish treasures, souvenirs, food and other gifts, and of course coffee and candy!! We look forward to seeing you all at The Colony Store in 2023!



2022 Colony Store Staff

PEOPLE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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



President 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.

Vice President Vicki Rabas, Bishop Hill IL

Vicki is a Colony descendant and pretty much a life-long resident of the village. She and her husband Mike have lived in Bishop Hill since 1989 and raised their two children here. Her family has contributed countless hours to volunteer activities in Bishop Hill. Vicki also is a member of the Old Settler's Association and has served as its secretary in the past. She is a regular volunteer at the Galva Food Pantry. 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 antiques are some of the activities that she enjoys in her spare time.

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), Treasurer of the Galva Senior Citizen's Foundation, 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. Also, Vicki portrays “Anna,” a Bishop Hill Colonist in the many skits that the Heritage Acting Troupe performs. She enjoys spending time with her five children and eleven 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-Great Uncle Jonas Olsson.

Attending the Bishop Hill Colony School for her early education, first grade through sixth grade, are years of pride for Cheryl. She feels the country school setting offered much more than education. It was a place of becoming an individual as well as being in a large family atmosphere while teachers gave their best to each student.

Cheryl was employed by the State of Illinois, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, at the Bishop Hill State Site for 28 years retiring in 2005 as Assistant Site Manager. She began a Bishop Hill Colonist’s genealogy program and cared for the artifact collection. Upon retirement, she was invited to be a volunteer at the Bishop Hill Heritage Association and continued the same specialized work.

A high-light in 1996, the sesquicentennial of Bishop Hill, as Bishop Hill Old Settlers’ President, Cheryl hosted Their Majesties, King Carl Gustav XVI and Queen Silvia on their visit to the event. She has visited Sweden many times and received the Olov Isaksson award in 2008, given by the Bishop Hill Society in Biskopskulla, Sweden. The award is given annually to someone who has helped bridge relationships between the two countries.

Bishop Hill has been Cheryl’s home with the exception of her first three years when her parents were farming near Ulah, Illinois. She has four children who are proud of their Bishop Hill Colony heritage as well as her 8 grandchildren and in the near future, her three young great-grandchildren will learn of their special heritage in Bishop Hill.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Krista Peck, Bishop Hill IL

Krista and husband, Greg, live and farm just north of Bishop Hill. Krista received her Bachelor of Arts from Monmouth College and master's in education from Indiana Wesleyan. She taught 1st grade in Galva for several years before becoming a stay-at-home mom. She enjoys working with and supporting youth in various community organizations. Greg and Krista are the parents of Matthew, Jackson, Hannah and Samuel.

Marcy Strand, Bishop Hill IL

Marcy and her husband Ben have lived in Bishop Hill for over 20 years. She is a Spanish teacher at Cambridge High School. Ben and Marcy have 2 boys, Corben and Axel. They are very active in sports and many other interests so Marcy spends most of her spare time driving them to where they need to be, coaching a youth team, or helping with one of their other activities. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, baking, gardening, and helping with the boys activities.

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 six children and four grandchildren. 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.

Heath Rodseth, Facilities Manager

Heath grew up in Princeton, Illinois and now lives in Bishop Hill with his wife and two sons. He enjoys contributing to the work of preserving Bishop Hill's historic buildings for future generations.



Allies and Supporters

LOCAL

- Bishop Hill Agriculture Association
- 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
- Landmarks Illinois
- 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 Agency
- 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 income sources for 2022.

Membership Dues

New Members and Renewals resulted in \$16,739.13

Donations

Memorials, Bequests, and other Donations totaled \$44,586.83

Foundation Grants and Business Sponsorships for 2022 Activities

- Community State Bank-\$750 for Dancing Queen Concert and Pottery Festival
- Geneseo Foundation-\$1,000 for educational programming
- Henry County Independent Insurance Agents-\$300 for Jordbruksdagarna
- Illinois Arts Council Agency-\$12,100 grant for general operating expenses
- Wilbur and Marilyn Nelson Farms: \$500 for Jordbruksdagarna
- Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation -\$10,000 grant for construction projects
- SWEA Chicago-\$1,000 for Bishop Hill Midsommar Music Festival
- State Bank of Toulon: \$500 for Jordbruksdagarna
- Verdandi Lodge #3, I.O.S.: \$14,500 for new Colony Store roof

EXPENSES

In 2022, the BHHA had one full-time employee, a part-time store manager, part-time facilities manager, and several part-time store clerks. Building maintenance, educational programming, exhibits, and archives constitute other expenses. To save costs, BHHA relies on volunteers for custodial work, landscaping, event setup/teardown, 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 Colony descendants and town residents 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 Building; 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 Building (now in private ownership)
- ✚ 2011 –Albert Krans Livery Stable; second BHHA museum.
- ✚ 2016 –Colony Carpenter Building; 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