

# The Henry County Historian



## The Newsletter of the Henry County Historical Society

The Henry County Historical Society – Bishop Hill, IL  
61419 – 309-927-3528

**Spring 2016**

### VINTAGE BASEBALL WEEKEND

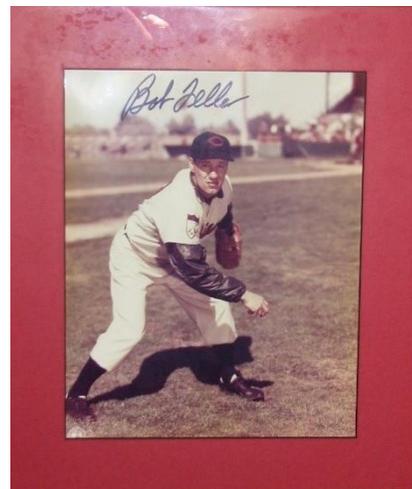
“Take me out to the ball game,” has been an important American song, anthem, slogan, and attitude for generations. America’s love affair with sports and all things vintage will peak in May of this year in Bishop Hill.

In conjunction with the Bishop Hill Heritage’s “Vintage Baseball Weekend,” the Henry County Historical Society Museum is offering a program titled, “A Brief History of Baseball and the Players who Played It,” on Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the Museum in Bishop Hill. The program will be presented by Bill Owens and will highlight the evolution of baseball from its earliest beginnings to the game as it is today. He will focus on the origins of baseball, the major changes to the game as it evolved, and highlight many of the baseball legends who combined to make baseball “America’s Pastime.”

In a room filled with baseball artifacts and memorabilia such as cards, photos, baseballs, bats, and books, Owens will utilize a power point presentation that incorporates slides and videos. Attendees will be delighted as this presentation will, “bring the sights and sounds of baseball to life.”

Copies of Owens’ book, “The Scorecard: A Glimpse into Vintage Baseball Through a Bishop Hill Lens,” will be available for purchase at the event. Proceeds from its sale go to support the Bishop Hill Heritage Association and its many efforts to maintain the historic properties and the Swedish culture that is unique to Bishop Hill.

Your participation is encouraged. This event will spark your memories, interest, and enthusiasm. We hope to see you there as vintage baseball collides with modern passion.



*Part of a treasure trove of baseball memorabilia to be on display for the weekend*



## **VINTAGE STYLE SHOW AND WEDDING ATTIRE DISPLAY**

Love is timeless as every generation does “love” the same. Weddings, though, have changes. According to the “History of Henry County, Illinois,” ... back in the Prairie Days ceremonies sometimes were simply, “Have her? – “Yes” – “Have him?” – “Yaw” – “Hitched. Two dollars.” Today we write our own vows, sometimes elaborately, or repeat spiritual vows spoken by a minister.

Changes are also reflected in wedding dresses. Back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, brides didn’t always wear white. White cloth, washed by hand, just couldn’t be kept clean.

The normal was to wear your “best” dress. It didn’t matter the style, shape, or color.

Queen Victoria elevated the wedding dress to the wedding gown. She wore lace, ivory-colored satin. From then until now wedding fashion continues to evolve. Frills, lace, full length veils, and Cathedral trains grace our current brides.

In order to better experience the vintage wedding gown evolution you are cordially invited to attend a vintage wedding attire display at the Henry County Historical Society Museum in Bishop Hill on May 13, 14, and 15.

Over 20 dresses will be on display. Three dresses are from the Bishop Hill Heritage Collection. The oldest dress was worn by Jane Bergstrom at her wedding on January 8, 1883. One dress was worn by Anna Charlotte “Lottie” Ericson on March 11, 1902. Another dress was worn by Minnie Falk when she married Orlie Chilberg on December 16, 1916. Also on display is a dress made from a WW II parachute that is on loan from the Galva Historical Society.

One highlight of the event takes place on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Donna Hajek, Secondhand Rose, will present a vintage style show filled with fun, excitement, and fashion from the past. Her hobby, collecting vintage clothing and treasures, will ignite nostalgic memories and warm our hearts. This will be a fun filled event with the emphasis on wedding attire.

Don’t miss out on the love! There will be plenty of warm thoughts and memories to go around.

## HCHS HOLDS 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting

Marlene Gantt of Port Byron was the speaker at the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting and banquet of the Henry County Historical Society in Bishop Hill on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Colony School. Mrs. Gantt grew up in Cambridge and is a former Rock Island School music teacher. She was a librarian for the Moline Dispatch for five years and enjoyed reading historical articles. She has been a weekly columnist for thirty years for the Dispatch editorial page.

Gantt's program was about the crash of Flight 232 near Sioux City, Iowa in 1989. She told of her interview with the plane's pilot, Al Hayes. This crash was the only time in aviation history when three hydraulics went out at the same time. From a descent of over 37,000 ft. the heroic efforts of the flight crew saved over 150 of the passengers.

Two movies and a book have been written about the crash. A play will be performed in May of this year in Chicago about the crash.

It was announced that the monthly meetings of the Henry County Historical Society are held on the second Tuesday of each month during March through November. Meetings are held in the Museum's Conference Room beginning at 1:00 p.m. The public is invited.

Officers and Directors for HCHS were elected at this meeting. They were as follows:

President	Patty Varner	Kewanee
Vice President	Linda Owens	Galva
Secretary	Jean Mann	Galva
Treasurer	Cinda Anderson	Bishop Hill

Directors were elected for three year terms and are as follows:

### Directors 2016

Roger W. Anderson	Galva
Martha Ray	Bishop Hill
Kay Down	Cambridge
Rollie Krause	Bishop Hill

### Directors 2017

Eldon Menken	Bishop Hill
Sharon Peer	Geneseo
Sue Schulz	Bishop Hill

### Directors 2018

Richard Edwards	Geneseo
Kathy Edwards	Geneseo
Ernie Jackson	Geneseo
Roger Mann	Galva

## Geraldine "Gerry" Hammerstrand Exhibit



The HCHS Museum is pleased to announce that a special exhibit on the sports life of Gerry Hammerstrand will be on display at the museum during the weekend of May 21-22, 2016. The exhibit is on loan from the Galva Historical Society.

**HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
202 Park St.  
P.O. Box 48  
Bishop Hill, IL 61419

**Be a part of history. . .**

**SUPPORT THE HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Henry County Historical Society and its museum exist solely through memberships, donations, and the support of its volunteers. We hope you'll join us in supporting our efforts to preserve and promote the history of Henry County. Memberships are due starting March 1 of each year. **Remember to Visit: [www.historichenrycounty.com](http://www.historichenrycounty.com)**

**SINGLE: \$20**

**FAMILY: \$25**

**SPONSOR: \$50**

**PATRON: \$100**

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