

# THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY



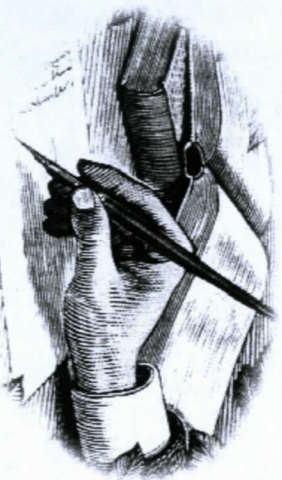
# GAZETTE



Vol. XXXVI, No. 1

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., 125 N. PINE, DECATUR, ILLINOIS

August 2011



## A Note

### *from Your President...*

Another busy year is ahead of us. A sincere "thank you" to our members and volunteers whose support and commitment continues to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of the Homestead.

Retiring from the Board of Directors are Brigitta Kapp, Margie Kirk, Rochelle Lambbrick and Ann Manuel. Their service to the board was immeasurable and they will be sorely missed. Now we welcome our new board members Marcia Comerford, Jeff Hendricks, Ann Marie Hillyer, and Arla Thomas and look forward to the contribution they will make.

Those who attended our annual meeting in April were privileged to hear Mr. Melvin Thomas, the artist who has painted four of our ceilings. His presentation was informative and enjoyed by all. We look forward to our next project with him.

We are pleased to announce that Master Gardeners have agreed to work with us on a plan to design a Victorian garden for the circle adjacent to the Homestead and plantings around the Homestead. When that is completed, we will begin the process of initiating the plan starting in the spring of 2012.

With the garden and planned work on the front hall ceiling, you can see that we continue to move ahead. Our goal is to continue to enhance the Homestead and restore it to its original beauty so that you and the residents of Decatur and the surrounding area can take pride in this historic building.

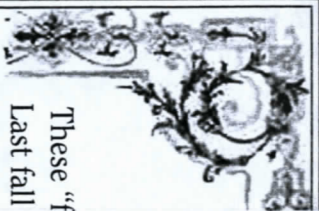
Again, thank you for your support. Without you we can no accomplish our goal.

Irene Huff, President

## LOOK CAREFULLY

Be sure to check your mailing label to see if your membership has expired. We need your financial support to continue with restoration and day-to-day maintenance of the Homestead.

Without our members we could not maintain this irreplaceable Decatur landmark.



## Interior Restoration

*Cadmium Yellow - Prussian Blue -  
Raw Sienna - Gold Ochre - Venetian Red*

These "fanciful" color descriptions conjure up beautiful images!

Last fall we completed our most recent interior restoration, the replication of the floral design on the master bedroom ceiling.

The result, just as the other three ceiling ornamentations done several years ago, is so pleasing that the board voted unanimously to pursue further projects with Thomas Melvin, the artist responsible for executing them.

This time we are working on the main hallway ceiling including the two vestibules. The design departs from primarily floral patterns toward more geometric figuration where acanthus leaves and arabesques intertwine. The color palette is dominated by rich ochres and gold brown tones with brilliant blue accents. We have no photos showing the original ceiling, but do have a small painted canvas remnant to guide us. It suggests that design elements of the fireplace, such as the color of the marble surround, the mosaic hearth pattern, and the woodcarving, were originally reflected in the ceiling ornamentation.

Preliminary sketches have been made and will be finalized in early fall. We anticipate the work will be completed by December.

The stucco relief ceiling panel centered over the fireplace is a separate restoration project we hope to undertake next.

*Plan Now to Attend the Christmas Tea  
Sunday, December 11th  
to Help Us Celebrate  
This Newest Project!*



## Keep In Mind...

**Christmas Tea  
and  
Open House**

**Sunday, December 11, 2011  
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

The Millikin Homestead will be beautifully decorated for Christmas and available for rental anytime after Thanksgiving.

Please contact Betsy Tietz at 422-1612 to schedule your holiday party.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit 226  
Decatur, IL

8/11

Life  
Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Kapp  
#5 Millikin Place  
Decatur, IL 62522

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC.  
P.O. Box 1501  
Decatur, Illinois 62525

6252282024 0022

### Mission Statement

The Mission of the James Millikin Homestead, Inc. is to restore and preserve the interior of this irreplaceable Decatur landmark, thereby raising community awareness of our historical heritage, and promoting preservation for future generations.

Please consider the Millikin Homestead in your estate planning.



### James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

- Regular Member - \$25.00
- Friend - \$50.00
- Patron - \$100.00
- Life - \$1,000.00

(May be paid in four annual installments)

Please make checks payable to James Millikin Homestead, Inc. and mail to:

James Millikin Homestead, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1501  
Decatur, Illinois 62525

(Membership is tax deductible)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Check Our Website for Upcoming Events: [www.old.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead](http://www.old.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead)

## Reviewing events at the Homestead of the spring/summer season 2011



May 2-5:

### Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Do It Again

Between May 2nd and May 5th, six hundred seventy-one happy kids, twenty-eight teachers, and thirty-five chaperones were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Millikin. Twenty-eight classes came through the Homestead and witnessed twenty-four various volunteers role playing life in a Victorian home. What an experience! Thanks to everyone who helped. We couldn't do this without our volunteers and our co-chairwomen Anna Mae Carlson and Sharon Thompson.

### In Memoriam

Our condolences to the families of Mr. Darrell Beck, Mrs. Eunice Dansby Gingery, and Mrs. Joanne Patterson Leonard.

June 11, 2011:

### Victorian Tea Held at Millikin Homestead

The James Millikin Homestead was the site of the "Victorian Tea for Dolly, Teddy and Me" on June 11, 2011. Approximately 90 ladies, dressed in their finery, came to enjoy the event which is a biannual fundraiser for the 136-year-old treasure. Many young ladies dressed their dolls in look-alike outfits for the occasion and brought them along. Scrumptious finger sandwiches and delectable desserts were served. Visitors to the Homestead were not only able to tour the many rooms, but also take in the exhibits of dolls, doll houses, tea sets, and teddy bears. Raffle and door prizes were in abundance too. All proceeds from this event support restoration and on-going maintenance of the Homestead. Our community is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers and local businesses that supported this project. Thank you, Betsy Tietz and Shirley Taylor for chairing this event.



Millikin Homestead  
2011-2012  
Board of Directors  
Anna Mae Carlson  
JoAn Christerson  
Marcia Comerford  
Lilly Eckert  
Jeff Hendricks  
Ann Marie Hillier  
Irene Huff  
Marcia Millar  
Dixie Sexton  
Shirley Taylor  
Pat Thalhauser  
Arla Thomas  
Sharon Thompson  
Betsy Tietz

Officers  
President .....Irene Huff  
Vice-president .....Sharon Thompson  
Secretary .....Anna Mae Carlson  
Treasurer .....Marcia Millar

Historian  
Lou Snelson

Restoration  
Lucien and Brigitta Kapp