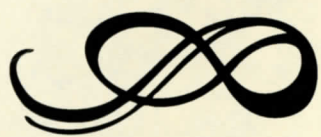


THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY



GAZETTE



Volume XLII, No. 2

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

August 2017

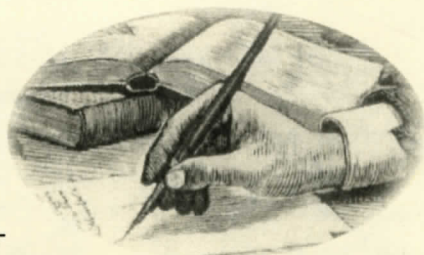
A Note from Your President ...

This summer has been a busy one at the Homestead. In addition to hosting several events and open houses at the Homestead, we have added three new hallway rugs, casters on the dining room chairs and, thanks to John and Cheryl Bradley, a beautiful new dining room rug. And after months of planning, we now have a much needed new entrance sign with solar lighting.

I continue to be so proud of our board for their hard work and endless energy. In July, we held a retreat to plan for the upcoming year, focusing on the plans for a major fundraiser to address much-needed repairs to the outside of the Homestead. This summer, we also welcomed new Board member Marc Willis and thanked outgoing member Marcia Comerford for her six years of dedicated service to the board. Marcia most recently served as newsletter chair and treasurer in addition to her volunteer support of the Board in a myriad of ways and was always ready to jump in whenever needed. We will certainly miss her and know she will continue to be one of our strongest advocates.

Our last Sunday of the month open house tours will continue through October. This would be a perfect time to see our new additions if you haven't visited in a while and it also would make a wonderful activity for your out-of-town guests. Please mark your calendars now for Aug. 27, Sept. 24 or Oct. 29 and plan to stop by between 2 and 4 p.m. We would love to see you!

Thank you again for your continued interest and support.
Terry Grant, President



Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days

The annual Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days program took place April 24-28 with third graders from throughout Macon County invited to participate in this living history event. Nine schools and approximately 577 students responded to the invitation. With the help of 23 volunteers, the stage was set for their Homestead visit. Upon arriving, one of Mr. & Mrs. Millikin's maids met the students at the door and informed them that the Millikins were hosting a dinner party that evening. However, forgetting about the party, Mr. Millikin invited the children for a visit. With the children coming and Lizzie, the kitchen maid, ill with the "Illinois Shakes," Mrs. Millikin was a bit harried. The children were asked to be on their best behavior as Mrs. Millikin could get quite cantankerous!

Throughout their visit, the students toured the Homestead and had the opportunity to meet "James" and "Anna" along with other volunteers portraying their staff. Each actor told a story about life at the Homestead in the late 1800s. A friend of Mrs. Millikin played the pump organ as the children sang tunes such as "Shoo Fly, Don't Bother Me," and "Go Tell Aunt Rhody." When visiting the kitchen, the children were treated to sugar cookies. Upon returning to school, many students wrote letters to Mr. & Mrs. Millikin sharing some of their favorite experiences. One student wrote: "Thank you for the cookies and the tour. The ceiling design was splendid. I loved the pump organ. The chandelier was really big, and the mirrors were big, too." (Jordan - LSA) Another shared, "I found it interesting how you washed clothes and rags with the washboard. I can't imagine what living was like then. It must have been difficult." (Malachi - Dennis School)

The Homestead Board extends a sincere thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this event a success. Thanks also to the third grade teachers from Enterprise School, French Academy, Johns Hill Magnet School, Harris School, Dennis School, Baum School, the Lutheran School Association, the Mt. Zion School District and the Argenta-Oreana School District for your support of this historical program. *by Ann-Marie Hillyer & Linda Ostrander, Co-Chairs.*



"James Millikin" (AKA Millikin dean emeritus Jerry Redford) speaks to third graders during Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days at the Homestead.

What's New at the Homestead?

Look at the floor next time you visit to discover a few new or newly restored items designed to protect the Homestead's floors and/or furnishings. Originally, the Eastlake-style Victorian chairs in the dining room were equipped with castors, but 100+ years of use resulted in all chairs having "lost" their castors. As a result, the chairs sat low and were heavy to move, causing wear on the rug underneath. By utilizing the craftsmanship of Duane Shepherd, new brass castors have been installed. Those shiny new castors now glide over a new dining room rug purchased by Cheryl and John Bradley! Cheryl, a former board member, offered to buy a well-needed new rug upon her retirement from the board. The new Karistan wool rug was purchased from Eastern Rug Gallery in Champaign. Thank you, Cheryl and John!

In addition to these new items, several rugs have been repaired, including two of three original rugs owned by the Millikins. One of those rugs is now in the small bedroom facing southwest. The second Millikin rug was cleaned/repared and moved from the breakfast room to the upstairs hallway. The third rug, originally in the dining room, is now in the "Snowball" northeast bedroom and awaiting major repair. Also, three new durable wool area rugs suited for high traffic were purchased for the downstairs main hallway. Yes, it's rugs galore at the Homestead! *by Brigitta Kapp*



Encore Sarah Grady Event To Be Held Oct. 1

Mark your calendars: Due to the overwhelming response to our sold-out Aug. 19 event, "Sarah Grady: A Life and Times Remembered," JMH will be presenting an encore presentation on Sunday, Oct. 1, from 2-4 p.m. Mary Lynn Potter, author of "The Forgotten Life of Sarah Grady" and other guest speakers will again share the role the Homestead played in Decatur's history. Tours of the Homestead, including the basement, will be available. Limited seating; \$20 per person and reservations are required. Light refreshments served. Make your reservations early for the October event by calling 217-855-0363.

In Memoriam: Jeannine

(Mrs. Robert) Schaub, 1938-2017

If not for Jeannine Schaub, the Homestead might not have been saved from the wrecking ball.

When Kirkland Fine Arts Center was built in 1969, the Homestead – which had provided exhibit space for Millikin University’s art department – was considered obsolete. At that time, Lucien Kapp drafted the nomination papers to place the Homestead on the National Register of Historic Places.

Jeannine Schaub then facilitated and moderated talks between the university and Junior Welfare to form a partnership for preserving the Homestead, and the result was creation of James Millikin Homestead Inc. in 1976. This nonprofit organization continues to be responsible for the upkeep of this great Decatur landmark.

The Homestead Board owes Mrs. Schaub much gratitude for championing the Homestead all the years her family lived in Decatur. Jeannine and her husband, Bob, were life members and contributed generously toward the early restoration of the house. When they moved to Boone, Iowa, she kept an interest in the Homestead’s welfare, and in 2012, she served as honorary chairperson for the successful “Gangsters, Gals & Gumshoes” fundraiser. Our sympathy to her two sons and their families.



Jeannine Schaub, her son, Will, and his wife, Maureen, at the 2012 fundraiser.

by Brigitta Kapp

September High Tea

Enjoy the elegance of a High Tea at the Homestead on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person, and space is limited. This event is being planned by Karen Brooker, an expert in hosting authentic high teas, who is assisting the Board to ensure a unique and memorable event. Call Board Chair Terry Grant at 217-433-2795 for more information or to make your reservation today.

Christmas Open House Set for Dec. 3

You are invited to enjoy a holiday tradition – the annual James Millikin Homestead Christmas Open House. The Homestead, beautifully decorated for the season, will be open to the public on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1 to 4 pm. Sample delicious homemade treats, including mulled cider, and get a start on your holiday shopping with a visit to the Sweet Treats Bakery. Mark your calendar now, and plan to visit the Homestead for this free and festive event.

June Garden Walk

On June 11, the Homestead provided cool comfort, soft drinks, rosemary-flavored sugar cookies and plenty of Millikin history for the Master Gardeners of Macon County annual Garden Walk. Dozens of visitors inspected residential gardens at 2 & 4 Millikin Place and took advantage of the historic mansion being open for just a glimpse. Garden guests were encouraged to return for in-depth visits on regular Homestead Open House dates – the last Sunday of each month, April through October. by David Bowman

Renew Memberships/Donate by Credit Card

The Homestead now offers the convenience of making credit card payments to donate to the preservation of this historic landmark and/or to fulfill your membership dues. Call 217-855-0363 today to renew your membership or to donate.

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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.

LEAVE A LEGACY™
Decatur, Illinois
Please consider the Millikin Homestead in your estate planning.

James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

Regular Member - \$30.00
 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:
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Be sure to “like” the James Millikin Homestead on Facebook!

Check Our Website for Upcoming Events: www.performance.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead

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