

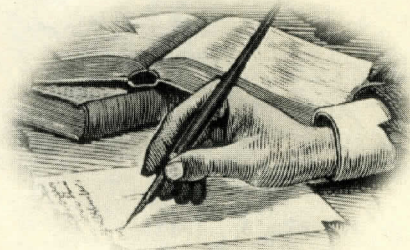
THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

∞ GAZETTE ∞

Vol. XXXIV, No. 1

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

May, 2009



A Note from Your President...

Spring is finally arriving! If you have driven by the Homestead you may have noticed that the grounds around the perimeter of the Homestead have had a necessary cleaning and trimming. The shrubs and perennials are blooming or about to bloom. The flower beds still need our attention and more planting will be happening soon.

Spring is also the start of a new year for the Homestead Board of Directors. The new officers are ready for their duties. We welcome the new board members, Christy Kelly, Pat Thalhauser, and Betsy Tietz. The retiring board members, Niki Foertsch and Kate Shields, will be missed. We appreciate their contributions of time and talent.

One of the highlights this past January was being filmed by WSEC-PBS and being

The James Millikin Homestead

Invites you to a

Victorian Doll Tea

Saturday, June 13, 2009

At the Homestead - 125 N. Pine Street

Two Sitzings: 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

Donation:

\$8.00 adult \$4.00 child

By reservations only: Call 428-1061 @ Beasley Properties

Come and share the timeless love for dolls and dollhouses at a tea party for grown-ups and children.

Bring a favorite doll and talk with other doll collectors.

One of the highlights this past January was being filmed by WSEC-PBS and being featured in a 30 minute tour of the Homestead on "Illinois Stories". The tour was shown several times in February and March. To promote awareness of the Homestead we are listed in the WILL-AM-FM-TV Directory of Membership Benefits for Arts and Attractions.

The Board of Directors was pleased to have many of our members attend the annual meeting April 23, 2009. One of our most important goals this coming year is to increase our membership. Please, check the address label on this newsletter and consider renewing your membership if it has expired. We rely on our members and volunteers to help us preserve and restore this irreplaceable landmark.

Your membership entitles you to a discount on rentals, advance notification of Homestead activities and events through our newsletter, which is published three times a year.

Thank you for your continued support,
JoAn Christerson

Annual Meeting of the Millikin Homestead, Inc.

The meeting took place April 23, 2009 featuring a program by Lucien Kapp. Lucien's topic, "The Millikins & Marion Mahony: Neighbors by Design" hypothesized about Mrs. Millikin ever meeting Marion Mahony, the designing architect of #4 Millikin Place. We were asked to contemplate what Mrs. Millikin would have thought about Marion Mahony and the Prairie School style.

Bring a favorite doll and talk with other doll collectors.

Also Featuring:

The Doll Boutique
(old and new doll related items for sale)

Door prizes will be given away
at each sitting.

Raffle Items:

- *** Use of Homestead for 2 hours
(subject to rental guidelines).
- *** Tea/Coffee for 20 at the Homestead
(catered by Homestead volunteers)
- * Winners need not be present.



The Millikins Host Young Visitors

"When did you die, Mr. Millikin?" This and other thoughtful questions were asked by area third graders attending this year's Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days. Between the dates of April 20-23 over five hundred boys and girls attended this long-awaited event.

The elegant Mrs. Millikin opened her beautifully maintained home to the children, even though the stress of a dinner party that evening consumed the staff. Sophie, the kitchen maid, managed to find time to inform the little visitors about her busy day and her many duties carried on without the help of Lizzie, who was sick with the "Illinois Shakes". Singing could be heard throughout the halls thanks to the Millikins' gracious friend who entertained the children with the pump organ in the parlor.

All this fun and playacting was made possible by the many volunteers who gave of their valuable time to allow the third graders to experience what life was like during the Victorian Era. Thanks to all who helped and to Jim and Kathy Gresham of Lock, Stock, and Barrel who generously supplied lunches to those volunteers that stayed the entire day.

Anna Mae Carlson
Sharon Thompson

Grounds Update!!

For many years Bill McGaughey has tended to our grounds. He spent countless hours each season planting, watering, and weeding. We cannot thank him enough for his tireless gardening.

This season, Bill has retired and we are looking for volunteers to help with the garden. Millikin University takes care of the lawn, but the plantings around the Homestead are our responsibility.

If you have the time and interest to help, please, call either JoAn Christerson at 429-0597 or Brigitta Kapp at 428-9527!

Homestead Jumble Sale

The Jumble Sale is scheduled for the fall of 2010. To make this a success, we hope to begin collecting items in September of this year. In order to do this, we need to find a location to store the items. The Carriage House is no longer available because Millikin University is using it. Therefore, we are putting out an appeal to our membership to see if someone has a secure facility we could use for storage.

Please, contact Irene Huff at 422-9148 if you know of a location we may use. Thank you!

Upcoming Events:

- June 13: Victorian Doll Tea at the Homestead
- June 19: Annual Ice Cream Social of NWRAPS and the Decatur Park Singers (on the grounds)
- Summer 2009 Date to be set yet: Music Series on the Lawn by Millikin University

In Memoriam

We express our sympathy to the family of Duane Loofbourrow, husband of former board member and historian Marilyn Loofbourrow. Duane passed away this April, Marilyn preceded him in 2000. Duane and Marilyn were active supporters of the Homestead. The Homestead was one of the charities chosen by the family for memorial donations. We thank them for deeming the Homestead a worthy recipient.

Special Tours and Rentals

Tours:

February-May:

Illinois Eastern Iowa Kiwanis-Lovington High School Sophomore Class-
Illinois Convention of AAUW-Lutheran School Association Senior Class

Rentals:

The Homestead is a special place for important occasions. Two bridal showers and one wedding took place this spring at the Homestead.



Amy Elizabeth Sarver of Decatur and Christoph Renwanz of Stuttgart, Germany, were married March 7, 2009 in the James Millikin Homestead.

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC.

P.O. Box 1501
Decatur, Illinois 62525

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**Millikin Homestead
2009-2010**

Board of Directors

- Barb Baroni
- Janet Beasley
- Anna Mae Carlson
- JoAn Christerson
- Martha Grohne
- Irene Huff
- Brigitta Kapp
- Christy Kelly
- Margie Kirk
- Rochelle Lambrick
- Ann Manuel
- Kathy Sigmon
- Pat Thalhauser
- Sharon Thompson
- Betsy Tietz

Officers

- PresidentJoAn Christerson
- Vice-presidentKathy Sigmon
- SecretaryBarb Baroni
- TreasurerIrene Huff
- HistorianLou Snelson



LEAVE A LEGACY™
Decatur, Illinois

***Please consider the Millikin Homestead
in your estate plannings.***

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.

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)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

*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)

Check Our Website for Upcoming Events: <http://www.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead>