

# THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY



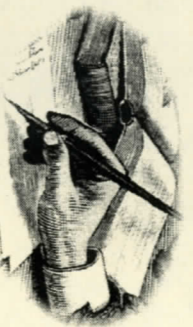
## GAZZETTE



Vol. XXXVI, No. 3

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

August 2012



### A Note from your President . . .

The last few months have been very busy for us.

James Millikin Days were a huge success with more than 600 students attending over a four-day period.

We signed a Memo of Understanding with the University and Master Gardeners to begin work on the Victorian Garden and landscaping around the Homestead.

The board participated in workdays that resulted in clearing the basement and attic as well as inventorying the kitchen, linens and clothing.

The expansion of our Christmas Boutique that includes Shop on Main is a new venture about which we are excited.

The Homestead was the site of birthday parties, a graduation party, a wedding and other special events.

Now we are preparing for the major fundraiser in October. The committees are doing a fantastic job planning the evening you will all enjoy. As an extra bonus, Jeannine Schaub will be attending as Honorary Chairman. You may remember, she is the person who spearheaded the involvement of Junior Welfare and began the restoration of this marvelous building.

All of this is accomplished by a very active board which is supported by you, our membership. Without your ongoing support, all this could not be happening. Therefore, please take a minute to look at the date on your address label and, if your membership has expired, consider renewing so we can continue the preservation and restoration of this beautiful home.

Irene Huff, President



### HOMESTEAD HOLIDAY

The Homestead Board is pleased to announce a partnership with Shop on Main to hold an extended holiday boutique. The fundraising portion consists of the Homestead receiving a percentage of sold merchandise with a minimum donation of \$3,000.

A very special Grand Opening at the Homestead, exclusively for you and your friends, will be held on Sunday, October 14th from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. The boutique will then be open from noon to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and noon to 4:00 P.M. on Saturday until December 15th.

This year we wanted to do something special for our membership and their friends and feel this venue allows us to do that. Because of this, we have decided not to hold our annual Christmas Tea this year.

We look forward to greeting you and giving you the opportunity to see what is new at the homestead and experience Christmas shopping.

### GANGSTERS, GALLS and GUMSHOES

On the evening of Saturday, October 27th, the Richards Treat Center on the Millikin Campus will be transformed into a Chicago speakeasy called "The Campus Club"

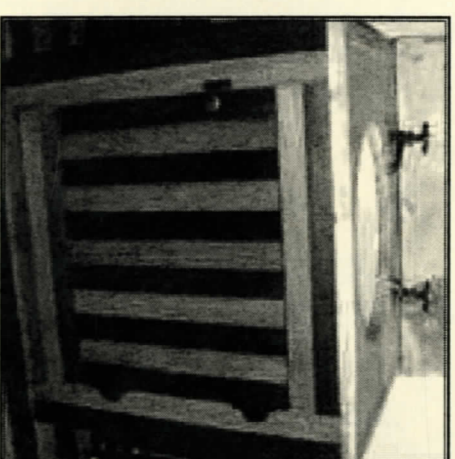
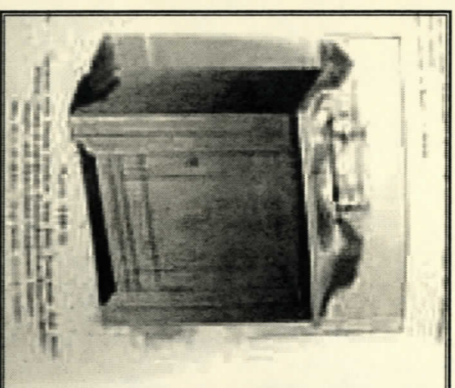
This event is presented by the James Millikin Homestead Board as a fundraiser for continuing restoration projects within and outside of one of Decatur's historic landmarks.

The Homestead committee has been planning and organizing for over a year to make this night "Swonderful". We encourage everyone to come and enjoy dinner with an evening of fun, music and a "Who Dun It" mystery performed by Millikin theatre students. There will be surprises for all and prizes for the winning table of "Gumshoes" who correctly guess the who and the why of the mystery. Was it Bugs Macaroni or could it have been Bunny Hugg? The cost for the event is \$85 per person. You don't have to come in period dress but "Toot Toot Tootsie" if you do. We'll all be saying "'Ain't We Got Fun"! For tickets and reservations, call Marcia at 217-454-7220.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** If you would like to be a part of this fun and exciting event, please let us know. Assistance is needed both prior to the event and on the day of the fundraiser, October 27, 2012. To volunteer, please call Anna Mae Carlson at 217-428-8908 or Ann Marie Hilmyer at 217-855-0363.

### Latest Restoration Project

Upstairs bathroom features "new/old" lavatory with wooden stand



Many years ago, Marilyn Looftbourrow, a very loyal and dedicated board member, gave two Victorian marble sink tops to the Homestead. We always planned to use them but never quite got around to it. Our biggest challenge was the original wooden support cabinets were missing. Enter John Huff, a master cabinet maker who has built custom wood working projects for people interested in excellent craftsmanship. Since we have no description of the original washstand, we utilized a reprint of a period catalog of the 1880's:

MOTT'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOG of VICTORIAN PLUMBING FIXTURES

for  
BATHROOMS and KITCHEN

printed in 1888; unabridged republication 1987, Dover Press

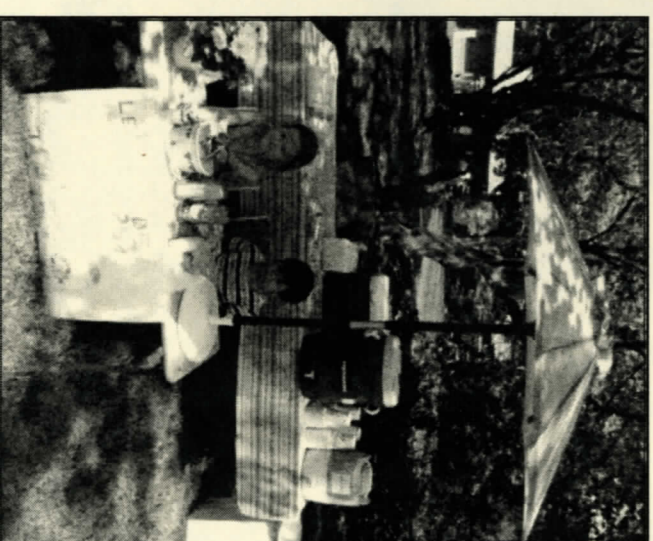
Page 184 features the model we chose, compare the two photos! We will have the catalog on display in the upstairs bathroom. Leaf through it and see what the home owner of the 1880's was striving for. It's fascinating!



### Wright Enthusiasts tour the Millikin Homestead and Millikin Place

In early May, approximately 100 people from all over the country visited Decatur's Millikin Homestead and the adjacent Millikin Place Prairie Style houses. Their common denominator is they are all members of the FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BUILDING CONSERVANCY, a preservation organization headquartered in Chicago, IL. Among them were the curators of Falling Water-Bear Run, PA, Darwin Martin House-Buffalo, NY, the Dana House in Springfield, IL, Taliesin North-Spring Green, WI, and Taliesin West-Scottsdale, AZ, to name just a few. Even though their main interest is Prairie Style architecture, they were impressed by their tour of the Millikin Homestead.

Since May was already the beginning of what we now know has turned out to be an extremely hot and dry summer, Lilly and Oliver Hund, the twins of Sabrina and Bob Hund at #4 Millikin Place, put up a lemonade stand and sold cold drinks to the visitors. Dropping a tiny hint that it might be nice to give the collected money to the Millikin Homestead was enough. They readily agreed. Their profits were \$30 plus! The Homestead property is part of their frequent big wheel/tricycle/bicycle path and they are very familiar with the interior of the Homestead as well. So there you have it - our youngest donors, 5 years old!



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

Life  
Dr. & Mrs. Herb Thompson  
2822 Forrest Lane  
Decatur, IL 62521

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

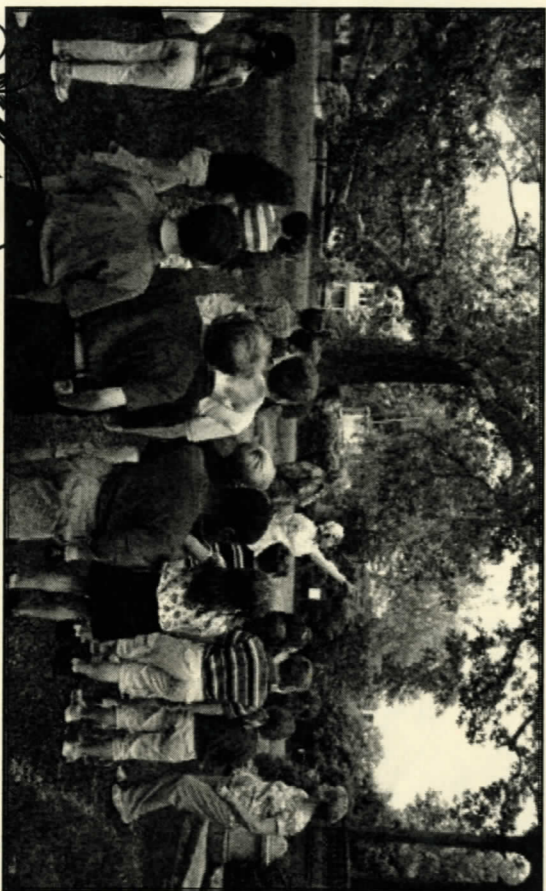
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Check Out Website for Upcoming Events: [performance.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead/](http://performance.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead/)

### Thanks for Having Us Mr. and Mrs. Millikin

Mr. and Mrs. Millikin were gracious hosts again this year to the third graders of Macon County. Six hundred thirty-nine children took in the sights and sounds of what goes on in a busy Victorian home where the servants are all a buzz with the preparations of an upcoming dinner party that evening. Beginning with a tour of the outside grounds, twenty-nine classes were guided from room to room and treated to tales of the mansion by the help, a good friend of the Millikins, and Mr. and Mrs. Millikin themselves.

This fun program could not take place if it weren't for the time spent by 31 hard working volunteers. The children said "Thank You!" to Mr. and Mrs. Millikin but we would like to say "Thank You" to the volunteers and to Krogers for helping us out with all those sugar cookies.



### Plan a Celebration at the Homestead

Looking for a unique setting for your party or celebration? Millikin Homestead is available for your private, special events - small weddings, baptism celebrations, anniversary or birthday parties, business receptions. Current members receive a 10% discount off the rental fee. For information or scheduling contact Betsy Tietz at 433-1067 or leave a message on the Homestead phone 422-9003.

### Excerpts from Some Third Grade Thank You Letters

Noah - "It was the biggest house I've ever seen and the BEST fieldtrip I've ever been to."

Janyria - "Tell your chef I said Thank You for the cookies."

Alexis - "I think you two (Mr. & Mrs. Millikin) are my two new BEST friends. I never thought I would meet very nice people like the both of you."

Trynitti - "It (the house) looks cool on the inside but scary on the outside."

Azar - "I will ask my parents can I come to the Millikin Homestead because I love it and I want to see it a million times until I git enough."

Danasia - "I would like to say how much would it cost to buy that lovely house?"



### IN MEMORIAM

Our condolences to the family of Rosemary Idlennan. Rosemary was a Board member from 2001 to 2007.

Our condolences to the family of Dr. Clarence Glenn who passed away August 9th. Dr. & Mrs. Glenn have been very loyal supporters of the Homestead from the beginning. Mrs. Glenn served on the first Board in 1976. They have been life members for many years and gave generously to our restoration project. Adele, Mrs. Glenn, resides at DMH on the 6th floor. Our heartfelt sympathy at the passing of these members.