

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

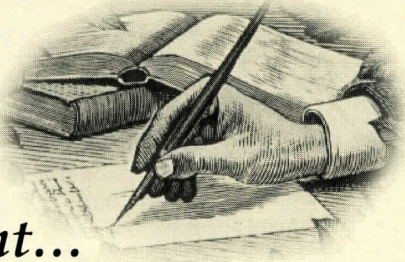
∞ GAZETTE ∞

Vol. XXX, No. 6

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

March, 2007

A Note from Your President...



Dear Members,

This will be the last time I address you in our newsletter. My term as president is completed on April 26 at the annual meeting. Thank you for all the support and cooperation you have given me and the James Millikin Homestead Board during this time.

We have continued the mission of preserving the valuable historic home of the Millikins. James and Anna made great contributions to our community.

Thank you again.

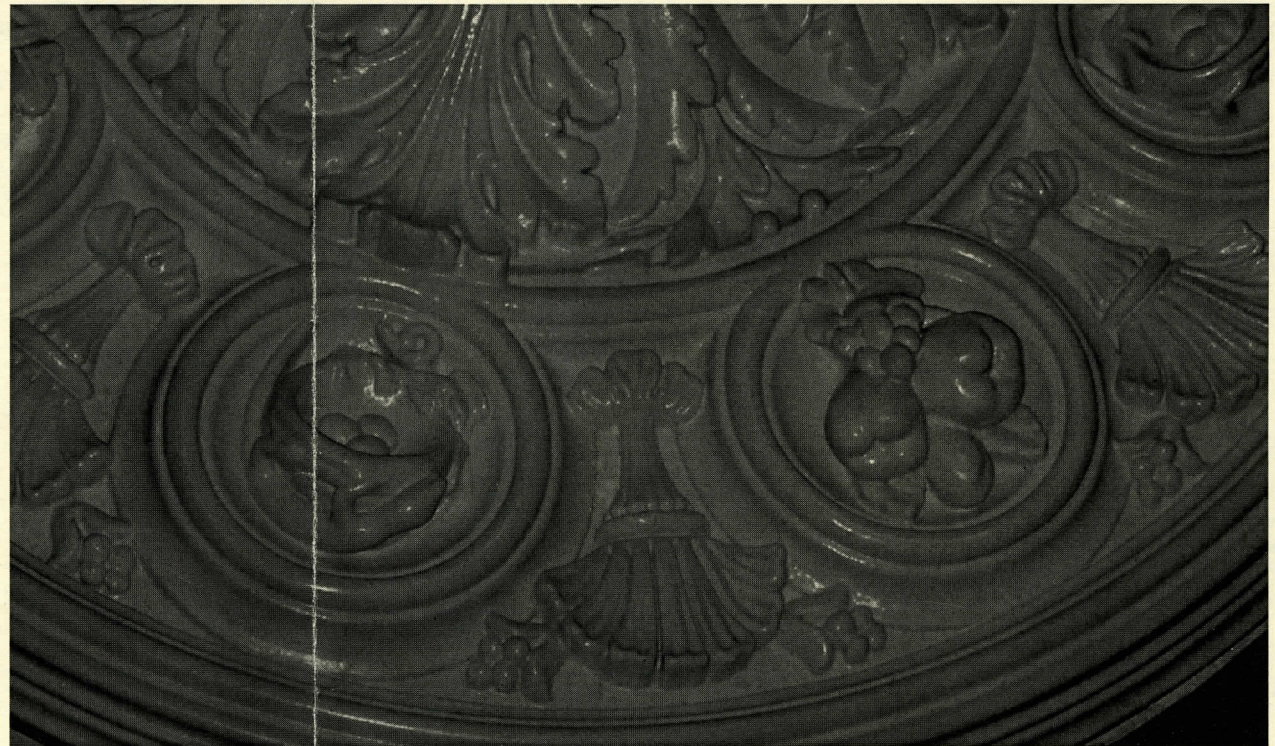
Sincerely,

Ann M. Seidman

A New Look

Soon West Main from Church to Oakland will be a brick street beautifully lighted and landscaped but when James Millikin decided mid 1870 to build his home on his land at what is now the Pine Street intersection his friends tried to convince him that it was too far out in the country and the condition of the road leading to it would attest to that fact.

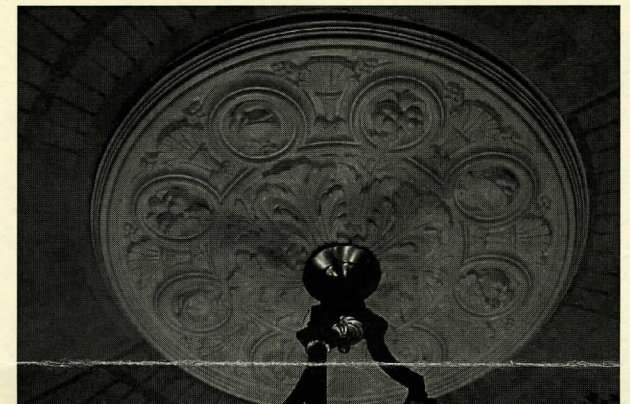
At the time the Millikins built, the only paved



Dining Room Medallion Back in Place

Last spring we reported that the plaster medallion on the dining room ceiling partially broke loose and fell, landing in pieces on the table and floor. This January, the replica replacement was installed. It was fabricated by J.A. Berkey & Associates in Bloomington, Illinois.

It is a true copy of the original, but cast in a lighter material and therefore less likely of over



attest to that fact.

At the time the Millikins built, the only paved area in the town was a bricked roundabout at Main and Main – “Lincoln Square.” The streets were dirt, sometimes mixed with oil and rock chips making travel difficult in the rainy season. Gravel roads came into their own as the population increased and brick became important as a paving material with the growing number of brickyards in the area, especially when money was appropriated for street improvement.

In the book “City of Decatur and Macon County, Illinois” edited by Wm. E. Nelson in 1910 this “homely” but pertinent observation is made:

“Decatur takes a pride in her streets and their cost foots up to hundreds of thousands of dollars. They are chiefly made of concrete and brick, but there are some laid with asphalt. Brick predominate, as it is a cheaper material and seems to stand the wear and tear of time and traffic better than any other street making material...”

O T Banton in his History of Macon County observes that there are no clear records of the sequence in which paved streets were laid though it is probably that the four Main Streets would have been among the first to be improved, emanating as they did from the center of town. A cross-section of the road passing the Homestead would reveal among other things a disintegrating layer of wood blocks which the city council became interested in as a paving material. North Main to Cerro Gordo was so paved as was West Main from the Square to a point 660’ west of the intersection with Pine Street – interesting as that is the exact measure of the south frontage of the Homestead property!! It was soon discovered that the creosoted blocks did not stand up well with our changing weather and the tar-like surface soiled whatever came in contact and they had to be removed or covered over.

It is hoped that salvaged material from the roadbed now being laid can be used to enhance the streetscape as Main Street is restored to add its age appropriate charm to the stately area it serves.

Lou Snelson, Historian

It is a true copy of the original, but cast in a lighter material and therefore less likely of ever coming loose. The process of casting molds from the original broken pieces was time consuming and costly, but well worth it. Our thanks go to Millikin University for defrayal of this bill. The Homestead is only responsible for some of the touch-up work around the medallion. Look up and discover the crisply detailed salamanders, bird nests and fruit that circle its surface!



December Fund Drive

Many of you kindly responded to our year-end drive! As of March 1, 2007 we have collected \$2075!! We truly appreciate your support!

As in the past, money from the drive is used for restoration and repairs. This year we need to finish up-dating the caretaker's apartment. We plan to replace the appliances (refrigerator & stove) in the small kitchen and install a new sink and fixtures in the bathroom vanity.

Over the last year Millikin has replaced the carpeting, painted the entire apartment and installed new linoleum flooring in the kitchen and bathroom. We are revising the lease agreement and hope to be ready soon for a new caretaker.

Again, our sincere and special thanks for your generous seasonal donations!! You know the Homestead could not go on were it not for loyal friends in the community!

Contributors to the fund drive:

Celeste Harris

Bob & Kathy Farrington

Ann Seidman

D. Lynn & Susan Grider

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Tyrolt

Mr. & Mrs. Leo Pondelick

Bob Fallstrom

Charles & Barbara Ahlenius

Mr. Paul Rosenberger

Douglas & Ellen Zempke

Alan & Beth Frigy

Adele & Clarence Glenn

Duane & Joan Avis

Marny Elliott

Bruce & Joanne Leonard

Dr. Jan Devore

Dean & Marilyn Madden

Mrs. Betty Watkins

Pauline Smith

Mr. & Mrs. William

Eichenauer

Katharyn DeWitt

Barbara & Richard Leihser

Stephen G. Galiker

Jeanne Tyrolt

Mr. Robert Rice

Jackie Callamello

Rosemary Idleman

Greg & Alice Brock

Mrs. Frances Kapp

Cheri Hunter

Robert C. Hanna

Joan Christerson

Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Braden

Janet & Edward Beasley

Brigitta & Lucien Kapp

P.S. The names are listed as they were printed on the donation slip. We hope this list is complete. Some yearly membership renewals and fund drive donations arrived at the same time. Please, let us know if we omitted a name. We apologize in advance and promise to correct it in the next newsletter.

Thank you, Brigitta Kapp

A Warm Memory

The collaborative effort between the James Millikin Homestead and the Governor Oglesby Mansion in presenting both Christmas teas on the same day and avoiding the MU Vespers date turned out to be a great success. Co-chairmen Janet Beasley and Geri Hall of the JMH Victorian party, reported that 300-350 people attended the tea. Plans for next year's teas at the Homestead and the Mansion will again be scheduled for the same day and hours.

HOT APPLE CIDER RECIPE

(as requested after the Christmas tea)

2 gallons apple cider

1 cup brown sugar

4 cinnamon sticks

4 teaspoons whole cloves

4 teaspoons whole allspice

Place in pan and simmer 30-40 minutes.

Strain before serving.

Add orange slices to the punch bowl.

A tad of rum may be added to individual servings.

Editor's note: Enjoy! I know this recipe is untimely and maybe should be pertaining to Hot Cross buns or something springy, but now you will be way ahead of Christmas ideas for next December.



Coming Attraction

Calling all dolls – young, old, live and not-so-live, from Raggedy to the American Girl. Shirley Temple usually comes, too. They bring their owners to the biennial Victorian Doll Tea at the James Millikin Homestead.

Date: June 16, 2007

For reservations or information call:
Jo An Christerson – 429-0597

History, Mystery and Murder

A group of cultured people from the 1920's have materialized in a modern apartment in London. H.G. Wells had been testing his novel's time machine at a soiree. Now he is discovered dead in the bathroom. Who killed him? Was it James Joyce, Isadora Duncan, T.S. Eliot, Mae West or another of the visitors? Agatha Christie herself is present to help solve the crime. The key to this puzzle may appear in a line of verse or it may not. But in any case, we must achieve justice, poetic or not.

Board members and the membership of JMH are encouraged to attend the Annual Board Meeting. Character scripts, however, will only be available for the first 50 people. Drinks will be provided, but please bring an appetizer to share. Prizes will be awarded for the "best dressed" and anyone clever enough to figure out "who done it." Call Kate Shields at 217-855-1316 or e-mail kjs@uiuc.edu to RSVP for the meeting and to discover your role in the mystery.

Thursday, April 26th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Please join the fun at the Homestead.



Mr. And Mrs. Millikin Days

Imagination and wonder shine out of the third grade children's eyes as they click the remote into a far away time. They reflect awe and attention as they experience living history. The big grand Millikin Homestead and the glimpse of a far away time makes an unforgettable memory for these children!

As their gaze takes in the maids, the large rooms with high ceilings, meeting Mr. Millikin, Mrs. Millikin, singing and even playing the pump organ, experiencing the kitchen and learning about the Oriel window, a magic time is created for the young visitors. And, of course, the cookies!

This is one of the best things we do for the community and especially for all of the third grade pupils in Macon County. The event will take place this year on April 16 (Monday) through April 19 (Thursday). You will want to be a part of this. Call Brigitta Kapp at 428-0527 to sign up and reserve your spot in this fun and rewarding experience.

Marty Grohne



Niki Foertsch
1431 E. Olive St.
Decatur, IL 62526

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

JAMES M
P.O. Box 1501
Decatur, Illinois 62525



**Millikin Homestead
2006-2007**

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Niki Foertsch
Martha Grohne
Jeri Hall
Sabrina Hund
Rosemary Idleman
Brigitta Kapp
Margie Kirk
Ann Manuel
Linda May
Barb McElroy
Ann McEvoy
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Vice-president.....Sabrina Hund
Secretary.....Janet Beasley
Treasurer.....Ann McEvoy
HistorianLou Snelson
Restoration....Brigitta & Lucien Kapp
Grounds.....Bill McGaughey
& Kate Shields



**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>