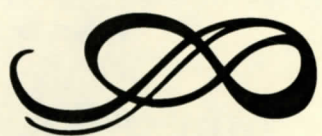
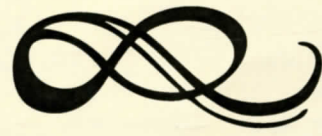


THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY



GAZETTE

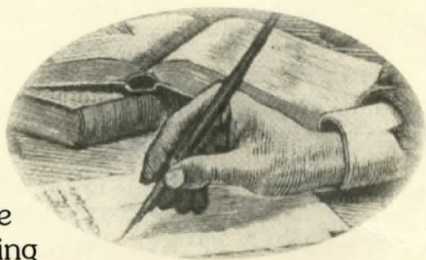


Volume XXXXII, No. 1

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

March 2016

A Note from your President . . .



Winter of 2016-2017 has set a record for warmest temperatures in the United States and now Spring is showing itself early. Master Gardeners are, once again, getting the grounds at the Homestead ready.

Millikin Homestead Board Members have been busy addressing the need for major repairs at the Homestead. Two designated 'must do' projects require repair and/or replacement of three porches and the tower that sits on top of the Homestead, due to severe deterioration of the wood. The cost estimate for this work is significant and, in the near future, we will announce a fund raiser to help cover the cost of this much needed work. As part of this project, board member David Bowman is working with Amanda Pippitt from Millikin University in an effort to locate the original architect and his architectural drawings to help with the repair and reconstruction of the Homestead's tower and porches.

Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days will be held April 24th through April 28th to educate third grade students about the history of the Millikin family.

Our annual meeting will be held at the Homestead on the evening of April 20th. We will announce new officers and board members and light refreshments will be served. This is a great opportunity for you to see the improvements made at the Homestead in 2016.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Terry Grant, President

Heritage and Holly Tour and Christmas Open House

After weeks of planning and decorating, the Millikin Homestead was ready to open its doors to the Heritage and Holly tour on November 26th. Many new decorations of red bows, greenery and candles beautifully decorated each room and the porches in the style we believe the Millikins would approve. In addition to the tree on the main floor, a beautifully decorated tree graced the upstairs hall. This year we were especially proud to showcase the newly painted and restored walls in the main hallway, the staircase and the upstairs hallway.



The annual Christmas Open House was held on December 11th. Although the weather was cold and cloudy, the Homestead was warm inside and filled with holiday cheer. Approximately 275 guests toured the home while enjoying complimentary hot spiced cider, homemade cookies and treats. Flute solos by Colleen Hillyer, daughter of board member, Ann-Marie Hillyer, added to the spirit of the season.

Mary Lou Nolan, General Chair

Central Illinois Girl Scouts Tea



On December 4th, despite an unexpected snow storm, Girl Scouts from all over Central Illinois descended on the Millikin Homestead to immerse themselves into the late 1800's. The girls, second through fifth grade, toured the home, met the Millikins, interacted with Sophie, the kitchen maid, and learned what life was like during the Millikin's time. The girls played games, created handkerchief dolls, explored period clothing through paper dolls and enjoyed an 1880's style tea on their way to earning a "Playing the Past" merit badge. The girls were attentive and enthusiastic about the program that was offered. The Homestead looks forward to working with the Girl Scouts of Illinois in the future.

Linda Ostrander, Chairperson

Sweet Treats Bakery

The aroma of cinnamon sticks, wafting through the halls of the Homestead, lead many visitors to the Sweet Treats Bakery on Sunday, December 11th! Patrons feasted their eyes on a beautiful array of holiday goodies. Figgie pudding, gingerbread boys, assorted Christmas cookie trays, coffee cakes, candies, tea breads and cheesecakes are just a few of the items that were offered for sale. The Board would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our bakers and to our patrons. Through your efforts and generous spirit, the Bakery netted a profit of \$771! (This figure includes sales of bakery items, note cards, and donations.) These dollars will be used to support ongoing restoration projects at the Homestead.

Ann-Marie Hillyer, Chairperson

Dawn Buck & Linda Ostrander, Co-Chairs



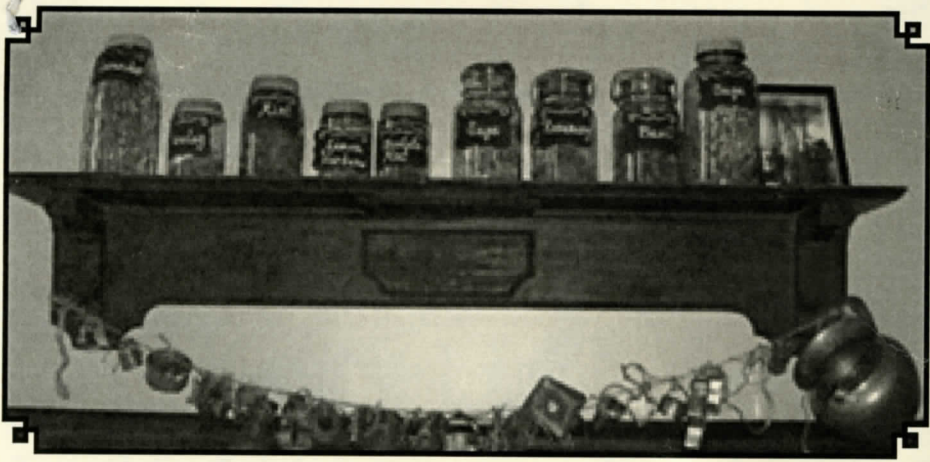
Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days

The annual Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days program will be held the week of April 24-28. Third graders throughout Macon County visit the Homestead and learn about that life was like in the 1890's from Mr. & Mrs. Millikin and their staff. This "living history" program is a favorite with third grade teachers. If you are interested in volunteering for one or more days, please contact Linda Ostrander at lao5827@gmail.com or 217-454-5827. We provide scripts ahead of time for all the characters. It is truly a lot of fun for both the students and the volunteers. We look forward to hearing from you,

Ann-Marie Hillyer & Linda Ostrander, Co-Chairs

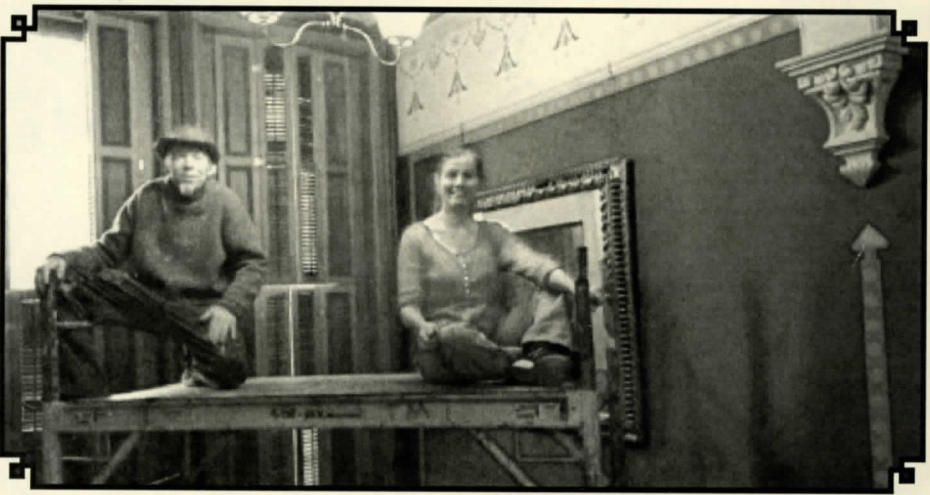
Vintage Kitchen Items

In our last newsletter, we asked for donations of kitchen jars, crocks, etc. Some of our loyal members met the challenge with donations of crockery pieces, jars, scales, and kitchen utensils. The Board extends sincere thanks to Marilyn Shroyer, Barbara Janes, Sue Shade and Dorothy Morey. Their donations are on display in our newly decorated kitchen. Don't forget to check out the kitchen during your next visit to the Homestead!



Upstairs Hallway Completed

Artist, Thomas Melvin, has once again brought life back to the James Millikin Homestead with completion of the painting and stencil accents in the upstairs hallway. This is a must see the next time you visit the Homestead.



Save the Date!!

April 20, 2017 - James Millikin Homestead Annual Meeting
June 10, 2017 - High Tea at the Homestead

Rental Policy at the Homestead

Looking for a unique, historic setting for your party? The Homestead is available for your private parties and special events such as small weddings, baptisms, receptions, anniversaries, birthdays and even business meetings. Current members receive a 10% discount off the rental fee. For information and scheduling, please contact Dawn at 217-429-6943 and leave a message.

We're on Facebook!

Our Facebook page is James Millikin Homestead. Please "like" or "follow" to see current photos and activities.

Please Check Mailing Label on Newsletter

The mailing label on the newsletter includes the date your membership expires. We look forward to your continued interest and support and ask you to drop a check in the mail if your membership has expired. Thank you!

In Memoriam

The James Millikin Homestead extends condolences to the family of Jane Welch Board Member from 1988 to 1992.

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

Exp. July-17
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Kirchner
P.O. Box 257
753 Christopher Dr.
Forsyth, IL 62535

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC.
P.O. Box 1501
Decatur, Illinois 62525
472-9003

6253559781 0001

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:
 James Millikin Homestead, Inc.
 P.O. Box 1501
 Decatur, Illinois 62525
 (Membership is tax deductible)

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 E-mail _____

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

- Millikin Homestead 2016-2017**
- Board of Directors**
 David Bowman
 Dawn Buck
 Julie Carter
 Marcia Comerford
 Marilyn Davis
 Terry Grant
 Ann-Marie Hillyer
 Cary Hise
 Kristen Hise
 Mary Alice Johns
 Deb Kirchner
 Pam Marty
 Mary Lou Nolan
 Linda Ostrander
- Officers**
 President - Terry Grant
 Vice-President - Cary Hise
 Secretary - Linda Ostrander
 Treasurer - Marcia Comerford
- Historian**
 David Bowman
- Restoration**
 Lucien and Brigitta Kapp