

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

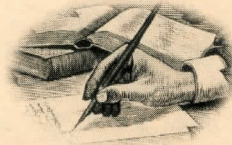
Vol. XXXII, No. 3

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

September, 2008

A Letter from Your President...

Jan Beasely



Dear Friends of the Homestead,

It's been a summer of celebrations at the Homestead -- a birthday tea, a bridal shower and a wedding reception to name a few events. Besides the celebrations, there's been education. JMH board members, Niki, Margie and I participated in a workshop for nonprofit organizations. The workshop discussed membership, fundraising and helpful topics for nonprofits. We look forward to implementing some of these ideas soon.

July kept board members busy. Niki, Margie, Marty and I attended Decatur Days at the Illinois State Fair. A special thank you has to be said to Pat McDaniel from the Macon County Historical Museum for his outstanding display of Macon County history, including the exhibit of the Millikins and their importance in the Decatur community. Millikin University believes in this historical heritage and the Homestead's importance to our community. A meeting with John Mickler from Millikin this July renewed our working agreement with the University.

As September arrives, our clean-up campaign has begun. We're dusting out the corners, shining up the silver and polishing the woodwork. Not only are we cleaning the inside, but also the Homestead's grounds are getting much needed attention. Lots of overgrown bushes and shrubs around the Homestead are being trimmed and removed.

The Homestead will be sparkling for the holidays and ready for our guests. We are so excited as we received word from NWRAPS announcing the Homestead has been selected for the Holly & Heritage tour on Friday and Saturday, November 28th - 29th.

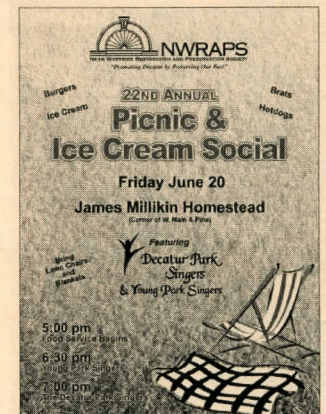
The festivities just keep coming as we prepare for our annual Victorian Christmas Tea. Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 14th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Lots of homemade treats, hot apple cider, talented musicians and special Christmas boutiques, all the ingredients to sweep you back in time to a Victorian Christmas Tea.



NWRAPS 22nd Annual Picnic & Ice Cream Social – Friday, June 20th

This is an event that easily takes us back in time. The rich aroma of hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill just made life so easy to enjoy on this beautiful afternoon. As people gathered, blankets were spread along the grassy campus under the trees in front of the James Millikin Homestead. Those of us who weren't so hardy carried our lawn chairs. I had no idea how cute Dick Ferry looks in a pair of Bermuda shorts, as he and his wife appeared with their lawn chairs.

The stage was set up for anticipated entertainment as we watched the Youth Park Singers and the famous Decatur Park Singers appear from their automobiles and onto the stage. As always the entertainment was uplifting and enjoyable. The singers honored the men and women of the armed forces as they asked those in the audience to stand up and be recog-



Thank you to all JMH members who renewed their membership! Thank you to our new JMH members! Thank you to our JMH volunteers! Thank you to a hardworking JMH board of directors! Thank you to Anna Mae Carlson who has joined the JMH board!

Don't forget to come Home for the holidays!

Bridal Shower Tea – Sunday, July 6th

As the future bride, Kate Rutt, was chaperoned by her fiancé, Kaleb Philips, to the James Millikin Homestead, inside the mansion was a buzz of activity. Mrs. Scott (Pam) Phillips, the mother of the groom, was anxiously checking the desserts arranged on the formal dining room table. And making sure, as the guests arrive that each guest selects a lovely summer hat for the tea.

Kate's mother Mrs. Ken (Karen) Rutt from Pennsylvania was the surprise guest who arrived with Kate's sister. Kate and Kaleb met while attending and graduating from Ashbury Christian College in Wilmore, Kentucky. Kate is employed as a third grade teacher in Nicholas, Kentucky and Kaleb's position is a Baptist Youth Pastor, also in Nicholas, Kentucky. They will confirm their love and devotion at a church wedding in October and the reception will be in one of the lovely mansions in Richmond. I was told it is very similar to the James Millikin Homestead.



Wedding Dinner – Friday, August 8th



The James Millikin Homestead opened its doors in celebration of the joyful union of Peggy Mennel and Charlie Crosby of Decatur. After a private afternoon ceremony at Our Lady of Lourdes Church with Father Westin, the wedding party and guests gathered for an evening dinner catered by Norma Fick, of Custom Cuisine.

nized.

Marty Grohne, JoAn Christerson and Niki Foertsch sat on the steps of the Homestead enjoying the view. Marty commented how the hamburgers were the best she had ever eaten, and left JoAn and I for another trip to the grill! After the entertainment, it was time for a couple scoops of good homemade ice cream and introductions to new friends. What a great way to enjoy and appreciate an old fashioned evening at the James Millikin Homestead.

Tea For Twenty – Friday, July 25th

Cheryl Bradley was one of our guests for the Victoria Doll Tea last May of 2007 and won the raffle for a Tea for Twenty Event at the James Millikin Homestead. And what an event! Cheryl called her friends and selected Friday July 25th, in honor of her birthday for the tea.

The Board Members gathered for the occasion. Tables were arranged in the South and North Parlors and set with lace table clothes. Pastel linen napkins were carefully folded and properly placed across the glass dinnerware. Condiments of sugar cubes and silver sugar tongs with coordinating creamers were placed on each table.

As the tea was brewing, finger foods of cucumber tea sandwiches, dried cranberry and chicken salad tea sandwiches, miniatures pecan tarts, miniature cheese cakes squares, yummy powdered sugar bonbons, plus fresh strawberries and grapes were arranged on silver trays with a fresh floral bouquet placed in the center of each tray.

As our host, Cheryl Bradley, unfolds her napkin and places it in her lap, the party begins. Jan Beasley, JoAn Christerson and Niki Foertsch attended to the honored guests with hot servings of freshly brewed tea poured from silver tea pots and extra servings of sandwiches and fresh fruits.

We all agreed the tea was truly a delightful experience, one we will always fondly remember. Even Mrs. Millikin would have agreed it was a most delight afternoon.



Annual Victorian Christmas Tea

Sunday, December 14th

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Message from MARGIE KIRK –Board of Directors, Vice President

The James Millikin Homestead will again offer a Christmas Boutique during the annual Victorian Christmas Tea. We would greatly appreciate donations of handcrafted gifts, Christmas ornaments and gently used Christmas items for the sale.

To make arrangements for accepting donations, my phone number is 454-0950, or you can call Ann Manuel at 864-4017 (manuel99@springnet1.com)

Message from SHARON THOMPSON – Board of Directors

Sweet Treats Boutique

I accepted the position of chairperson to a new boutique for tasty Christmas edibles on sale during our annual Victorian Christmas Tea. If you would like to be a Christmas elf for our boutique, we would love to receive your donations.

It can be one of your favorite Christmas recipes you are famous for or maybe something new you have been thinking about trying and this would be the perfect time. Cookies, candies, breads, and cakes, anything that would make Santa “Ho, ho, ho” will be welcome!

My phone number is 422-8765 or 454-8765 (cell number).



Push That Button!

BRIGITTA KAPP

A mail order company, Van Dyke's Restorers: Supplies for Antique Restorers Woodworkers & Period Homes from South Dakota, offers reproductions of the old push button switches which graced houses for decades once electrical service was widely available and reliable. The modern switches conform to current building codes, and feature mother-of-pearl inlay on the buttons and solid brass switch plates. Even dimmer switches are available...certainly a choice Mrs. Millikin didn't have!

Recently, we ordered these reproduction push button switches along with brass plates and installed them on the main floor parlors, the hallway, and the formal dining room, as the old switches were becoming dangerous from age. This restoration project is a small one, nevertheless, an important detail in our ongoing goal of restoring the James Millikin Homestead.

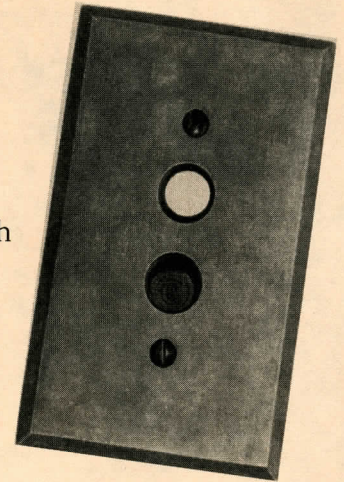
Tea Time White Cheddar Cheese Walnut Cookies

- 1½ Cups shredded White Cheddar cheese
- ½ Cup grated Asiago cheese
- ½ Cup butter
- 1 Egg yolk
- ¼ tsp ground black pepper
- 1 Cup all purpose flour
- 1 Cup finely chopped walnuts
- 2 tsp fresh Thyme
- 1 tsp Lemon zest

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Lone 2 baking trays with parchment paper, set aside.

In a food processor combine Cheddar cheese, Asiago cheese and butter, pulse till smooth.

Add the egg yolk and pepper, pulse till blended. Add flour, walnuts, thyme and lemon zest. Pulse till soft dough forms. Turn the dough out on a floured surface, form into a balls and cover with plastic wrap. Chill for one hour. Form dough into 30 one inch balls and place the balls 2 inches apart on parchment lined baking sheets. Grease the flat bottom of a drinking glass and use it to lightly flatten each biscuit. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until light golden brown. Cool on wire rack.



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

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2008-2009
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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>