

# THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

## GAZETTE

Vol. XXVIII, No. 1

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

July 2003

### A Note From Your President...



The Millikin Homestead Board of Directors would like to welcome its newest Board members: Donna Manuell, Jodie Powell, and Kathleen Owen. We are always grateful when such talented individuals find time to serve on our Board.

The Board of Directors would also like to thank the many wonderful volunteers who brought the Homestead to life during Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days. Thank You's to:

**Indoor Guides:** Carol Ferry, Ann Shellabarger, Carolyn Rau, Anne Pondelick, Lou Snelson, Betty Rose Leader, Marilyn Shroyer, Kathy Green, Joyce Robinson, Jeannette Bradley, and Sally Krigbaum.

**Outdoor Guides:** Marty Grohne, Kathy Farrington, Bill McGaughey, Wyllene Griffy, and Bucky Ward.

**Sophie:** Alice Brock, Sandy Schultz, Kathleen Owen, and Brigitta Kapp.

**Dining Room Maids:** Ann Seidman and Betsy Empen.

**Organist:** Barb Keagle, Rick Shrine, and Millie Gonzalez.

**Mr. Millikin:** Bert Pierceall, George Batson, Bob Hantel, Jim Williams, and Dick Ferry.

**Mrs. Millikin:** Marilyn Pierceall, Lilly Eckert, and Joanne Nixon.

Students entered the Essay Contest by writing thank you notes relating what they learned on their tour. Winners this year were: Taryn Young (French School) Mrs. Susie Miller, teacher, and Morgan Boulter (Baum School) Mrs. Joanne Niehay, teacher.

Sherri Arnold, President

### Open House

This is a wonderful time of year to visit the Homestead! The flowers are in bloom, the birds are singing in the garden, the trees and bushes have never looked lovelier. Inside the home, which is comfortably air-conditioned, there are new art works on display from the James' and Anna's collection.

The Homestead is open every Saturday and Sunday, from 2 PM to 4 PM. Admittance fee is \$2.00 for adults and 50 cents for children.

Anne Pondelick  
Volunteer Chairman

Start planning your holiday parties now! For information and reservations, call 422-4395.

Alice Brock  
Scheduling Chairman

### Doll Tea

On June 7th the James Millikin Homestead Board hosted their 7th Victorian Doll Tea.

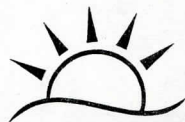
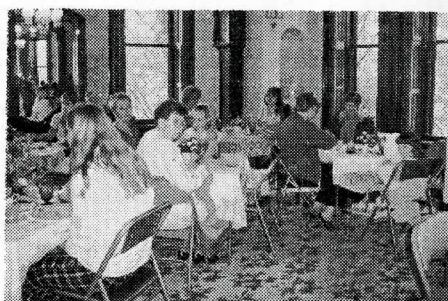
Grandmothers, grandchildren, mothers, daughters and friends filled the Homestead to capacity for two seatings. Tea, pink lemonade, cookies and tea sandwiches were enjoyed by those in attendance.

The Board made over \$800 which will go toward the restoration of the beautiful oriel windows.

Thank you to all whom attended and helped to make our tea so successful.

Joyce Robinson, Chairman

Brigitta Kapp and Ann Seidman, Co-Chairmen



### LEAVE A LEGACY DECATUR, ILLINOIS

"DO MORE THAN JUST MAKE A WILL. DO SOMETHING GREAT."

The Board of the Millikin Homestead announced in a previous newsletter that it is participating in the Decatur *Leave A Legacy* program.

*Leave A Legacy* is a nationwide organization whose mission is to increase charitable bequests to local non-profit organizations. It was created to inspire people of all ages and all walks of life to consider how they might leave a lasting legacy by making a charitable bequest to local non-profit groups they support.

What does it mean to *Leave A Legacy*? It means leaving a gift from your estate to a charitable organization of your choice. You may have heard this described as planned or deferred giving. Planned gifts come in all sizes. A bequest in your will - whether it's \$100 or \$1 million - would be appreciated by any non-profit organization.

How do I leave a gift? It is easy. You can arrange for a gift in several ways. The most common way is through a will or a living trust. Many people set aside a certain dollar amount. Others leave a percentage of their estate or any assets left over after providing for their family. Still others leave a paid-up life insurance policy, retirement account or other financial investment.

Do I have to completely revise my will to *Leave A Legacy*? No. Simply ask your attorney to amend your will or trust to include a bequest to a charity or charities, and 1) designate the charity or charities to receive the gift, and 2) designate the amount of your bequest or leave a percentage of your estate to the organization.

The Board of the Millikin Homestead sincerely hopes that the Millikin Homestead will be a charity of your choice, and that you will include the Homestead in your estate plans.

### Now Is The Time

It's time to get busy with the 2003 JMH JUMBLE and we need help from our loyal members and friends. We have a few things but we need much more, so clean out those cabinets, basements, garages, and give us a call. Wyllene Griffy (422-8417) or Sherri Arnold (428-6063) will be glad to hear from you. Please remember we will accept (almost) anything except clothing. In the past we have found books, dishes, furniture, toys and oddities to be the best sellers. We know antiques, large or small, are very good sellers. Please sort through your silver, china, glass and linens to see if there is something you don't use. You may drop the things off at the Homestead but please call us and let us know so we can go over and put them in the basement. If you have a lot of things or a large piece, you may call Wyllene and she will come and pick them up.

Last year we had several people move and give us many items and boxes full of merchandise and our sale resulted in approximately \$3000. As you all remember, we really had a terrific assortment of stuff and all who came to the sale were thrilled. I know they will all be back this year and will bring a friend.

PLEASE - call us with a donation. Thanks in advance.

Wyllene Griffy, Chairman

### JMH JUMBLE AND ANTIQUÉ SALE

Saturday, October 4, 2003  
8 AM - 2 PM  
(rain date)

Saturday, October 11, 2003  
8 AM - 2 PM

Millikin Homestead Grounds  
125 N. Pine Street  
Decatur, Illinois



### Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days

#### A Personal Legacy From The Millikins

"Hello, third-graders, I am Mr. Millikin and I am very rich," I tell four different classrooms of children visiting the north parlor of the James Millikin Homestead.

"This is a painted portrait of my lovely wife, Anna Aston Millikin, and I want to tell you she is very strict. I was afraid she wouldn't allow you in the house because it rained this morning."

"If it rained while we were entertaining Millikin students on the lawn, she made them go back to the Millikin University campus," I told the children. "She didn't want them tracking her floors, so be very careful when you see Mrs. Millikin (Joan Nixon) in the dining room."

The third-graders' eyes got as large as the giant cookies given them by the dining room maid, Ann Seidman. They became so quiet you could hear yarn against yarn of the knitting being done two rooms away.

After my talk with third-graders, the first-floor maid, Jeanette Bradley, opened the mansion's pocket doors and took the children to the south parlor to hear Barbara Keagle play an antique organ and join her in a sing-along. The upstairs maid, Sally Krigbaum, gave second-floor tours.

Each class left through the back door after Brigitta Kapp, the kitchen maid, showed them how to wash clothes using a washboard and tub.

As I left, thinking about how important this visit was for Decatur children, Bill McGaughey a volunteer gardener at the Homestead, was giving a tour of the carriage house, grounds and gardens that he keeps impeccably groomed.

I straightened up, clasped my hands behind my back, attempting to appear to be a very pensive philanthropist, and wondered what my legacy would be to a city I loved.

(With permission from Dick Ferry who wrote this article and from Bob Fallstrom from the Herald and Review, we are printing this interesting article on Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days.)



## There Are Sleuths Among Us



. . . and they have discovered wonderful things - a scrapbook that involves the Millikins and a burial site that doesn't!!

Jason Butterick, Historian and Archivist Associate at Millikin University, has uncovered a little known scrapbook that James Millikin kept while living in Danville in his drover days. James, being notably careful with a nickel, used a discarded 1853 register from his hotel, the McCormack House, as the base for his collection of pasted-in-newspaper clippings, among them a September 5, 1854 obituary of his sister, Nancy Vandyke Millikin, as well as excerpts from the 1849 Democratic Party platform and in an unbiased manner, its 1856 Republican counterpart. Other political literature was included indicating his great interest in current affairs.

When Jason spoke at the Homestead's Annual Meeting in April, he outlined his search from the time he happened on a passage in Albert Taylor's *Life Story of James Millikin* mentioning the scrapbook. Its trail was then traced back from its original use to its new life as a personal record of news items important to James, eventually including the announcement of his engagement to Anna Aston. Until about 1860 he continued to add clippings from area papers, having brought the book with him when he settled in Decatur with his new bride. It's assumed that business interests and community activities consumed his time and the book no longer played a part in his life, probably being consigned to the attic until, after Anna's death in 1913 it somehow came

into Albert Taylor's possession. After citing it in his biography of Millikin, Mr. Taylor took the book back to Danville, where it originated and presented it to the D.A.R. collection at the Danville Public Library in 1926. Following a long and cold trail, Jason Butterick finally located it in the Vermillion County Museum. Thanks to Jason and the kind staff at the Museum, one can actually see the old book - enjoying not only Mr. Millikin's clipping but various hotel guests' signatures (including Benjamin Harrison's!!) still recognizable. A copy may become available to the Homestead but if you are in Danville, the REAL THING is right there in a case. As an added treasure, Jason has donated a copy of his talk delineating the full story of Mr. Millikin's Scrapbook for our files.

Our other sleuth?? Susan Siefferman, our caretaker, used her computer skills to research the true story of John Q. Adams whose tombstone was found recently near Latham. Though this find did not relate directly to the

Homestead, it points out the many ways in which we discover new things about our history. Thanks to both our local Sherlocks!!

Lou Snelson, Historian

## 20th Anniversary Celebration at Millikin University

Board member, Joyce Robinson, recently hosted a loving and special 20th anniversary celebration for her daughter and son-in-law on May 30th, 2003. David and Julie Evans were married at the Homestead on May 28th, 1983 at a ceremony in the 2 front parlors.

Nearly 20 family members and friends came together to celebrate the occasion. Joyce gave everyone an interesting guided tour of the mansion prior to dinner. Barb Wall served a delicious dinner. A lovely evening indeed.

*We will once again be featuring a Boutique as part of our Victorian Christmas Tea on December 7th, 2003. The Boutique will feature inexpensive handmade specialties and food items. These items will be appreciated by teachers, neighbors, friends and family.*

## Millikin Homestead

2003 - 2004

### Board of Directors

Sherri Arnold

Alice Brock

Millie Gonzalez

Wyllene Griffy

Penny Honnold

Rosemary Idleman

Brigitta Kapp

Donna Manuell

Donna Meinhold

Kathleen Owen

Anne Pondelick

Jodie Powell

Joyce Robinson

Ann Seidman

Virgil (Bucky) Ward

### Officers

President.....Sherri Arnold

Vice-President....Alice Brock

Secretary....Susan Siefferman

Treasurer.....Brigitta Kapp

Historian.....Lou Snelson

Restoration.....Lucien Kapp

Grounds.....Bill McGaughey

The Homestead is reopening for rentals. Call now to reserve your date. Rates have changed, discounts available to Homestead members.

Alice Brock  
Scheduling Chairman  
422-4395

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



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

## Mission Statement

**T**he 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.

## Membership

**O**nce again, thanks to all of you who so generously support the James Millikin Homestead. As you may notice, we have reduced our membership categories to four due to increased expenses. We hope this will not deter any of you from continuing to help us maintain this wonderful home which we feel is an important part of Decatur's history. Please note that the date on your address label indicates the expiration of your membership. All donations, dues or otherwise, are greatly needed and appreciated.

Penny Honnold  
Membership Chairmen.

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

## James Millikin Homestead, Inc.



- Regular Member — \$25.00       Life — \$1,000.00  
 Friend — \$50.00                      (May be paid in four annual  
 Patron — \$100.00                      installments)

Please make checks payable to James Millikin Homestead, Inc., and mail to:  
James Millikin Homestead, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1501  
Decatur, Illinois 62525

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

(Membership is tax deductible)