

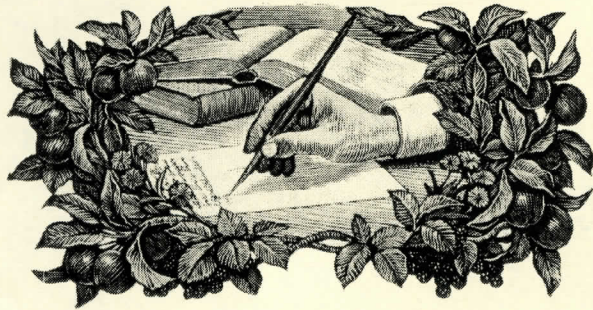
THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

∞ GAZETTE ∞

Vol. XXIX, No. 3

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

March, 2005



A Note from Your President...

Iwould like to take this opportunity to thank all the Board members and community volunteers who have helped make my two years as president of the James Millikin Homestead so memorable. It takes lots of team work to have successful events such as the Jumble, Victorian Christmas Tea & Doll Tea. Behind the scenes we had lots of laughter...and occasionally sore feet. Barb McElroy & Jodi Powell are to be commended for their excellent job chairing the 2004 Victorian Christmas Tea. In addition, Ann Seidman & Donna Meinhold deserve many thanks for the years they have chaired the Christmas Tea Boutique. I can't imagine how many hours each year Ann Seidman devotes to sewing & knitting beautiful items that are donated to the Boutique. The next day, while the rest of us are soaking our feet glad the event is over for another year & vowing not to touch another Christmas cookie (at least for a few hours), Donna Meinhold is out selling leftover



As you drive along West Main street, you might want to slow down and see the spring flowers that will soon be blooming. Bill McGaughey has planted both tulip and daffodil bulbs on the south side of the flag pole for everyone's enjoyment.

Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days April 18-21, 2005

In the blink of an eye, spring will be here. Mrs. Millikin is planning a dinner party and the maids are busy scrubbing, polishing, and cooking in preparation for the party. One of the maids is sick with "the Illinois shakes"! In typical male fashion, Mr. Millikin brushed aside

8th annual Doll Tea at the Millikin Homestead

The James Millikin Homestead

Invites you to a

Victorian Doll Tea

Saturday, June 11, 2005

At the Homestead - 125 N. Pine Street

Two Sitzings: 11:30 am & 1:30 pm

Donation:

\$8.00 adult \$4.00 child

By reservations only: Call 428-1061 @ Beasley Properties

Come and share the timeless love for dolls and dollhouses at a tea party for grown-ups and children.

hours), Donna Meinhold is out selling leftover cookies to Millikin students. Donna must have been a great Girl Scout.

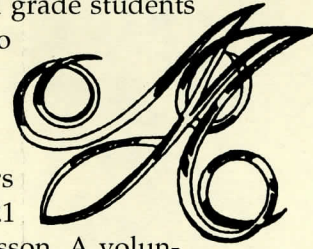
I know I'm leaving the Homestead Board in very capable hands. Ann Seidman has agreed to serve as the Board's president next year. Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting, listen to Ed Walker's talk, nibble goodies, and welcome Ann as the incoming president. In June, we hope to see you at the Doll Tea. Brigitta Kapp & Ann Seidman are chairing this event, so you know it will be lovely.

Sherri Stroup Arnold

typical fashion, Mr. Millikin brushed aside the frantic preparations for the dinner party and invited all of the third grade students in Macon County to visit their home. He forgot to tell Mrs. Millikin!

The third graders will visit on April 18-21 for a living history lesson. A volunteer cast will bring to life for these children a day in the life of Mr. and Mrs. Millikin in their home. They will visit with Mr. and Mrs. Millikin, tour the house, sing songs with a musician playing the pump organ, and walk out the door munching on a cookie from the kitchen.

Wouldn't you love to be part of this adventure? You can and should be part of the volunteer cast. Your reward would be the look of awe and wonder in the eyes of these children. To be part of the cast for this big day, call Jodi Powell at 875-8395.



Homestead Open House

The Homestead will be open the last Sunday of the month, April through October from 2 PM to 4 PM. Admittance fee is \$2.00 for adults and \$.50 for children.

This is a wonderful time to visit the Homestead. Spring flowers and bushes will soon be in bloom. Inside the home will be displays of collections in addition to viewing the lovely interior rooms.

Membership

Once again, thanks to all of you who have generously supported the James Millikin Homestead. All donations, dues or otherwise, are greatly needed and appreciated. Please note that the date on your address label indicates the expiration date of your membership.

Penny Honnold
Membership Chairman

at a tea party for grown-ups and children.
Bring a favorite doll and talk with other doll collectors.

Featuring a new event:
The Doll Boutique
(old and new doll related items for sale)

Door prizes will be given away at each sitting.

Raffle Items:
***Use of Homestead for 4 hours
(subject to rental guidelines).
***Tea/Coffee for 20 at the Homestead
(catered by Homestead volunteers)

*Winners need not be present.



As in the past, this is on a first come, first serve basis. We can accommodate 50 people at each sitting.

This year we feature a new event: Doll Boutique (offering new and old doll related items). If you have something to donate to our boutique or have questions, please call either Ann Seidman at 428-0644 or Brigitta Kapp at 428-9527. We would like to have a great variety of articles (doll dishes, clothes, furniture, clothing accessories, etc.)

Several interesting collections will be on display: a group of faceless Amish dolls, a Raggedy Ann and Andy collection, Schoenhut toys, doll quilts, a doll house; additional collections are being pursued.

Door prizes will be given away at each sitting. Two great raffle items should entice all of you to buy some chances:

- **One use of the Homestead for 4 hours**
(subject to our rental guidelines).
- **One Tea/Coffee for 20**
(catered by Homestead volunteers).

Each of these two prizes is worth approximately \$400!! So, take a chance!! You might be the lucky winner! You need not be present to win.

As always, the profits from this fund-raiser are solely used for the upkeep and restoration of the Homestead. We are all volunteers interested in preserving this great house and interested in welcoming all of you to come to tea!

Bring a friend, bring your dolls, and bring along your children!

Ann Seidman and Brigitta Kapp, co-chairs

The 2005 Annual meeting will be held
Thursday, April 28, 2005
at 7:00 p.m.
James Millikin Homestead
125 North Pine
Decatur, Illinois

Light refreshments will be served
at 6:30 p.m.

Program
The Pleasures and Pitfalls of
Exhibiting Private Collections
presented by
Prof. Ed Walker

Professor Walker is the chairman of the Art Department at Millikin University and is also the Director of the Birks Museum. For the past 8 years he has coordinated the Art and Architecture Conference that is held biennially at the University.

NOOKS AND CRANNIES

Lou Snelson, Historian



ound in many old houses are hidden niches and crevices, doors and drawers in unexpected spots and snuggeries for curling up for a good read – in my mind these are nooks and crannies and the Homestead has several.

In the squared bay in the north parlor (a nook in itself) are two niches, ideal for displaying treasures. In Mr. and Mrs. Millikin's day large vases (no longer with us) held forth there. The south parlor has its own bay – large, light and oval, a perfect spot in this more informal room for a pair of chairs, a cup of tea and a chat.

In Mr. Millikin's adjoining study is the wonderful large closet with shelves and doors and drawers, just the spot for household records, office supplies - all those miscellaneous accumulations needed but best kept out of sight.

The "new" bathroom off the library has a wealth of "crannies" vari-sized doors set into the walls (carpenters sometimes called them "stud cabinets" tucked in, then shelved and doored to provide storage space for sundry items). It could be imagined that each panel conceals a hidden treasure (or at least a wall safe - but remember Mr. Millikin had his own bank - a big one downtown).

One of the questions volunteer tour guides often get is: "Are there secret passages?? To our knowledge "no" but wouldn't it be great if there were. The short door on the east wall of the history room often leads to such a query but alas it conceals only the long sliding rack under the stair where folding chairs are stored. How prosaic!! Wouldn't it be great if there were a hidden room under the stair landing?? I wonder...

Even the working kitchen has interesting tuck-a-ways: the deep window sills on the north side must have held plants, or in season a cooling rhubarb pie, said to be James Millikin's favorite.

Back in the main hall a cutaway corner at the foot of the grand stairway guards the lady with the lamp, perfect for that showcase and the imposing fireplace opposite the stair has lovely small arched



areas for the odd object: a dried posy, small pictures or other bibelots appropriate to the era.

At the head of the stairs in the Art Class Room, at floor level on either side of the fireplace are two small drawers - hiding places for the most secret items. Though we sometimes call them glove drawers it's difficult to imagine a Victorian lady clad in the heavily staved garments of the day flexible enough to bend all the way to the floor to fetch her gloves.

Of course, best of all is the mansard roofed cupola, high on top of the house, above the problems of the world, needing only a comfy cushion and a good book to become the greatest cranny of all!!

Thank You!



ur annual Millikin Homestead Christmas Tea was held Sunday, December 12th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thank you again to everyone who participated in this year's Tea. The Tea was a success due to the time and talent of our board members and our wonderful volunteers.

Thank you!

Jodi Powell and Barbara McElroy

ENGLISH JUMBLE

(glorified rummage sale)

FALL 2005



he board voted to sponsor another JUMBLE this fall. Exact date and details will follow. PLEASE, start saving items as you spring-clean and sort out!

We collect everything (books, housewares, small pieces of furniture, trinkets...), but no used clothing.

For more information, call:

Ann Seidman:

428-0644 - *leave message if no answer*

Brigitta Kapp:

428-9527 - *leave message if no answer*

Thank You!

Scheduling

Make your reservations now!

Summer is coming and is a lovely time to entertain at the James Millikin Homestead.

Call Alice Brock for information and reservations.

422-4395

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

3/05

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

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2004 - 2005
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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>