

James Millikin Homestead Gazette

VOLUME XLVII

125 N. PINE STREET DECATUR, IL 62522

NOVEMBER 2022

Upcoming Events

Homestead Open House Schedule

Regular Monthly Open House is held the last Sunday of the month March - October
Remember you can always schedule a private tour by contacting the Homestead at 217-422-9003
48 hours prior to the desired time.

Cookie Tray Orders Open October 15 - November 23

Sweet Treats Bakery Pickup
Saturday, December 3
12 pm - 3 pm

Christmas Open House
Sunday, December 4
12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Nativity Exhibit
Saturday & Sunday
January 7 & 8
12 pm - 3 pm

Exhibit Schedule
December & January
Antique Christmas
Ornaments



Sweet Treats Bakery



Place your order now!

Once again we offer holiday cookie trays for sale on a pre-order/prepaid basis.

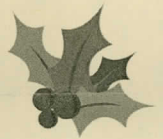
Orders will be taken until November 23 or until we have sold 100 trays (whichever comes first).

Information about ordering can be found on the Homestead's website; phone orders will also be taken (217) 422-9003.

Cookie Tray pick up time: Saturday, December 3, 12-3 pm



Christmas Open House



Mark your calendar!

Christmas Open House
At the Millikin Homestead
Sunday, December 4th
12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Stop by and enjoy our lovely decorations and some holiday cheer either before or after attending Vespers.

The History Room will feature antique ornaments.



"No Room at the Inn"



Back by popular demand!

A Nativity Display at the James Millikin Homestead
125 N. Pine Street, Decatur

Saturday and Sunday, January 7th and 8th 12 pm - 3 pm

Admission: \$5 per person; children under 10 are free.

All proceeds help support the preservation of this Decatur landmark.

End the Christmas season by touring a variety of nativity styles ranging from vintage to modern- all loaned by local people.

You also get a last glimpse of the beautiful Christmas decorations throughout the home and the display of antique Christmas tree items in the History Room.

From the President's Desk

Falling leaves, pumpkins, hot apple cider, harvest, shorter days, and cooler nights...these are all signs of the season in Central Illinois. And one other sign of the season is the arrival in your mailbox of the James Millikin Homestead's annual Appeals Letter. Behind the scenes, the 14 members of the Homestead's all-volunteer Board work countless hours to maintain financial stability while at the same time balancing available funds with routine projects and home improvements. Each of us can appreciate this scenario in our own homes. The Homestead is still recovering from limitations placed upon rentals and events due to COVID restrictions. These limitations directly affected our income stream. Inflation is just one more piece that has been added to the puzzle. The reality is that there is a \$25,000 annual deficit in operating costs and income.

We are always looking for ways to minimize this deficit by adopting energy-saving practices and sponsoring programs for members and the community that generate revenue.

When responding to our Appeals letter, please know that we are grateful for the financial support provided by our members. No contribution is too small; it is through your generosity and our collaborative efforts that the Homestead benefits. As you plan your end-of-the year giving, thank you for considering a gift to the James Millikin Homestead. On behalf of the Board, I wish each of you a Thanksgiving holiday that is bountiful in all that you treasure.

Sincerely,
Ann-Marie Hillyer
President

Taste of History

Taste of History returned October 1st after a two year absence due to COVID. Guests to the Millikin Homestead, Culver House, Oglesby Mansion, Staley Mansion and Mueller Museum enjoyed tasty hors d'oeuvres and specialty cocktails at each venue of this progressive (adult) cocktail party. Two hundred forty tickets were sold for this popular event!

The beautiful fall weekend gave attendees an opportunity to visit some of Decatur's most historic landmarks. Decatur trolleys were available to shuttle those who preferred not to walk to each venue.



Millikin Homestead guests were greeted at the door by Mr. and Mrs. Millikin aka Homestead Board Members Doug Warren and Donna Williams. Walnut Street Winery from Rochester, IL offered a wide variety of their specialty wines. Board Member and pianist Jason Butterick entertained partygoers with waltzes and rags of the era.

Looking forward to Taste of History 2023!

Broken Brogue

On an unusually crisp Sunday afternoon in early September we gathered on the Homestead lawn to listen to the local band Broken Brogue. A sprightly medley of Irish songs kept us warm and our toes tapping!

The Mr. Softee ice cream truck, parked on the grounds courtesy of the Homestead, did brisk business in spite of the chilly temperatures.

It certainly was an enjoyable event worth repeating next year!



Roof Repairs and Replacement

The Homestead roof is not what it appears to be from the ground. One sees a nice Mansard slate roofline, but the bulk of the roof is flat or nearly flat. There are nearly 1,250 square feet of flat roof that is not visible from the drive. The flat roofing in 1875-1876 when the Millikins built the home would have been twelve-inch metal strips. Commonly called "Ternplate" or "Tern." Tern was an amalgamation of tin and lead with zinc and nickel added to balance the finished product. The strips were soldered together to make one continuous solid seamed metal roofing plate. Tern has a long life but ultimately it fails. Tern can no longer be used because of the lead content. Forty years ago, the tern was removed and replaced with continuous white vinyl membrane roofing. The guaranteed life of a membrane roof is twenty years. The normally soft membrane became brittle, and more than twenty-seven holes had been patched but the frequency of the leaks exceeded the pace of the patching. It was time for a new roof. Thanks to a generous grant from the James Millikin Estate Trust and funds from our reserves, we sought bids for removal and proper disposal of the existing roof, adding two layers of underlayment, installing proper drainage crickets and saddles and fully adhering durable synthetic rubber roofing membrane, installing new painted metal edge and counter flashing. We found that the existing ornamental molded iron fencing commonly known as "Cresting" was worn thin and many pieces were broken. This was a hazard. Of the eighty linear feet of cresting, we were able to salvage only twenty feet. New cresting has been ordered, it will need to be painted along with the salvaged pieces and installed. Three chimneys required new caps to be manufactured and installed. And finally, access to the roof is gained by a ladder from the attic through a hatch to the flat portion of the roof. The existing ladder and hatch needed to be replaced for safety.

A committee was formed to seek bids. The committee consisted of former JMH Board Member, David Bowman; Vice President of Facilities Management at Millikin University, James Fraley and Douglas Warren, a member of the current Board of Directors for the Homestead. We estimated the job, sought input from various sources on what our needs were and what absolutely was required including the latest in building codes and environmental standards. We accepted Henson Robinson's bid. Work began in early July.

The only change order required was the cresting (ornamental molded cast iron.) This is the only overrun from our initial plan and will take the project over our estimate of \$65,000 to a grand total of \$69,138 which is 6% above the initial plan.

The new roof has a guarantee of 20 years. The new insulation code has been met and we are proud of the product of our labor. The cresting and caps are the only remaining items. With mild weather these remaining tasks will be completed by Henson Robinson in this construction season.

Poetry at the Homestead


Jim Wilkinson, a current Board Member, a photographer and videographer, and a poet! He presented ten books of his poems titled *Millikin Poems* to the Homestead with the suggestion that they could be used for fundraising.

The Homestead
(A Haiku by Jim Wilkerson)
Nearly One Fifty
Still Standing Strong in The West
Dove on the Tower

Thanks for Supporting the Homestead as an Organizational Member!


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Invested.

 **BROWN HAY + STEPHENS**
ESTABLISHED 1828



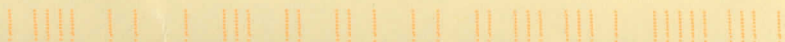
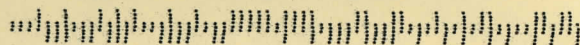
James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

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Please consider making your support of the James Millikin Homestead a part of your legacy by including the Homestead in your estate planning.



Not a member of the James Millikin Homestead? Memberships are inexpensive and the support you provide through a membership is immeasurable. Please contact the Homestead for more information.



Stay in touch with the James Millikin Homestead:
Facebook: James Millikin Homestead
Instagram: @jamesmillikinhomestead
Website: jamesmillikinhomestead.com
Email: jamesmillikin1876@gmail.com
Phone: 217-422-9003

Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

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Mission Statement
Through the preservation of the Homestead, we engage, educate, and entertain visitors with the stories of the Millikins and Decatur.
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