

James Millikin Homestead Gazette

VOLUME XLVIII

125 N. PINE STREET DECATUR, IL 62522

MAY 2023

Upcoming Events

Homestead Open House Schedule

Monthly Open Houses
are 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.

May 20 - 11 am - 3 pm
Open House for Historic
Preservation Week

May 25 - 4 pm - 7 pm
Millikin Place Walking Tour
including
Open House
at the Millikin Homestead

June 25 - July 1
Plein Air Event
Kick Off
on the Homestead lawn

July 1, 1 pm - 5 pm
Final Day of Plein Air
Event at the Homestead
Judging/ Music/
Refreshments

Exhibit
May, June, July
Hats & Handbags
"Accoutrements of Women
Through the Ages"

Come learn about 7 historic Mansions on Millikin Place in an interactive self-guided walking tour.

This event is FREE. Start your self-guided walking tour at the James Millikin Homestead. Check in, then explore the "Mansions of the Prairie" on Millikin Place.

You will be greeted by a storyteller/guide at each home. While you will NOT be going inside the homes, you WILL be learning about each home from your guide, possibly get a glimpse of the inside of the homes through pictures, and a few facts you may not know.

Begin or end your self-guided tour at the home of James and Anna Millikin. Here you will actually step back in time and see firsthand this beautiful Mansion inside and out. Parking: FREE Parking at Central Christian Church or Pine Street (Pine Street has limited parking.)

The Barn Colony Artists at Millikin Homestead

On June 25 the Barn Colony Artists will launch their all-week Plein Air (outdoor) painting event for 2023 with a class by Anthony Collins from 1-2 for the participants. Participants can sign up by completing a form and submitting their \$25 entry fee to the Barn Colony Artists. Forms are available at all local art galleries, on the Barn Colony Artist website and on the Millikin Homestead website. Participants will be painting at various locations around Decatur during the week between June 25 and July 1.

On Saturday, July 1, the event will conclude with an art display, judging, and a reception with Irish music by Broken Brogue. The concluding event will start at 1 pm with the art display. Broken Brogue will play 2 sets, one at 2 pm and one at 3:30 pm. Art judging will take place at 3 pm and light refreshments will be available from 4 pm - 5 pm.

For more information contact George Virgil at 217-877-1569.

Hats & Handbags - "Accoutrements of Women Through the Ages"

During the months of May, June, and July we celebrate the importance of hats & handbags in the lives of women.

We focus on the periods from the Victorian Age through the 1960s.

Visit the exhibit during our monthly last Sunday Open Houses or schedule a private tour.

Create your own event by inviting your friends to dress up and celebrate women's fashion!

From the President's Desk

A number of recent events have caused me to pause and reflect on the legacy of James and Anna Millikin. To begin with, on the evening of March 31, a phone call was received from Millikin Security informing us that the high winds had caused a tree to fall, but there was no damage to the building. While we all felt relieved, we were heartbroken to learn that the tree was not just “a tree,” but our majestic Cucumber Magnolia tree. This tree stood tall for 137 years and was a result of James’s perseverance to plant this variety of tree on his property, as the first two attempts were not successful. During the days that followed, it became apparent that our tree meant a lot to the Decatur community as folks shared their personal stories of pictures taken with or events that took place near this west end icon. I am awestruck to think of the generations that have been personally touched by James’s perseverance.

A second event was the celebration of Founder’s Day on April 26, 2023. Millikin was founded on April 30, 1901.

James had a goal to create a college that offered students firsthand vocational training along with academics. Additionally, to appease Anna, the university was to offer an education in the fine arts.

In 2023—122 years later, James’s vision is still evident at Millikin University. It was an honor for the Homestead Board to be invited and to participate in the wreath-laying ceremony and events that followed at University Commons that commemorated the establishment of Millikin University.

The legacy of James Millikin lives on through each of us, too. Whether it be through the dedication and perseverance of the board and volunteers, member commitment through the purchase of memberships and attendance at Homestead programs, or the donors that generously supported the fall Annual Appeals Campaign—all these pieces are necessary to keep the legacy of Millikin’s Founding Father alive and well. Thank you for seeing the value in preserving the past.

Ann-Marie Hillyer, President

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, April 27, 2023. Board members elected to serve as the Executive Board of Directors for FY 2023-24 are:

Ann-Marie Hillyer, President

Jennifer Brandyberry, Vice President

Nola Wilkinson, Secretary

Douglas Warren, Treasurer

We bid farewell to two outstanding Board members, Mary Lou Brown and Joanne Kerper. These ladies have shared their talents in many ways. Mary Lou has been responsible for scheduling private tours and events. She was the co-chair of the Outreach Committee—the committee responsible for orchestrating the many events held at the Homestead. Joanne most recently served as Vice President and added her creative flare to the interior decorations. We look forward to having Mary Lou remain an active auxiliary member and wish Joanne and her husband our best wishes as they relocate to Dubuque, Iowa. Thank you, Mary Lou and Joanne, for your many years of dedicated service to the James Millikin Homestead.

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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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Copper Chimney Caps and Metal Cresting

We are getting new, handmade copper chimney caps installed on three of the five chimneys. The old ones were in very bad condition and needed to be replaced.

Also, not long ago we had the crestring (decorative "miniature" metal fence-like ornamentation) on our roof removed as part of the roof replacement project.

About 25% of the original crestring was worth saving. It was stripped to bare metal, then powder-coated and baked hard enamel coated. The new 75% was treated with the same finish. Installing the crestring now completes the work on the flat portions of the roof.

Maintaining an old house takes a lot of money, planning, and work. We treasure your support and invite you to come by and look up at the restored roof!



Cucumber Magnolia

If you've been to the Homestead before April 1, 2023, you will have seen our beloved Cucumber Magnolia tree that stood on the east side, not far from the front steps.

However, after 137 years of life, this tree was blown down in the late evening of March 31, 2023. The tree was the third attempt of the Millikins to plant a magnolia tree, and it was planted in the year 1886. It was loved by the community and it was a popular spot for photographs for weddings, homecomings, proms, and other gatherings. We will miss it dearly!



Mr. And Mrs. Millikin Days Return to Full Strength

The pandemic had put a sudden stop to the yearly program for third graders. Part of their school curriculum is studying local history. A visit to the Homestead to enjoy history coming alive was a regularly scheduled field trip for many area students.

By now we are in full swing again and expect 800 plus students this May!

Thanks for Supporting the Homestead as an Organizational Member!

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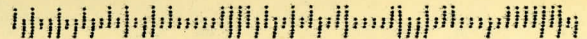
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Decatur, IL 62522

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**James Millikin Homestead
Board of Directors**

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Secretary Nola Wilkinson
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Board Members:

Jason Butterick Ginny Murphy
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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.

James Millikin Homestead Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please complete this response card, indicate your payment method, and mail to:
James Millikin Homestead, Inc., 125 N. Pine Street, Decatur, IL 62522.

- Check payable to James Millikin Homestead
- PayPal - visit www.jamesmillikinhomestead.com and click on *Donate*
- Credit Card - provide the additional information below

Membership Level - please check one

- Friend \$35
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Thank you for your support!