

The James Millikin Homestead Gazette

Volume XLIV, Issue 3

125 N. Pine Street, Decatur, IL 62522

September 2019

Up Coming Events at the Homestead

- **Open House**
Sunday, August 25th
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Suggested Donation \$2 per person; children \$.50 each
- **Taste of History**
Saturday, September 14th
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Visit five historic venues for libations and appetizers.
- **Open House**
Sunday, September 29th
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Suggested Donation \$2 per person; children \$.50 each
- **Millikin University Homecoming & Fall Family Weekend Ice Cream Social**
Saturday, September 28th
Following the parade
Free Ice Cream and Tours
- **Open House**
Last one of the year
Sunday, October 27th
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Suggested Donation \$2 per person; children \$.50 each
- **Looking ahead ...**
Christmas Open House & Sweet Treats Bakery
Sunday, December 8th
12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Taste of History

Five historic Decatur venues will once again join forces on Saturday, September 14th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to present a Taste of History. This progressive cocktail party will be an entertaining evening of food, drink and fun. The Millikin Homestead will be joined by the Staley and Mueller Museums, the Oglesby Mansion and, new to the event, the Culver House. Visit each location at your leisure, riding the provided circulating trolley or strolling through the neighborhoods on foot. Parking will be available at Central Christian Church or the Mueller Museum. Tickets are \$30 per person before September 4th and \$40 per person after that date so get your tickets early. Purchase tickets at Novel Ideas Books and Gifts or the Wabash Antique Depot Antique Center or online by email at hmuellermuseum@gmail.com.

Millikin University Homecoming & Fall Family Weekend

All students, alumni, family and friends of Millikin University are invited to the Millikin Homestead on Saturday, September 28th, following the Homecoming Parade, for free Prairie Farms Ice Cream. The Homestead will be open for self-guided tours and Board members will be on-hand to answer questions and share information about the University's founder, James Millikin. Relax with us on the spacious lawn in the cool shade of the beautiful trees and enjoy a sweet treat. And watch the parade for a special guest appearance!!



Walter Burley Griffin Society visits Decatur



The twentieth annual meeting of the Walter Burley Griffin Society of America was held in Decatur during the first weekend of June. On Saturday morning, several interesting lectures were given at Millikin University followed by afternoon tours of the homes on Millikin Place and the James Millikin Homestead. The sixty plus participants included society members from all over the country and even a gentleman from Sydney, Australia. The visitors, while primarily in Decatur to visit the Prairie style homes on Millikin Place, were very interested in the Homestead and appreciated the opportunity to tour the Victorian home. We also welcomed back author and University of Illinois Associate Professor of Architecture, Paul Kruty to the Homestead for the display of a Frank Lloyd Wright home model that was designed but never constructed. Thanks to the WBG Society for including the Homestead in the weekend activities.

Greetings from the President

In the heat of a July morning, a group of Board members were battling the weeds on the Homestead grounds when a woman wandered up the drive and asked, "What is this place?". The woman, in the process of moving to Decatur, was exploring our near west end neighborhood on foot. Chauncey the Gardener {aka Board member Doug Warren} shared the story of the Millikin Homestead and provided an impromptu tour; impressing our visitor with the home, the history, and the community that supports this extraordinary landmark. This guest, brand new to Decatur and the Homestead, appreciated our historic landmark far more than we who see it every day. At tour's end, our

guest vowed to become a Homestead supporter.

Sometimes it takes the eyes of a newcomer to reveal the wonder that is in front of us every day. I hope this story will encourage you to visit the Homestead soon. Bring a friend, a neighbor or a family member who has never experienced this beautiful home to help you see it with new eyes. There are great opportunities coming up soon to visit and to rediscover the James Millikin Homestead. I hope to see you soon at the Homestead.

Warmly,
Linda Ostrander
Homestead President

"The true voyage of discovery is not a journey to a new place; it is learning to see with new eyes."

Marcel Proust



Julia, Ann, Chris, Bill and Gabrielle Millikin

The Millikins Visit the Homestead

James and Anna Millikin's four times great nephew, Bill Millikin and his family visited the Homestead in July. The family resides in Lebanon, IL and was in Decatur for a campus visit to Millikin University for their eldest daughter, Gabrielle. Bill is descended from James' brother, Dr. Daniel Millikin. The family enjoyed touring the Homestead and hearing about the Millikins' lives in Decatur. We are often asked about Millikin relatives and it was a treat to meet the Bill Millikin family. We hope they will visit us again!

Old Fashion Lawn Party



Wednesday, July 10, 2019 was a typical summer day in Illinois...hot and humid. It also was a beautiful evening for the Homestead Board to host an "Old-Fashioned Lawn Party" welcoming Homestead members and the general community to our beautiful grounds. The event featured entertainment by the Greater Decatur Youth Band and the Summer Strings program. Attendees not only enjoyed

excellent music, but had fun partaking in lawn games such as Corn Hole, croquet, horseshoes and a cake walk. Fresh-popped popcorn, ice cream and water were also available for purchase. Mr. & Mrs. Millikin and their maids were in attendance and handed out cookies for all to enjoy.

The Homestead Board wishes to thank Dr. Neal Smith and Ms. Alexandra Rodriguez, Music Directors; the 80 talented musicians; the 200 families and friends that attended; our sponsors and the many volunteers that worked to make this event a success. The evening was a great way to celebrate summer in Central Illinois.

Thanks to our Lawn Party Sponsors

*Christy-Foltz
Decatur Magazine
Kroger - Route 36
Muffley School
Prairie Farms Ice Cream
Refreshment Services Pepsi
Walmart East & North*

Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days 2019



Forty years ago, Adele Glenn had a vision of teaching third graders about the important contributions that the Millikins made to the Decatur community. This vision is reflected in the annual Mr. & Mrs. Millikin

Days program. Seven Macon County schools, approximately 493 students, participated in this year's program which took place in mid-April. With the help of 21 volunteers, students toured the Homestead and had the opportunity to meet James and Anna along with their staff. Each told their story about life at the Homestead in the late 1800s. Sophie, the kitchen maid, provided her traditional sugar cookies to each student. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of our program, all students created a crayon rubbing using artifacts from the past. The student-artists created their masterpieces on the second floor of the Homestead which is where Anna Millikin once held art classes. The Homestead Board would like to extend a sincere thank you to our volunteers and the third-grade teachers for their continued support of our program.

Interior Updates

Thanks to two recent grants, the Homestead's interior has been upgraded. The James Millikin Trust provided funds to replace the HVAC system on the main floor. The new high efficiency system will reduce heating and cooling bills. The system also includes state of the art programmable thermostats that will assist with temperature control thereby further reducing costs.

A grant from the Ullrich Foundation Trust provided funding for Chicago artist, Thomas Melvin, to embellish the two small second floor bedrooms. This work completed the ceiling, border and wall painting for all of the major rooms in the home that began in 1994 with the dining room. We are grateful for the support of these two generous foundations and we look forward to working with them both in the future.

The Flagpole

If you have driven by the Homestead on West Main Street recently, you may have noticed some changes to the flagpole area. Our thanks to Millikin University Grounds staff for removing the overgrown yew bushes. Board members will complete the weed clean up and the flagpole area will be a much more attractive space. There is a landscape plan for a formal flagpole garden, but we cannot currently afford to implement that plan. For the time being, we would like to see a park bench and some simple plantings for this area. If you would like to contribute to this project, possibly in the form of a memorial, please contact one of the Board members.

Millikin Homestead Board of Directors 2019 – 2020

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TASTE OF HISTORY

A PROGRESSIVE EVENING OF COCKTAILS AND HORS D'OEUVRES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

5-9PM

TICKETS ARE \$30, AUGUST 1ST - SEPTEMBER 3RD
\$40 SEPTEMBER 4TH - 11TH
LIMITED NUMBER AVAILABLE

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT NOVEL IDEAS BOOKS AND GIFTS (480 E MAIN)
AND WABASH DEPOT ANTIQUE CENTER (780 E CERRO GORDO)

FOR ONLINE TICKET ORDERS, EMAIL HMUELLERMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 217-423-6161

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD INC.

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Decatur, IL 62522

Phone: 217-422-9003

Website: jamesmillikinhomestead.com

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Join or renew your membership today at the level of your choice. Complete and mail the form at right or call 217-422-9003 (please leave a message and a Board member will return your call).

James Millikin Homestead Member Benefits

- Satisfaction of helping to preserve this treasured Decatur landmark.
- Advance notice of Homestead sponsored events.
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- 10% discount on Homestead rentals for your special occasion or event.

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- Regular \$30
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Clip and mail this form with your check or credit card information to:

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**Life memberships may be paid in four annual installments.*