

The James Millikin Homestead Gazette

Volume XLIII, Issue 2

125 N. Pine Street, Decatur, IL 62525

August 2018

Upcoming events at the Homestead

- **A Taste of History**
Sept. 15, Saturday,
5:30-8:30 p.m.,
\$25 per person
(more details inside)
- **Fall Homestead Tour**
Sept. 30, Sunday, 2-4 p.m., \$2
per person; children under 10
are \$.50 each.
- **MEMBER EVENT:**
Ice Cream Social
Oct. 6, Saturday,
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
JMH members are invited to
join with Millikin
students and alumni to
celebrate MU's Homecoming
with a sweet treat! Self-guided
tours available. No RSVPs
needed.
- **Fall Homestead Tour**
Oct. 28, Sunday, 2-4 p.m.,
\$2 per person; children are
\$.50 each.
- **Sarah Grady: A Life
and Time Remembered**
Nov. 3, Saturday; Two
sessions offered: Choose
from 1-2:30 p.m. OR 3:30-5
p.m. (more details inside)
- **Christmas Open House**
Dec. 2, Sunday,
12:30-4:30 p.m.,
free admittance and
refreshments; Sweet Treats
Bakery goodies for sale
- **A Time Remembered:**
An Evening with the Gradys
March 9, 2019, Saturday,
Millikin University
Commons; watch for
details.

National preservationist visits Homestead, gives lookover

Bob Yapp of Hannibal, Mo., a nationally recognized preservationist who hosted PBS-TV's "Around the House with Bob Yapp" for 10 years, did a professional lookover of the Homestead in June.

Calling the Homestead a "treasure for Decatur and the entire nation," Yapp made several observations regarding the historic preservation work that needs done to the 1876 landmark. As a result of Yapp's visit, the Homestead Board requested a cost estimate from him for a complete study to determine the scope and cost of the historic preservation work that needs done.

Bob's daylong visit, at the request of new Board member Doug Warren, had been sparked in part by Board concerns about needed restorations to the Homestead's distinctive turret.

Yapp has proposed to do a complete study from basement to roof outlining

itemized and prioritized needs, supplying pre-written Request for Proposals (RFP) for contractors who qualify to do historic preservation work. The RFPs are to include detailed needs, quality of workmanship, quality of materials, time lines and complete details, Yapp says.

The Board is currently raising donations to help fund this important study assessment and the restoration work to follow. Recently, a group of teenagers with wide eyes toured the Homestead, with one saying, "This place is cool." The Board is committed to having future generations in a hundred years saying the same. Help preserve this landmark Decatur home with your support so it will stand tall for years to come. Contact a Board member if you wish to help fund this important study. ❖ *By Douglas Warren*

Homestead serves as host for national contest judges

On July 19, the Homestead hosted a luncheon for America In Bloom judges and their Decatur guides. This unique opportunity showcased the Homestead and highlighted the importance of preserving our community's heritage.

The America In Bloom contest brought together many organizations in Decatur and the Homestead was proud to

be a part of that effort. Thanks to Julie Carter, Mary Lou Brown and Marilyn Davis for providing lunch. Thanks to the Garden Club of Decatur for providing the table centerpiece, and thanks to Doug Warren (aka Mr. Millikin) and David Bowman for making the Homestead come to life for our visitors. ❖

"We have a robust year ahead that will include some new events and the return of some favorites."

**Millikin Homestead
Board of Directors,
2018-19**

- ✓ Linda Ostrander, President
- ✓ Julie Carter, Vice President
- ✓ Kristen Hise, Treasurer
- ✓ Ann-Marie Hillyer, Secretary
- ✓ Mary Alice Johns, Secretary

- ✓ Mary Lou Brown
- ✓ Dawn Buck
- ✓ Marilyn Davis
- ✓ Brigitta Kapp
- Joanne Kerper
- Deb Kirchner
- ✓ Ruby Mathews
- Doug Warren

Historians

Lucien and Brigitta Kapp

President's note

Dear Friends of the
Millikin Homestead,

I am honored and enthusiastic to serve as President of the James Millikin Homestead Board this year. I am grateful for this wonderful opportunity to provide leadership and to work closely with individuals who are dedicated to the stewardship of this beautiful Decatur treasure.

Following their departure from the Homestead Board, my thanks go to outgoing President Terry Grant and Vice President Cary Hise for their leadership over the past three years. Sincere thanks also to departing board member David Bowman. Over the last six years, these three individuals have contributed to the Homestead's restorations, maintenance and continued importance in the community.

I would like to welcome Doug Warren and Joanne Kerper to the Homestead Board, who joined the Board this spring. I am also very pleased to welcome Brigitta Kapp back to Board service. I look forward to the ideas and energy these individuals will

bring to the Homestead.

A spring Board Retreat, facilitated by Bruce Nims, allowed us to focus on our goals and to hit the ground running. We have a robust year ahead that will include some new events and the return of some favorites. We are very excited to be actively working with Millikin University faculty and staff on a variety of projects including an improved website, safety and security updates, grounds care, and a graphics package, to name just a few.

I encourage you to read this informative issue of the newsletter and to especially note the dates of upcoming events. There are exciting things happening at the James Millikin Homestead and we invite you to be a part of it all!

From myself and the entire Board, we thank you for your membership and support. We promise to keep working to preserve and promote this historic Decatur landmark.

*Sincerely,
Linda Ostrander
Homestead President*

Thank you, Pam Marty!

It is with regret that we recently accepted the resignation of Pam Marty from the Homestead Board. Pam had served on the Board since 2015 and was a delightful creative force at the Homestead. Many of the lovely floral arrangements located around the home are Pam's designs. She worked closely with Board colleague Mary Lou Brown to update the holiday décor over the

last couple of seasons. And her beautiful watercolor painting of the Homestead has become our trademark. We thank Pam and wish her the best as she takes some time for herself.

Pam has assured us that she will look forward to volunteering at the Homestead when her time allows. ❖
By Linda Ostrander

Leave the driving to us for this fabulous collaborative event!

A trolley will circulate regularly between parking and venues.

*Parking will be available at the Mueller Museum, 420 W. Eldorado St.,
and at Central Christian Church, 650 W. William St.*

A Taste of History

September 15th, 2018

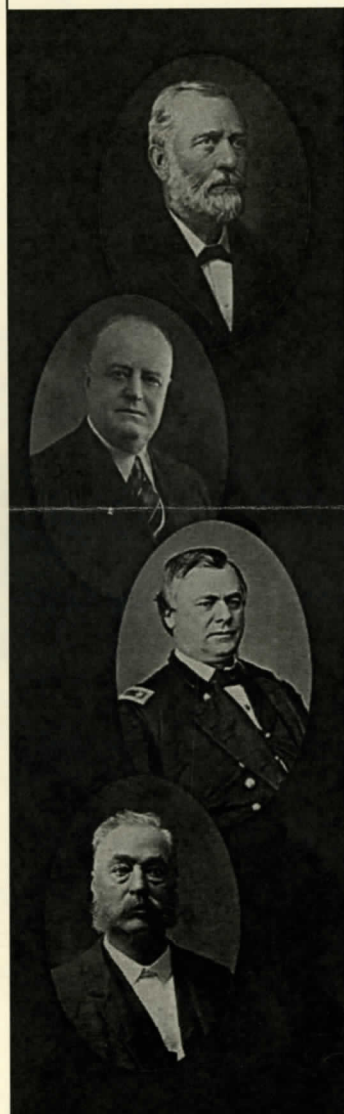
5:30-8:30pm

Join us for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the Millikin Homestead,
Staley Museum, Oglesby Mansion, and Mueller Museum!

Tickets are \$25 per person

Available August 8th thru September 8th at Novel Ideas Books & Gifts,
480 East Main Street, Decatur

Contact the Mueller Museum for phone and online ticket sales



Don't delay, get your tickets today!

*Enjoy specialty cocktails, tasty hors d'oeuvres and beautiful surroundings
as you help support some of Decatur's most historic landmarks!*

Relive the early 1900s with these TWO Homestead events

Two upcoming Homestead events are based on the actual and sometimes scandalous life of a real-life Decatur resident and socialite who was featured in the book, "The Forgotten Life of Sarah Grady" by Mary Lynn.



EVENT #1 — Sarah Grady: A Life & Time Remembered

Returning by popular demand, the Homestead again presents two live presentations on the role Sarah and the Homestead played in the 1918 Flu Pandemic. The sessions will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 1-2:30 p.m. and 3:30 to 5 p.m., both at the Homestead. The book's author, Mary Lynn, and other guest

speakers will discuss the era, and tours of the Homestead will be offered. \$20 a ticket. Light refreshments served. Seating is limited and reservations are required by calling Ann-Marie at 217-855-0363.

EVENT #2



HOSTED BY WM. & SARAH GRADY
PRESENTED BY THE JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD

SAVE THE DATE

You and Your Guest are Cordially Invited
to Dinner with the Gradys

On the Ninth of March, Two Thousand and Nineteen,
at the University Commons, Millikin University.

Featuring Entertainment and Special Guests.

Formal Attire is Requested, and the Fee for All Dinners will Be
Committed to the Preservation of the Historic Home of Outstanding
Decatur Citizen James Millikin for the Use of Generations to Come.

Formal Invitation to Follow in Early 2019.

HELP WANTED

Looking to help our
community alongside
great people who are
having fun while
making a difference?
Volunteer at the
Homestead!

Contact Volunteer
Coordinator Mary Alice
Johns at 422-7614 or
433-0174 to sign up!

Grant Writing

Have you written grants
in a previous life?
Do you enjoy research?
Do you like to write?
The Homestead needs you!

Legal Assistance

The Homestead would like
assistance with a bylaws
rewrite. Occasionally, a
legal mind is needed to
sort through an issue.
Can you help the Homestead?

Bakers

Do you enjoy baking?
Are your baked goods the
talk of the neighborhood?
Join the Homestead
Baking Brigade today!

Green Thumbs

Calling all gardeners!
Join the team to maintain
the lovely Homestead gardens
and grounds! Share your email
to be informed
of JMH Grounds Work Days.

Computer Nerds

If you enjoy spending time in
front of a computer screen,
the Homestead could use
your help! Research,
data input, and
other e-tasks are needed!

Events Volunteers

The Homestead offers a variety
of events throughout the year.
If you would like to lend a hand
as a guide, a greeter,
a bottle washer, etc.,
contact the Homestead!

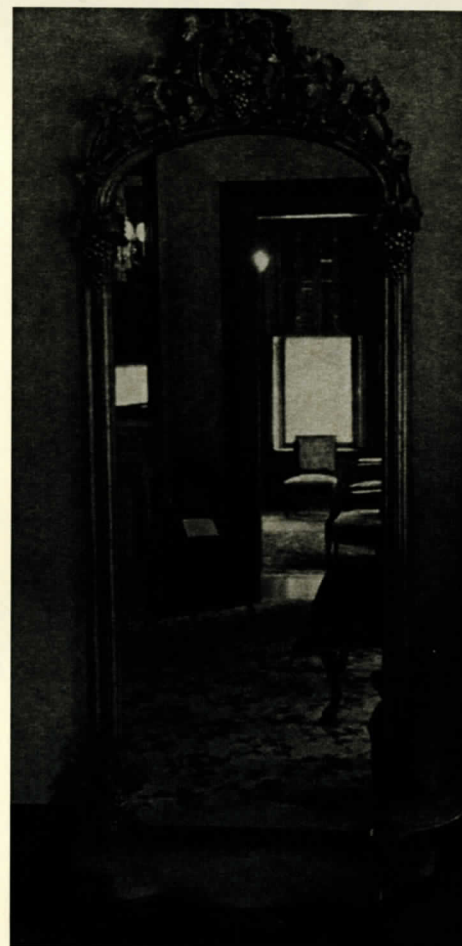
Weed Warriors reign

In the center of the circle drive at the Homestead stands a majestic American Beech tree. Until recently, beneath this lovely tree was an unattractive variety of unvalued, vigorously growing, wild plants—weeds!

Efforts over the past several growing seasons to vanquish these unwanted malingers were minimally successful. Enter volunteers from the Garden Club of Decatur along with members of the Homestead Board. Equipped with trowels, rakes, diggers and in some cases, bare hands, these hardy souls engaged in several hours of hand-to-hand combat. Hardy Vinca once again reigns supreme beneath the tree. A knight in shining armor, Kevin Kramer, provided six yards of free mulch for this project. Thanks to all who helped!

Vintage items added to JMH furnishings

In June, Jean and Jeff Agee offered several quality Victorian period items to the Homestead. Even though the Homestead is fully furnished, we make room for unique pieces, including their large gold-leaf framed pier mirror (*at right*), which now hangs in the south parlor. Their beautiful Empire-style cherry drawer chest is at home in the southwest bedroom. A Victorian steamer trunk tells of travel in bygone times, and seven Victorian era walnut picture frames replace ordinary metal frames in the breakfast/ history room. Thank you, Jean and Jeff, for entrusting us with your family heirlooms! ❖ *By Brigitta Kapp*



Welcome, Joanne and Douglas!

Two new members joined the Homestead Board this spring:

Joanne Kerper and her family, husband Dan, and two daughters, moved to Decatur from Chicago in 1999. Joanne has a BA in Interior Design and previously worked as the Corporate Interior Designer for furniture manufacturer, Flexsteel Industries. She was a stay-at-home mom and volunteered with Decatur Public Schools until her youngest daughter entered high school. She's currently a Sensory Panelist at ADM. Joanne's interests include reading and book discussions, crafts and excellent adventures with her family and friends!

Douglas Warren grew up in St. Louis, and was a graduate of the University of Missouri, with a BA in both Accounting and Information Systems. He began his career as Controller of Dytec Data Port Inc. in St. Louis. In 1987, he moved to Decatur to assist at Mueller Corp. From 1990 forward, he was Director of Finance and Administration in municipal government, retiring from the City of Hannibal, Mo. He is married to Christina. They have three children, 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Doug is Secretary of Kiwanis Club, volunteers with Salvation Army and other charities, and loves gardening and historical novels.

Turning the tables for your next Homestead event

The Homestead was able to fill the need for new event tables following a donation from JMH members Chris and Mary Alice Johns, a JMH Board member. Eight new tables were purchased, and the retired tables were donated to Habitat for Humanity. Thanks, Chris and Mary Alice!

Rent the Homestead

Searching for a unique location for a party or other special event? The Homestead can accommodate up to 75 people for a stand-up reception or 35-40 with table seating. Homestead members receive a 10 percent discount on rental fees. Call Dawn at 429-6943 for more details or to make a reservation.

James Millikin Homestead Inc.

125 N. Pine Street
Decatur, IL 62525
Phone: 217-422-9003
Website: performance.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead
Like the James Millikin Homestead on Facebook!

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Decatur, IL



1 1 194
*****AUTO**ALL FOR AADC 625
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Kirchner
753 Christopher Dr
Forsyth IL 62535-9781



James Millikin Home- stead Member Benefits

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

Join or renew your membership today at the level of your choice! Complete and mail the form at right or call 217-855-0363 to pay by credit card.

Join or renew your Homestead membership today!

Name _____

Street Address/P.O. Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I wish to pay:

By check (included) **OR**

By credit card: MasterCard Visa Discover (complete info below)

Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____ 3-Digit Security Code (on back of card) _____

- Regular \$30
- Friend \$50
- Patron \$100
- Life* \$1,000

Clip and mail this form with your check or credit card information to:
James Millikin Homestead Inc.
125 N. Pine, Decatur, IL 62525

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