

# THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY



## GAZETTE



Vol. XXXV, No. 2

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

February 2011

### A Note from Your President...

We are embarking on another year of events that will hopefully be as successful as our previous year!



Many of our members have visited our new website and have come to view the latest restoration project, the master bedroom ceiling. We are embarking on other restoration projects this year.

Plans are under way for annual events such as the Annual Meeting, to which you are all invited, in late April, Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days for the 3rd graders of Macon County in May, and the Victorian Doll Tea in June. (See articles for dates and times of these events)

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors and the general membership for their support during my tenure as president. Irene Huff has agreed to accept the nomination for president for 2011/2012. The new board will be installed at the April 28th Annual Meeting. I want to thank the board members going off the board for their support. Those leaving will be Brigitta Kapp, Margie Kirk, Ann Manuel and Rochelle Lambrick. They will be missed!

Thank you all for supporting the James Millikin Homestead!  
JoAn Christerson



### Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days May 2-5, 2011

All 3rd graders in Decatur and Macon County Schools are cordially invited to visit Mr. and Mrs. Millikin and several of their staff at the Homestead!

We are looking again for volunteers to participate in this re-enactment of a day in the lives of the Millikins during the late 1880s.

If you would like to help with this fun and very worthwhile project, please contact either one of this year's co-chairwomen:

Sharon Thompson 422-8765 (home) / 454-8765 (cell)  
Anna Mae Carlson 428-8908 (home) / 791-2263 (cell)

### Oriel Window: restoration of small panel

Only one of the six small panels (located above the three large panels) has some stained glass missing. This month the panel was removed for repair and will be reinstalled within the next couple of months. Steve Brooks is the owner of Brooks Art Glass in Springfield and worked for Melotte-Morris in Springfield (the firm that did the first two of our three oriel window panels glass restoration). When Melotte Morris decided to concentrate on their architectural business, Steve Brooks took over the Stained Glass Department as the new owner and did the third panel. So, Steve has worked on all three of our large panels. Needless to say he does excellent work. The cost is approximately \$1,600. We are excited about every restoration project, small or large!

### Rental Policy at the Homestead:

Looking for a unique historic setting for your party?  
The Homestead is available for your private, special event (small weddings, baptisms, anniversaries, receptions...) Current members receive a 10% discount of the rental fee.

For information and scheduling, please, contact JoAn Christerson at 429-0597 or 521-9758 or leave a message at the Homestead phone: 422-9003.

### Membership Reminder!!

Please, check your mailing label and renew your membership if you are not current! We need your financial support which also serves as an indicator that you approve of our work! This in turn is great motivation for us volunteers! Thank you!



## Annual Meeting

of the James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

will be held  
Thursday, April 28, 2011  
at 7:30 p.m.

at the Homestead  
125 N. Pine Street  
Decatur, Illinois

*All members are invited to attend.*

*Light refreshments will be served preceding the business meeting.*



*Our speaker will be*

### Mr. Thomas Melvin

Owner of the Melvin Studio  
Chicago, Illinois



Mr. Melvin is an accomplished artist who has executed many decorative paintings of grand scale. At the Millikin Homestead he has recreated the floral embellishments on four of our ceilings; the latest is the bedroom ceiling, finished this past fall. The current *Decatur Magazine* issue (February/March 2011) has a wonderful article written by Zach Shields about Thomas Melvin and the bedroom ceiling restoration. Please, check it out – it is very interesting and informative!



### Victorian Tea for Dolly, Teddy and Me

*Dolls, Teddy Bears, their owners and families are invited to the*  
James Millikin Homestead at 125 North Pine

**for Tea on Saturday, June 11th**  
with sittings at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.  
Admission is \$8 per adult and \$4 per child.  
Advance paid reservations are required.

Call Shirley at 422-3184 for information and reservations.  
In addition to tea and refreshments, there will be exhibitors displaying doll – and teddy bear collections, doll houses, tea sets and more.

A boutique will feature dolls -, teddy bears - and Christmas (Not a typo! Think Christmas in June or July!) related items for sale. There will also be a scavenger hunt, raffle items and door prizes.  
Proceeds benefit the continuing restoration of the Homestead.

### In Memoriam

Our condolences to the families of Mrs. Frances Kapp, Mr. Dean Madden, Mrs. Dolores Robertson, Mrs. Barbara Budde, and Mr. Herbert Roszell.



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Decatur, IL

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

**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.*



**Please consider the Millikin Homestead in your estate plannings.**

**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: [www.old.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead](http://www.old.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead)

**Millikin Homestead  
2010-2011**

**Board of Directors**

- Anna Mae Carlson
- JoAn Christerson
- Lilly Eckert
- Irene Huff
- Brigitta Kapp
- Christy Kelly
- Margie Kirk
- Rochelle Lambrick
- Ann Manuel
- Marcia Millar
- Dixie Sexton
- Shirley Taylor
- Pat Thalhauser
- Sharon Thompson
- Betsy Tietz

**Officers**

- President .....JoAn Christerson
- Vice-president .....Sharon Thompson
- Secretary .....Margie Kirk
- Treasurer .....Irene Huff

**Historian**

Lou Snelson

**Reviewing events at the Homestead of the fall/winter season 2010**



Bunco Party

October 17, 2010:

**Bunco WAS great fun!!**

You had to have been there to witness the “gambling fever” at the party. Some guests were totally new to the game, others “pros,” but all enjoyed a lively party. Delicious refreshments, colorful table decorations set the scene: lots of laughter and delight at winning prizes were sure signs of a successful event. It certainly warrants considering repeating it. We raised nearly \$1000 towards the cost of restoring the bedroom ceiling.

November 26 & 27, 2010:

**Heritage & Holly House Tour**

Once again the Homestead was invited to participate in this event. The house was beautifully decorated and illicit expressions of awe at the opulence of the Victorian splendor! Our Christmas boutique opened “early” and offered unique items!

December 12, 2010:

**Victorian Christmas Tea**

Heartfelt Thanks to all who helped with the Victorian Christmas Tea! It was indeed a blustery December afternoon and we appreciate and applaud all who braved the weather and joined us in celebrating the season. Beautiful decorations, live music, delicious refreshments, a boutique filled with hand crafted items and home baked goodies made this a wonderful afternoon. Our special thanks to our board member Christy Kelly who did the lion's share of decorating the house and spent countless hours creating boutique items. She was assisted by a group of willing “elves.” Thank you to all the generous people who donated baked goods. The profits from the sales – as always – benefit the restoration of the Homestead.



Several male members of the St. Patrick Church Choir entertained us. John Thalhauser (right) sported a kilt and played his bagpipes afterwards.