

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. XXIX, No. 1

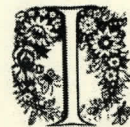
JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., 125 N. PINE, DECATUR, ILLINOIS

July, 2004



Groundskeeper Bill McGaughey is a diligent worker in our beautiful floral gardens.

A Note from Your President...



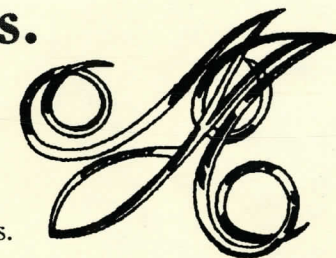
'm sure you've noticed that the Homestead gardens are in full glorious bloom. But, have you seen the exterior renovations? The contractors have been hard at work since April and the front porch looks lovely. The architectural details can only fully be appreciated by close inspection. Drop by and see the many changes...both structural and cosmetic.

Siefferman have had some wonderful ideas for improving the Jumble. Watch for details! Proceeds from the Jumble will be used for interior renovation projects at the Homestead.

The Homestead will be open for tours Saturday and Sunday afternoons 2-4 throughout the summer. Consider bringing out-of-town friends to the



Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days



As Mr. and Mrs. Millikin have completed their 25th open house for the third graders of Macon County, some thank yous and statistics are in order. Of the 750 students who attended MM Days, 166 wrote charming and original thank you notes to Anna B. for her hospitality. The 44 cast members and supporting crew who pulled off this living history lesson deserve our thanks and applause. And they all seemed to enjoy it!

Rosemary Idleman
Donna Manuell
Kathleen Owen
Ann Seidman

April 21, 2004

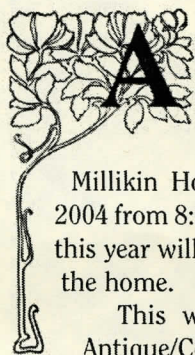
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Millikin,

Thanks for letting my class come in your home. You are really nice. I wish I could stay longer. I liked the library and I would like to drink coffee in front of the sun too, Mrs. Millikin. The library was cool, Mr. Millikin. The pine green is really easy to teach someone

see the many changes...both structural and cosmetic. If you are so inclined, please drop a line to President Zemke to thank him for Millikin University's on-going commitment to the Homestead.

The Homestead Board is hard at work planning the third annual Jumble. Wyllene Griffy and Susie

It's Almost Jumble Time



Although it is still the good old summer time, it won't be long till time for our annual ENGLISH JUMBLE at the Homestead. It will be held on the grounds of James

Millikin Homestead on Saturday, October 2, 2004 from 8:00 am till 2:00 pm. The funds raised this year will be used for restoration projects of the home.

This will be the second year to have Antique/Collectibles dealers on the circular drive. The spaces will be 15 x 20 for \$40.00. Each dealer will have room to pull their vehicles in and set up their wares. The dealer will be responsible for setting up, taking down, and providing their own tables. Only Antiques and Collectibles will be allowed in these spaces.

Another change this year will be that JMH will not have a rummage sale but will rent out parking spaces for people to bring their own rummage sale to one location. These spaces will be on the concrete drive and will rent for \$20.00 for an 8 x 12 parking place. Pull your car in, open the trunk, set up a card table, and sell your no longer needed items.

JMH members will sell popcorn, cookies, drinks, and offer tours of the home. We will provide the advertising, music, refreshments, fun and lots of curious rummagers, friends, and family.

There is no rain date for this event, it will be a beautiful fall day. Please come join us! Consider this one day sale and call Wyllene Griffy (422-8417) for questions or to reserve a space. Also, if you know someone who is interested in a space, please pass the name and number on to them.

Consider bringing out-of-town friends to the Homestead for a tour. Children love the painted ceilings and the lions.

Enjoy summer!
Sherri Arnold, President

JMH Jumble &
Antique Sale
Saturday, October 2,
2004
8 am - 2 pm
Millikin Homestead
Grounds
125 N. Pine
Decatur, Illinois

Membership



Thanks to all of you who so generously support the James Millikin Homestead. Please note that the date on your address label indicates the expiration of your membership. All donations, dues or any special contributions, are greatly needed and appreciated.

Penny Honnold
Membership Chairman

Millikin. The library was cool, Mr. Millikin. The pipe organ is really easy to teach someone to play it I bet. I think that crazy claxon Mr. Mueller honks scares Morning Star and Evening Star. Sofie looks like our substitute (teacher) Ms. or Mrs. Carlson. Thank you for the invite for the party.

Your friend,
Kelsey Wiedenkiller
Franklin School

Docents



There is a need for docents to serve on the weekends during which the Millikin Homestead is open for tours. If you are already a docent, please donate your time once again by calling Jodi Powell at 875-8395.

There will be training sessions of about an hour's length for those interested in becoming a docent. Please call Rosemary Idleman at 428-4031 to arrange a time.

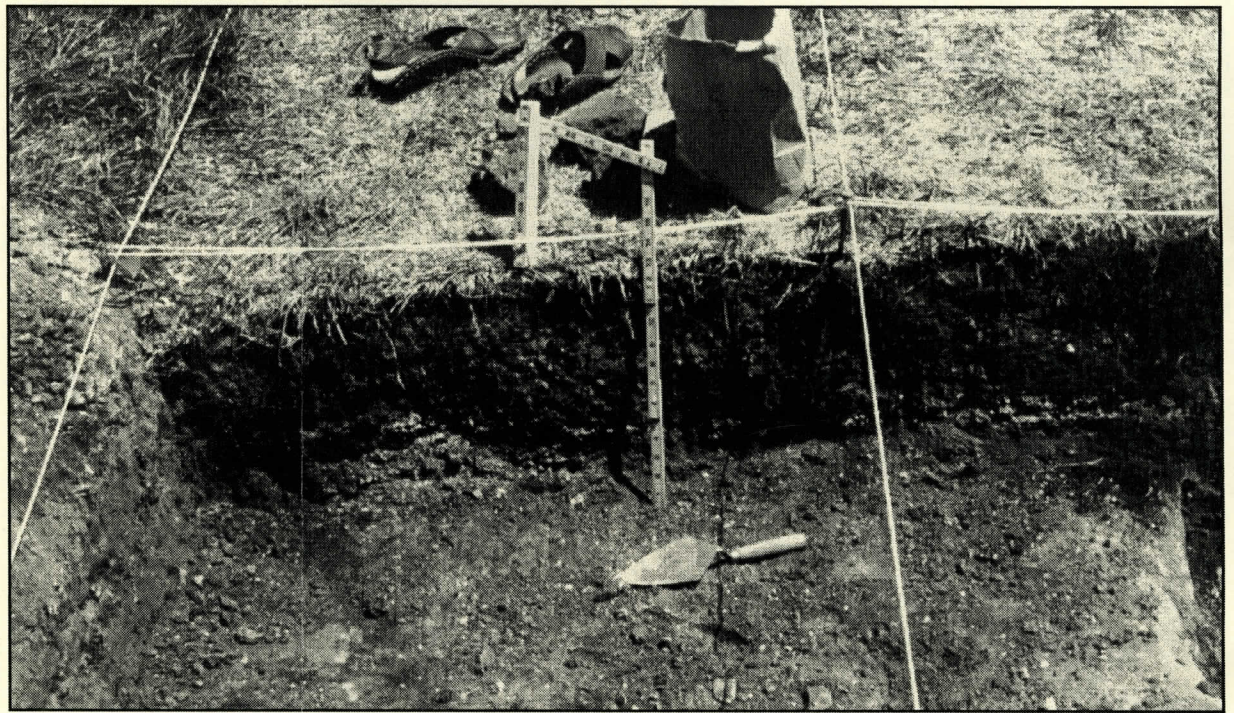


One Man's Trash

...is worth our consideration, especially if it's Mr. Millikin's!! In a small brown bag in a cupboard in the Homestead are the results of a 1976 "dig" behind the Carriage House. Recently the Homestead received four slides documenting this archaeological experience under the direction of Lee Slider and several other adults, actual work having been done by groups of young people. Areas three feet square were marked off, proper tools assembled and work begun. Uncovered were a length of rusty chain, some shards of Mrs. Millikin's pink posy china, bottles, pieces of porcelain fruit jar lids, a layer of ashes and cinders and of special interest a heel plate from a woman's shoe – we are sure of the gender since, even though it is made of metal, it boasts a dainty heart-shaped cut-out in the center. Though seemingly "fussy" for Mrs. Millikin's taste, let's imagine that she strode the house and grounds wearing it and its mate.

Digging into the trash pits of historic sites is one way of determining something of the inhabitants' life style though, as one delves further into the practices of the time we realize that we're only getting a "smidgen" of insight since early on, nothing that might possibly have another life would go into the trash or the burning pit. Our predecessors were certainly the original re-cyclers though we think we personally discovered it.

According to Susan Strasser who wrote "Waste and Want: a Social History of Trash" (and I'll bet you thought a book about garbage wouldn't be interest-



ing) before the 20th century "waste products served as raw material for other products...pre-re-cycling as such actually existed."

Household scraps were fed to pets and chickens or pigs, and wood was repaired or refinished, or kept for future unknown use and we know Anna "saw to" that as she insisted workmen save any left-over piece of wood from the re-location of the stairway from the north wall of the hall in the 1883 remodeling. (The angled riser found stored in the attic was one of the early clues as to its original placement.)

We'd love to know whether or not the ragman stopped at the Millikin's house and if so did Anna sell him clothing – more likely it was passed on for charity or as in many homes surfaced as quilt pieces or in rag rugs.

Urbanization soon caused formation of commercial garbage service, depriving our finding clues to the past in residential trash pits and though two more digs on the Homestead Grounds were planned, sadly we have no record of further finds.

Lou Snelson, Historian

The Homestead is open for rentals for receptions, showers, luncheons, and meetings.

Call now to reserve your date. Discounts are available to Homestead members.

Jodi Powell
Scheduling Chairman
875-8395

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

**Millikin Homestead
2004 - 2005
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- Janet Beasley
- Millie Gonzalez
- Wyllene Griffy
- Martha Grohne
- Karen Hawkins
- Penny Honnold
- Rosemary Idleman
- Donna Manuell
- Barb McElroy
- Donna Meinhold
- Jodi Powell
- Joyce Robinson
- Ann Seidman

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- Vice-President Jodi Powell
- Secretary Susan Siefferman
- Treasurer Brigitta Kapp/
Ann McEvoy
- Historian Lou Snelson
- Restoration Brigitta &
Lucien Kapp
- Grounds Bill McGaughey



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

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.

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: <http://www.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead>