

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. XXXII, No. 2

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

June, 2008

Living History With the Millikins

The weather was perfect and so was the anticipation and the mood of 846 Macon County third grade students as they stepped back in time and imagined what it must have been like to live in a beautiful mansion in the late 1800s. On April 21st through the 24th, the James Millikin Homestead volunteers once again dressed in period attire to transport eager children back to the days when James and Anna Millikin lived in their busy home.

The children's eyes were wide as they stepped inside to meet Mr. Millikin. Although, he had to quickly tell them Mrs. Millikin wasn't happy with him today, because he forgot to tell her the children were coming. Once Mr. Millikin told them his story about how he came to Decatur from Pennsylvania, the children were off to visit with "Mr. Bellows" (Rick Strine), who was waiting for them in the south Parlor. On other days it was Mrs. Millikin's musical friend (Barb Keagle and Millie Gonzalez).

The children sang songs from the antique pump organ and a few of them were given the privilege to pump the pedals as the organist played the keys to the tune of "Skip to my Lue my Darling." Next was the library, where the children were shown Mr. Millikin's original desk where he worked a few hours in the evening after coming home from a day at the bank.

Then through the hallway and up the stairs to stop and admire the breathtaking beauty of the stained glass bay windows. Above the stairs is the original canvas ceiling painting of chubby little infant angels called cherubs, a favored motif of Mrs. Millikin's. Then a peak into the master bedroom, the dressing room next door, and the room across the foyer where Mrs. Millikin and her guests attended art classes.

The children were guided back down the open staircase and to the French doors of the formal dining room. With nervous anticipation they were introduced to Mrs. Millikin (Lilly Eckert and Barb Baroni), who was standing at the head of the formal dining table ... waiting for the

Great deeds are never accomplished without a great team.

MR. MILLIKIN DINING ROOM MAID KITCHEN MAID

George Batson	Jan Beasley	Gwen Biedler
Dick Ferry	Jodi Powel	Anna Mae Carlson
Dick Ward	Ann Seidman	Kathy Green
Jim Williams	Sid Shonkwiler	Charlotte Hanks
		Kate Shields

INDOOR GUIDES:

Niki Foertsch
Irene Huff
Phyllis Hunt
Betty Rose Leader
Donna Meinhold
Zach Shields
Marilyn Shroyer
Marda Young

OUTDOOR GUIDES

Kathy Farrington
Barb McElroy
Bill McGaughey
Marty Grohne
Jodi Hantel

A HUGE "THANK YOU" to our LIFESAVERS

VOLUNTEERS AT LARGE:
JoAn Christerson Marty Grohne
Brigitta Kapp

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS IN MACON COUNTY:

Argenta- Oreana
Baum
Ben Franklin
Brush College
Dennis
French Academy
Holy Family
John's Hill



Dick Ferry



standing at the head of the formal dining table ... waiting for the children.

Indeed, lasting memories of "how it really was" were joyfully created. And from the many thank you notes received, the talented characters in the mansion were thrilled to find how much the children enjoyed their visit!

One more memory! A special treat ... a sugar cookie each child received from Sophie, the kitchen maid. She makes great rhubarb pie. Mr. Millikins' favorite!


Marty Grohne

Holy Family
John's Hill
Lutheran School Association
Mc Gaughey
Muffley
Our Lady of Lourdes
Parsons
Robertson Charter
South Shores
William Harris
Home Schoolers of Macon County



Barbara Keagle

A Note from Your President...



Spring, the end - yet the beginning, of our Homestead year ... and what a year 2007-08 has been! The JMH Board and I have had a year of "on the job training." It has been a learning experience, a challenging one. Every event, every meeting, even every conversation has been an opportunity to learn from the best - the JMH board and the Homestead volunteers. Every time I take a tour with Marty Grohne or JoAn Christerson, I learn a bit of Homestead trivia. Now, Niki Foertsch and Irene Huff are walking in their footsteps as volunteer docents. Brigitta Kapp and Sharon Thompson decorated the Homestead in Victorian charm this Christmas season, while Barb Baroni (aka Anna Millikin) learned the ways of a co-chair during Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days. At every turn, Kate Shields is snapping photos, baking chocolate treats, and encouraging me to think BIG! If it weren't for Gwen Biedler, Margie Kirk and Ann Manuel the English Jumble would have crumbled. Instead, we kept the traditional event alive. And, I always know that Lou Snelson will be there with a bit of history to remind us that the Homestead's past is its future. So, looking towards our future we welcome newly elected board members, Rochelle Lambrick and Kathy Sigmon, who bring that Homestead spirit with them.

Unfortunately, we say goodbye to board members Christine Doolen, Joe Empen, Linda May and Bill McGaughey, who are always welcome to come Home again! We've greeted visitors, we've hosted events and we've recommitted ourselves to the JMH mission - to restore and to preserve through community awareness.

The James Millikin Homestead board has organized a planning committee. This committee will identify where we are going over the next year or two - whether it's cleaning out closets or implementing a fundraiser for restoration projects. If you have a suggestion or an idea, please contact a board member and let us know.

Jan Beasley



Wine and Chocolate

Thursday, April 24, 2008

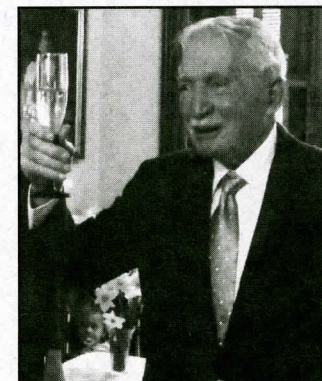
Over 30 board members and friends gathered for the James Millikin Homestead's Annual Meeting. This year's theme: "Wine and Chocolate." After a brief board meeting, the board members and guests gathered in the North Parlor as Brigitta Kapp, lead us in a champagne salute to honor Bill McGaughey, for his 28 years of service as Millikin Homestead's gardener. Bill was encouraged by his friend David Robertson who was a board member from 1985-1990. After Bill served his term as Board Member in 1994, he continued as grounds persons for the Homestead. He was presented with gifts and a Certificate of Appreciation for his dedication.

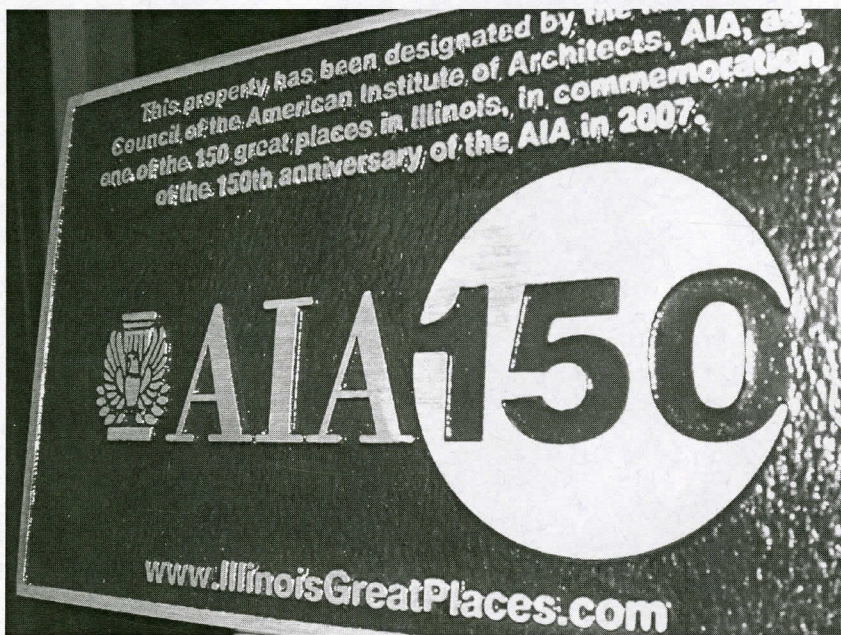
Afterwards, we gathered in the grand dining room and Kevin Graham of The Decanter, 215 North Main Street in Decatur, presented a program on the history of wine and its early beginnings. He brought with him, for sampling, various domestic red wines, plus a port and a stout. He described for us the personalities of each wine. With receptive delight, we discovered new joys in the various flavors these special wines offered. Which Kevin adroitly anticipated as more bottles were available to uncork.

As the festivities progressed, there was no resisting our sweet cravings of homemade and not so homemade chocolates brought in by the Board members. The formal dining table was a fantasy of chocolate forms and flavors: chocolate truffles, chocolate bundt cake, chocolate covered strawberries, chocolate apricots, brownies and more brownies, chocolate treats blended with caramels, chocolate cookies and lots of boxed chocolates candies!

To top the evening, local musician, Eric Burgett, added to the aviance with the sweet sounds of jazz and show tunes on the electric keyboard.

A lovely evening of pleasantries in the mansion, a delightful way to end the day.





AIA designates James Millikin Homestead and Millikin Place One of 150 Great Places in Illinois

Thursday, May 8th, 2008

Jan Beasley, our Homestead President and JoAn Christerson, our Treasurer, were guests at the Central Illinois Chapter of The American Institute of Architects dinner and meeting at Tuscany Restaurant in Decatur.

Mr. Trent Deane of BLDD Architects in Decatur presented a plaque to Jan and JoAn, which states The American Institute of Architects designated the James Millikin Homestead and Millikin Place as one of the 150 great places in Illinois in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the American Institute of Architects (2007). We are thrilled and honored to receive this plaque. For more information about this award or about the James Millikin Homestead please visit: www.IllinoisGreatPlaces.com

ENGLISH JUMBLE

Saturday, May 3rd, 2008

Chilly, chilly temperatures, dark grey looming clouds, and high winds! Winds so strong you almost thought you saw Toto and Dorothy fly by. Perfect day! for an old fashioned English Jumble. If you're not sure what an English Jumble is, it's a Yard Sale. Favorite pastime in Decatur.

Good news, whatever items we had outside, we were able to bring inside the Carriage House. Nothing in this day was dull. In spite of all the elements, our efforts were well rewarded. The Carriage House was lined to the walls with stuffed animals, books and magazines, porcelain items, glassware, beautiful dinnerware, brass items, wall shelves, children's toys, shoes, shoes and more shoes, linens and purses, electronics and computers, a large display of Christmas items, picture frames, plus items rarely seen.

Shoppers arrived and left with arms full. Hot coffee and several varieties of homemade cookies from the Board of Directors were available. A huge thank you to Ann Manuel and Margie Kirk's dedicated work to make this most interesting day a reality. Special "Thank You" to Junior Welfare for the loan of the Carriage House. A very grateful "Thank You" to all who donated their items.



First row from left: Sharon Thompson (in sweatshirt), Ann Manuel, Bill McGaughey, Jan Beasley, Irene Huff. Second Row: Margie Kirk, Niki Foertsch, Donna Meinhold, JoAn Christerson

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P.O. Box 1501
Decatur, Illinois 62525

**Millikin Homestead
2008-2009**

Board of Directors

- Gwen Biedler
- Niki Foertsch
- Martha Grohne
- Irene Huff
- Brigitta Kapp
- Rochelle Lambrick
- Ann Manuel
- Kate Shields
- Kathy Sigmon
- Lou Snelson
- Sharon Thompson

Officers

- PresidentJanet Beasley
- Vice-presidentMargie Kirk
- SecretaryBarb Baroni
- TreasurerJoAn Christerson
- HistorianLou Snelson
- Restoration.....Brigitta & Lucien Kapp



LEAVE A LEGACY™
Decatur, Illinois

***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>