

The James Millikin Homestead Gazette

Volume XLV, Issue I

125 N. Pine Street, Decatur, IL 62522

February 2020

The Homestead History Room

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting—April 23, 2020
5:30 p.m. Social 6:00 p.m. Meeting

April Open House—April 26, 2020
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days—April 27
through May 1, 2020

May Open House—May 31, 2020
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A brilliant idea was born over a friendly chat between the Kapps and Thomas Melvin. It was suggested that the former caretaker's apartment be transformed into a History Room. This space would be used to display memorabilia,

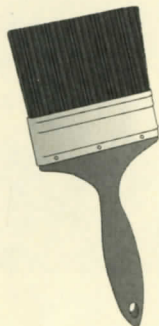
photos, and documents about the Millikins, the Homestead, and historic Decatur. Thanks to a generous grant from the John Ullrich Foundation this fall, the idea is be-

coming a reality! Board members are collaborating to lay the groundwork including rearranging of stored items, flooring, painting, and lighting. Once the space is prepared, display plans will be implemented. The hope is to unveil this new space during the Annual Meeting on April 23rd. We are very excited about this new addition to the Homestead and the in-depth information it will provide to visitors about the Homestead and its occupants.



Necessary Rooms

We are pleased and excited to announce that Chicago artist, Thomas Melvin, will be returning to Decatur this winter to continue his transformation of the Homestead interior. This time, we have asked him to improve the two “necessary rooms,” one on the main floor and one on the second floor. While bathrooms may not seem a very important area to decorate, the surrounding spaces are so lovely they highlight the drab and unimaginative condition of the necessary rooms. Thomas is ready to bring his talent and vision to these spaces and we will anxiously await the makeovers. If all goes according to plan, Thomas's new work will be unveiled at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 23rd. We hope you will join us.



Heating, Boilers, A/C, Oh My!

At the end of last year, the new “smart” thermostats at the Homestead awakened Board member, Doug Warren, several times with warnings that the temperatures on the second floor were dropping. Thankfully, December temperatures were relatively mild so there were no frozen pipes. TICA Heating and Cooling responded with several temporary fixes; however, the larger problem was the aging boilers that are the core of the heating system for the second floor.

To the rescue: a grant application submitted to the James Millikin Trustees was approved in early January. The grant provides funding to replace the boilers and the second-floor air conditioning units with high efficiency equipment that will ultimately cost the Homestead less in monthly power bills. This work will begin in February.

Many thanks to the James Millikin Trust for their generous grant and for their continued support of the James Millikin Homestead. After February, Doug will be able to sleep more soundly!

President's Letter

Winter is a season of recovery and preparation. Paul Theroux

Winter is upon us and maybe, thankfully so from the Homestead Board's perspective. It has been a busy fall and holiday season. The winter months give us a chance to take a deep breath and appreciate what has been accomplished but also to look ahead at what will come next. And, are we excited about the future of this historic Decatur home! Read on in this issue

of the newsletter to see what is ahead! You, our faithful members, make a difference at the Homestead. Please celebrate **what has happened** and be inspired by **what is yet to come**, knowing it is all only possible with your continued support.

I hope to see you soon at the Homestead.

Linda Ostrander

Christmas Open House



Our annual Christmas Open House was graced by mild weather and a large, appreciative crowd! Live music enhanced the celebratory mood as visitors strolled throughout the house enjoying the beautiful decorations. A variety of homemade sweets, packaged appealingly, was offered for sale and found many takers. The dining room table was decked out in our best linen cloth; from the large punch bowl the cider punch aroma wafted, and trays of cookies tempted visitors, young and old. For some guests it was their first visit to the Homestead, and they voiced their admiration for the building and its history. It took many volunteers to prepare for this event. We are grateful for the enthusiastic support and already look forward to working together again during the next Christmas Open House!

Sweet Treats Bakery

Can you imagine a "Black Friday Rush" at the Homestead? This was the scene on Sunday, December 8, 2019 as patrons lined up and made a mad dash to the Sweet Treats Bakery when the Homestead welcomed visitors to the annual Christmas Open House. The Bakery has become known for its delectable homemade goodies including holiday cookie trays and shoppers wanted to be first in-line to have the best selection of pastries, cookies, and candies. Consequently, two hours into the Open House, the Bakery was almost sold out! We are grateful to our talented Board Members and Homestead friends for creating holiday specialties that attract visitors looking for homemade treats. Generous donors and appreciative patrons allowed the Homestead to realize a profit of \$1300! Thank you for making this event a success.



Thank You

The names listed below are the people who have supported the Homestead through membership over the past year; many have been members for countless years! The Board of the James Millikin Homestead, Inc. gratefully acknowledges the support of these people. Members are the lifeblood of this beautiful old home. Membership dues help to pay the bills, provide community programs, and support restoration projects. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your membership to the Homestead.

Life Memberships

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Andreas
 Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Arnold
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Atwater
 Charlotte Ballance
 Dr. & Mrs. Howard Beede
 Jeane Best
 Dr. & Mrs. John Bradley
 Claudia Curry
 Larry DeLong
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dickes
 *Lilly Eckert
 Mr. Leonard Edwards
 Nancy Eichenauer
 Dr. & Mrs. Alan Frigy
 Mr. & Mrs. James Grady
 Charlotte Hanks
 Mrs. Robert Hanna
 Joanne Hantel
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerald Hoelting
 Anne Hostetler
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas K. Hostetler
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hund
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Jacoby
 Barbara Janes
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Johns
 Mrs. Clarence Johnson
 Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Kapp
 Mrs. John B. Krigbaum
 Marilyn Madden
 *Peggy Madden
 Thomas Malenshek
 Laura May
 Mr. & Mrs. John McCoy
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Millar
 Dorothy Morey
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ruff
 Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Schrodt
 Susy Smiley
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sweet
 Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Thompson
 Betsy Tietz
 Dr. & Mrs. Wesley Tower

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vitale
 Mrs. William Wagner

General Membership (March 1, 2019-February 28, 2020)

Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Ahlenius
 Jan Allen
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ames
 Mr. & Mrs. Alex Anderson
 Mr. & Mrs. Duane Avis
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Bainbridge
 Nikki Barker
 Mr. & Mrs. Ritchie Barnett
 Patti Barr
 Mary Jean Bauer
 Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bilyeu
 Joan Bliler
 Bentley Bolen
 Scott Bowers
 Jeanette Bradley
 Mr. & Mrs. David E. Brandon, Jr.
 Elizabeth Braun
 Mr. & Mrs. Chandler Brown
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Brown
 Mary Lou Brown
 Mr. & Mrs. Allan Buck
 Mr. & Mrs. Jason Butterick
 Anna Mae Carlson
 Sonja J. Carlson
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Carney
 Mr. & Mrs. Rod Carter
 Mr. & Mrs. James Chiligris
 Marcia Comerford
 Elta T. Cooke
 Ruth L. Cortright
 Marilyn Davis
 Cindy Deadrick-Wolfer
 Dr. & Mrs. Paul DeBruine
 Elena Delaney
 Dr. Jan Devore
 Dr. & Mrs. Douglas Dove
 Mr. & Mrs. John R. Drayton
 Mr. & Mrs. Aloys P. Dudra
 Alan Duesterhaus
 Mr. & Mrs. Dale Elliott
 Mr. & *Mrs. Joe Empen
 Mary Engleton
 Mr. & Mrs. Allen Fagin
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Farrington
 Barbara Ferrara
 Carol Ferry
 Wyllene Griffy

Thank you (cont.)

Mary Ann Groves
 Elmer Hawkins
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hill
 Colleen Hillyer
 Mr. & Mrs. David Hillyer
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hooten
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Horve
 Ardith Hubbard
 Doris Hudson
 Alice Huebner
 Mr. & Mrs. John Huff
 Linda Hull
 Cheri Hunter
 Jerry Johnson
 Dr. Dale K. Jones
 *Pauline Jurgens
 Mr. & Mrs. Dan J. Kerper
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Kirchner
 Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Kostenski
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kunzeman
 Bruce Leonard
 Judy Locke
 Virginia Manuel
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Markwell
 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Martin
 Pam Marty
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Mathews
 Linda May
 Marjorie A. May
 Barbara McElroy
 Doug McGaughney
 R. D. McMillen Enterprises
 Donna Meinhold
 Bonnie Metcalf
 Barbara Meurlot
 Mary Miller
 Mr. & Mrs. James R. Millikin
 Shirley Moore
 Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Nims
 Dr. & Mrs. Oluwatosin Oladipupo
 Dr. & Mrs. Dale Ostrander
 Mr. & Mrs. Darrel Parish
 Mr. & Mrs. Pete Paulin
 Mr. & Mrs. Louie Pease
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Pelz
 Mr. & Mrs. Dirk Peterson
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Phipps
 Mr. & Mrs. David Rathje, Sr.
 Andy Rauff
 Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Rau
 Donna Rebert
 Mr. & Mrs. James Romano

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Romano
 Mr. & Mrs. John Ropp
 Audrey Sanner
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sargeant
 Mr. & Mrs. Doug Schmalz
 Michael Sexton
 Mr. & Mrs. William Shade, III
 Molly Shade
 Dr. & Mrs. Philip Sharkey
 Marilyn Shroyer
 Mr. & Mrs. John Skeffington
 Betty Query Smith
 Joan Smith
 Marilyn Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sorensen
 Mr. & Mrs. George Streckfuss
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Swarthout
 Shirley Taylor
 Mary Kay Thompson
 Col. & Mrs. Robert Tyler, Ret.
 Dr. & Mrs. James Wade
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Warren
 Mr. & Mrs. Luke Weatherford
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Weedon
 Marilyn Welch
 Patricia Wenda
 Dr. & Mrs. Patrick White
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Williams
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Williams
 Nadine Wimmer
 Mr. & Mrs. Philip Wise
 Sheila Witts-Mannweiler
 Rev. Don Wolford
 Betty Zeaman

*Deceased

Disclaimer: We strive for accuracy; please accept our apologies if we have inadvertently made a mistake.

Lights, Camera, Action!

In November, the Homestead was the backdrop for a portion of a film written and produced by Millikin University Theatre major, Vineece Thompson, for the University's Spring Film Festival. The film's story centers around a warlock, who lived in a home similar in style to the James Millikin Homestead. The warlock, determined to capture his love interest, meets the younger woman at the Homestead as she has come to give her final decision about their future. The two main areas used for filming at the Homestead were the first-floor main hallway and the library. The Homestead Board enjoyed

hosting the Millikin students for this project, and we look forward to future opportunities to work with MU students as they use this historic home for educational purposes.



Open Houses

While the winds are howling and the temperatures are frigid, it is difficult to imagine that spring is not too far off. And spring will bring the Sunday Open Houses at the Homestead. Beginning in April, the Homestead will be open the last Sunday of each month from 2:00 until 4:00 with volunteers available for tours and to answer questions. A suggested donation of \$2 for adults and

\$.50 for children will be gladly accepted for Open House visitors. All Homestead members are admitted for free. We hope to see you at the Homestead for one or more of the following 2020 Open House dates: April 26th, May 31st, June 28th, July 26th, August 30th, September 27th, and October 25th.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth (Betsy) Empen passed away in August of this past year. Betsy served on the Millikin Homestead Board from 1983-1990 in a variety of positions, among them treasurer and membership chair person. She was also very active with the Bell Pull, the needlework shop created and operated by Junior Welfare in the library of the Homestead until 1982. The proceeds from the shop went to support the restoration of the build-

ing. Betsy was passionate about needlework, especially counted cross stitch work. Attention to detail was evident in anything she did; be that financial balance sheets or needlework projects. Many of her intricately stitched Christmas ornaments were sold to benefit the Homestead; undoubtedly many of them still adorn trees in the area and we remember fondly the person who made them.

Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days

Mark your calendars now for this annual event! The Homestead will host Macon county third graders for a living history experience Monday, April 27th thru Friday, May 1st. Volunteers are needed to fill the roles of Mr. Millikin, Mrs. Millikin, an organist, and various maids. In all, at least nine individuals are needed each day. If you have never participated before, please know

that this is a wonderful experience. Scripts are provided and memorization is not required. Please call Linda Ostrander at 217-454-5827 if you would like to claim your role now!

Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your membership to the James Millikin Homestead! If you will recall, last year we transitioned to an annual membership year that runs from March 1 (of the current year) to February 28 (of the following year). We thank YOU for your cooperation in making this adjustment a smooth transition. This change allowed the Board to create a realistic annual budget based on actual membership income.

All current members, with the exception of lifetime members, will receive a letter inviting them to renew their Homestead membership. A remittance envelope addressed to the Homestead will be included with the letter. The cost and levels of membership have remained the same. All annual memberships expire on February 28th and the new membership year begins March 1st.

Memberships are as follows:

- Regular: \$30
- Friend: \$50
- Patron: \$100
- Lifetime: \$1000 (can be paid over four installments of \$250 each)

Membership Benefits Include:

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Advanced notice of Homestead events
- Free admission to monthly Open House Tours
- 25% discount on Homestead rental fees (New this year—up from 10%)

We look forward to receiving your membership renewal and we thank sincerely you for your continuing support of this beautiful historic home.

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC.



125 N. Pine Street
Decatur, IL 62522
Phone: 217-422-9003
Website: jamesmillikinhomestead.com
Like the James Millikin Homestead on Facebook
and follow us on Instagram!

2/2020

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Annual Meeting

Please join the Board of Directors of the James Millikin Homestead, Inc. for the Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 5:30 pm. A thirty-minute social time, with tasty appetizers and beverages provided by the Board, will be followed by the meeting. During the meeting, committee chairs will provide brief reviews of the year's activities and new officers will be installed. Following the meeting, the new History Room and the newly embellished "Necessary Rooms" will be unveiled. All James Millikin Homestead members and community members are invited and encouraged to attend.

