

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. XXVIII, No. 2

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

November 2003

A Note From Your President...



We had a wonderful Jumble Saturday, October 4th. It was a jumble of weather, people and treasures that netted the Homestead approximately \$2,000. Many thank yous to the board members and community volunteers who donated, hauled, priced, hauled again and finally sold the jumble of treasures. A heartfelt thank you to Wyllene Griffy who chaired this event and did it with style, grace, humor, and fortunately, a truck.



Please pencil the Homestead into your calendar for Sunday, December 7th. The Annual Victorian Tea will also again feature a boutique of homemade baked goods and handmade gift items.

The Homestead will also be open for tours the week-ends of December 13th, 20th and 27th. So, come to the Tea and bring the out-of-town relatives to see the old girl decked-out in her best finery. (Kids love to tour the Homestead). See you at the Tea!

Sherri Arnold, President



Let's Hitch A Ride With Mr. Millikin

Picture an early evening in the late 1800's toward dusk when James Millikin turns the big iron key to lock the door of the bank, climbs into his carriage and sets out for the Homestead -- built as we know on acreage he purchased much earlier. Though they were located on the edge of town,

building in the area had been going on since the 60's, much of it on his West Main Street route between work and home.

After passing downtown businesses, Morehouse & Wells Hardware at 134 East Main among others, he would begin to see outlines of the houses spaced along the way -- the "castle like" Linn House in the 300 block with its turret and unique circular window centered by a square pane, lights twinkling through in the early dusk.

Crossing the intersection with Edward Street he might look nostalgically north catching a glimpse of the corner where he and Anna lived in a cottage in the first years of their marriage.

In the 400 block, the gingerbreaded Griswold house warms the street with its welcoming porch and lacy wood trim older by some twenty years than the 1899 Linn House. The Baldwin House with its long ribbon windows focused on the lovely landscaping and spacious lawns at 452 would catch his eye. Perhaps Ada Baldwin, traditionally dressed in white might be looking out to see him passing by.

The C.O. Young residence at 431, its Queen Anne architecture embellished with a Corinthian columned portico had an eight foot stained glass window. At 447 the style changes to Italianate with bracketed cornices and an elliptical fanlight adorning the front door. Older than the other houses in the block, it was built in 1854, the year the railroad came to Decatur.

Dominating the next block the many-dormered house with its corner tower captures immediate attention. Built in 1891 by Lewis Casner, its second owner was Dr. Will Barnes who has added a second building -- home to his outstanding butterfly and moth collection.

Fewer distractions now as the carriage turns into the lane to his own home and as Morning Star and Evening Star are unhitched and led to the Carriage House our ride with Mr. Millikin ends -- but, lucky for us we can still enjoy the same vistas a century later, grateful for the caring citizens who have preserved these beautiful structures for our enjoyment.

The Historic and Architectural Sites Commission is updating its self-guided Walking Tour Brochures listing these and many more homes that grace our near west side allowing us to enjoy Mr. Millikin's neighborhood as he did.

Lou Snelson, Historian

Oriel Window Restoration

September 1999, the first of the three large leaded glass panels in the oriel window was removed for complete restoration. The process took a long time and proved to be a challenge for the Springfield firm chosen to do the work. December 2000, the restored panel was reinstalled.

Spring 2001, the second panel was taken out and shipped to Springfield. This time due to the "learning curve" on the first panel, the work was completed in a much more timely fashion. By September 2001 the second panel was put back into place.

We received the repair estimate for the third, the center panel, October 2001. The board felt we needed to generate more funds before committing to further



restoration. For a year and a half we have raised additional money through projects such as the English Jumble, Doll Tea, Christmas Boutique, and by applying to you, our friends, for support. Through your generosity and our "hands on approach" we have accumulated approximately \$16,300 for the restoration. The cost for the third panel is \$28,050; we keep working to reach this goal.

At the September board meeting we voted to go ahead with the center panel. We expect it to be removed in late October and it could be back in place as early as

next March, in time for our annual meeting.

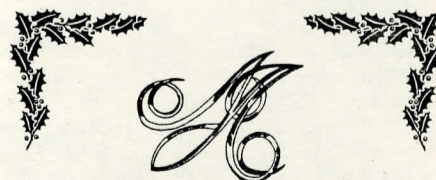
We thank all who have helped us raise the funds and hope for your continued support!

The Restoration Committee

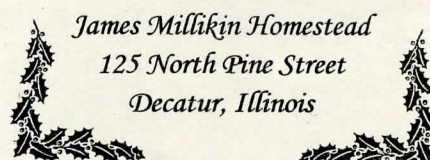
A Special Thanks To The Docents

For the fourth year, the Homestead has been open from April to October, every Saturday and Sunday from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This year we welcomed guests from foreign countries, many different States, as well as local residents. The Board of the Millikin Homestead wishes to extend our sincere thanks to all the many wonderful Docents who have so graciously given of their time and talents to guide the hundreds of guests through this historic home. The "Open House" program would not be possible without our fifty-eight dedicated Docents.

Thank you so much!
Anne Pondelick, Chairman



The pleasure of your company
is requested
at our annual
Victorian Christmas Party
On Sunday, December 7, 2003
from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



at the
James Millikin Homestead
125 North Pine Street
Decatur, Illinois



LEAVE A LEGACY
DECATUR, ILLINOIS

Perhaps you have seen the green *Leave A Legacy* billboards around town this past summer, or read the article in the newspaper listing the participant charities in the *Leave A Legacy* program, and asked yourself, "What is *Leave A Legacy*?"

Leave A Legacy is a local awareness effort to promote the idea of planned charitable giving. Many people contribute faithfully year after year to charitable organizations, such as the Millikin Homestead, but never consider setting aside a gift in their will. People assume that the joy of philanthropy is a privilege only for the wealthy -- not for everyday people.

Leave A Legacy was created to inspire people of all ages and all walks of life to consider how they might leave a lasting legacy by making a charitable bequest to local non-profit groups they support. As a supporter of the Millikin Homestead the Board hopes that you will consider the Millikin Homestead in your estate planning.

Anne Pondelick

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