

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY



GAZETTE

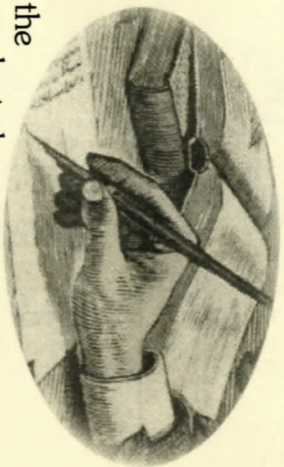


Volume XXXIX, No.1

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

January 2014

A Note from your President . . .



In October, with help from the Millikin Grounds Staff, the Master Gardeners weeded and transplanted the circle area of our parking lot in preparation for new arrivals. The 1,272 Dart's Blue' vincas were planted on a cold Saturday accompanied by the years first few flakes of snow. We are looking forward to Spring when the entire circle will blossom with lots of greenery filled with hundreds of little blue flowers.



On each Saturday in November, the Master Gardeners arrived at the Homestead and sorted through box after box of clippings, letters, and articles which had been saved year after year. They painstakingly sorted and organized in order to properly document the historical background of the Homestead grounds. They will be back in the Spring to continue working toward restoring the grounds to their original condition. We are extremely grateful for their time, labor and expertise to move forward on this long awaited project!

Board members spent three days in November decorating the Homestead for the holidays. The result was a spectacular display of Christmas in a Victorian style mansion and was enjoyed by several events during the Christmas season. December at the Homestead included the Heritage and Holly Tour, our own Christmas Open House and several private events renting the Homestead for their celebrations.

As we close 2013, I'd like to thank all our members whose support made it possible for the Board to continue its mission during the past year. We hope you will consider continuing that support in 2014.

Betsy Tietz, President

Welcome New Board Members

We are pleased to welcome Mary Ann Groves, Cindy Laegeler and Marilyn Davis to our board. They bring talent and enthusiasm to our board and we look forward to working with them.

New Acquisition

Thanks to a generous gift from Mrs. Richard (Sue Ann) Cain, the Homestead has acquired a set of four antique, Eastlake style, Victorian parlor dining chairs (ca. 1880-1900). They are beautifully carved and upholstered in red velvet. We greatly appreciate her thinking of the Homestead and the chairs will be displayed with pride.

Thank you, Sue Ann!



Expired Memberships

If you see that your name is highlighted on the address label on the Newsletter, it means your membership has expired as of the date shown above your name on the label. Please consider reinstating your membership to remain a part of the Homestead family. Thank you to those members who have been reinstated since our last Newsletter!

Annual Christmas Open House

T'was Sunday afternoon December the eighth, The cider was mulling, the cookies were baked. The silver was sparkling, the rooms full of cheer, The day had arrived for our Christmas tea here.

The Homestead was decked out with ornaments bright, With thank you to Christy for ideas just right! Thank you to Millikin for clear walks and drives, And Junior Welfare for their help inside.

Sweet Treats Bakery was a sight to behold, Ann-Marie and Betsy hoped all would be sold. They went straight to work to fill all the sacks, Sold all their goodies and never looked back.

Then we all hoped for a crowd and some fun, With our cookies and cider and maybe some rum! And soon on the porch there arose such a clatter, We flew to the door and the house filled with chatter.

With the wink of an eye and a twist of the head, We knew that we surely had nothing to dread. Thanks to our members and families and guests, Without you and yours we could not do our best.



Board Members Marilyn Davis and Marcia Comerford greet our visitors with spiced cider in the Homestead dining room. Sweet treats in the parlor.

Co-Chairs Mary Ann Groves and Sharon Thompson



Thank You to Members and Friends of the Homestead

The board extends their sincere thank you to the many members and friends of the Homestead who made, baked and delivered all the wonderful home made goodies that stocked the shelves at our Sweet Treats Bakery during our Christmas Open House. This thank you includes the volunteers who spent an entire day packaging the treats in clever and colorful packages.

Thanks to your support, the Bakery sold \$515 of sweet treats during the three hours of the Homestead Open House. Your involvement was instrumental in the success of this fundraiser. Your response to our request for help was yet another example of the wonderful, caring community in which we live.



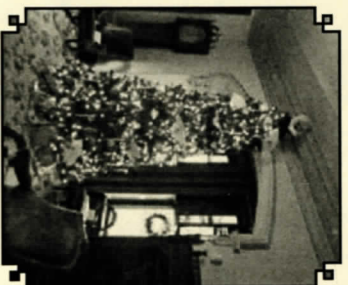
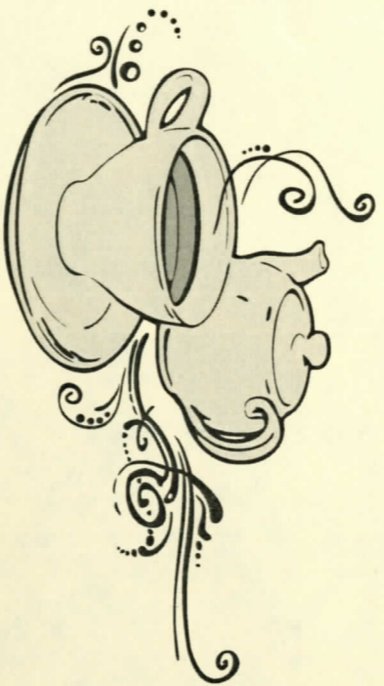
Heritage and Holly Tour

The Millikin Homestead was one of the scheduled stops on this year's annual Heritage and Holly Tour held on Friday, November 29th and Saturday, November 30th.

On Friday night, those who toured the home were greeted by President and Mrs. Lincoln (George Lefler and Kathleen Jensen) in the North Parlor. Many took the opportunity to have their pictures taken with the President and his wife. Holiday music was played in the background while people wandered through the house. Board members were there to answer questions and give information to those who came. Our Christmas Boutique was a success and everything was sold on Friday. Even Mrs. Lincoln was a valued customer!

On Saturday, Jason Zimmerman was there with students from the MacArthur High School orchestra program as well as students from the Garfield Montessori School music program. The two groups provided beautiful string music to entertain those who were visiting the Homestead. The Lincolns returned for part of the afternoon to again greet visitors.

Approximately 586 people came to the Homestead on the Heritage and Holly Tour. The weather co-operated and it was wonderful to have the house full of people and hear the positive comments on how lovely the Homestead looked all decorated for the Holidays and how wonderful this important part of Decatur history is still here.



Lucky Raffle Winner

Sara Jerome's winning raffle ticket was pulled at the Victorian Doll Tea in June. The prize was a tea at the Homestead for ten guests with desserts provided by the Millikin Homestead Board. Sara chose a Fall afternoon and the Board also provided pumpkin centerpieces to celebrate the season. A good time was had by all.

Please remember the Homestead whenever planning birthday parties, business luncheons, anniversary parties, wedding showers or any celebratory event. Current members receive a 10% discount off the rental fee. For information and scheduling, please contact the Homestead at 217-422-9003 and leave a message.

SAVE THE DATE!

Another Great Evening to celebrate the James Millikin Homestead will take place on Saturday, October 25, 2014, in the Richards Treat Center at Millikin University. More details to follow . . . please plan to attend!

In Memoriam

Our deepest condolences to the families of:
Mrs. June Roby, Homestead Member and
Betty Rose Leader, active member 1980-2000,
 Board member 1986-1988

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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 planning.

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)

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)

Name _____

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CheckOutWebsiteforUpcomingEvents: www.performance.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead

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

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