

James Millikin Homestead Gazette

VOLUME XLIX

125 N. PINE STREET DECATUR, IL 62522

SEPTEMBER 2023

Upcoming Events

**Homestead Open House
Schedule:
September 24 & October 29
2 pm - 4pm**
Remember you can always
schedule a private tour
by contacting the
Homestead at 217-422-9003
48 hours prior to the
desired time.

**October 7
Taste of History (see
details)**

**Mid October
Orders taken for Cookie
Trays - Watch our website
and Facebook page for
details.**

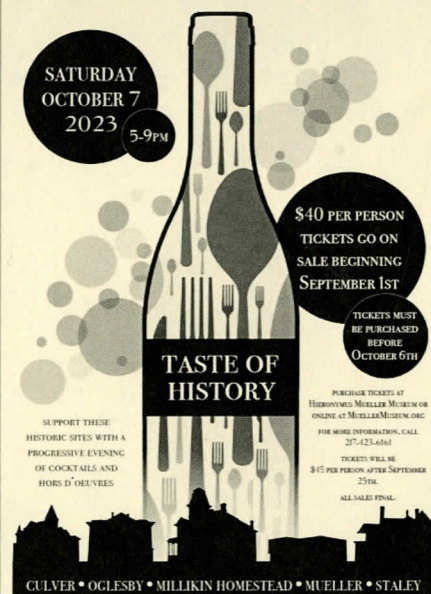
**December 3
Christmas Open House**

**Exhibit
August, September, and
October
"The Etiquette of Formal
Dining in the Victorian Era"**

Taste of History at the Millikin Homestead on October 7

Taste of History will take place Saturday, October 7, from 5 pm - 9 pm. Tickets go on sale September 1 and can be purchased online at MuellerMuseum.org or in person at the Mueller Museum during their normal hours from 1 pm - 4 pm on Tuesday through Saturday. The event will feature music, food and beer or wine at each of five historic locations: Mueller Museum, Staley House, Culver House, Oglesby Mansion and Millikin Homestead. Tickets are \$40 until September 25 and then \$45 until 5 pm on October 6. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!**

The Decatur Trolley will provide transportation between each location, starting at Central Christian Church, 650 W William St. Each venue is planning a unique theme this year. Millikin Homestead's theme will feature the original Wizard of Oz by Frank Baum, published in 1900. There will be lots of surprises waiting for attendees!



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 7
2023 5-9PM

\$40 PER PERSON
TICKETS GO ON
SALE BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 1ST

TICKETS MUST
BE PURCHASED
BEFORE
OCTOBER 6TH

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
THE DECATUR MUELLER MUSEUM OR
ONLINE AT MUELLERMUSEUM.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
217-422-5461

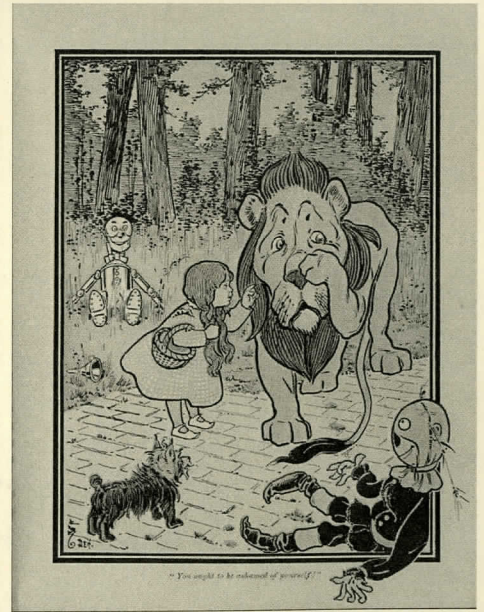
TICKETS WILL BE
\$45 PER PERSON AFTER SEPTEMBER
25TH.

ALL SALES FINAL.

SUPPORT THESE
HISTORIC SITES WITH A
PROGRESSIVE EVENING
OF COCKTAILS AND
HORS D'OEUVRES

**TASTE OF
HISTORY**

CULVER • OGLESBY • MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD • MUELLER • STALEY



The Etiquette of Formal Dining during the Victorian Era

Victorian dining and dinner parties were formal affairs. They were considered the highlight of any social event. By following the etiquette rules and correct table layouts, the hostess would ensure her party was well received and well talked about, long after the event had finished.

Come to the Homestead and see this exhibit! Items will be on display from August through October.

From the President's Desk

As one settles down to read this newsletter, most are ready to bid farewell to the “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer” and welcome more comfortable temperatures that are a hallmark of fall. The Homestead Board is ready to bid farewell to high cooling bills and to enjoy a more temperate season, too.

In addition, we look forward to traditional fall events that welcome more visitors to the Homestead. Be sure to mark your calendars to attend one or all our upcoming programs. In September, we welcome alumni of Millikin University to Homecoming. Our own board member, Jim Wilkerson, will be presenting a “Back to Class” literary session on Friday, September 29 beginning at noon. Following the session, there will be an open house until 2:00 pm. Although this event is in conjunction with Homecoming, Homestead members are also invited to attend.

Saturday, October 7 from 5-9 pm, the Homestead will be one of the five historic venues participating in “A Taste of History.” The Homestead’s committee has been hard at work to transport visitors to The Land of Oz. This adult-only progressive cocktail party is a ticketed event and tickets go on sale at the Mueller Museum on September 1. Consider having a “west end evening out;” attend Taste of History and then move on to Kirkland for the 7:30 pm symphony orchestra’s opening night. It will be a night to remember.

And lastly, orders for Christmas Cookie Trays will begin mid-October. Watch our Facebook page and website for ordering details. Cookie trays are very popular and there are a limited number available. As always, we appreciate your continued support of Decatur’s most famous address.

Ann-Marie Hillyer
Board President

Student Involvement Fair at Millikin University

The James Millikin Homestead Board continues to reach out to Millikin students to develop a partnership which provides learning opportunities. On Wednesday, August 16, 2023, Board President, Ann-Marie Hillyer along with Board Members Kelly Springman and Deroan Peters were invited by Paul Lidy, Senior Director of Alumni Engagement, to represent the Homestead at MU’s annual Student Involvement Fair. Our goal is to develop a student auxiliary that will volunteer in numerous capacities at the Homestead. Student auxiliary members could work with board members to design programs that may be of interest to the younger generation. Also, learning opportunities exist in the areas of History, Public Relations, Non-profit Careers, Business, Event Planning, and Art Preservation, to name a few. Last semester, we benefited from the services of a senior history major that worked on an independent project to digitalize an inventory of the artifacts housed at the Homestead. We are excited about the many possibilities of this new partnership.

Calling all bakers!

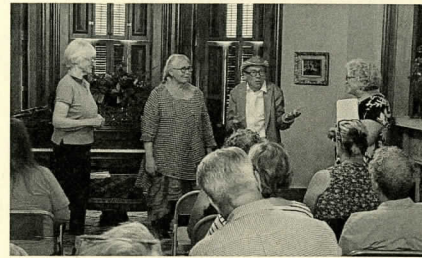
If you are interested in baking cookies, cakes, breads, pies or making candy to support the Sweet Treats Bakery fundraiser, please contact Karla Miller at 217-422-9003 and leave a message.

Homestead Members! If you are on Facebook, please join our private, members-only, Facebook group for live broadcasts, special events, and more! You can join the group by searching on Facebook for "James Millikin Homestead - Members Only," or you can also get there by scanning this QR code with your smartphone. Once you get to the group, click the "Join Group" button.



Artist Thomas Melvin visits the Homestead

On August 8th, Chicago artist, Thomas Melvin, and his wife, Nancy, visited the Homestead during our monthly board meeting. (See photo) For those who don't know, Mr. Melvin is the one responsible for renovating our ceilings and walls, beginning around 1994. He spoke to the board about his process and also shared about some of his other projects. In this photo, you can see Mr. Melvin working on the walls in the main hallway. Board member, Jim Wilkerson, did a video interview with Mr. Melvin and you can find that on our Facebook page as well as our YouTube Channel. Here is the link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XD-4uyBbT20> You can also learn more about Thomas Melvin at his website: <https://www.thomasmelvin.com/>



East Facing Exterior “Front” Steps Repaired and Reset

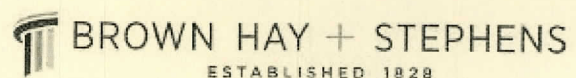
What does the James Millikin Homestead have in common with the Empire State Building, the Pentagon and the National Cathedral, the Biltmore Estate, parts of the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, and three dozen State Capitol Buildings? Each of the above utilizes Bedford Region Indiana limestone in design and function. Bedford limestone is known worldwide as the best quality limestone. In construction of the Millikin Homestead, limestone was purchased from the Empire Quarry in the heart of the Bedford region about 25 miles south of Bloomington, Indiana. Limestone was used in the exterior window framing on both the head (common name the “Eyebrow”) and the sill or base of the window.

Our focus is upon the limestone slabs used as steps allowing access to the front and side porches. The front porch steps had settled which caused the slabs to become uneven and unstable. The wobble in the steps became more noticeable after the last winter.

Otto Baum Co. out of Morton, Illinois was called to correct the problem. In August 2023 the limestone steps were reset, balanced, minor repairs made, with fresh new joint compound infused as needed for the expansion and contraction of the limestone. Total cost was \$6,925.00 which was shared between Millikin University and James Millikin Homestead Inc. (80/20 split.)

Trivia facts: There are seven steps to ascend from the drive to the porch. These steps are wider at the base and the width reduces as one moves upward, the average rise is seven inches, the average tread (the part one’s foot lands upon) is nine inches, and the average length spans ten feet. The average weight per slab is 500 pounds.

Thanks for Supporting the Homestead as an Organizational Member!





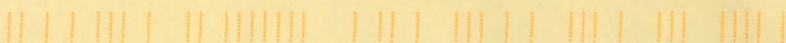
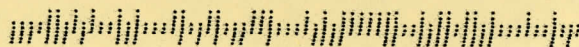
James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

125 N. Pine St.
Decatur, IL 62522

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 226
Decatur, IL

Nola & Harold Wilkinson
150 S. Stevens Avenue
Decatur, IL 62522

62522-1857 0025



**James Millikin Homestead
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Deroan Peters
Kelly Springman
Jim Wilkerson



Please consider making your support of the James Millikin Homestead a part of your legacy by including the Homestead in your estate planning.



Not a member of the James Millikin Homestead? Memberships are inexpensive and the support you provide through a membership is immeasurable. Please contact the Homestead for more information.



Stay in touch with the James Millikin Homestead:
Facebook: James Millikin Homestead
Instagram: @jamesmillikinhomestead
Website: jamesmillikinhomestead.com
Email: jamesmillikin1876@gmail.com
Phone: 217-422-9003
Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

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Mission Statement
Through the preservation of the Homestead, we engage, educate, and entertain visitors with the stories of the Millikins and Decatur.
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