

James Millikin Homestead Gazette

VOLUME XLVII

125 N. PINE STREET DECATUR, IL 62522

FEBRUARY 2022

Upcoming Events

2022 Homestead Open House Schedule

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Regular Monthly Open House
starts in March 2022

(last Sunday of the month

March - October)

Sunday, March 27

Sunday, April 24

Sunday, May 29

Sunday, June 26

Sunday, July 31

Sunday, August 28

Sunday, September 25

Sunday, October 30

Remember you can always
schedule a private tour
by contacting the Homestead
at 217-422-9003

48 hours prior to the desired
time.

Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 28, 2022

5:30 pm at the Homestead

This meeting is open to all
members and interested
parties. Join us at the
Homestead for light
refreshments and door prizes

Christmas 2021 is a Wrap

After skipping Christmas 2020, the Homestead Board welcomed visitors to our traditional Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 5, 2021. Covid-19 protocols were in place because of the pandemic, but sixty guests enjoyed the beautiful decorations, live music, individual time to talk with docents, a Victorian ornament display in our History Room, and sipped on our famous warm spiced cider. In lieu of trays of homemade cookies, Mrs. Millikin's hand-painted china, stemware, and select flatware graced the dining room table. One could imagine the lovely dinner parties that the Millikins hosted in their day!

On the following weekend, the annual Sweet Treats Bakery was in operation. This preorder/prepaid event has become a lucrative fundraiser for us. Bakers made and donated 2,892 cookies to fill the orders for a record-breaking 113 cookie trays! Besides cookies we fulfilled orders for cashew brittle and baklava, too. Because of the most generous support of bakers and patrons, the Homestead netted a profit of \$2,799.18. Thank you, everyone, for your support. Until next year...



Rentals Resuming at the Homestead

Respecting the ever evolving covid rules and hoping the epidemic is on its way out, the Homestead board voted to resume rentals. If you are interested in more information, call the Homestead at 217-422-9003, leave a message and your call will be returned.

Returning to the Board

We welcome back Mary Lou Brown who agreed to fill the unexpired term of Pat Wenda. Pat moved to the Carolinas to be closer to family. She gave generously of her time and talents and we thank her!

From the President's Desk

Happy New Year from the Homestead! As we look forward to spring and warm weather, it's nice to look back on the special moments from the holidays. I hope you had an opportunity to take part in one or more of the holiday events at the Homestead this year. One of my favorites this season was Nativity Sunday. If you missed it, I hope you take the time to check out the video on YouTube or the many pictures on the James Millikin Homestead website. Sharing the nativity collections and family memories of our Homestead friends was a special time, and one of my favorite moments of the season!

As the weather warms, please take the time to admire the ongoing work on the Homestead southwest porch. Long in need of help, a big huzzah to the Millikin University carpenter, Dan Janvrin, for going above and beyond to support our Decatur treasure!



On a final note, be on the lookout for your member renewal mailing. Thank you for your support last year and we hope you will continue to join us in ensuring that Millikin Homestead exists for future generations to come. Be sure to encourage your friends and neighbors to join as well!

Nativities Exhibit - January 16th, 2022

We chose the exhibit date close to January 6th when Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi, the three wise men. Due to weather concerns the exhibit was moved from the 9th to the 16th.

A small but very appreciative crowd of 74 guests toured the house. We had 113 nativities on display spread out over both floors. This was nearly triple the number of sets displayed in 2018. Our special thanks go to Soni Uhler who allowed us to include her very extensive collection of nativities.

It is not only the number of sets but the diversity of cultural interpretations which make this exhibit special.

We had representation from both North and South America, Africa, Asia and Europe. Some sets just encompassed the holy family -Mary, Jesus and Joseph. Many included the three wise men, shepherds and animals around the stable. A few practically recreated the setting of a whole village with dozens of dwellings and people going about their daily routine.

We hope to offer such an exhibit on a regular basis; maybe annually or biannually.

We are grateful to all who loaned us their nativities this year, and we invite all of you to consider allowing us to display your special nativity next time.



Membership Renewal

The membership year for the James Millikin Homestead is **March 1 – February 28**. Annual memberships are available at several levels. In the past few weeks, membership materials were mailed to all active and nonactive members. It is through the generosity of our members that we can “keep the lights on” at the Homestead, so we are grateful to folks for promptly renewing their memberships. Payments may be made by dropping a check in the mail, or by returning the completed membership form noting the credit card information. We also accept payment via PayPal. To access this option, please visit our website www.jamesmillikinhomestead.com and click on *Donate*.

Please renew your membership!

Member Levels:

Friend: \$30

Benefactor: \$50

Patron: \$100

Organizational: \$250

Life Patron: \$1000 (payable in 4 installments)

Membership year -
March 1 to February 28

Your membership renewal pamphlet will be arriving in your mailbox soon!

Members List

Dear Members,
It is difficult to fully express our gratitude for your enduring support of the James Millikin Homestead. Your membership provides outreach to our community, maintenance of this stately home, and a vision of historical preservation. For all of this we are very thankful. Homestead members are devoted guardians of Decatur's past. Thank you for being members in the 2021-2022 year. We hope you will renew your membership for the coming year.
Sincerely,
The James Millikin Homestead
Board of Directors

LIFE PATRON - \$1,000

Thomas & Celeste Ames
Sally Andreas
Dr. Stephen & Sherri Arnold
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Atwater
Charlotte Ballance
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Beede
Randell & Sharon Blackburn
Dr. John & Cheryl Bradley
Joe & Kathy Brown
Claudia Curry
Larry DeLong
Sue Dickes
Leonard Edwards
Nancy Eichenauer
Dr. Alan & Beth Frigy
James & Carin Grady
Charlotte Hanks
Joanne Hantel
Mr. & Mrs. Jerald Hoelting

Anne Hostetler
Mrs. Thomas K. Hostetler
Robert & Sabrina Hund
Kenneth & Julie Jacoby
Barbara Janes
Chris & Mary Alice Johns
Lucien & Brigitta Kapp
Mrs. John B. Krigbaum
Marilynn Madden
Thomas Malenshek
Laura May
John & Barbara McCoy
Douglas & Marcia Millar
Dorothy Morey
Dr. Dale & Linda Ostrander
Dirk & Sarah Peterson
Gerald & Peggy Ruff
Michael & Chelsea Sargeant
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schrodt
Susy Smiley

Members List

Robert & Lucy Smith
 Thomas & Sharon Sweet
 Troy & Patti Swinford
 Dr. Herbert & Sharon Thompson
 Betsy Tietz
 Dr. & Mrs. Wesley Tower
 Michael & Sue Vitale
 Mrs. William Wagner

BUSINESS - \$250

Hickory Point Bank

PATRON - \$100

Charles & Barbara Ahlenius
 Alex & Katherine Anderson
 Joan Avis
 Nikki Barker
 Ritchie & Sandra Barnett
 Lee Ann Batchelder
 Allan & Dawn Buck
 Jason & Amanda Butterick
 Dr. Robert & Judy Carney
 Marcia Comerford
 Elta Cooke
 Marilyn Davis
 Dr. Paul & Ruth DeBruine
 Dr. Alan Duesterhaus
 Dale & Margery Elliott
 Allen & Christina Fagin
 Ronald & Terry Grant
 Douglas & Leslie Hein
 David & Ann-Marie Hillyer
 Robert & Jan Hooten
 John & Diana Huff
 Dr. Stephen & Carol Huss
 Dan & Joanne Kerper
 Samuel & Helen Kershaw
 Ken & Deborah Kirchner
 Joseph & Susan Kunzeman
 Douglas McGaughey
 Arthur & Ruby Mathews
 Karla Miller
 Millikin University
 Mr. & Mrs. James R. Millikin
 Stephen & Sarah Mixell

Bruce & Kay Nims
 David & Terri Rathje
 Dr. Jim & Sue Reynolds
 Joyce Robinson
 Molly Shade
 William III & Susan Shade
 Mark & Kathy Sorensen
 George & Carol Streckfuss
 Steve & Shirley Swarhout
 Dr. James III & Susan Wade
 Thomas & Donna Williams
 Nadine Wimmer
 Rev. Don Wolford
 Betty Zeaman

BENEFACTOR - \$50

John & Jan Allen
 Mary J. Bauer
 Mary Lou Brown
 Anna Mae Carlson
 Ruth Cortright
 Kelly Delaney
 Dr. Jan Devore
 Herbert & Mary M. Dreier
 Mary Engleton
 Jim & Kim Fouse
 James & Angel Fraley
 Michael & Becky Gibson
 Cary & Kristen Hise
 Cheri Hunter
 Dr. Dale K. Jones
 Michael & Mary Kinney
 Barbara Leihser
 Kimberly Mangan
 Kevin & Abby Martin
 Donna Meinhold
 Bonnie Metcalf
 John & Carol Ropp
 Lyle Salmi
 Deborah Scheiter & Bruce Horn
 Martha Schwarze
 Michael Sexton
 Chuck & Sidney Schonkwiler
 Marilyn Smith
 Douglas & Christina Warren

Raymond & Joyce Weedon
 Harold & Nola Wilkinson
 Phillip & Joyce Wise
 Sheila Witts-Mannweiler

REGULAR - \$30

Tara Asheg
 Larry & Michele Bafford
 Steven & Jeanie Bainbridge
 Sonja Carlson
 Rod & Julie Carter
 James & Joan Chiligris
 Paul & Susan Dudra
 John & Carmen Dunn
 Barbara Ferrara
 Wyllene Griffy
 Mary Ann Groves
 Colleen Hillyer
 Doris Hudson
 Alice Huebner
 R.D. McMillen Enterprises
 Linda May
 William & Cherie Meyer
 Dr. David & Mary Miller
 Shirley Moore
 Duane & Lynn Potter
 Marvin & Carolyn Rau
 John & Donna Rebert
 Les & Lynn Romines
 Audrey Sanner
 Marilyn Shroyer
 Betty Query Smith
 Joan Smith
 Adam Swanson
 Jason & Shirley Taylor
 Mary Kay Thompson
 Patricia Wenda

We strive for accuracy with our records. If we have erred, please accept our apologies, and reach out so that we may make the appropriate correction.

Any membership monies received after mid-November 2021 have been credited to the membership year that begins on March 1, 2022.

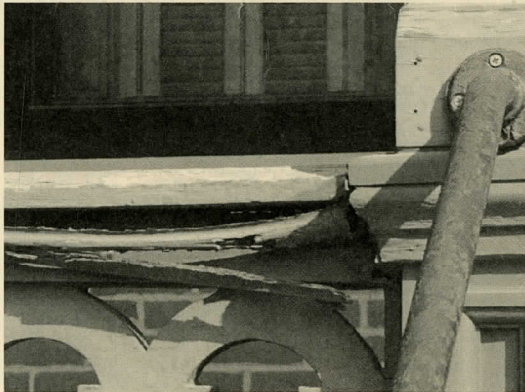
Around the House

The long-awaited restoration work on the Southwest Porch began in mid-November 2021. This first phase includes the columns (up to the ornamental work), upper rails, balustrades, lower rails, deck, and the door.

Restoration carpenter, Dan Janvrin, removed the rails, balustrades, and columns cautiously to preserve the pieces for restoration true to the originals. Dan took the rails and balustrades to the Millikin University Facilities shop to make indoor repairs during the winter months. He replaced rotted wood and carefully replicated the detail of the original porch rails. Dan continues with this task to put final changes and professional touches on his work. Volunteers will finish the deck and door in the spring. Millikin Facilities will give a final paint coat for the railings after the weather warms.

We owe a great deal of thanks to Millikin University's Ruby James, Vice President/Finance; James Fraley, V.P. Facilities Management; Shane Brocken, Facilities Operations and Maintenance Manager; and Dan Janvrin, Staff Preservation Carpenter for the contribution of labor and strategic planning. Furthermore, we are indebted to the generosity in cash and materials from the John Ullrich Foundation for a grant, the Decatur Surf Club for a donation of materials and paint, and Joanne Hantel for a donation. Without these benevolent grantors and donors this work would not be possible.

Building and Grounds Committee Chair, Deb Scheiter, tells us the next phase will be the upper portion of the front (East facing) porch. Then, Phase III will come back to the Southwest Porch and work on the upper portions of that area. And the closing or final portion of porch work will be the first-floor portion of the Front Porch (Phase IV) planned for 2023. See the contrasting photos "Old" and "New":



Donation Letters

In compliance with Federal guidelines, tax/donations letters were mailed to all donors that made an aggregate contribution of \$250 or more to the James Millikin Homestead, Inc. in the 2021 calendar year. If you did not receive your letter, please contact us (217-422-9003 or jamesmillikin1876@gmail.com).

In Memoriam

The Homestead board extends its sympathy to the families of Jeannette Bradley and Betty Braun. Both women were avid supporters of the Homestead; both served on past boards- Betty Braun in the mid 1980s; Jeannette in the 1990s. Their support and enthusiasm for the restoration of the Homestead is gratefully acknowledged!



James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

125 N. Pine St.
Decatur, IL 62522

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

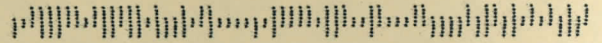
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Permit 226

Decatur, IL

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

6252231667 0025



**James Millikin Homestead
Board of Directors**

President: Donna Williams

Vice President: Ann-Marie Hillyer

Treasurer: Doug Warren

Co-Secretaries: Deborah Scheiter & Nola
Wilkinson

Mary Lou Brown

Jason Butterick

Marilyn Davis

Paul Dudra

Alan Duesterhaus

Mike Gibson

Brigitta Kapp

Joanne Kerper

Kim Mangan

Ruby Mathews

Karla Miller

Social Media Manager & Newsletter Editor
- Laura Shaw



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.

**“
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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