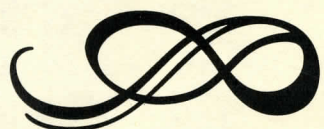
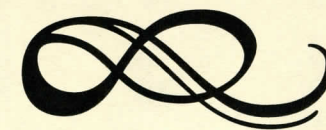


THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY



GAZETTE

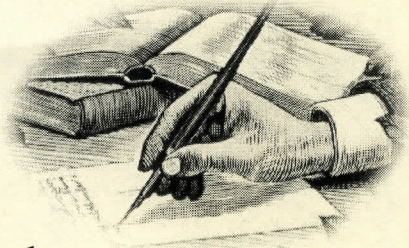


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Vol. XXX, No. 5

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

October, 2006

A Note from Your President...



Dear Members,

In January I was encouraged to think that we had lots of time in which to develop new ideas for fund raising. We have a very competent grant writer in Janet Beasley who is a board member and we have met to pool ideas which could be subjects for grants. Such activities as holiday brunches and teas as well as ice cream socials were also suggested.

Now we turn to you, our loyal members, and ask that you contribute ideas as well. No proposal is too small to be considered. We also invite you to become an active volunteer in the James Millikin Homestead family. We look forward to hearing from you. Please call Janet Beasley, 428-1058 with grant suggestions or Marty Grohne, 428-7858, to serve as a volunteer. I also welcome calls at 428-0644.

With thanks for all that you do to support the Homestead and to further its importance as a historical landmark.

Ann Seidman, President



September Song

As the summer flowers falter and fade, the autumn leaves take on color and bring a different palette to the grounds of our Homestead. But one thing never changes. That is the faithful presence of Bill McGaughy who plans the gardens, nudging and nourishing as needed throughout the year. More days

JMH Open House

Visitors will be welcomed by volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons through the month of October. The hours are 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Admission for adults is \$2.00 and \$.50 for children.

Open house hours will be resumed in April, 2007. Thanks to all the volunteers who show up week after week to explain to visitors everything from what type of art Anna B. collected to what the pearl buttons in the back hall are good for — and, oh yes, the reason the house has no draperies!

If you would like to be a docent next spring, contact Marty Grohne, 428-7858. The Homestead has many stories to tell and you will never be bored by the visitors, who come from everywhere and often have stories of their own to tell.

McGaughey who plans the gardens, nudging and nourishing as needed throughout the year. More days than not, his straw hat can be seen bobbing amongst the plants or plotting what he will introduce to the gardens in the spring.

Asked what was his favorite planting this year, Bill said that replacing the red geraniums out by the flagpole and bringing in soft pink geraniums accented by blue petunias and some white phlox worked out very well. On a sour note, the circle garden annuals burned up several times due to near 100 degree temperatures. The good thing was that the Japanese beetles were not interested.

In front of the main door to the Homestead, Bill replaced what he described as “ancient” spirea with ferns and hosta, which proved to be a popular choice. By the south porch several once beautiful viburnums succumbed to a disease, as yet undiagnosed. Yes, Bill takes leaves from ailing plants to the clinic, too.

As caretaker and botanist in residence (well, almost), Bill deserves our deepfelt thanks for all that he does to promote and preserve the plant life at the JMH. Our thanks to you, Bill.

Membership Update



The membership committee is happy to report a continuing membership of the following:

53 Life members, 12 Patrons, 41 Friends and 105 Regular. We welcome new members to join us at any time. Please see the back page of the newsletter.

If there is a change in address or status, please contact a member so that our records are up-to-date. A friendly reminder of your expiration date is on the address label of your newsletter, which is published four times a year.

If you have questions, please contact Ann Manuel.

Thank you for your continued support of the Millikin Homestead.

The Millikins at the State Fair

Yes! Along with other Decatur dignitaries, James and Anna B. Millikin spent the day on August 11, 2006 greeting fairgoers in Springfield. They set up operations in the Decatur tent on Hometown Day at the Illinois State Fair and told one and all about the many advantages of living in Decatur. Midafternoon found the Millikins riding in a vintage convertible in the BIG PARADE, waving to hundreds of admiring onlookers on their way to the grandstand.

Thanks to Dick and Carol Ferry, decked out as the famous couple, the entire event came off quite smoothly. They performed all day and into the evening. Phyllis Hunt was on hand as a substitute to spell Mrs. M. She not only did this superbly but also doubled as Mrs. Oglesby! Yours truly had a spare costume hidden away but the professional cast did not need any backup and I snuck away to watch the horse show!

To Dick and Carol Ferry as the Millikins and Phyllis Hunt as the versatile Everywoman, we say thanks for a job well done.

Marty Grohne

*The Homestead
is open for rentals
for receptions,
showers, luncheons and/or
dinners and meetings.*

Call now to reserve your date.

*Discounts are available
to Homestead members.*

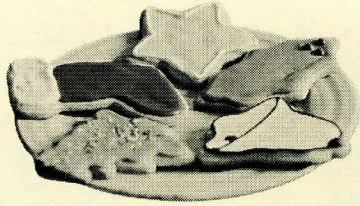
Sabrina Hund – 424-0931
Brigitta Kapp – 428-9527

Two for Tea

For the first time, the James Millikin Homestead and the Governor Oglesby Mansion volunteers are sending a joint invitation to their Christmas teas on Sunday, December 12, 2006. For many years, the two historic homes have welcomed the public to come and enjoy holiday food and music. The decorations in themselves invoke the Christmas spirit and show off these two grand old mansions decked out in their very best holiday garb.

In past years, the teas fell on the same day as the Vespers service at Millikin University on Sunday evening, making for a rather hectic schedule for visitors. Therefore, this year the teas have moved up a week on the calendar with the hope that visitors will not feel rushed. A fair estimate of the number of guests expected at both sites is between 450 to 500 tea drinkers. And that calls for a lot of cookies!!

The Millikin Homestead is at the corner of Main and Pine Streets and the Oglesby Mansion is located at 421 West William Street.



Remembering Robert Moore

Robert Moore, who died recently, was an experienced electrician who developed an interest in restoring old light fixtures. Nearly all the light fixtures in the Millikin Homestead have been supplied by or worked on by Mr. Moore who visited many auctions where he bought fixtures which he then restored to their original glory. Without him, it would have taken much longer and would have been much costlier to outfit the Homestead with period lighting.

Mr. Moore was an honorary Life Member of the Homestead. Our sympathy goes to his family.

What's In A Name?

A lovely piece of furniture has come back to the Homestead – it's a sideboard – or is it? A part of the Millikin's dining room "suite" such a piece now would be a buffet or a server. Names seem to change more than the objects to whom they belong. For instance, window treatments common to the late nineteenth century would have been portieres, heavier and more ornate than today's draperies, but serving similar decorative purpose, even though Anna disdained their use.

The bright flowerpots in present day sunrooms would have been called jardinières and the coat rack in the foyer would replace the ornate hall tree – the one with an umbrella stand to hold your parasol.

No more consigned the less-than-glamorous title "back parlor," the family room is the landing spot for the recliner which has superseded the Morris chair comfy for watching the plasma TV which in turn has replaced the hand-held kaleidoscope. The wind-up Swiss-movement music box filled the need for our multi-speakered audio system and surely the horsehair upholstered pieces were well protected from dust and stains with lacy antimacassars; no need for Naugahyde or Scotchguard.

Yesterday's biscuit box is today's cookie jar – readily luring kids to an after school snack. No matter what the century, nutrition was needed after a day spent on a Laptop or reading from "The Picture Alphabet for a Good Child."

Upstairs, the old coil spring (who could ever forget sleeping on one) and feather bed have gone out the door to be replaced with box springs and pillowtop mattresses. There's a bureau instead of a dresser or chest of drawers – little need for a bonnet box since bonnets these days are found only on tiny infants – not the fuss and feather and ribbons under the chin ladies worn in Anna B's day.

Remember that no matter what it's called, our lovely dining room piece fills a special spot in the Homestead and will be much used to allow even more space for serving delightful sweetmeats to our guests!!

Lou Snelson, Historian



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10/06

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

**Millikin Homestead
2006-2007**

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- Restoration.....Brigitta & Lucien Kapp
- GroundsBill McGaughey
& Kate Shields



LEAVE A LEGACY™

Decatur, Illinois

***Please consider the Millikin Homestead
in your estate plannings.***

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.

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)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

*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)

Check Our Website for Upcoming Events: <http://www.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead>