

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. XXI, No.1

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

July 1996

Guests Enjoy the Second Victorian Doll Tea

The dream of an elegant doll house kept Mrs. Marny Elliot of Lovington collecting miniature furniture and accessories for 4 years. The completed doll house was the centerpiece for the second annual Victorian Doll Tea held on Saturday, June 1st. In addition to the Georgian period 15 room miniature mansion, doll collections of Mrs. Joanna Ploeger-Tsoulos of Waterman, Illinois, Ruth Craig of Sullivan, Mrs. Marny Elliot of Lovington and Mrs. Susan Phillips of Decatur graced the bedrooms of the Homestead providing those attending a glimpse of dolls from around the world, beautiful antique dolls and dolls from the 1930's, 40's and 50's.

Also on display was an antique doll collection and antique doll furniture on loan from the Piatt County Museum and a child sized horse barn filled with Breyer horses and accessories and Breyer dolls. The barn and dolls are the property of Mrs. Betty Ploeger and the horses are a part of the Breyer horse collection of her daughter, Mrs. Joanna Ploeger-Tsoulos.

Guests were served at tables with centerpieces of fresh flowers in tea cups. The delightful centerpieces were created by the



Jeanette Bradley and family



Marny Elliot Dollhouse



pieces of fresh flowers in tea cups. The delightful centerpieces were created by the Garden Club of Decatur with Mrs. Jeannette Bradley in charge. Mrs. Mary McCray and members of her committee served a delicious menu of tea sandwiches, tea cookies and cakes, miniature tarts, grapes and strawberries dipped in chocolate.

A special feature of this year's tea was Mrs. Susan Phillips, an antique doll collector who spoke to each sitting about dolls and answered questions about the dolls which guests had brought with them.

Miniature and demi-tasse sized tea services were displayed on the dining room table for guests to enjoy. The collections were graciously loaned to the Homestead by Mrs. Betty Ploeger and Mrs. Rodger Snelson.

Three happy guests whose numbers were drawn went home with beautiful dolls donated by Haines and Essicks of downtown Decatur and the Apple Peddler of the Franklin Mall of Decatur. A miniature tea service donated by Enticements of the Franklin Mall of Decatur was the third prize. Raffle tickets were sold for the use of Homestead for a coffee or tea party for 20 guests to be catered by Custom Cuisine of Decatur, owned and operated by Norma Fick. The happy winner of the raffle was Mrs. Mary Beck of Decatur.

Children and adults enjoyed the opportunity of spending a delightful afternoon in the lovely surroundings of the Homestead partaking of the Victorian custom of a formal afternoon tea.

All proceeds from the tea will benefit the continuing restoration of the hand painted ceilings of the Homestead.

Betty Ploeger
Chairman

Photos courtesy of Bill McGaughey



Susan Phillips speaks with guests



Doll Collection admired



Scenes From The Parlor

A Note From Your President...



Dear Members:

Another year has positively flown by and I forgot that when I was re-elected as President that I would have to do three more of these letters.

May and June have been very busy for us at the Homestead. Lou Snelson and Jim Williams got Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days off and running the first week in May. In mid-May, the Homestead won an award from the Historical and Architectural Sites Commission for our restoration of the ceilings. Lucien Kapp explained the restoration process and I was on hand to accept the award on behalf on the Homestead.

The first of June was our Second Annual Victorian Doll Tea. Over 180 women, children and a few men came to the Homestead to enjoy tea and other goodies. Despite the rain, everyone was dressed up in their best spring finery (including their dolls)! Our thanks to Betty Ploeger and Mary McCray for organizing another successful event at the Homestead.

Our fiscal year began in May and yearly Homestead memberships begin once again. If you have not rejoined, please take a moment to fill out the membership form in the newsletter. The membership fees help us run the Homestead on a month to

month basis. Our monthly costs run over \$1000, with a power bill of \$500 plus. This is a very big house!

Our goals for this year include continuing work on the restoration of the ceilings. The Restoration Committee is at work listing and prioritizing all the items that need work at the Homestead.

We hope you have a wonderful summer. Stop in and check us out at the last Sunday of the month open houses.

Anne Hostetler
President

Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days



Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days was once again a success despite the cool and wet weather. Over 900 third graders from the Decatur and Macon County area learned about life in Decatur during the 1890's. They loved all the fireplaces, the oriel window and the fact that there were no washing machines, dishwashers, vacuums or electric irons. Of course, Sophie's "cookies" were a monster hit.

We once again thank all of the volunteers who make this event possible. Each person gave up a half day (in some cases, a full day) to recreate an atmosphere of days gone by. We couldn't do it without you. See you next year.



Memorial Tree Fund



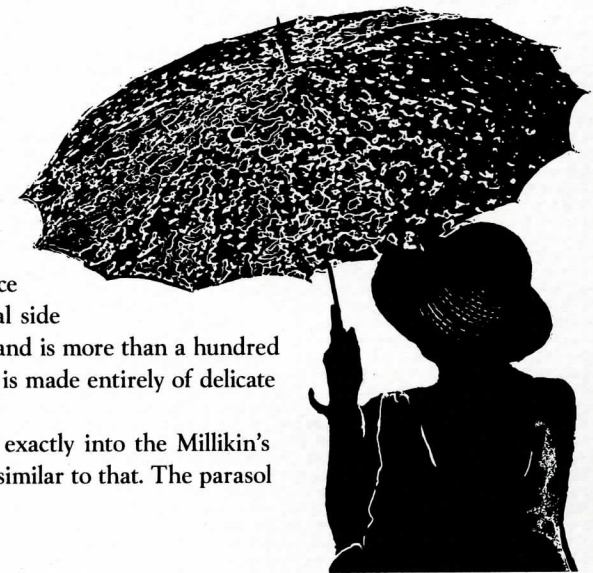
A memorial tree fund has been started in honor of Gail Travis. Gail was a dedicated volunteer for the Homestead. She participated in Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days by being Sophie, the kitchen maid. She also conducted tours and did Sunday open houses. If you would like to contribute to the fund for a tree planted in her memory, please send a check marked "Gail Travis" to the Homestead. We at the Homestead will greatly miss Gail's smile.



Thank You!!

Emma Lou Moore (Mrs. James Moore) donated to the Homestead an antique lace parasol. It came from Mrs. Moore's maternal side of the family, the Merriam/Babcock family, and is more than a hundred years old. Despite its age and the fact that it is made entirely of delicate lace it is in mint condition.

We very much appreciate this gift; it fits exactly into the Millikin's period. Mrs. Millikin could have owned one similar to that. The parasol is displayed in the South Parlor.



Membership List

Dear Friends:

Below you will find a listing of current 1996 members. A few years ago we began placing the year which you had last paid next to your name on the mailing label. As you may recall our membership years begins on April 1 each year. Thank you for your continued support. Our current membership total is 143. I'm certain many memberships will be added to our listing during the next few weeks. We are looking forward to another great year.

Sincerely,

Jim Williams – Membership Chairman

Individual Members

E. Frank Beaman
Helen M. Beeson
Lee Bennett
Mary E. Bertram
Paul L. Best
Joan Chiligiris
Velma Cravens
Mrs. Margaret C. Geibel
Mrs. William C. Graves
Wyllene Gruffy
Bob Hantel
Charlotte Holder
Betty Rose Leader
Harriett P. Johnson
Ann Limerick
Marjorie A. May
Betty R. Monroe
Emmy Lou Moore
H. Myslicki
Barbara P. Pannhallegon
Mrs. David L. Robertson
Mrs. Herbert L. Roszell, Jr.
Ruth R. Sanders
Jane Schroyer
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Shirley Whitacre
Dale Willets
Eloise Williams
Marian Woyna

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Mr. and Mrs. William Bliler
Milton and Pat Brahier
Alice and Greg Brock
Rex L. Brown
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Linda and Aiden Ferry
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Beth and Roger Mauterer
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Neil and Dona Meinhold
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Kathryn Miller
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Martin and Ann Seidman

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George and Carol Streckfuss
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Claudia and Jim Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wollrab

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Alan and Beth Frigy
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Pauline R. Smith
Mary M. Waller
Joyce and Ray Weedon
Wendell J. Kelley

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Ms. Dorothy L. Sellers
Mary F. Smith
Mrs. Harry G. Taylor
Mrs. Betty E. Zeaman

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Miss Charlotte Balance
Mrs. William Barnes III
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Jeane Best
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Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dicks
Mr. Leonard Edwards
Mr. and Mrs. William Eichenauer
Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Glenn
Mr. Stephen G. Graliker
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Mr. Tom Malenshek
Mr. and Mrs. Jerald Hoelting
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hostetler
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Irish
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Mrs. Robert C. Schaub, Sr.
Mrs. Purvis Tabor
J. T. Whitley
Frances May Yocum and Laura L. May
Dr. and Mrs. William Wagner

Homestead in Passport Program

The James Millikin Homestead is again participating in the summer Passport program of the Heritage Network of Decatur and Macon County.

The program encourages school age children, with the help of their parents, to visit various museums and cultural organizations in the area. Passports are handed out at schools and also are available at the Decatur Public Library. The passports are stamped at each site visited.

All participating children may attend a free ice cream social in August. Those with the most stamps are honored. This year's social will be on the grounds of Millikin Homestead.

The Homestead is one of 22 organizations that work together in the Heritage Network



Thank You to Membership

I would like to thank all members of the Homestead for their time and effort toward the success of the Victorian Doll Tea. We could not have done it without you!! Thank you! Thank you!!!

Betty Ploeger
Chairman

1996-1997 Officers

Officers

President.....Anne Hostetler
Vice-President.....Sue Beer
Secretary.....Terri Smithmier
Treasurer.....John Krigbaum

Standing Committee

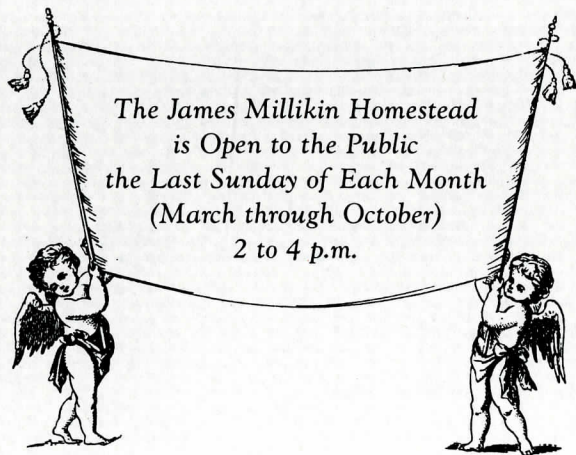
Grounds.....Bill McGaughey
Historian.....Marilyn Loofbourrow

Board of Directors

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Jeanette Bradley
Dorothy Coutant
Robert Hantel
Anne Hostetler
Brigitta Kapp
Lucien Kapp
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Decatur, IL 62521
Permit 226

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



Benefits of Membership

- Participation in preservation of the historic heritage of Decatur.
- Advance notice of Homestead-sponsored routs and programs.
- Subscription to The Homestead Gazette.
- Invitation to the Annual Victorian Christmas party.
- A tax deduction to feel good about!



James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Member – \$5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron – \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member – \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business – \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member – \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life – \$1,000.00 (May be paid in four annual installments) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend – \$50.00 | |

Make checks payable to:

James Millikin Homestead, Inc.
P.O. Box 1501
Decatur, Illinois 62525

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

(Membership is tax deductible)