

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. XVI, No. 4 (XVII/3)

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

April 1993

A Note From Your President . . .

At this writing, it is difficult to think "Spring". We've had so-o-o much snow. But, it won't be long before we welcome budding trees and the sound of birds. Spring marks the end of another wonderful year at the Homestead. As your President, I've been pleased with the many events we've shared. The Board members have been most supportive of all our yearly projects, which made my job easier. Now, we look forward to welcoming new Board members, the Annual Meeting in April, Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days in May, and Art on Main Street which will be held again on the Homestead grounds in June.

The Annual Meeting marks the end of the second term for Sid Shonkwiler. We'll miss her energy, enthusiasm, and her willingness to give one hundred fifty percent for the Homestead. Besides being a very capable President for two years, she was editor of the Newsletter three years, Secretary two years, and Membership Chairman this past year. She served or chaired countless committees such as "Whodunit", Victorian Tea, rummage sale, Fourth of July, Table Tops, and Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days. As her children are older now, Sid has taken a full-time job in Oncology at Decatur Memorial Hospital. Good luck to you, Sid, and thank you for six years of great service to the Homestead.

time for a 110th anniversary of the house and the 10th anniversary of the Homestead organization, planned for July of that year. She has served a liaison to the Garden Club in starting the flower bed and doing new floral arrangements. She served committees as "Whodunit", nominating, Victorian Tea decorating, Preservation Conference, and is our representative to the Heritage Network of Decatur and Macon County. She will be hard to replace. She's done a beautiful job.

Lyn Shimp will leave the Board to become a Texan. She has handled our publicity very efficiently for the past three years. Her organization and follow-through of last year's Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days was superb. Thank you, Lyn, for serving us so well. We wish you and your family success and happiness with your move.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our Annual Meeting, the evening of April 22. After a brief report on the past year by committee chairmen, we will have a special program called "At Home With The Victorians". It will be given by Mary Turner, Director of the Birks Museum at Millikin University. She will describe the various rooms of a Victorian home as well as types of furniture and furniture arrangements. Last year, Mrs. Turner prepared a paper entitled "Re-



BARTLETT FAMILY GROUP

the Homestead.

Regretably, we will also say goodbye to our long-time Historian, Marilyn Loofbourrow, as she completes a second, three year term plus two years filling an unexpired term. In 1985, The James Millikin Homestead Board decided to convert the breakfast room into a history room. Marilyn was asked to come on the Board as Historian in order to research and organize a permanent exhibit for the room. She started two months before her term in order to complete the project in

Turner prepared a paper entitled "Re-Creating a Dream: The James Millikin Homestead". This was done for a class she was taking at Eastern Illinois University. The very interesting paper has been shared and enjoyed by our Board members as it offers ideas concerning furnishings as well as information about items from the Millikin estate held in other locations. This promises to be a very enjoyable evening. Please plan to attend.

— Jane Lawson, President

BARTLETT FAMILY GROUP

This family group is composed of Anna Millikin's grandparents, Henry and Betsey Bartlett, four of their daughters and Henry's brother, unnamed. The family history states Henry is front row, center, but it seems more likely Henry is at far right, with younger-looking man at center being his brother. Henry's wife Betsey is third from left, back row, with twins Theresa and Betsey, on either side. Front row left is Joanna, and back row left, a daughter identified as probably Mary.

History — Pictures Trace Anna Millikin's Family Line

No family album exists at the Millikin Homestead to document the appearance of Anna Millikin's ancestors, but an intriguing glimpse of relatives can be found in the history of her maternal line, the Bartletts.

In the published family history, *Dawes-Gates Ancestral Lines, Vol. II*, there is a small but excellent collection of pictures for several generations. The Bartletts were sea-faring people who came to this country ca. 1660 and settled first in Massachusetts. (The story of their line was presented in an earlier *The Homestead Family Gazette*.)

Pictures begin with Anna's great grandparents, Captain William and Joanna (Herrick) Bartlett, who lived during the Revolutionary War in which Captain Bartlett (1741-1794) served as a naval agent for the Colonies. Since the couple date before the time of photography, their portraits, luckily, were painted.

For the next generation, there are pictures of Bartlett's son Henry (1771-1850) and his wife, Betsey (Corey) Bartlett. In addition, a group photograph shows both

Henry and Betsey as well as some of their twelve children. Although one daughter is not positively identified, it seems that their daughter, Hettie, mother of Anna Millikin, is not included in the picture. No photograph of Hettie (1804-1886) is known.

Since Anna did not have children, her direct line came to a close in four generations from the Revolution, but the line of her maternal aunt, Joanna (Bartlett) Shipman, sister to Hettie, may continue to this day. One of Joanna's five children was Betsey (Shipman) Gates, first cousin to Anna, and grandmother of Charles Gates Dawes, Vice President of the United States under President Calvin Coolidge. Dawes was, therefore, Anna's first cousin, twice removed. He lived 1865-1951.

Pictures suggest that Anna bore a resemblance to a number of relatives. The accompanying photographs offer the opportunity for comparison.

— Marilyn Loofbourrow
Historian

ANNUAL MEETING

April 22, 1993

7:30 p.m.

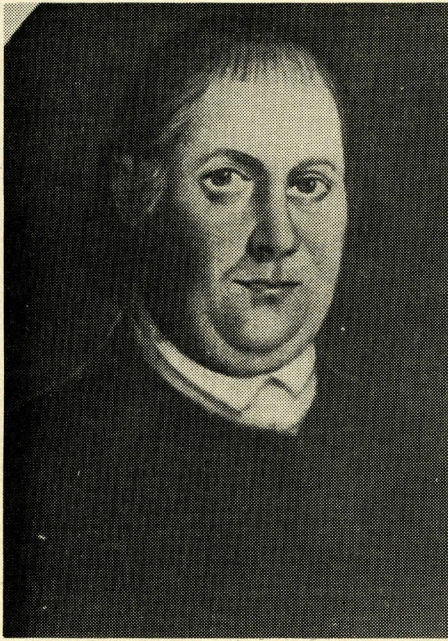
Speaker: Mary Turner

"At Home With The Victorians"

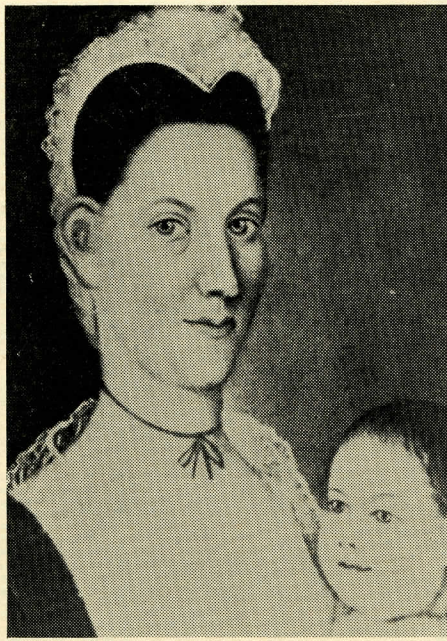
Annual Reports

Light Refreshments





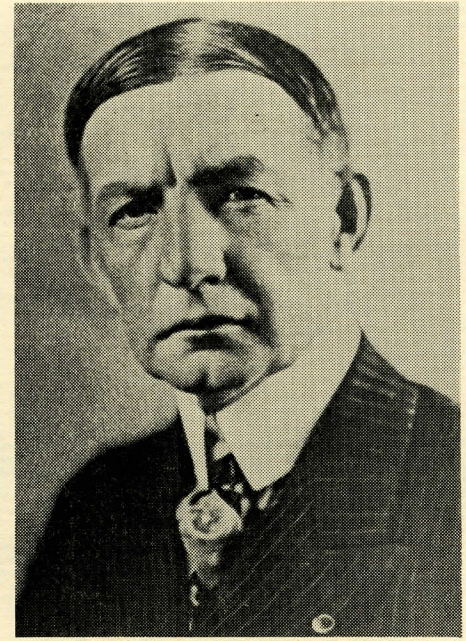
Capt. William Bartlett
great grandfather



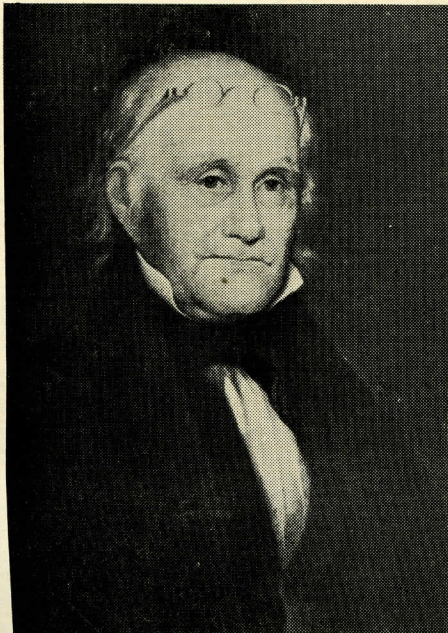
Joanna (Herrick) Bartlett
great grandmother



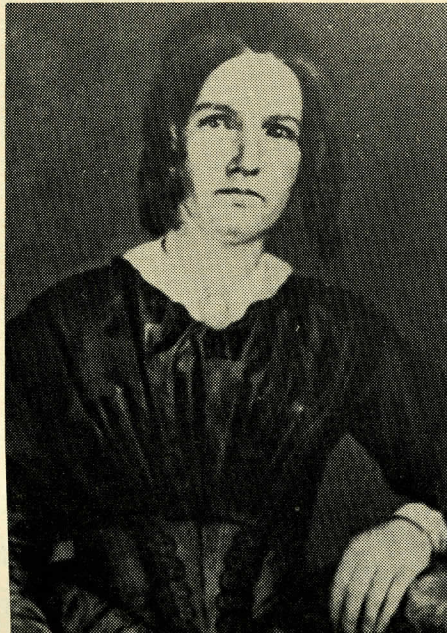
Joanna (Bartlett) Shipman
maternal aunt



Charles Gates Dawes
grandson of Betsey Gates



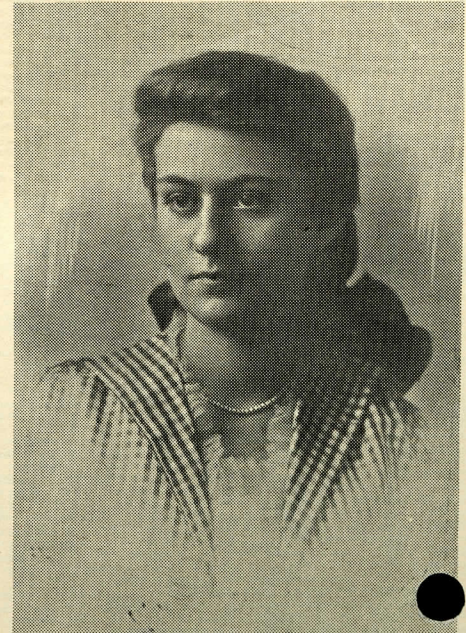
Henry Bartlett
grandfather



Betsey (Corey) Bartlett
grandmother



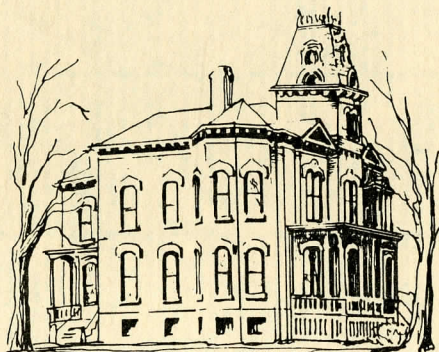
Betsey (Shipman) Gates
first cousin



Anna B. Millikin

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Organization
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Permit 226

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC.
P.O. Box 1501
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Art on Main St.

The Homestead will give a "repeat performance" of their successful fundraiser when they once again provide delicious box lunches for the *Art on Main Street* event.

The 2 day art show held on the Homestead lawn will be held the first weekend of June. It is an annual event which is sponsored by the Decatur Area Arts Council and Barn Colony Artists. Watch the newspaper, radio and television for further information.

Do come and enjoy both good art and good food!

A Sunday Historic Walking Tour

The James Millikin Homestead will serve as an important stop on the historic walking tour sponsored by the Historic and Architectural Sites Commission on Sunday, June 20, from 1 until 3 p.m.

The Homestead will be open for tours. A number of homes on the tour will have placards in front of the home giving information about the history of the house.

Walking tour maps of the historic area will be available at the Homestead as well as information on the Historic and Preservation organizations in the Decatur area. Lemonade and popcorn will be served on the grounds of the Homestead.

For more information on the walking tour, call Joan Geoghegan at RE/MAX Real Estate, 428-9500 or Kathy Miller at 424-2793.