

# THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

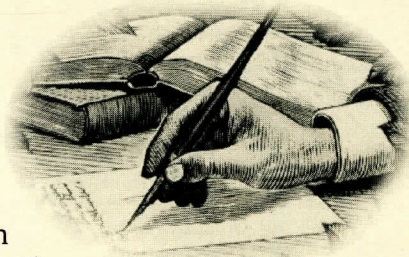
## GAZETTE

Vol. XXXV, No. 1

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

September 2010

### *A Note from Your President...*



Summer is drawing to an end, but the Board of Directors has been very busy planning improvements and events. The North and South Parlor, as well as Grand Hall carpets have been cleaned and they look brand new. It has been several years since we have planned any major restoration, so we have contracted Thomas Melvin of Chicago to restore the master bedroom ceiling. Mr. Melvin also had restored the ceilings of the parlors and dining room in the 1990s.

We thank Lucien and Brigitta Kapp for their assistance in this project. We are planning a fund raising event October 17 to help raise the funds for this project. Hopefully, the ceiling will be completed and ready for viewing at that time. (See article on this fund raising event.)

A special Thank You! must go to Randy Brooks and his class at Millikin University this spring for the creation of a new website for the Homestead. This was a much needed project and they did a fantastic job. Check it out! (See article with new address.)

Preparation is already under way for the Victorian Christmas Tea December 12 and plans for the Victorian Doll Tea are in the works for June, 2011. Watch for more information on these two events.

As always, we want to thank our dedicated membership and our staff of volunteers for their continuing support for this wonderful piece of Decatur history! We could not do it without you!

JoAn Christerson

## Bunco anyone??

### Calling All Ladies!

*Let's play Bunco at Anna's House.*

## **JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD BUNCO PARTY**

***Help us raise funds for restoration.***

We may raise the roof with laughter, but we'll surely restore the floral ceiling decorations in her bedroom.

**James Millikin Homestead  
125 N. Pine Street, Decatur, IL  
Sunday, October 17th, 2010 – 2:00 P.M.**

Complimentary  
Appetizers

Desserts to Dazzle

Beverages

And Prizes!!



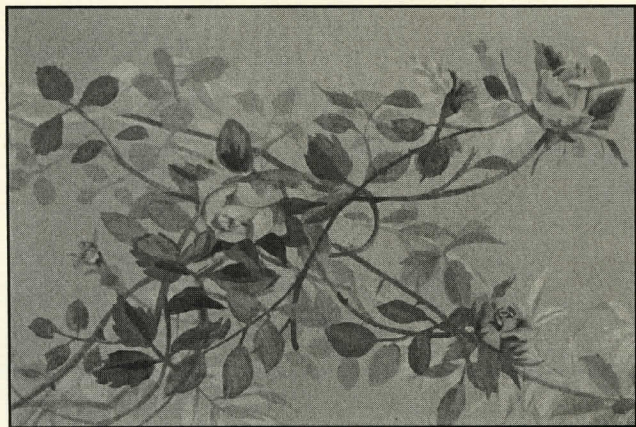
Who would have thought that playing “dice” would find its way into the Homestead! Well, on second thought, Anna brought dice playing into her house. On an extended Europe trip she purchased a wonderful 19th century copy of Bartolme Estaban Murillo’s 17th century painting entitled “Beggar Boys Playing Dice.” This large oil painting hangs on the west wall in the south parlor. We use this painting to be inspired for a fundraiser involving dice.

Bunco was originally “8-Dice cloth,” a dice game in 18th-century England. It was imported to San Francisco as a gambling activity in 1855, where it gave its name to gambling parlors, or Bunco parlors, and more generally to any swindle. After the Civil War the game evolved to a popular parlor game. During the 1920s and Prohibition, Bunco was re-popularized as a gambling game, often associated with a speakeasy. Law-enforcement groups raiding these parlors came to be known as “Bunco squads.” Bunco as a family game saw a resurgence in popularity in the 1980s.

We hope you will agree that it is a fun way to raise money for the restoration project. Bunco is purely a game of luck and anybody can learn the rules quickly. Several members of our fundraising committee did not know how to play Bunco, but we found out and we found it to be fun!! So, consider joining us for fun and games and delicious goodies on Sunday, October 17th. Reservations are necessary. Please, call one of the phone numbers listed on our invitation printed in this newsletter.

## The master bedroom ceiling is blooming!!!!

Thomas Melvin, the same Chicago artist who has painted the Millikin Homestead’s dining room - and parlor ceilings in the mid 1990s, is at work again. Based on a black and white photograph showing some ceiling details and through color “sleuthing” (analysis) the floral ceiling in the master bedroom is being replicated.



The work is progressing nicely; we include a photo from a visit to his studio where the huge canvas pieces are attached to the walls, and roses in soft yellow and pink hues are starting to “bloom.” It is possible that the ceiling might be finished by mid October! We are very excited and very anxious for all of you to see this newest restoration project.

Don’t forget the Prizes!



### Beggar Boys Playing Dice

*Bunco is easy to learn and great fun to play!*

*Why not bring a friend!*

On a trip to Europe, Anna purchased a 19th century copy of Murillo’s oil painting, Beggar Boys Playing Dice. It is hanging in the South Parlor of the James Millikin Homestead. The original is located in the collection of the Alte Pinakothek in Munich, Germany.

**\$25 donation per person**

*Tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

*All funds go to the replication of the floral ceiling decoration in the Master Bedroom at James Millikin Homestead.*

**To reserve your seat or to get more information, please contact**

**Brigitta Kapp – 428-9527  
or Dixie Sexton – 875-7359**



Melvin Studio, Chicago: Thomas Melvin (left) and Lucien Kapp in front of the frieze which will adorn the top of the walls, and is in addition to the actual ceiling decoration.

## Birthday Party

On Saturday, May 8th, the Homestead was filled with young girls who came to celebrate a tenth birthday. The party was a raffle prize from our Victorian Doll Tea. It was hosted by Sue Shade for her granddaughter Halle and arranged by several of the Homestead board members. The girls arrived in their fancy dresses, some even with hats and gloves to attend a "High Tea." They were escorted into and around the house by Halle's father Pen Shade, who, dressed in a tuxedo was playing the role of the English butler.



They were first given a tour of the house to learn of its history and a little of how life was in the mid to late 1800s here in Decatur. Next, a "High Tea" was served. Halle sat at the head of the dining room table and poured tea and lemonade for her guests. She wore her great grandmother's, Barbara Shade's, gloves to pour from another great grandmother's, Jeanne Hoppe's, silver tea pot. She treasures those two objects - and the silver service will be hers one day.

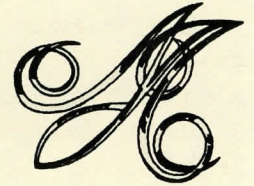
The girls chose to sample from a variety of tea sandwiches, muffins, fresh fruit and an array of sweets. They sat around lace covered tables with flowered teacup centerpieces in both parlors. To conclude the tea, birthday cupcakes that Halle's mother Dawn had baked were given to each guest and they all sang "Happy Birthday" to Halle.

The afternoon went much too quickly but we were pleased to help arrange this event not only to try and help make Halle's party special but to continue to educate others about the importance of the Homestead.

## Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days

Again a huge success! We served 29 classes-670 children, plus teachers and chaperones. The event involved 28 volunteers. WAND-TV attended and filmed a small television clip. Thanks to all who helped!!

Sharon Thompson &  
Anna Mae Carlson



## Website Update



Check out our new and improved website at [www.old.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead](http://www.old.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead). The site has been re-done by Dr. Randy Brooks and his website design class. They met with several of our board members for input. The class also toured the Millikin Homestead to learn its history and to take photos. Several board members joined the class at Millikin University for a preview of the final design. Millikin University will help us update the website on a regular basis.

Take a look! We hope you are as pleased with the outcome as we are. It is easy to access and so well done! Thank you, Dr. Randy Brooks and class !!!  
Betsy Tietz, publicity co-chair

## Welcome!

Coming new on the board for a three year term:

Lilly Eckert	Marcia Millar
Shirley Taylor	Dixie Sexton

## In Memoriam

Our condolences to the families of Mrs. Patricia Uhl, Mrs. Robert West, and Mr. Dale Arnold.

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

**Millikin Homestead  
2010-2011  
Board of Directors**  
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JoAn Christerson  
Lilly Eckert  
Irene Huff  
Brigitta Kapp  
Christy Kelly  
Margie Kirk  
Rochelle Lambrick  
Ann Manuel  
Marcia Millar  
Dixie Sexton  
Shirley Taylor  
Pat Thalhauser  
Sharon Thompson  
Betsy Tietz

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Vice-president .....Sharon Thompson  
Secretary .....Margie Kirk  
Treasurer .....Irene Huff

**Historian**  
Lou Snelson



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: [www.old.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead](http://www.old.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead)