

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. XXX, No. 1

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

July, 2005

A Note from Your President...

L am honored to be asked to serve as president of the James Millikin Homestead Board again. I am also following in the very capable footsteps of Sherri Arnold. We are all in debt to Sherri and the outgoing board members: Penny Honnold, Alice Brock, Millie Gonzalez, Wyllene Griffy and Joyce Robinson. We thank each for all their excellent help in continuing the restoration and care of Mr. and Mrs. Millikin's home. We welcome our new board members: Sabrina Hund, Margie Kirk, Ann Manuel and Salli Pritts and look forward to working on many projects together. Thank you for joining us.

Ann Seidman
President

Volunteers

Did you know? Volunteers learn something every time visitors come to learn about the James Millikin Homestead. During the last monthly open house, a young couple came through the door to see and learn about James Millikin's home. As it turned out, the volunteer docents did the learning. The visitors, Brett Barry, and his wife, LeAnn, had a lot to tell us. His great grandfather, Joseph Brownback, was a vice president of Mr. Millikin's bank. Mr. Brownback was the executor of James Millikin's will. Mr. Brownback's wife,

Susie Siefferman

a memorial tribute to a very fine woman!

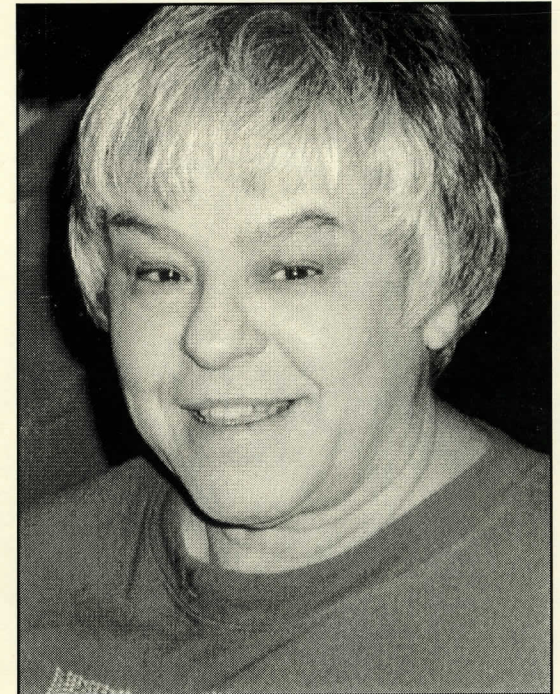
More than 25 years ago, fall 1979 to be exact, Susie Siefferman moved into the caretaker's apartment at the Millikin Homestead. The Homestead Family Gazette announced this is an article:

The members of the board of James Millikin Homestead, Inc. are delighted to present the new caretaker for the Homestead, Susan Siefferman. Miss Siefferman is a 1959 graduate of Millikin University where she majored in broadcasting. A native of Chicago, Miss Siefferman visited Decatur relatives often as a child, and says that she decided then that she wanted to settle in Decatur.

Settle in Decatur she did! After graduation from Millikin, Susie's professional life started with 11 years at WSOY, then 21 years with the Spin Shop, a record specialty store in downtown Decatur, 5 years with Illinois Power, and concluded with 3 years at the Millikin University Bookstore. For 49 years she was a dedicated member of the First Lutheran Church in Decatur.

This spring Susie died of cancer after battling it for nearly a year. She was a unique person; so witty, positive and very committed to her faith, so very modest and appreciative. She greatly enjoyed living at the Homestead, not afraid to be alone in this rather large, old structure. She identified with the house and proudly toured people through it.

We are forever grateful to Susie and will miss her friendly personality. The Millikin Homestead not only lost an excellent caretaker, but a friend of preservation. Decatur lost one of its most loyal supporters who in an understated way left her uniquely positive imprint on the Decatur community.



tor of James Millikin's will. Mr. Brownback's wife, Lizzie Vandever, was from a prominent banking family in Taylorville. Their son married Leta Mueller. Our visitor, Brett Barry, had many more interesting stories to tell our volunteers about his family's connection to James Millikin! Needless to say, it was a most interesting afternoon for the Homestead volunteers!

Did you know?

Volunteering is a fun and rewarding experience! I know many of you reading this would love to be helping with tours of the Homestead. All you need to do to be part of this neat team is give a call to Marty Grohne at 428-7858. Or contact her by e-mail at margrohne@msn.com. That is all it takes to be a part of one of the most rewarding experiences ever!

Marty Grohne

Note of Sympathy



The James Millikin Board extends its sympathy to the family of Dorothy Smethers who passed away on April 29, 2005. Dorothy was the quintessential volunteer at the Homestead. She gave tours, baked cookies, made items to be sold at the Christmas Boutique, loaned her beautiful miniature quilts for exhibits and helped in all ways possible to keep James and Anna's home open and available to the public. We are indebted to her and shall miss her kindness and generosity. She lives in our memory.

JUMBLE SALE



The James Millikin Homestead plans a Jumble Sale on September 17, 2005 from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The Homestead Board is requesting donations of rummage - furniture, dishes, small appliances in working order, linens, books, cookware, decorative objects, etc. No clothes please with the exception of blue jeans. We will accept hats, belts, shoes and purses. Pick up is available; please call Ann Seidman (428-0644) or Brigitta Kapp (428-9527). The Jumble has been successful in the past and we hope you'll be able to help us again.

supporters who in an understated way left her uniquely positive imprint on the Decatur community. Susie, small in stature, but mighty in spirit, we thank you!

Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days - 2005

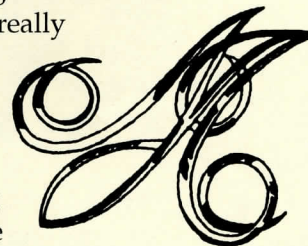


All were wide-eyed with wonder and awe at entering the very large important house. At stepping back in time to meet Mr. and Mrs. Millikin. The house was beyond their wildest imagination. And maids! So many of them! Most had never heard of having maids in the house to do the work. Did people really used to live like this? This was an impressive day for the 815 third grade students from all over Macon County who enjoyed the experience of a living history lesson. Memories were made that they will always have to cherish.

Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days for third graders in Macon County is one of the finest gifts the Homestead gives to the community. It is a treas-

ured experience, not only for the children, but also for the volunteers. Without the many volunteer helpers, this would not be possible. All enjoyed getting into the spirit of the adventure and everyone did such a super job. Our thanks to them are heartfelt for an outstanding job! We also

owe a giant thank you to Kroger's for the generous gift of MANY cookies. Each child walked out the kitchen door happily munching a giant cookie. Another benefactor was Jim Gresham from Lock Stock who donated lunches for the volunteers. It was good!



Marty Grohne

Committee: Jodi Powell, Ann Seidman, Donna Manuell, Rosemary Idleman.



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.

Jodi Powell - 875-8395

Sabrina Hund - 424-0931

Brigitta Kapp - 428-9527

"Decorative flourish"

Victorian Doll Tea - June 2005



Once again, the Millikin Homestead was buzzing with doll lovers of all ages! Transformed into a "make-believe world," the house had displays of doll houses, specialty doll collections, doll furniture, doll dishes, doll



Door Prize Winner Mrs. Alma Pierce
(Red Hat Society - Springfield)

clothes, miniature quilts, and new this year, a "doll boutique," featuring new and old doll-related items for sale. The donation of some valuable older dolls and a fully furnished doll house made our profits "soar."

Seated at tables decorated with floral centerpieces furnished by members of the Decatur Garden Club, a happy crowd enjoyed a variety of sandwiches and sweets. Sixty dozen small sandwiches and sixty dozen sweet treats were supplied by volunteers.



Haines & Essick donated one of the two adorable dolls offered as door prizes. Ann Seidman with the help of Ann Manuel outfitted a second doll. Our winners were Sydney Camfield of Decatur and Mrs. Alma Pierce of Springfield (see photos).

We thank all who supported our raffle. This is the first year for mailing out chances and it proved worthwhile. Approximately half of our profits came from the raffle. The two winners of the raffle drawing are Donna Rebert of Decatur and Kathy Brown of Warrensburg. They can choose between a Tea or Coffee for 20 catered by the Homestead board or a Homestead rental (a \$400 value). Congratulations to all our winners!

We could not offer this wonderful fundraiser without the support of the Homestead Board and many friends who contributed to this successful event.



Door Prize Winner Sydney Camfield

This was our eighth Victorian Doll Tea. See you at the ninth!

Ann Seidman and Brigitta Kapp,
co-chairpersons



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Decatur, IL

Handwritten: 7/05

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

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2005-2006
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HistorianLou Snelson
Restoration.....Brigitta & Lucien Kapp
GroundsBill McGaughey



**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>