

Joseph F. Glidden Homestead
& Historical Center
921 W. Lincoln Hwy.
DeKalb IL 60115

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THE WINNER



"The Winner" - Patented Nov. 24, 1874 - #157,124

Newsletter of the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead
& Historical Center - July 2010



921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115
www.gliddenhomestead.org
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Blacksmith Chris Hubbard demonstrated his craft in the newly-opened Glidden Homestead Blacksmith Shop on June 13. The shop will be open again Sunday, July 25, noon-4 p.m. (Photo by Kathy Siebrasse)

Garage plans under development; other work progresses at site

Innovative plans to develop the Glidden Homestead's attached garage into usable office and exhibit space have been announced by Glidden Homestead board president, Kathy Siebrasse.

"We are still committed to our long-range plan to raise the funds to purchase the property next door for a Welcome/Education Center, but in the meantime we have found an economical way to put the garage to work for us," said Siebrasse.

More details will be announced, but the plans include using the garage space as the central entrance/exit for the Homestead. The Gift Shop and main office also will be housed there.

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Please become a Glidden Homestead member.....

Thank you for your support of the Glidden Homestead. **If your address label has an ASTERISK (*), you are a member in good standing** – thank you! Your membership is critical to the work at the Homestead. Your support helps preserve one of DeKalb's most important historical landmarks. Your membership also entitles you to free tours of the Homestead and the chance to participate in interesting, worthwhile activities there. Your membership also entitles you to at least four issues of this newsletter throughout the year and special offers in our Gift Shop. **Thank you!**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS TO: Glidden Homestead (Mail to 921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115)

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

E-mail (for event notices and newsletter) _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

_____ \$25 Individual Membership	_____ \$15 Student Membership
_____ \$40 Family Membership	_____ \$5 Youth Membership (high school & below)
_____ \$100 Heritage Membership	_____ Other Special Donation
_____ \$175 Genealogy Member (includes 2-vol. hardbound Glidden Genealogy set)	\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Thank you! Your membership allows the Homestead to continue work at this important historic site.

Crowds attracted to Homestead's Blacksmith Shop opening event

From forge to blowers, anvils to antique metal-working tools, the Glidden Homestead's working Blacksmith Shop is fully equipped with the tools of the blacksmithing trade.

Glidden blacksmith Chris Hubbard demonstrated his craft June 13, at the long-awaited opening of the Blacksmith Shop. Crowds watched as he repeatedly worked a piece of iron with ultimate patience—from fire to hammer on anvil and back again.

As Hubbard worked, the ringing sound of metal hammered against anvil gave the sense of being transported back in time—to the era when blacksmith Phineas Vaughan helped Joseph Glidden turn an ordinary coffee grinder into a barbed-wire making machine.

Items made by Hubbard are available in the Glidden Homestead's Gift Shop, including plant hangers, dinner bells, knives, a boot/shoe scraper and a long barbecue fork.

The Blacksmith Shop is located in the former Mill House behind the house on the Homestead property. Visit the Homestead's website for dates when the shop will be operating (www.gliddenhomestead.org).

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Students donate exhibit

Kirkland High School students Betsy Koehnke and Haley Zuberbier stand next to the barbed wire exhibit they donated to the Glidden Homestead. It is located in the lower level exhibit space. Not pictured is Hannah Haak who also helped with the exhibit. It was part of a project for the Regional History Fair held at Northern Illinois University, where it earned a "Superior" rating. At the State History Fair this Spring, the project earned an "Excellent" rating. (Photo by Marcia Wilson)

Open House, Open Barn



Roger Keys, historic preservationist, discussed the solid workmanship inside the Glidden barn on May 16. (Photo by Kathy Siebrasse)

The Homestead's Spring Open House, Open Barn on May 16 gave visitors their one chance all year to see the inside of the historic barn where "The Winner" barbed wire was invented and first manufactured in 1874.

The large brick structure is located on the Homestead property at 921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, behind Burger King and next to Glidden Florist.

Participants also enjoyed "Music on the Porch" featuring members of the DeKalb High School String Band. The entertainment was made possible with the help of a grant from the Mary E. Stevens Concert and Lecture Fund.

Denny Rehn displayed his antique tools and implements, while tours of the house and grounds were offered.



Members of the DeKalb High School String Band entertained.



Visitors enjoyed the exhibits on the lower level (bottom photos by Marcia Wilson).

Exhibits updated and expanded

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Siebrasse said once the Homestead's office is moved into the garage space, that will free up another room for display and educational purposes in the house. The current Homestead office is housed in a room that is believed to have been Joseph Glidden's bedroom at one time.

"Many restoration projects also have been accomplished in the house this spring, overseen by executive director, Marcia Wilson. Some of the upstairs displays and basement exhibit spaces have been newly-reconfigured, thanks in large part to Brigette Massoth and Nicole Weydert, NIU interns who have been working with Wilson and Sarah Glidden. Another intern, Chelsey Gibson, has been helping with grants," said Siebrasse.

Plans include designating special space on the lower level to create a children's area. Interactive exhibits with hands-on activities and the ability to play "dress up" are among the things planned.

"We also received a very generous donation of four glass exhibit cases from the Sycamore History Museum which have help us expand our educational exhibits," Siebrasse said.

"If you haven't visited the Homestead recently, please plan to do so—the second and fourth Sunday each month through October, from noon-4 p.m."



A collection of Irma Wittke Glidden's hats from the 1950s-60s are on display at the Homestead.

Blacksmith Shop open again July 25

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Hubbard is the Glidden Homestead's Blacksmith Shop coordinator. He has organized a club for people interested in blacksmithing and also will offer classes at the Homestead in the future.

Past board president, Jim Morel, coordinated efforts to restore the Mill House for use as the Blacksmith Shop. He thanks the many volunteers who have worked hard the past three years on the project.

Grants for the Blacksmith Shop have been provided by the Illinois Department of Tourism and the DeKalb County Community Foundation.

Morel said work included tuckpointing the stone foundation, a new roof, siding, windows and concrete floor, in addition to grading and reseeding grounds around the Mill House.

A formal dedication event is planned this Fall to celebrate completion of the Blacksmith Shop.



Students enjoy local history lesson

Students from Wright Elementary School in Malta toured the Glidden Homestead in May. They watched as board member Amy Polzin (left) demonstrated how barbed wire is made; and listened in fascination as Sarah Glidden DeMink (right) explained what it was like to grow up at the Glidden Homestead. (Photos by Marcia Wilson)

Volunteers always needed at Homestead

Volunteer tour guides and additional members for a variety of working committees are always needed at the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center. If you are interested, please call (815) 756-7904 or email us at gliddenhomestead@juno.com.

Standing committees include: Archival, Buildings & Restoration, Events, Finance, Fund Raising, Gardens & Grounds, Grants, History, Interior Decorating, Membership, Programming, Publicity, and Tours/Docents. *Certain ad hoc committees are formed to accomplish a specific purpose.*

Garden help needed! Our flower beds would benefit from a few "green thumbs." Please call Marcia if you can help, (815) 756-7904.

Homestead wish list for donated items:

Executive director, Marcia Wilson, has put out a call to the membership for donations of the items below. Please call Marcia if you have items you are willing to donate, (815) 756-7904. Thank you!

General & Office needs:

Paper cutter
6 foot step ladder
Pencil sharpener
Window air conditioner for upstairs

Exhibit needs—for developing the new children's area:

Washtub
Wash board
Rope clothesline and old-fashioned clothes pins
Dress up clothes, both boys and girls—the more old-fashioned, the better (suggestions: aprons, gloves, purses, dresses, vests, shirts, canes, hats, etc)
Sturdy, wooden child-size table and chairs/stools

SPOTLIGHT on the Glidden Gift Shop



Lots of new items!

From one-of-a-kind Blacksmith Shop creations to Divas Dish Cookbook CDs, caps, history books, videos and souvenir photo cards, the Glidden Homestead's Gift Shop has a wide variety of unique items.

For more details about Glidden Gift Shop items, go to www.gliddenhomestead.org or visit the Gift Shop at the Homestead!



When the flags are flying out front, it's a sure sign the Homestead is open for an event or tours!

Homestead Calendar

July 11: Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.

July 25: Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m. Blacksmith Shop operating.

Aug. 8: Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.

Aug. 22: Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.

Sept. 12: Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.

Sept. 26: Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.