

THE WINNER



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

*Newsletter of the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead  
& Historical Center – July/August 2011*



921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115  
[www.gliddenhomestead.org](http://www.gliddenhomestead.org)  
Vol. 5 No. 4 - \$2.00

## A welcoming new center awaits at Glidden Homestead



The ribbon was cut May 21 to officially open the new Welcome Center at the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center. On hand were members of the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Club and Glidden Board members. From left, are: Carme Gregory and Jim Allen, DeKalb Chamber; Marcia Wilson, Glidden executive director; Kathy Siebrasse, Steve Johnson, Amy Polzin, Jim Morel, Jeff Marshall, Sarah Glidden DeMink and Richard Glidden, all board members.

For more photos and information see page 2.

## We'd love to keep you on the mailing list....

E-mail or "snail mail" – it's your choice – but in an effort to control our costs, we're examining our mailing list carefully. Please note that this will be the **last newsletter you receive if you are not a paid member** of the Glidden Homestead. If there is an asterisk "\*" by your name on the mailing label, you are a paid member and we THANK YOU! To become a member, please send in the form on the back page. If you would be willing to receive the newsletter electronically, please let Marcia Wilson know by emailing the Glidden Homestead at [info@gliddenhomestead.org](mailto:info@gliddenhomestead.org).

# Open House-Open Barn weekend full of activities

A new central entrance has been created in the Welcome Center at the J.F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center. Grand opening events were held May 21-22, during Open House-Open Barn weekend. The former garage at the Homestead now houses the office, Gift Shop, meeting room, exhibit space and handicapped-accessible bathroom.



Richard Glidden (right) presented a plaque to Jim Morel in recognition of his leadership and hard work to make the Welcome Center become a reality.



A "Members/Volunteers/Donors" recognition event May 21, attracted a good crowd—all enthusiastic about the new Welcome Center and the Gift Shop's new quarters.



Dave "DK" Kolars and Pete Norman performed outside on the back lawn during Open House-Open Barn festivities May 22. Their "Old Time Country & Blues Revue" provided toe-tapping entertainment.



Members of the Land of Lincoln Packard Club arranged a special tour of the Glidden Homestead May 21, displaying their beautiful classic automobiles.



Blacksmith Paul Novorolsky demonstrated this old-time craft for visitors.



Roger Keys, historic preservationist, provided details about the historic Glidden barn during Open House-Open Barn.

## GLIDDEN HOMESTEAD CALENDAR

[Other events will be announced as they are scheduled throughout the year]

**Open TUESDAYS this season, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**July 24:** Homestead tours, noon-4 p.m., with working blacksmith

**Aug. 14:** Homestead tours, noon-4 p.m., with working blacksmith

**Sept. 11 & 25:** Homestead tours, noon-4 p.m., with working blacksmith both dates

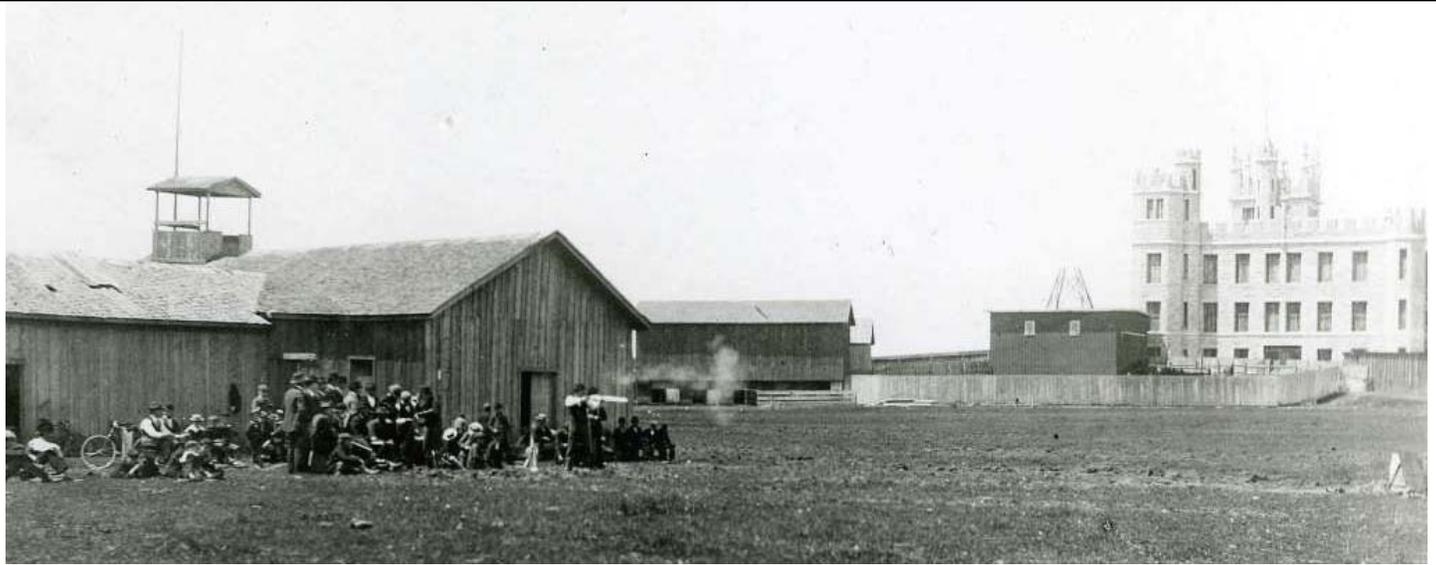
**Oct. 9 & 23:** Homestead tours, noon-4 p.m., with working blacksmith both dates

**Nov. 6:** Patent Day Celebration, noon-4 p.m., with Barbed Wire Sites Tour available at 2 p.m. (fee charged). Watch for more details closer to event; call (815) 756-7904 or visit [www.gliddenhomestead.org](http://www.gliddenhomestead.org).

**Nov. 20:** Glidden Homestead's Annual Holiday Open House & Antique Toy & Doll Show, noon-4 p.m., 921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb. (815) 756-7904 or visit [www.gliddenhomestead.org](http://www.gliddenhomestead.org).

**December-May: Closed for tours.**

**April 21, 2012: Save the date for the 4th Annual Divas Dish for Glidden Homestead, NIU Barsema Alumni & Visitors' Center.** New chefs always welcome. Call (815) 756-7904 or email [gliddenhomestead@juno.com](mailto:gliddenhomestead@juno.com) for more details.



This picture was taken sometime between 1895-1899, looking west. It shows a group of men target shooting on the fairgrounds. The picture shows a clear view of the east side of Altgeld Hall on the right. (Photo obtained and used with permission from the Joiner History Room-Sycamore, IL)

## Barbed wire inspiration began with Rose exhibit at fairgrounds

(Editor's note: This is the last in a series of articles about the DeKalb County Agricultural and Mechanical Society and the contributions of Henry Rose to the invention of barbed wire, compiled by Glidden board member, Jeff J. Marshall.)

The fairgrounds where Joseph Glidden, Jacob Haish and Isaac Ellwood first saw Henry Rose's idea for fencing developed rapidly and was the site of many events.

The fairgrounds included a track, which was host to several bicycle, as well as horse races. In the *DeKalb*

*Chronicle* Saturday, Aug. 11, 1894, it listed the winners of the previous Saturday's races at the fairgrounds. It included among many other events a half-mile bicycle race, five-mile bicycle race, several horse races and a baseball game between DeKalb and Sycamore teams.

In the 1890s, bicycle racing was a formidable rival to horse racing, according to the *DeKalb Chronicle*. One can find prominent advertisement for bicycles in the newspapers of the 1890s including "Garner & Sons" located in the "Glidden House" hotel block in downtown DeKalb.



First Athletic Facility, 1900

This photo, taken in 1900, shows the first athletic field with Altgeld Hall in the background. Notice the "No Shooting on Grounds" sign. Photo from the book *Castle On A Hill* by Glen Gildemeister, 2005.

The photo at left shows an early image of the college's first athletic field where the fairgrounds once were. The photo is taken from about where the south parking lot for NIU's Music Building is now located. Based on this image, most if not all the fairgrounds buildings had been removed by 1900. For many years, "Glidden's field" was an athletic field used by student athletes just east of Altgeld. Note the "No Shooting on Grounds" sign posted on the tree. Glidden's Field was the site of NIU track & field events, as well as football games. Huskie Stadium was constructed in 1965. Today, the original fairgrounds are hard to imagine with all the modern structures that have been constructed at NIU. However, it is still possible to situate yourself in the same vantage points as some of the early images featured throughout this series.

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921 W. Lincoln Hwy.  
DeKalb IL 60115

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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)	<b>\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>

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