

## MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT APPRECIATED!

### PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Glidden Homestead. If your address label has an **ASTERISK (\*)**, you are a member in good standing – thank you! Now more than ever, your membership is critical to the work at the Homestead! For a very reasonable membership rate, you help 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) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Individual Membership  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 Family Membership  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Heritage Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Student Membership  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Youth Membership (high school & below)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other Special Donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED

**IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP / NEWSLETTER NOTICE:** Due to the increasing costs of producing and mailing the Glidden Homestead newsletter "The Winner," only members in good standing will receive the newsletter effective with the July 2008, issue. If your mailing label does NOT contain an asterisk (\*), your dues have not been paid for 2008. Your continued support is MUCH appreciated! Please visit our website for more details about the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center: [www.gliddenhomestead.org](http://www.gliddenhomestead.org).

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

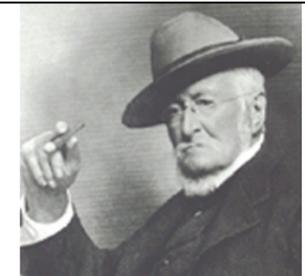
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# THE WINNER



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

Newsletter of the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead  
 & Historical Center – March 2008



921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115  
[www.gliddenhomestead.org](http://www.gliddenhomestead.org)  
 Vol. 2 No. 2 - \$2.00

## Annual open house event features barn tours May 18

The Joseph F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center's Spring Open House, Open Barn on Sunday, May 18, noon-4 p.m., gives visitors their one chance all year to see the inside of the historic barn where barbed wire was invented and first manufactured.

The large brick structure is located on the Homestead property, behind Burger King and next to Glidden Florist, on West Lincoln Highway, DeKalb.

The Open House/Open Barn event also will feature musical entertainment on the porch from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Denny Rehn will display antique tools and implements, tours of the house and grounds will be offered, with refreshments. The Gift Shop will be open that day.

Roger Keys is a historic preservationist who has done much work on the barn and home at the Homestead. He will be on hand during Open House, Open Barn to describe the barn and its historical significance.

The barn is perhaps the most historically significant barn in the country, according to Keys, because it is where Joseph Glidden invented and manufactured the first practical barbed wire. The house was completed around 1861, and the brick barn was built between 1861-1871. Glidden's first barbed wire manufacturing office was located in the southeast corner of the barn.

Architecturally, the Glidden barn also is very significant. It is one of the oldest barns left standing in DeKalb County. It reflects the German tradition and is built of local bricks with transverse frame, post and beam construction. The foundation is made of locally-quarried limestone. There were 14 eight-paned double-hung windows and 7 single-pane windows for luxurious livestock lodging. Originally, there were 2 large arched entrances, 7 stalls, a large haymow, gable, hayhood and a dirt or wooden plank floor.

Everyone is welcome to attend Open House/Open Barn Sunday, May 18!



Roger Keys points out the solid workmanship inside the Glidden barn. (Photos by Kathy Vance Siebrasse)



Denny Rehn will display his antique tools and implements at Open House/Open Barn.

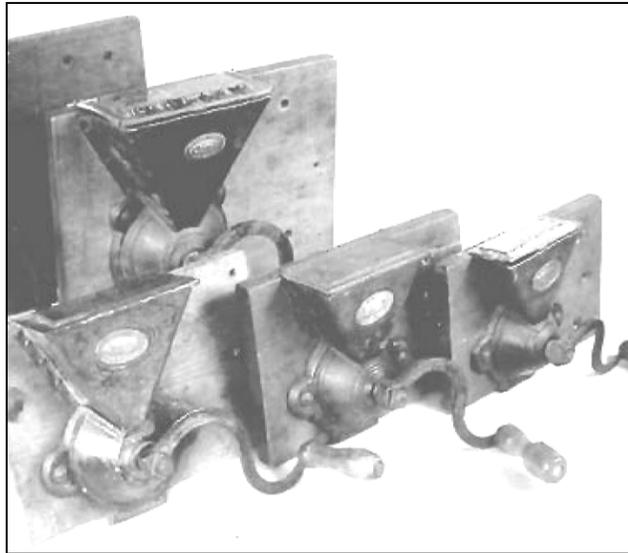
Take advantage of this once-a-year opportunity to see the inside of the DeKalb barn where Joseph F. Glidden first manufactured "The Winner" barbed wire.

Music on the Porch will be featured again this year on the third Sunday May-September. If you know of musicians interested in playing, please call Gayle, (815) 899-3237.



### Inside:

- ☞ Coffee mill
- ☞ Victorian Christmas
- ☞ Chase Glidden letters from Yukon
- ☞ Glidden Gift Shop
- ☞ Calendar of events

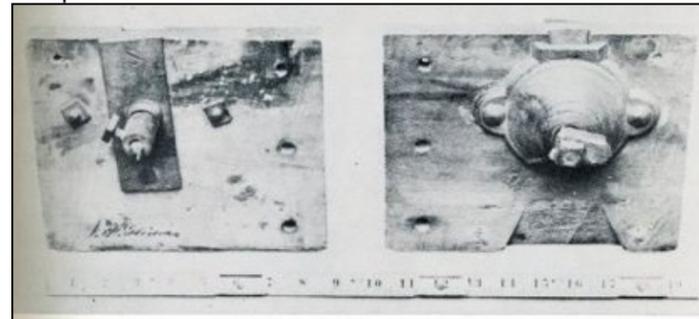


The Association of Coffee Mill Enthusiasts supplied this photo of various sizes of Increase Wilson side mills from Mike White's book, *Antique Coffee Grinders*. Side mills were the earliest types of coffee mills in the U.S. They were common in the first half of the 1800s and beyond. The mill Joseph Glidden used (see right photo) was modified to fit his needs.

## Coffee mill played key role

In researching the type of coffee mill used by Joseph Glidden and his blacksmith friend Phineas Vaughan to fashion barbs for Joseph's barbed wire invention, Glidden Homestead board member, Jeff Marshall, discovered a group called the Association of Coffee Mill Enthusiasts.

Members of ACME told Marshall the mill Glidden used apparently was modified by removing the metal cone that fed coffee beans into the grinder and the back side was reinforced with an extra metal bracket. The shaft of the grinder also was modified. They also noted that the photo on the right side below shows the mill upside down because the V-groove should be at the top.



Two views of the famous coffee mill used by Joseph F. Glidden in 1874, to form barbs for the first Glidden barbed wire fencing. Members of ACME believe it was an Increase Wilson or Parker brand. (Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution)

## Homestead seeks Victorian ornaments

The Homestead is in search of Victorian era Christmas ornaments for its seasonal display.

We would welcome your donation of 1860-1880's era ornaments to be used permanently.

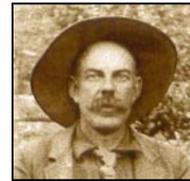
We would otherwise welcome use of your Victorian era ornaments to be used during our holiday displays and then returned.



Contact us at (815) 756-7904 or email (gliddenhomestead@juno.com) if you are willing to help us create a more authentic Christmas display.

## Chase Glidden: Letters from the Yukon

Dawson, YT, March 29, 1899



### Dear ones at home

Your letters of Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and Jan 8<sup>th</sup> just rec'd which are the first to (gat?) since you wrote at Coleta. And to say that I was pleased does not half express the joy that it gave me to read the letters from each one of you telling me that you were all well and happy. I thank each one of you for your personal letters and I can see redily that each one of you are improving in your writing and your composition is good which pleases me much which is a guarantee to one that you are all trying to improve the opertunity you have of obtaining an education.

This is a beautiful morning thermometer registers zero. The sun is shining bright over the snow caped hills and to one that is not accustomed to seeing the mountains of the north, with their glaciers sparkling, the sunlight throwing out every color imaginable, is a wonderful sight for one to amagin, the beauties of nature art is not to be compared to an eye winess. It is trying on the eyesight and will be for a month or so until the snow will be mostly gone.

I expect you are beginning to have pleasant days now and a warning that summer will soon be with you once more. And I think perhaps I could enjoy a little of the heat were I there yet we have some quite warm days here.

I have quite enjoyed the winter in many respects and my health is good much better at the present time than any time before, have a splendid appetite and weigh more than I did in early part of winter.

We have been prospecting most of the time since cold weather set in and have been living in tents a part of the time while out on the hills. When the thermometer registered 48 below and we would think in the states that would be impossible to stand. And yet we would throw down a few bows on top of the snow to put our blankets on and sleep quite comfortable. During the night we might have to pull our nose under the blankets and the most extreme weather would have to keep a fire.

Turn to page 3

## Chase E. Glidden: Letters from the Yukon

From page 2

We are now making arrangements for our summer work on Bonanza Creek. Hauling lumber for our sluice boxes and provisions. For as soon as the snow is gone the trails are so bad that all freight has to be taken on pack animals and those that can't afford a pack horse have to pack on their own backs and that hurts.

I have four of my dogs yet two died in the early part of the winter with lung fever. I felt very bad to see them have to go as one soon learns in the Klondike to know that a dog is the best friend that one has, as they would starve before they would leave you if you needed their protection. And the loads we haul would surprise you.

I will enclose a few pictures showing the dogs with their loads as well as some others and as the name is printed on each one you will know their meaning. You will notice one where we are cleaning up the gold from our sluice boxes after our day of work on Bonanza. And this is where we will be located for the summer. Will try to send you some more later but we are all so busy most of the time we can't get a chance to develop what we have.

You mention some of your entertainments you are having and the parts you are taking. I think Josie, Nan and Chase must be stars. And they must keep up their practice so they can do the cake walk and the brownie part so to entertain me on my return. Would like to write each one of you a personal letter in return, but as my time is limited you will please to accept this as a letter to all.

The entertainments here are like those of other mining towns which help to keep the town lively but there is so much of a sameness that is hardly worth mentioning.

I rec'd a very nice letter from Uncle Wemrps telleing me that he had my territory in Iowa. Was quite surprised as well as pleased to learn that that there is a possibility of their living near us as we would enjoy having Aunt Mery where we could visit her often. The mail leaves here Saturday and it will be the last mail that will leave here until the boats commence to run. So you will not need to look for another letter before June.

Your school is letting out for the Summer vacation early this season. And no doubt but what you are pleased. Am in hopes to be able to come out before your school commences in the fall. But can't tell now just when can come but will come as early as possible.

Meantime you will try to enjoy yourselves and be happy and kind to each other and not forget the little thought that you should always help in mind that refinement is necessary at all times to make ladies of yourselves so please gard yourselves and not get boisterous or use any slang words. I write this for I know how easy it is to get into these habits and I am sure if you always keep in mind your manner teachings you will be what I wish of you.

I am pleased to know Winnie that you are taking French lessons also Ruth as it may be of value in years to come and .....Josie is attention to her music, shall try to have you take music on my return. Also Chase.

You can tell Mrs Rettig that Connie Huntly visits me quite often, his wife is expecting to visit his folks in DeKalb this spring and he has wrote her to call on Josie which I hope she will do.

Now that I have wrote all that is necessary to give you an idea of what I am doing will close by asking you all to be kind and loving to each other so that in after years you can look back on your childhood days and think how happy you were all together for it will only be a few short years before you are drifted apart and the memory of a pleasant childhood means a great deal. After one is separated from sisters and brother whom we so much love.

Now with much love and many kisses, hoping to see you in the near future well and harty. I am your most loving papa in far away Alaska.

**Chase E. Glidden**  
Dawson Y.T. Alaska Lock Box 23  
Adress all mail via Victoria B.C.

PS You will see me in two of the pictures with my Klondike suit on and Winifred you must read the letter aloud to Nan and Chase so they may know it is for all. Josie of course can read for herself if she wishes. Ha ha (C) XXXX These kisses are for all.

## SPOTLIGHT on the Glidden Gift Shop



Glidden cap  
**\$12 includes tax**  
Complete with barbed wire artwork and the Glidden Homestead patch.

For more details about this and other Glidden Gift Shop items, see: [www.gliddenhomestead.org](http://www.gliddenhomestead.org)

## Homestead Calendar



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

## Homestead Events

- May 18:** Open House/Open Barn, noon-4 p.m., with Music on the Porch
- June 1:** Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.
- June 15:** Glidden Homestead open for tours and "Music on the Porch."
- July 6:** Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m. Special children's activities for Passport to Adventure.
- July 20:** Glidden Homestead open for tours and "Music on the Porch."
- Aug. 3:** Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m. Special children's activities for Passport to Adventure.
- Aug. 17:** Glidden Homestead open for tours and "Music on the Porch."
- Sept. 7:** Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.
- Sept. 21:** Glidden Homestead open for tours and 2008 season of "Music on the Porch" ends.
- Oct. 5:** Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.
- Oct. 19:** Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.
- Nov. 13:** Annual Patent Day Dinner
- Dec. 7:** Annual Holiday Open House & Antique Toy & Doll Show

**\*\*NEEDED: Musicians interested in playing for Sunday events in 2008. Please call Gayle, (815) 899-3237.**

## National Events

- April 17-19:** Barbed Wire Show, Devil's Rope Museum, McLean, TX
- May 1-3:** Super Show! Kansas Barbed Wire Collectors' Assoc., LaCrosse, KS
- June 13-14:** Northern Rocky Mountain Barbed Wire Collectors, Inc., Buffalo, WY
- July 19-20:** Nebraska Barbed Wire Collectors Assoc., Waverly, NE
- Aug. 15-16:** Hawkeye Barbed Wire Collectors Assoc., Red Oak, IA
- Sept. 19-20:** Colorado Wire Collectors Assoc., Walsenburg, CO
- Oct. 2-4:** The Symposium, LaCrosse, KS [For more information, visit [www.antiquebarbedwiresociety.com](http://www.antiquebarbedwiresociety.com)]