

# THE WINNER



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

*Newsletter of the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead  
& Historical Center - May 2011*



921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115  
[www.gliddenhomestead.org](http://www.gliddenhomestead.org)  
Vol. 5 No. 3 - \$2.00

## Visit new Welcome Center at Open House-Open Barn May 22



A new central entrance has been created in the Welcome Center at the J.F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center. Grand opening is scheduled May 22, during Open House-Open Barn. The former garage now houses the office, Gift Shop, meeting room, exhibit space and handicapped-accessible bathroom. Pictured above working on the project are Phil and Wes Bennett.

### *Members: Watch your mailboxes!*

Members in good standing will receive a special invitation to a Preview Party to celebrate the opening of the Homestead's new Welcome Center Saturday, May 21, 5-7 p.m. It will feature refreshments and hors d'oeuvres.

There's still time to join or renew your membership using the form on the back page in order to insure your invitation!

The long-anticipated opening of the new Welcome Center at the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center will be an important part of the annual Spring Open House-Open Barn on Sunday, May 22, noon-4 p.m.

Traditionally, the day gives 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 barn is located on the Homestead property at 921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, behind Burger King and next to Glidden Florist.

The Blacksmith Shop will be open and operating that day, and the event also will feature musical entertainment on the back lawn. The entertainment is made possible with the help of a grant from the Mary E. Stevens Concert and Lecture Fund.

Roger Keys is a historic preservationist who has done much work on the barn and house at the Homestead. He will help give tours May 22.

The barn is perhaps the most historically significant in the country, according to Keys, because it is where Glidden invented and manufactured the first practical barbed wire.

The house was completed around 1861, and the brick barn was built between 1861-71. Glidden's first barbed wire manufacturing office was located in the southeast corner of the barn.

More than 100 people visited the Homestead at last year's Open House-Open Barn, many for the first time. The Homestead was the first site in DeKalb named to the National Register of Historic Places

Everyone is welcome to visit the Homestead this season. Admission is \$4 for ages 14 and older; under age 14, free. Members are admitted free and memberships play a key role in the organization's preservation efforts.

## Hours expanded: volunteer orientation slated May 18

Volunteer tour guides and other volunteers are always needed at the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center. We're expanding our hours to be open every Tuesday (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) and also the second and fourth Sundays of the month (noon-4 p.m.) and could use your help! If you are interested and could donate some time this season, please RSVP to attend the **orientation session planned Wednesday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m.** Call (815) 756-7904 or email us at [gliddenhomestead@juno.com](mailto:gliddenhomestead@juno.com). Orientation will last between 1-1.5 hours and will include information about the history of the Homestead and plans for future development of the museum and education center. In addition to docents, help is needed with gardening, building maintenance, special events, fund-raising, general office, and for the furnishings and other committees.

## Divas dish up delicious delights to benefit Homestead



Megan Acardo with husband, John, as helper served her mother's German Potato Salad.

More photos at [www.gliddenhomestead.org](http://www.gliddenhomestead.org)



Jen Clawson & Kristin Anderson with their beautiful and tasty decorated cake.

Thirty-five "celebrity" women chefs shared family recipes with about 300 attendees at the 3rd annual Divas Dish fund-raising event April 9, at NIU's Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center. Delicious food, raffles, bake sale and a silent auction all helped raise more than \$10,000 for restoration and development of the museum.



Diners enjoyed the delicious taste treats while relaxing in the Grand Hall at NIU's Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center.



Janet Glidden's pork and sauerkraut dish was a crowd-pleaser.



Glidden board president, Svetlana Henrikson, welcomes Divas Dish attendees.

## GLIDDEN HOMESTEAD CALENDAR

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

**May 21: Members/Volunteers Appreciation Event, by invitation only.** There's still time to become a member for your personal invitation! Please use the form on the back page.

**May 22:** Open House/Open Barn, noon-4 p.m., with musical entertainment, working Blacksmith Shop, house and barn tours.

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

**June 12 & 26:** Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.

**July 10 & 24:** Homestead tours, noon-4 p.m.

**Aug. 14 & 28:** Homestead tours, noon-4 p.m.

**Sept. 11 & 25:** Homestead tours, noon-4 p.m.

**Oct. 9 & 23:** Homestead tours, noon-4 p.m.

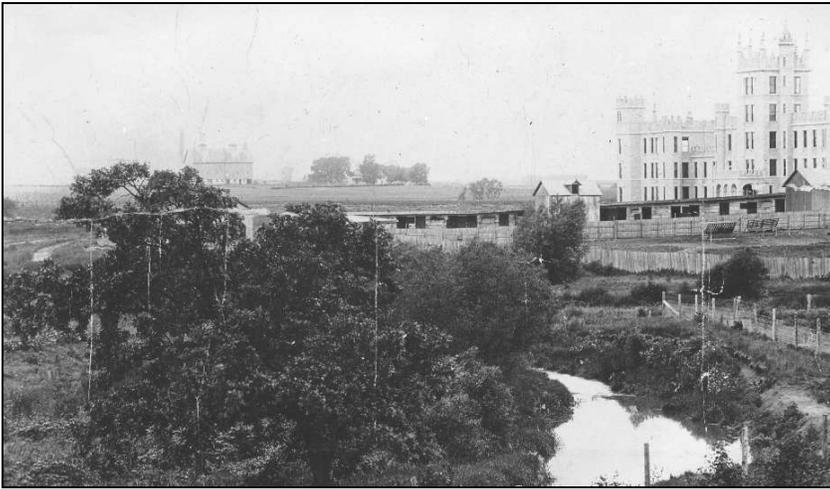
**Nov. 6:** Patent Day Celebration, noon-4 p.m., with Barbed Wire Sites Tour available at 2 p.m. (fee charged). Watch for more details closer to event; call (815) 756-7904 or visit [www.gliddenhomestead.org](http://www.gliddenhomestead.org).

**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.

## Barbed wire inspiration began with Rose exhibit at DeKalb fairgrounds

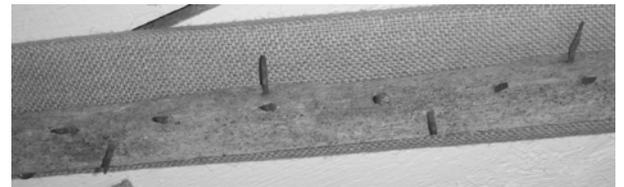


This photo taken in the late 1890s shows the Kishwaukee River in foreground, fairgrounds in the middle and looking west/northwest toward Altgeld Hall. Notice the large barn in distance which is probably a farmstead located near the intersection of Annie Glidden Road and Lucinda Avenue. (Photo obtained and used with permission from the Joiner History Room-Sycamore, IL)

**(Editor's note: This is the second 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 grounds where Joseph Glidden, Jacob Haish and Isaac Ellwood first saw Henry Rose's idea for fencing developed and were host to many events after the 1870s.

According to *Past and Present of DeKalb County*, "...occurred the tragic death of Michael McMann. He was assisting Professor Donnelson, who was making a balloon ascension. The balloon was inflated and the order given to let go, when in some way McMann was caught by the rope and drawn up by the leg. The onlookers were fascinated as well as horrified by the sight; when up many hundred feet, by what seemed an almost wonderful act, he pulled himself up to the basket, but only for a moment, when his hold relaxed and he came down to the ground, making several revolutions in this descent and striking on his head and shoulders. Almost every bone in his body was broken." The exact date of this accident is not known.



This is an actual sample of Henry Rose's fence attachment on display at Ellwood House Museum. The sample is over four feet long. (Photo by Jeff J. Marshall, 2010)

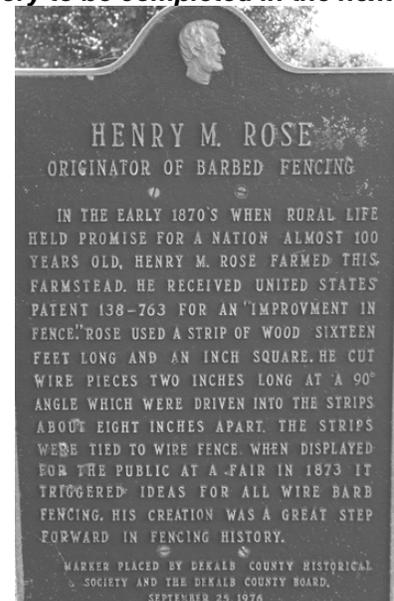
There were two other fairs held independently in DeKalb County in the late 1800s, including one located in Sycamore and the most famous fair in the county, the Sandwich Fair. Each of these three independent fairs had their ups and downs in development and were disbanded and then re-organized many times.

However, at some point in the late 1800s it was determined the county could not sustain three fairs and only one remains, the Sandwich Fair. All of the property of the once DeKalb Fair has been used for the development of Northern Illinois University.

**[Story to be completed in the next issue]**



A special plaque (right) can still be seen recognizing Henry Rose's efforts in front of his then-Homestead, just north of present day Waterman. (Photos by Jeff J. Marshall, 2010)



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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.<br>hardbound Glidden Genealogy set) | \$_____ <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>                    |

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