

**We're happy to present this condensed version of the Annual Report distributed at the Homestead's Annual Meeting in January.**

#### **A Message from the President: Kathy Vance Siebrasse**

The coming year will see new goals and plans, as our dedicated Board and active membership base continue to fulfill the plans developed in the past.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President in 2008. Positive steps in restoration and preservation at the Homestead have continued while we have expanded our public outreach.

Our Board members and Committee members continue to give many hours of their talented time to our projects. We are thankful for their dedication.

#### **Fund-raising efforts**

We continue our ambitious \$2 million fund-raising program, under the direction of Past President Jim Morel and President Kathy Vance Siebrasse, with the help of Board members and the community at-large. The first objective of the program is the purchase of the adjacent property which presently houses the Glidden Florist business owned and operated by the Hansen family. Glidden Florist will continue to operate under its current lease which continues until 2010. The Homestead can exercise its option to purchase through Jan. 1, 2010. Raising the money for this purchase is our most important priority at this time. The public's involvement in our fund-raising activities is vital and is invited.

The acquisition of this property will present the Homestead as a unified cultural destination in the community. It will provide the Homestead with a strong public, presence complete with a Welcome Center and expanded parking.

#### **Gifts and Grants**

In addition to memberships and special donations received during 2008, we received a \$16,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Tourism. The grant will go a long way toward helping the Homestead create a working Blacksmith Shop in the former Mill House on the property. DeKalb's Tegrant-Alloyd Brands Corporation donated \$500 to support the capital campaign and restoration efforts at the Homestead.

#### **Exterior**

There were a variety of ambitious workdays this year, with the help of many community volunteers who accomplished maintenance projects. Major storms in 2008 cost the Homestead 3 trees in the front yard. The roof also was repaired following major storm damage in June.

#### **Interior**

Work has continued to restore many areas of the Glidden house interior, with an emphasis on furnishings in the East and West parlors. In the fall, a college student served his internship at the Homestead, helping expand and update educational displays.

#### **Gift Shop**

The Gift Shop continues to expand its offerings and grow in popularity. Items are displayed in a special case at the Glidden Homestead. Our website features a Gift Shop link and has helped increase sales. Coordinated by Board members Jeff Marshall and Kathy Vance Siebrasse, the Gift Shop has continued to expand its selection of one-of-a-kind items featuring the Glidden Homestead and barbed wire.



*This patch is available for \$4 in the Glidden Gift Shop.*

#### **Public Exposure & Programming**

Popular musical programming this year dramatically increased the number of visitors to the Homestead. "Music on the Porch" was featured the third Sunday each month. The Homestead continued to be open to the public on the first and third Sundays, noon-4 p.m., May-November. Coordinated by board vice president, Gayle Wuori, "Music on the Porch" featured a variety of community groups displaying their musical talents.

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We are members of the Historic Homes Coalition, an organization that promotes tourism to house museums in Illinois. We are linked to HHI's website, featuring driving tours throughout the state and much more information. Our regular member newsletter, *The Winner*, continued to expand the variety of articles and photos featured in 2008. An electronic version is available via e-mail for members who request it. In addition, back issues of *The Winner* are now available to print off our website:

[www.gliddenhomestead.org](http://www.gliddenhomestead.org)

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The Homestead continues to participate with other museums of DeKalb County in a joint program entitled "Passport to Adventure." This program provides incentives to elementary children to learn about their local history. The Glidden Homestead hosted two "Passport" tour days in 2008, coordinated by Sarah Glidden DeMink, who created a Scavenger Hunt for children and their parents. They looked for informational clues throughout their visits, and enjoyed making old-time crafts and playing old-time games.



**Jen Jencks Conley performed songs popular in the 1860s-1870s, as part of the Homestead's Annual Meeting in January, 2009.**

Other programming included our traditional **Open House-Open Barn, in May**. The Homestead hosted a fund-raising event in October to premiere Jim Barker's DVD "Historic Homes of DeKalb County." The event was held at Sycamore State Street Theatre, which generously donated use of the facility. The evening included hors d'oeuvres and a wine tasting prior to the movie. It raised about \$1,300 for the Homestead.



**Jennie Marshall Cummings worked with members of the DHS Key Club on a successful membership drive by phone.**

#### **Membership**

Under the leadership of Membership Committee chair, Jennie Marshall Cummings, our paid membership reached its highest level in nearly five years, at 198. In the Spring, Cummings worked several evenings with members of the DeKalb High School Key Club on a successful phone membership drive. Memberships include a combination of single, family, student and "Heritage" classifications. In addition, a new membership level was added this year—Genealogical—which entitles members to a 2-volume Glidden Genealogy set as part of their \$175 donation.

#### **Board News**

The Board continues to plan for the future. We have held informal planning sessions this year to set priorities and goals. The election of officers and new board members took place at the Annual Meeting in January, 2009. The following people serve on the Homestead Board:

#### **Officers for 2009**

President: Kathy Vance Siebrasse  
Vice-President: Gayle Wuori  
Treasurer: Kenda Jeske  
Secretary: Sarah Glidden DeMink  
Past President: Jim Morel

#### **Ongoing Members**

Richard Glidden, Steven K. Johnson, Jeff J. Marshall, Amy Polzin, Barry Schrader, Linda Schwarz

#### **New Members elected January 2009**

Kim Goyke, Mark Pietrowski, Marylou Smith

#### **Current Committees**

Your involvement is important to our organization in getting things done. Please help us toward our goals by getting involved yourself and encouraging others to do so.

#### **Our standing committees are:**

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



**An appreciative crowd listened to "Music on the Porch" as part of the 2008 Open House-Open Barn at the Glidden Homestead. This year's Open House-Open Barn is Sunday, May 17, noon-4 p.m.**

## **Open House-Open Barn May 17**

The Joseph F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center's Spring Open House-Open Barn is Sunday, May 17, noon-4 p.m. It 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.

Open House-Open Barn also will feature musical entertainment on the porch from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Other events and displays will be featured, while tours of the house and grounds will be offered. 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. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **Homestead Calendar**

**May 17:** Open House/Open Barn, noon-4 p.m., with "Music on the Porch" at 1:30 p.m.

**June 7:** Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.

**June 13-14:** Uncle Joe's Country Faire at the Homestead, featuring crafts, exhibits, music, food and more.

**July 5 and 19:** Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.

**Aug. 2 and 16:** Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.

**Sept. 6:** Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.

**Sept. 20:** Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m., with "Music on the Porch" at 1:30 p.m.

**Oct. 4 and 18:** Glidden Homestead open for tours, noon-4 p.m.

**Nov. 22:** Annual Holiday Open House & Antique Toy & Doll Show

*[Note: musical events at the Homestead are made possible in part by the Mary E. Stevens Lecture Fund]*

## **National Events**

**April 16-18:** Super Show, Devil's Rope Museum, Shamrock, TX

**May 1-2:** Kansas Barbed Wire Collectors' Association, LaCrosse, KS

**June 12-13:** Northern Rocky Mountain Barbed Wire Collectors, Inc., Logan, UT

**July 17-18:** New Mexico Barbed Wire Collectors Assoc., Raton, NM

**July 18-19:** Nebraska Barbed Wire Collectors Assoc., Waverly, NE

**Sept. 17-19:** Colorado Wire Collectors Assoc., Walsenburg, CO

**Oct. 8-10:** The Symposium, LaCrosse, KS

[For more information, visit [www.antiquebarbedwiresociety.com](http://www.antiquebarbedwiresociety.com)]