

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 2010



921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115
www.gliddenhomestead.org
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Divas dish up delicious family recipes April 17

The second annual "Divas Dish Grandma' Secret Recipes" fund-raising and taste-testing event to benefit The Joseph F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center is Saturday, April 17. Everyone is welcome.

Building on the success of the first such event in 2009, this year's "Divas Dish" will feature nearly 40 women from DeKalb County and beyond dishing up tried and true family recipes from 6-9 p.m., at NIU's Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center, DeKalb.

Did you know a woman's beauty aid was the inspiration behind Joseph Glidden's barbed wire?

What better way to acknowledge the feminine contribution to DeKalb's famous 19th Century invention than with "Divas Dish?" In the winter of 1872-73, Joseph's wife, Lucinda, realized that her large wire hairpins were disappearing from a milk glass on her dresser.

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Divas Dish: delicious social event to benefit Glidden Homestead

From front page

At first she thought her daughter, Elva, was taking them; but that was not the case. One evening after supper Lucinda noticed Joseph reach into his shirt pocket and take out two of her missing hairpins. When she asked what he was doing with them, he replied he was working on an idea for a fence.

This story is told on the Glidden Homestead website, www.gliddenhomestead.org. Joseph continued experimenting with the hairpins, and on Nov. 24, 1874, was granted a patent for "The Winner." It would become the most widely used barbed wire in frontier America.

Ticket for Divas Dish are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door. To order tickets, email GliddenHomestead@juno.com or call (815) 756-7904. They also are available from Glidden Homestead board members, Divas Dish chefs, at the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce and Castle Bank.

The Glidden Homestead also is collecting recipes for a CD recipe book to be sold at the event. Recipes for appetizers, salad, bread, soup, side dishes, entrees and desserts should be e-mailed to Bridget Carlson at Castle Bank, bcarlson@castlebank.com, by March 26.

Homestead featured in book

We received an email letter from Aaron Crowder of St. Paul, MN, informing us he had read Brian D'Ambrosio's new book, "Destination America: 50 Sites, 50 Stories," in which the Glidden Homestead is featured. He said he loved the article about our dedication to the Glidden barb wire and Homestead. "The Glidden and barb wire article was great and it is nice to know people are taking care of these great sites. Thanks for doing what you do. I knew nothing about Glidden the man before the book and I will now make it a point to visit when in northern Illinois," Crowder wrote.

D'Ambrosio gathered information last year from Glidden family members and other sources. The Homestead is working with the author to arrange for sale of the book in the Glidden Homestead Gift Shop.



From left: Jim Morel, past president; Svetlana Henrikson, vice president; Marcia Wilson, executive director; and Kathy Vance Siebrasse, president.

Glidden Homestead hires executive director

Marcia Wilson began her job as part-time executive director at the Glidden Homestead & Historical Center the first week of January. Her hiring was formally announced by board president, Kathy Vance Siebrasse, at the Glidden Homestead's annual meeting Jan. 25.

"We're delighted that Marcia has become the first-ever paid executive director at the museum. She brings a wealth of experience and a dedication to the preservation of history that is critical to accomplishing our goals for the Homestead," said Siebrasse.

The not-for-profit organization was established in 1998, to preserve the site where Joseph Glidden invented and manufactured "The Winner" barbed wire, for which he received a patent on Nov. 24, 1874.

Wilson most recently served as coordinator of marketing and guest relations for Sycamore's Midwest Museum of Natural History. She also runs a home-based desktop publishing business and is editor of *CornSilk*, the quarterly magazine of the DeKalb County Historical-Genealogical Society.

"I am very pleased to be working with the hard-working Homestead board and look forward to providing extended hours for the public during our open season, May- November," said Wilson.

"The board and I will be working on educational exhibits, programs and operational enhancements, as well as fund-raising and volunteer recruitment to help reach those goals."

Wilson, originally from Leland, is a long-time Sycamore resident. She serves on the board of the North Grove School Association and is a volunteer at the Joiner History Room and Sycamore History Museum.

Siebrasse said Wilson will work with the Glidden board of directors to take the Homestead museum to the next level; while continuing to restore and preserve one of DeKalb's true historic gems.

"Marcia will be able to help us secure grants and other funding vital to continuing our work, as well as focus on expanding our membership base and improving educational displays at the site," said Siebrasse.

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

With a dedicated Board of Directors and an active and expanding membership base, the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead & Historical Center continues to set new goals and plans, as we continue to fulfill the plans developed in the past.

Most exciting to report is the hiring of Marcia Wilson to serve as our first paid Executive Director. Marcia will work part-time hours under the direction of the entire Board and will dedicate herself to taking the Glidden Homestead to the next level as an important historical museum site and visitor destination in DeKalb.

It was a pleasure to serve as your President in 2009, and to be able to continue that work in 2010. Positive steps in restoration and preservation at the Homestead have continued while we have expanded our public outreach.

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

The following report will give you some insight into our activities and accomplishments during the last year.

Thank you for your support of the Glidden Homestead!

-Kathy Vance Siebrasse

Fund-raising continues

Fund-raising continues to be an ongoing concern, and 2009 proved to be among the Homestead's best years to date, thanks to a major fund-raising event and additional programming offered by the Homestead.



The first-ever **"Divas Dish Grandma's Secret Recipes"** was a smashing success in April, 2009, earning about \$10,000 in support of the Homestead's mission. We will continue to build on the success of that culinary event by offering the Second Annual "Divas Dish" on Saturday, April 17, 2010. Community women donate their time and talents to serve up tasty treats created from family recipes. A major objective of our fund-raising efforts is the eventual purchase of the adjacent property which presently houses Glidden Florist. The Homestead's goal is to raise the necessary funds within the next 5 years.

The acquisition of this property will give the Homestead a unified campus with which to further develop into "the" cultural destination in the community. It will provide the Homestead with a strong public presence complete with a Welcome Center and expanded parking.

Inside the Welcome Center we will be able to provide an orientation area, restrooms, gift shop, library, an air-conditioned archival workshop, offices, meeting rooms, and the special public interest areas of the Innovation Center and Gallery of "Icons in Time."

Gifts and Grants

Work continued on the Blacksmith Shop in the former Mill House on the property in 2009, thanks to a \$16,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Tourism. The grant has gone a long way toward helping the Homestead create a working Blacksmith Shop under the direction of Past President, Jim Morel, and a hard-working, mostly-volunteer construction crew.

In addition, the DeKalb County Community Foundation awarded the Homestead \$5,535 to help with the Blacksmith Shop. A Grand Opening celebration of the Blacksmith Shop is being planned in conjunction with the annual "Open House, Open Barn" in May, 2010.

A generous grant of \$500 from the Mary E. Stevens Concert & Lecture Series helped sponsor "Music on the Porch" and other programming at the Homestead.

Exterior

There were a variety of ambitious workdays this year, with the help of community volunteers who accomplished maintenance projects on the grounds and in the buildings.

Interior

Work has continued to restore many areas of the Glidden house interior, with an emphasis on furnishings in the East and West parlors. We continue to work to find ways to expand and update the Homestead's educational displays.

Gift Shop

The Gift Shop continues to grow in popularity and expand its offerings of one-of-a-kind items featuring the Homestead and barbed wire. Items are in a special display case on the ground level of the Glidden Homestead and are detailed on the Homestead's website.

Public Exposure and Outreach

Different community organizations hosted meetings at the Homestead in 2009. Special tours of the Homestead also were provided, including to third graders from Wright Elementary School in May, and to nearly 60 Ohio beef farmers in August. These tours allow us to further educate the public about the Glidden Homestead and its mission.

Our website at **GliddenHomestead.org** continues to be improved and expanded with efforts from President Siebrasse and other board members who contribute to and help maintain the site. We are constantly contacted by students from throughout Illinois and the country doing projects on barbed wire, who first learn about us from our website.

We are members of many local and state historic organizations, including the Historic Homes Coalition, an organization oriented to promoting tourism to house/homestead type museums in Illinois. We are linked to HHI's website, which features driving tours to member museums in various regions of the state.

Our regular member newsletter, *The Winner*, continued to expand the variety of articles and photos featured in 2009. In addition to carrying items about events at the Homestead, it includes educational stories about those who have impacted our history. *The Winner* is published every two months and is provided as a part of paid membership. Back issues are available to print off our website: www.gliddenhomestead.org.



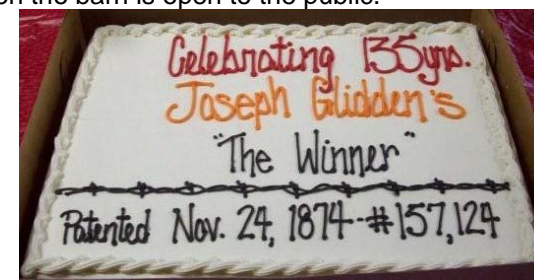
Barry Schrader and Cheryl Johnson portrayed Joseph Glidden and his niece, Annie Glidden, as part of June's Uncle Joe's Country Faire.

Public Programming

In addition to the new **"Divas Dish"** culinary fund-raiser, another new event was introduced in 2009. **Uncle Joe's Country Faire** was held June 13, at DeKalb's Hopkins Park Shelter House. It featured an afternoon and evening full of exhibits and events—from games for children to quilting, woodworking, blacksmithing, music, a barbecue and square dancing. On June 14, about 25 Glidden family members from throughout the U.S. attended a reunion at the Homestead as part of the event.

"Music on the Porch" continued during some of our Sunday tour dates. The Homestead continued to be open to the public on the first and third Sundays, noon-4 p.m., May-November. "Music on the Porch" featured a variety of community groups displaying their musical talents.

Other programming included our traditional Spring Opening in May, called **Open House-Open Barn**, the one event during the year when the barn is open to the public.



In November, the 135th Anniversary of the granting of the patent for Joseph Glidden's "The Winner" was observed (Nov. 1874) with activities at the Homestead and a special bus tour around DeKalb of "Barbed Wire Sites."

Also in November, the Antique Toy/Doll Show attracted an enthusiastic crowd to the Holiday Open House.

Membership

Under the leadership of Membership Committee chair, Jennie Marshall Cummings, our membership continued to make gains.

Membership levels include single, family, student and "Heritage" classifications. The Genealogical Membership entitles members to a 2-volume Glidden Genealogy set as part of their \$175 donation.

We continue to seek local volunteers who are eager to promote the Glidden Homestead on a local, regional and national basis to people of all ages.

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 will occur at the Annual Meeting in January, 2010.

The following people currently serve on the Homestead Board:

Board of Directors 2009

President:	Kathy Vance Siebrasse
Vice-President:	Svetlana Henrikson
Treasurer:	Kenda Jeske
Secretary:	Sarah DeMink
Past President:	Jim Morel

Ongoing Members

Bridget Carlson	Mark Pietrowski
Richard Glidden	Amy Polzin
Steven K. Johnson	Linda Schwarz
Jeff J. Marshall	Marylou Smith

Current Committees

Strengthening our committees and participation remains a high priority. Your involvement is important to our organization in getting things done. Please help us toward our goals by getting involved yourself and encouraging other people to do so.

Our standing committees are:

Archival, Buildings and 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.*

A Look to the Future

Endless possibilities exist for expansion of the Glidden Homestead's educational mission in the northern Illinois region, especially with the addition of our new Executive Director. The board looks forward to working with Marcia Wilson on priorities such as fund-raising, use of the site, educational programming, publicity/public image and membership/volunteer development.

"Divas Dish Grandma's Secret Recipes" will become the major annual fund-raising event to benefit the Glidden Homestead. In addition, we anticipate again offering **"Uncle Joe's Country Faire,"** as well as other popular events throughout the year.

Fund-raising and long-term planning for the Homestead are still major priorities. Provisions for our capital and program development continue to be considered in conjunction with fund-raising programs.