

# MEMBERSHIPS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER!

## PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

All Glidden Homestead memberships expired in December, so if you have not renewed and your mailing label DOES NOT have an asterisk, your membership has expired.

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 "The Winner" newsletter throughout the year.

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS TO:** Glidden Homestead (Mail to 921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

_____ \$25 Individual Membership	_____ \$15 Student Membership
_____ \$40 Family Membership	_____ \$5 Youth Membership (high school & below)
_____ \$100 Heritage Membership	_____ Other Special Donation
\$ _____ <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	

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

### Joseph F. Glidden Homestead & Historical Center

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DeKalb IL 60115

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# THE WINNER



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

**Quarterly Newsletter of the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead  
& Historical Center – May 2007**



921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb IL 60115  
[www.gliddenhomestead.org](http://www.gliddenhomestead.org)  
Vol. 1 No. 2 - \$2.00

## "Open House, Open Barn" slated May 20 at Homestead

Your one chance all year to see the inside of Joseph F. Glidden's historic barn is Sunday, May 20, during the annual "Open House, Open Barn."

The barn is where Glidden invented and first manufactured his 1874 patented "The Winner," one of the most widely-used types of barbed wire.

Historic preservationist Roger Keys has called the barn one of the most historically-significant barns in America. Keys will be on hand May 20, to share information about the barn and restoration done thus far.

Events run from noon-4 p.m., with guided tours beginning on the half-hour.

The day's events also include a display of antique farm tools by Dennis Rehn, of Kirkland; the opening of "Jessie's Room" – an upstairs bedroom; musical entertainment; refreshments and more.

Last year's event drew a good crowd of people interested in learning about this historic DeKalb landmark. "Open House, Open Barn" marks the opening of the Homestead for the season.

For more details about this event, visit [www.gliddenhomestead.org](http://www.gliddenhomestead.org) or call (815) 756-7904.



**Roger Keys is a historic preservationist from DeKalb who has done restoration work on both the house and barn at the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead & Historical Center. He will be on hand Sunday, May 20, to provide information about the barn on the one day all year that it is open to the public. (Photos by Kathy Siebrasse)**



**Dennis Rehn of Kirkland will set up his display of antique tools and farm implements for "Open House, Open Barn" at the Glidden Homestead & Historical Center Sunday, May 20. Other events planned that day include the opening of "Jessie's Room" as a period-style bedroom honoring the Glidden women, musical entertainment, guided tours on the half-hour, historical exhibits, refreshments and more.**

## Fund drive continues

The Glidden Homestead is seeking the community's help through a major fund drive as it strives to "tell an American story" by expanding its DeKalb museum campus – the site where Joseph Glidden invented "The Winner" barbed wire.

"Glidden's invention is a true American story. His innovation not only affected DeKalb County, but it had far-reaching impact on the development of the American West and the world," said Kathy Siebrasse, Glidden Homestead board president.

The vision for the museum campus includes a Welcome Center where a state-of-the-art media department will share video-biographies of local icons, said Jim Morel, past president.

"It will be an educational center where the stories of this area's inventors and innovators, visionaries of social progress and philanthropy come to life," he said.

The Glidden Family has offered the board an option to purchase property adjacent to the Homestead which includes a retail building. In order to complete the purchase, funds must be raised in the next three years, Morel said. The building will become the museum's Welcome Center.

To make a donation or for more information, please call (815) 756-7904.

### Inside:

- Student History Fair
- Glidden women series
- Hay Rake patent
- Glidden Gift Shop
- Calendar of events



Attendees view the interesting and educational exhibits at the Annual Student History Fair.



A group of the student exhibitors gathered after the awards presentation for a "photo opp."

## Student History Fair exhibits educate

The sixth annual J.F. Glidden Homestead & Historical Center Student History Fair enjoyed excellent participation April 21, at the Homestead, 921 W. Lincoln Hwy. The projects represented the historical research and work of about 30 students. They were presented for public viewing and judging by a team of history educators, according to J.D. Bowers, Glidden board member and chair of the History Fair event.

Winners of the Superior awards were given a plaque, while winners of the NIU Press awards were presented with a copy of a recently published book from the Press. Honorable Mention award winners received gift items donated by local businesses: Applebees, Buffalo Wild Wings, Border Books, Egg Haven, Play It Again Sports and Qdoba. All participants received an Exhibition Ribbon and substantial comments from the judges' panel as they prepare them for the Illinois State History Day fair in May.

Earning Glidden Homestead Superior Historical Awards were: Caroline Mangiardi, St. Peter Cathedral School (middle school), Rockford, for "Triumph Over the Titanic Tragedy;" and Brittnea Roozen, Roozen Preparatory Academy (high school), for "Triumph and Tragedy of the Atomic Bomb." Receiving NIU Press Best in Illinois History Award—General History Category, was: Zach Miller, Hiawatha Jr. High School, for "Edward Butch O'Hare." Earning NIU Press Best in Illinois History Award—Agricultural and Frontier History Category was: John Mark, St. Peter Cathedral School, for "Shadrach Bond, First Governor of Illinois."

The Glidden Family Award was earned by Ben Lehman, St. Thomas More School, for "Chicago and the Movies." Honorable Mention awards went to: Mark Sink for "The Eastland Disaster," Katherine Christenson for "Superdawg," and Francis Landoy for "The Lost Boys of Sudan," all of St. Thomas More School; Alison Wyson & Jenna Leeson for "The Faust Hotel," Claudia Gomez for "Cyrus McCormick," Brian Doherty for "Chicago's Freight Tunnels," and Brode Clinite for "The Penicillin Trail," all of St. Peter Cathedral High School; and Jake Miller for "Momentary Lapses," Hiawatha High School.

## The Glidden Women

[This is the second in an ongoing series about the Glidden women based on an exhibit created by Sally DeFauw, Homestead volunteer.]

Glidden women played a key role in the making of barbed wire and DeKalb history, from hairpins to community leadership and the establishment of park land. According to family lore, barbed wire would not have been invented without a woman's influence. Joseph F. Glidden tinkered with his wife Lucinda's hairpins until coming up with his invention.

An exhibit on display at the Glidden Homestead & Historical Center highlights the lives of six women, all who were related by blood or marriage to Joseph F. Glidden. Four of them spent part of their life in the 1861 home, which was built for Joseph and Lucinda Glidden.

### Mary McConnell Glidden

Mary McConnell Glidden was born in Dragston, NJ, July 29, 1827. She was the daughter of Elizabeth Bright and John McConnell. She met her future husband, Josiah W. Glidden, when he was living in Philadelphia taking painting lessons. They met at church, where Mary sang in the choir, and the pastor's wife introduced them.

Josiah Willard Glidden was the younger brother of Joseph F. Glidden. The brothers came west from New York and settled in DeKalb in 1842. Josiah and Mary married in 1857 in Chicago, and set up their household on a farm on the western edge of DeKalb. In time, six children would enter that household, one dying in infancy.

Mary was an accomplished dressmaker, and was the first to own a sewing machine in DeKalb. Josiah would load up the wagon and deliver Mary and her machine to area homes.



Mary McConnell Glidden 1827-1909

While Mary was busy sewing, and absent sometimes as long as a week, her sister-in-law Abbey Glidden would mind the children.

Mary and Josiah, who was a prolific writer, were active members of the DeKalb Literary Society. It was said of Mary that she "possessed a seemingly inexhaustible fund of quaint humor that gave charm to her literary work."

Josiah died in 1876, after receiving a cut which developed into a fast-acting infection. In a time before the advent of antibiotics, he died within a week from the bacteria. The next year, Mary and her five children ranging in age from 9-19 moved from the farm into town. She opened a dressmaking shop at the northwest corner of Fourth and Lincoln Highway and managed to support her family. Once again her sister-in-law Abbey helped with the children.

By 1900, Mary was living with daughter, Bertha, and son-in-law, Samuel Bradt. She died in 1909, at the age of 81. Mary was eulogized as a woman with an intellect and a graceful self assurance. After suffering the loss of her husband and later in life two of her adult daughters, Mary was known as one having a brave heart. Love and duty were virtues that guided her entire life.

[Next issue: Annie Glidden]

## United States Patent Office.

JOSEPH F. GLIDDEN, OF DE KALB, ILLINOIS. HORSE HAY-RAKE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 418,008, dated December 24, 1889.

Application filed May 2, 1889. Serial No. 309,836. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH F. GLIDDEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at De Kalb, Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Horse Hay-Rakes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of horse hay-rakes in which the rake-teeth are connected at their upper ends to a head which may also be the axle, and which teeth are curved rearwardly and downwardly so as to trail along the ground to gather the hay, the latter being discharged by rocking the rake-head on its longitudinal axis. Various devices have been resorted to for effecting the rocking of the rake-head to discharge the hay, the most common being a tilting lever, which is operated by the driver, whose seat is ordinarily secured to the thills.

A common objection to horse hay-rakes as now constructed is that the hay gathered by the teeth becomes entangled by forcing itself between the teeth, whereby it is very difficult to properly discharge it. To overcome this difficulty a bar has been provided, which is flexibly connected to the rake-head and adapted to rest upon the upper sides of the teeth, and in some cases the teeth have been passed through this bar.

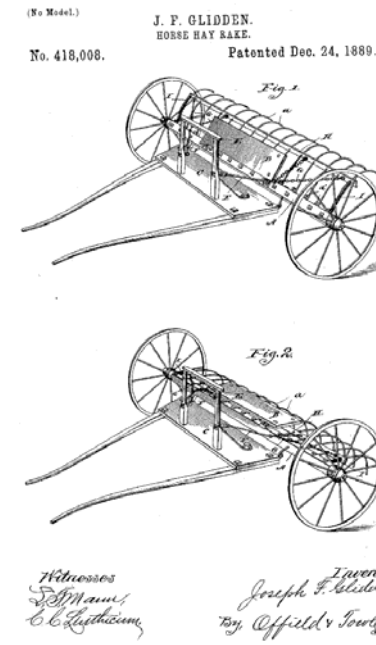
It is the object of my invention to provide means whereby clogging of the hay in the teeth is prevented and the hay is easily discharged.

Another feature of my invention relates to the provision of means whereby the downward movement of the teeth may be limited.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a hay-rake embodying my improvements, the rake-teeth being in their elevated position and the discharge-bar at the outer point of its movement; and Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the teeth in position to trail upon the ground to gather the hay.

Referring to said drawings, the series of teeth *a* are shown connected to the axle *A*, said teeth having one or more coils *a'* at their ends next to the axle, as in the usual construction.

*B* is a transverse platform, which is mounted over the axle; and *C* is a platform for the driver, which is



secured to the thills. The usual seat may be provided on the platform *B*, if desired, and the platform *C* may have the frame *E* erected thereon to serve as a guard between the driver and the horse, and the posts whereof afford convenient means for securing links *F*, the outer ends of which are attached to a chain or chains *G*, which are secured to the adjustment-bar *H*, the latter, as shown, having holes through which the teeth *a* protrude.

*I* are spiral springs, which may surround the teeth *a*, and which are seated at one end against the axle *A* and at the other against the discharge-bar *H*. The thills are pivotally connected to the axle in the usual manner.

In operation, when it is desired to gather the hay, the driver puts his weight upon the platform *B*, which causes the teeth to touch the ground, their downward movement being limited by the connections *F G*, and the springs *I* being compressed by said movement. When the teeth have gathered a sufficient amount of hay to form the windrow, the driver brings his weight to bear upon the platform *C*, thereby depressing said platform and tilting the teeth upward, thus releasing the connections *F G*, and thereby permitting the spring to thrust the discharge-bar away from the axle and clearing the teeth of the hay. This discharge-bar also prevents the hay from forcing itself between the teeth at their upper ends, and thus serves to prevent clogging of the hay in the operation of raking, as well as facilitating its discharge.

My invention is not limited to specific forms or arrangements of parts, but is capable of being embodied in equivalent forms and combinations.

I claim—

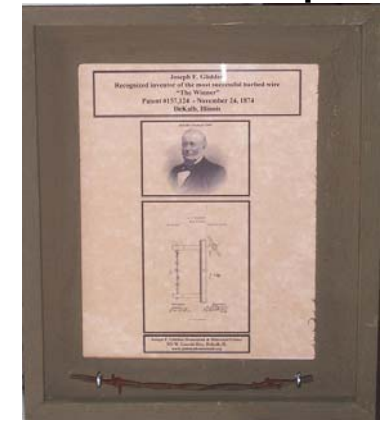
1. In a hay rake, the combination, with the rake-head and thills pivotally connected together, of a discharge-bar movable along the rake-teeth, outwardly-forcing springs connected with the rake-head and the discharge-bar, respectively, and a flexible connection between the discharge-bar and the thills, substantially as described.

2. In a hay-rake, the combination, with the rake-head and thills pivotally connected together and each provided with a platform whereon the driver may stand, of a spring-controlled discharge-bar movable along the rake-teeth, outwardly-forcing springs connected to the discharge-bar and head, respectively, and a flexible connection between the discharge-bar and the thills, substantially as described.

J. F. GLIDDEN.

Witnesses: C. K. OFFIELD, H. S. SOULE.

## SPOTLIGHT on the Glidden Gift Shop



Framed Glidden Patent with sample of "The Winner" barbed wire.

\$27 includes tax

Framed in sturdy wood, suitable for hanging or table display. Comes complete with a sample of the barbed wire "that helped tame the West!"

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



### Homestead Calendar

- May 6:** Sunday tours begin, noon-4 p.m.
- May 20:** "Open House, Open Barn," noon-4 p.m.
- June 3:** Sunday house tours, noon-4 p.m.
- June 9:** Uncle Joe's Country Fair, details TBA
- June 17:** Sunday tours, with "Music on the Porch" – bring your lunch!
- July 1:** Sunday house tours, noon-4 p.m.
- July 15:** Sunday tours, with "Music on the Porch" – bring your lunch!
- Aug. 5:** Sunday house tours, noon-4 p.m.
- Aug. 19:** Sunday tours, with "Music on the Porch" – bring your lunch!
- Sept. 2:** Sunday house tours, noon-4 p.m.
- Sept. 16:** Sunday tours, with "Music on the Porch" – bring your lunch!
- Oct. 7 & 21:** Sunday tours, noon-4 p.m.
- Nov. 4 & 18:** Sunday tours, noon-4 p.m.
- Nov. 8:** Patent Day Dinner
- Dec. 2:** Holiday Open House with Antique Toy & Doll Show, noon-4 p.m.

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

