



Former weekly newspaper publisher Barry Schrader, proprietor of a private press which he named the Barb'd Wire Press, demonstrated how this Official Golding No. 4 hand press works for visitors at the Glidden Homestead & Historical Center. (Photo by Kathy Vance Siebrasse)

Visitors enjoy Schrader press demonstration at Glidden Homestead

Visitors to the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead & Historical Center Aug. 11, took home a souvenir postcard and learned about Glidden's work as a newspaperman from retired newspaper publisher Barry Schrader of DeKalb. Schrader demonstrated a Golding Official No. 4 bench-top side-lever platen letterpress in a special program at the Homestead attended by more than 20 people.

Schrader used handset metal type with engravings mounted on a wood base on the 6 x 9-inch printing surface. His program on turn-of-the-century printing included a history of the Daily Chronicle, where Schrader still writes as a columnist.

Schrader has been involved in printing since he owned the Genoa Republican weekly newspaper and printing business in the 1960s. He has owned several old hand-operated presses over the years and recently donated his 1905 Chandler and Price 8x12 hand-platen press with type to the Glidden Homestead.

Taking old-time printing up as a hobby in 1976, Schrader first named his private press the Livermore Grape Press, but once he moved back to DeKalb County from California, he chose the name Barb'd Wire Press.

The Homestead is the site where Joseph Glidden invented and manufactured "The Winner" barbed wire, for which he received a patent on Nov. 24, 1874. The house and barn built in the 1860s still stand on their original site. Both are listed on the National Register of Historic Sites

The printing press program is among others that will be held throughout the year to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Glidden's birth. The Homestead is open for tours on Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and also the second and fourth Sundays each month through October, noon-4 p.m., with special events in November.

Admission is \$4 for ages 14 and older; under age 14, free. Members are admitted free, with a variety of membership levels available. Memberships play a key role in the not-for-profit organization's preservation efforts.

For more information, call (815) 756-7904 or visit www.gliddenhomestead.org.