

# DINSMORE DISPATCH

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3 OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2016

This month I chose a very special artifact that was presented to Sarah (Sally) G. Flandrau for her 21st birthday in 1887. It is a silver aide-memoire with an ivory page for each day of the week. Attached to the aide-memoire, on a chain, is a small silver Buddha. If you pull the top of his head out, a silver point extends out the bottom and that is where the graphite is inserted. Sally would write down engagements or shopping lists on the appropriate day and wipe it clean when she finished. Engraved on the front is her name with her birthday and also the day the aide-memoire was presented to her, "November 21st 87."

I thought I might be able to find a mention of the gift by looking at her letters from that year. Unfortunately, she makes no mention of the silver present, but



the date she received it, November 21st, puts her in St. Paul, Minnesota, so it was likely a present from her father and step-mother. She left St. Paul in late November to travel to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to visit cousins, and that is where she spent her birthday. Lieutenant Colonel William Rucker (Martha Dinsmore's mother married a Rucker before marrying a Macomb) was stationed there with his wife, Lulie, and their children. Perhaps the intention of this

trip was to introduce Sally to fresh male faces. If so, the trip was a failure. She did have a very busy social schedule, though, and wrote that she wore a dress her mother gave her before she left St. Paul. It is probable that her father and step-mother gave her the aide-memoire at the same time.



## The Christmas Tea

Our last event of the year was sold out! The Christmas tea was held in the foyer of the main house on December 9th, 2016.

Despite the chill in the house, our intimate group of 16 enjoyed a homemade menu of scones and shortbread, just to name a few, while sipping selected hot teas.

Surrounded by beautiful holiday decor guests listened to Christine Godsey give a talk on Christmas past while Cathy Collopy, Emily R. along with volunteers Judy DeMarco, Sherry R., and Jo-Ann Bay served.

Before a tour of the house, names were drawn for door prizes and each guest was given a goodie bag to take home. What a great way to end the season. Our last tour and closing for the winter was on Sunday, December 11th.

## ALL HALLOW'S EVE



Children dressed in the Halloween costumes attended this year's All Hallows Eve event on October 29, 2016. Their mission was to prevent Susan from drowning in Lake Erie while visiting relatives in New York through a series of interactive scenarios that informed them about the dangers young ladies faced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A variety of activities were led by volunteers: for example, Donna King assisted children in making chocolate spider webs, Lorna McVay and Christine Henning nourished their journey with a cup of delicious carrot soup in the kitchen cabin, Russell Jarvis and Mitch Nimmo tended to the campfire where Sally Nimmo (aka "Madame Mandilina") read fortunes, Stuart was in the graveyard celebrating Day of the Dead,

and Mary Swiggum was in the wine house doing readings from her crystal ball. Sam Henning and Elizabeth Tankersley led games and crafts in the backyard.



The children had an amusing and entertaining evening roaming the grounds and all unanimously agreed that Susan needs to ditch the corset and take swimming lessons before departing on her journey.

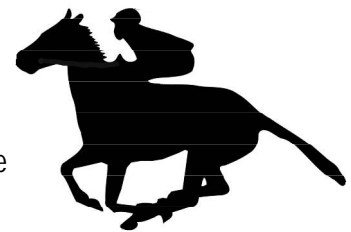


## Get your tickets now for 2017 Charity Night at the Tables! Saturday, March 18th.

**Charity Night** is a highly anticipated event throughout the area held at

**Turfway Park!** For just **\$80 per person** (or \$90 at the door) you can enjoy food and drinks, casino style gambling, a silent auction, entertainment, and LIVE thoroughbred racing! There is also a sports bar that will be covering any NCAA games that evening.

Get together with local businesses, community leaders, and donors to help Dinsmore Farm gain the funds needed for the restoration and preservation of it's extraordinary collection. The event is from **7:00pm to 11:00pm** with DJ entertainment for the duration. Gaming starts at 7:30 and continues until 10:00pm. The winners and chip totals will be announced at 11:00pm. It is sure to be a great time and certainly for a great cause! When making your reservations be sure to name Dinsmore as your charity of choice.



### 2017 Upcoming Events (Dates TBA)

Dinsmore Opens—April 1

Docent Training Workshop—March  
(New & Current Docents will be notified)

Derby Day at Dinsmore—May 6

Pioneer to the Past Day Camp

Summer Festival

Christmas in the Country

## CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY



Our holiday event was held on December 3rd & 4th 2016. With decent weather on our side, Christmas In The Country was a big success!!

The main house and grounds were beautifully decorated by The Boone County Garden Club. Along with a special viewing of winter clothing and hats worn by members of the Dinsmore family, displayed at the main house was a 19th century sleigh for two on the back porch on loan from the Rudicill family.

In the cook cabin, children could create a stuffed snowman to take home, guests and volunteers enjoyed home-made cookies, hot chocolate and hot cider while taking in the warmth of the fire. Everywhere you looked in the cabin, you saw special touches of Christmas charm, created by volunteers~ Marea West, Annette Dube, Kathy Larcom and Catherine Baker.

Outside twinkle lights and a bon fire, where guests could sit and make s'mores while listening to Christmas music, were new added touches...along with our holiday gift shop!

A special thank you to Judy Biedenharn who dressed in period clothing while demonstrating on her spinning wheel. Also, to the Friendly Sons who sang carols and engaged visitors and to all our loyal volunteers who are truly appreciated.



### DINSMORE HOMESTEAD FOUNDATION 2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive my newsletter by:  US Mail  Email

Please make check payable to: Dinsmore Homestead Foundation

Or pay by credit card:  Visa  MasterCard  Discover

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dinsmore Homestead

PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF  
FIVE KENTUCKY GENERATIONS

5656 Burlington Pike  
Burlington, KY 41005  
P.O. Box 453  
Phone: 859-586-6117

[www.dinsmorefarm.org](http://www.dinsmorefarm.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Dinsmorehomestead](https://www.facebook.com/Dinsmorehomestead)  
Email: [Info@dinsmorefarm.org](mailto:Info@dinsmorefarm.org)

### Dinsmore Homestead Foundation Board of Directors

Dr. Barbara Bardes, Chair  
Jim Crawford, Vice Chair  
Susan Shuffett, Treasurer  
Lee McNeely, Secretary  
Judy DeMarco  
Patricia Raverty  
Howard Tankersley  
Megan Wainscott  
Robert Hill

**DINSMORE IS CLOSED UNTIL  
APRIL 1ST, 2017  
TOURS CAN BE ARRANGED BY  
APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**Volunteers Needed**—Last year we exceeded previous attendance of visitors, we saw enrollment increase in "Pioneer to the Past" summer camp programs and many special events held throughout the year. It's encouraging that word is getting out to the community about Dinsmore Homestead and we are excited to see that our effort is working. However, it takes many volunteers to keep that momentum going as word of this N. Ky treasure is spread.

Are you retired looking for something to do, want to get out and meet new people? Do you enjoy history, storytelling? Then how about becoming a docent? Like researching? Are you skilled with tools? Can you sing, play an instrument? There are many volunteer opportunities for you to get involved from hands on to becoming a board member. Get involved -together we continue enriching Northern Kentucky with the Dinsmore Family history and have fun doing it. Call our office at 859-586-6117 and let us know that you're interested in volunteering.

### New Volunteer

Welcome to our newest volunteer!  
Mark Conner, a resident of Florence, KY. He has a special interest in the art of calligraphy, and collects antique writing tools of the period. He loves the art of translating and will be a good asset to decipher many of Julia's letters. He looks forward to helping in any way he can.

We want to hear from you! This newsletter for you, the members and fans of the Dinsmore Homestead Foundation, and we welcome your reactions and your input on what kind of content you'd like to see here in the future. Is there something you've always wondered about the house or family, which you'd like to see answered as a column? Do you want to know more about certain events, or aspects of the museum's day-to-day business? Let us know by writing to P.O. Box 453, Burlington, KY 41005; or by emailing [dinsmorehomestead@gmail.com](mailto:dinsmorehomestead@gmail.com).