



# METAMORA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## NEWSLETTER

## Special Holiday Edition

To Promote and Preserve Metamora's History

Metamora Association for Historic Preservation

Chartered Sept. 21, 2000



December, 2007

Visit our Website at  
[www.historicmetamora.com](http://www.historicmetamora.com)



To receive this 6-times-a-year newsletter, email your email address to [jweddle@mtco.com](mailto:jweddle@mtco.com)

### From the Files...

From the August 28, 1914  
Herald

### TRANSFER ORPHANAGE TO PEORIA BUILDING

Orphans and Sisters Leave Metamora Tuesday. St. Mary's orphanage in operation since its establishment in 1877 was transferred to Peoria. Furniture was shipped by railroad and a dozen cars owned by citizens of Peoria transferred the 55 children and 10 sisters to their new home. Bad train service and the inability to get sufficient water were assigned as reasons for the removal. The old building and grounds are worth \$50,000 and there is a farm of 200 acres adjoining it.

See the complete story and more photos at  
[www.historicmetamora.com](http://www.historicmetamora.com)



### Annual Membership Meeting

Held October 23, 2007 (Adlai Stevenson's 172nd Birthday)

Prez Laure discussed last year's accomplishments, the new budget and plans for next year. 2007 was considered very successful as renovation continues.



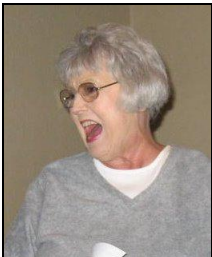
President Laure Adams



Helen and John Heinz



Sylvia Small and Shirley Adams



Murlene Kramer



Don Harbers and Susie Ryan



Ralph Small and Ken Willman



Stephanie and Barbie Perry

### This was a favorite place to gather...

It no longer looks like this, but is still standing today.

### Do you know where it's located?

(See page 2 for a clue.)



### From the July 26, 1904 Metamora Herald

Among the enterprising citizens of the town is John D. Zimmerman, the saloon merchant of this city. He is a native of Germany but has been a resident here for the past thirty-seven years.

"Uncle John" as he is familiarly known, has made a good citizen since he has been here, and all have grown to like him. For a number of years he was a farmer residing in Partridge Township and today has one of the finest farms in that township. Three years ago he came to Metamora and entered the saloon business and made a success from the very beginning.

Footnote: Uncle John died in December, 1927 and is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

### ← Uncle John Zimmerman's newly relocated saloon

See the complete story and more photos at  
[www.historicmetamora.com](http://www.historicmetamora.com)

**Fine Arts Christmas Walk includes the Stevenson House**

December 15 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.



The Stevenson House, the Courthouse, and 4 homes will be open to tour. Proceeds from the event will benefit the MTHS Fine Arts Department. Tickets are \$10 per person and \$25 for a family of four. Children 10 and under are free. To purchase tickets call: 367-4151 x574. Tickets are also available at the Metamora Courthouse.

**What's New at the Stevenson House?**

Thanks to the donors for your generosity (donors' names in parentheses)!

- 2 wooden chairs (Anita Cummings)
- 13-star nylon flag (Skeet and Ann Heisler)
- Antique dress form (WCHS – Eureka)
- The outhouse – “historical building” (Bob and Linda Murphy)
- Yellow prom dress worn by Leota Theena

**Landscaping Project Moves Forward**



Local gardening expert Sue Baker presented a comprehensive plan for landscaping the Stevenson House at the October board meeting. Following Sue's presentation, the board approved her plan, which will add different perennials from year to year and be supplemented each year with annuals in order to maintain color throughout the summer months. It also includes a picket fence, which is now being added.

Pictured at the left is the new fence which is part of the project. Thanks to Don, Ted, Borkholder, and all who helped with this project.

A herb garden is on the schedule for next summer, which can also serve as a fund raiser, as well as an education resource. Eventually the project will be turned over to local Master Gardeners.

**Notes from Metamora's "Ice Age"**

See the complete story and more photos at [www.historicmetamora.com](http://www.historicmetamora.com)

**From the February 15, 1915 Metamora Herald**

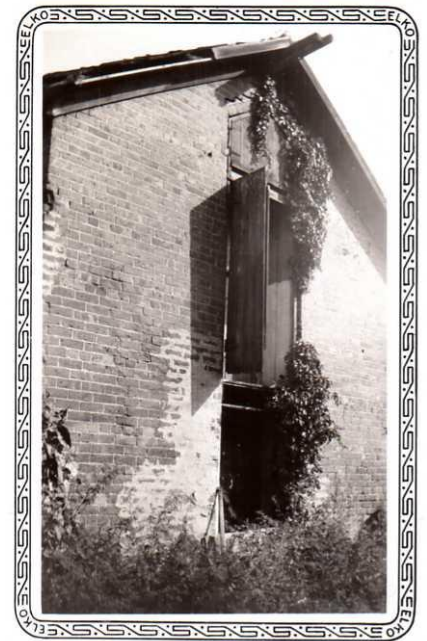
Shipments of ice for local dealers began arriving from Lacon the first of the week. The ice houses of C.H. Hindson & Co. and the Metamora Ice Company have been filled. The ice received is about ten inches in thickness and it has been packed under ideal weather conditions. The business of the Metamora Ice Company has been taken over for the coming year by Edward Theena. (See picture)

**From the March 7, 1930 Metamora Herald**

Another old relic is gone. Ice houses are as obsolete as livery stables and private barns and like the latter are being removed from the landscape. One of the remaining ice storage houses that in halcyon days of yore furnished frigidty for a frothing brew that froths no more over public bars, went the way of all things material yesterday. George Sluga, who juggled many a schooner made cool by ice from this old building, was master of ceremonies and Herman Rohman, his assistant, in removing the old ice house on the old-time J.B. Knoblauch property.

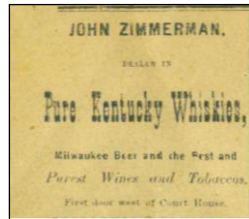
Since both beer and ice have faded out of the picture the only purpose served by the old building was surface upon which to display circus advertising wand, as such, citizens generally were not keen about its scenic qualities. F.W. Wagner, present owner, therefore ordered its removal. Messrs. Sluga and Rohman made such short work of the task that there was little time for anyone to shed tears.

(Editor's note: the old ice house stood in the lot between the florist shop and the phone company.)



**Uncle John's Hint...**

Here's "Uncle John's" today. Do you know where it is? (Clue: have you seen the building on its immediate right? It too, holds a lot of Metamora history.)



Here's Uncle John's ad before he moved from west of the court house into his new location.

It's interesting that Uncle John touts the "purest" whisky and wines. Wonder what was in the less-than-pure whisky and wine? Probably better that we didn't know.

How'd we ever get along without the FDA?!

**Contact Us**

Questions, ideas...

We would love to hear from you. Laure Adams, President, 367-2706 or 369-2353 or [jfarmer@mtco.com](mailto:jfarmer@mtco.com); Kenneth Willman, Vice President, 367-4426; Shirley Adams, Secretary, 367-2289; Jack Weddle, Treasurer, 367-4017 or 645-0963 or [jweddle@mtco.com](mailto:jweddle@mtco.com); Board members: Don Harbers, 367-2164 or [harbersd@mtco.com](mailto:harbersd@mtco.com); Susie Ryan, 367-2511 or [susie@mtco.com](mailto:susie@mtco.com), and Barbie Perry, 678-8402, [barbperry@mchsi.com](mailto:barbperry@mchsi.com)