

METAMORA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

NEWSLETTER

April 2011

www.historicmetamora.com



Catching Up at MAHP

It's been a long winter, but we're starting to gear up for warm weather!

Window Restoration. Window restoration is back on the list of things to do this summer. Two more windows will be replaced as soon as the weather breaks.

Open Houses. Open houses will resume on May 1 every Sunday from 1-4. Drop and see what's "new" (er – *old*) since last fall.

New at the Stevenson House ...



- Garber ice cream container from Mrs. Stanley Zoss
- Wernsman's Restaurant menu which includes a history of the business started in 1939 – from EmmaJo Kiesewetter
- Metamora Fields invitation from Laure Adams
- The wooden walker pictured at the left

This wooden walker was used by Sophie Loser of Spring Bay. Mrs. Loser died in 1954 at 98 years of age. Not high tech, but it worked!! Thanks to Earl and Carina Stotler for donating this to the Metamora Association for Historic Preservation, where it is now on display. Mrs. Loser was Earl's aunt.

Veteran's Room and Clothes Racks. Much has been done to refurbish the rooms themselves and add fixtures that make viewing the artifacts easier. Stop in and check them out!

Computerization. Work has started on entering the artifacts into a data base. This was much needed as the collection continues to grow.

Contact Us...

We would love to hear from you. Laure Adams, President, 369-2353 or jrfarmer@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; Board members: Barbie Perry, 678-8402, barbperry@mchsi.com, Dave Pohlman, 369-3290; pohlman46@yahoo.com; Lee Summer, 367-4059, 635-0259, lsummer@mtco.com



Edward Abersol Attorney...

Class of 1890

Members of the Class of '90 included –

- Della Banta
- Archie Banta
- Will Jacquin
- Edward Abersol
- Lee Wilson
- Lillie Parminter

Edward Abersol was born March 21, 1873 to John and Catherine Belsley Abersol, who had immigrated in 1871 from Loraine, France and Nancy, France. Their first child, Mary, was born in France. Edward was born in Metamora.

John purchased land and a gun shop that stood on the northwest corner of Menard and Partridge. He then moved the gun shop to the lot next door, living upstairs with the gun shop downstairs. The logs used to move the building are still in use today as the ceiling in the dirt basement.

Edward was in the seventh graduating class of Metamora High School. The ceremony was held at the Court House on Friday, May 9, 1890. The class was comprised of 4 young men and 2 young ladies. Each student gave an oration before the diplomas were presented.

Upon graduation, Edward attended the University of Michigan, where he studied law. Mary was willed the store and ran it with her husband, John Isch.

Upon graduation, Edward moved to Peoria where he practiced law for 34 years. His office was in the old YMCA building in the 100 block of North Jefferson located on the third floor. He never married.

After a regular routine Sunday walk on May 5, 1935, Edward was found dead in the restroom of the Pere Marquette Hotel, having suffered a fatal heart attack. He was 62 years old. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Pictured above are all that remain of Edward's possessions – his vest and top coat. The cape belonged to Mary Isch. The first picture is Edward as an adult, next is his high school graduation picture. His old law books were stored in the basement of the Abersol home, but ruined by many years of seeping water.