

METAMORA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

NEWSLETTER

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April 2012



A Soon-To-Be Famous Pilot Crashes in Lowpoint...

Maxine Kern Recalls the Visit...

A young 24-year old pilot nicknamed "Slim" drops out of the sky in his open-cockpit bi-plane.

On the Web

Check out the website (www.historicmetamora.com) for story about Lindbergh's surprise landing in Lowpoint in 1926.

During a mail run from St. Louis to Chicago, which stopped in Springfield and Peoria, Lindbergh's plane was forced to land when the metal strip on the propeller fell off and caused the plane to shake violently.

Lindbergh landed in the Standenmyer farm hay field. Finding the Standenmyers had no phone, he walked to the next farm, which belonged to Ben and Mary Knoblauch, who had a phone. As a 7-year old, Maxine Knoblauch Kern recalls being very impressed as he stayed the afternoon and entertained the children with stories.

A replacement plane was sent from St. Louis and Lindbergh completed his route to Chicago.

George Clark helped repair the broken propeller and kept the old one. (A big "thank you" to Donald Kapraun for this contribution.)



What's Old...

But new at the Stevenson House...

Thanks to Kris Bernhardt for these donations!

- Scrapbooks of old news articles
- 1925 Class picture
- 1925 Yearbook
- Old Girl Scout pictures

Twice during Lindbergh's air mail service, he lost control of the plane due to bad weather or faulty equipment and had to jump out of it, landing by parachute on nearby fields. On both occasions, his first priority upon landing was to locate the wreckage of the planes and secure the mail - like a good postman would!

Open Houses Resume...

Spring is in the air and just like the first robin, it signals the resumption of OPEN HOUSES at the Stevenson House, starting May 6, and continuing each Sunday through October from 1-4 p.m. A lot of interesting new (old!) artifacts have been added over the winter. Drop by and see them!

Prayers Saved Us...

Lt. Emma Sommer's Letter from Okinawa April, 1945

A horrific typhoon almost sinks Lt. Sommer's ship.



A Letter Home

"Early Sunday morning it began to get quite rough and it was too bad to think of going ashore. So they pulled up the gang plank and headed out to sea. In case of a storm, the ships leave the bay as there is too much danger of being tossed against each other or being shoved against the shore.

"They ordered us inside the ship about 10 o'clock. It was plenty rough but nothing compared to what was coming later.

"There was one time when the ship was tilted at such an angle - some said 38 degrees and some said 45 degrees - that the captain of the ship just threw up his hands and said, 'This is it!' The ship can't take more than a 45 degree angle. It was only God's help, we know, for a wave came dashing and again righted the ship.

The waves were as high as 75 and 85 feet so you can imagine how high that dashed our ship.

"There were about 16 ships reported missing and several did go down. When communications were restored, they found that our ship had survived. Our captain had been through typhoons and said this was the worst one he had ever been through."

This and That...

Cat Match

The "Cat Match" in March to the Historic Association totaled \$1,150. Many thanks to Cat and past and present Cat employees whose donations are matched by Cat and help MAHP continue to maintain and improve the Stevenson House and the museum.

Ice Cream Social

It still may a little cool to be thinking about ice cream (really - it's *never* too early!), but mark June 16 for our ice cream social at the Friday night concert in the park in Metamora.

The very popular Gus Gustafson will perform.

Perfect weather is (almost) guaranteed for the evening. See you there!

Windows and Bricks

Window work will resume in the spring. It's a challenge to get the windows and the house squared away in such an old structure.

Needed tuck pointing around the front door has been completed and should help keep things dry.

Contact Us

Questions, ideas...

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@hotmail.com; Lee Summer, 367-4059, 635-0259, lsummer@mtco.com