

METAMORA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

NEWSLETTER

Visit our Website at
www.historicmetamora.com

October 2013



From the Historic Association Archives...

1976 Bicentennial Lincoln Play

The Woodford County Historical Association generously donated a tape of the 1976 Bicentennial play in the Courthouse re-enacting the Melissa Goings trial.

Our former outstanding high school musical director, Marge Schierer, was responsible for whipping this local group of naturally talented thespians into shape. Considering what she had to work with, we think you'll agree that she did an amazing job! It was a lot of fun to see our friends as they were almost 40 years ago!

The original tape was in an odd format that is no longer available. But we were able to get the tape converted to a Windows format so it can be viewed on Windows computers. We have made it available if you have a 4 gig thumb drive – and a \$5 donation to help cover the conversion cost. Contact us for how to get a copy.

At the right you will find the cast of "characters," which is an appropriate description of our group of would-be Hollywood stars!



Cast of characters (in order of appearance)

Old Ben	Robert C. DePauw
Amos Ellis	Ken Roedder
Hope Ellis	Janice Hopping
Elmira Hoskins	Susan C. Shea
Lawrence Weldon	Ronald B. Schertz
S. P. Shope	James Hauter
Henry Grove	William D. Tanton
Esther Knudsen	Janice Norris
Mirabelle Sommers	Phyllis Nevins Dietel
Chuck Brecklin	Harold Neumann
Robert Cassell	Merle Weyeneth
Judge David Davis	James Detweiler
Mr. Kindig	Dr. H.W. Riggert
John Lyon	Charles Abel
Mr. W. Davidson	Steve Bortolotti
Willie Davidson	Steve Parks
Mr. J.R. Burton	Clarence D. Parks
Ezra Meek	Walter Goetz
Hugh Fullerton	George Eiermann
Abe Lincoln	Richard Blake
James Brady	Elmer Baggs
Rosswell Hibbs	Harold Zobrist
Joshua Von Vilson	Douglas Riggert
Josephus Goings	Larry Metcalf



Members of the jury

Robert L. Schertz, foreman	William L. Harris
Lanny Burke	Jeffrey Schierer
Paul Martynowski	John Bockler
Walt Laitas	Jerry Grebner
Ralph S. Kerker	Dale Bursott
Roger Alig	Richard Seib

Understudy for Elmira	Pam Parks
Understudy for elderly women	Yvonne Look
Spectators	Townpeople of Metamora



Oakenwald School - 1910...

Oakenwald School was originally named the Brush Hill School until it was changed in '08 to Oakenwald.

The school was located northwest of Metamora in Partridge Township 36.

Note that many of the students were not wearing shoes!! (Ouch!)

How many of these students can you identify? (No peeking – the names are on the right.)

THINK CHRISTMAS...!!

Our Metamora History books make excellent Christmas gifts. At only \$10 each, there's not a gift that will be more used and valued. And we can ship, too (\$4 shipping and handling.)



Standing L-R, Marie Broers Obert, Herman Elbert, Frank Broers, Charles (Tip) Broers, Clara Baggs Robertson, Lillian Elbert Waldschmidt, Kate Heining Kerker, Lillian Ahrens Crawford, Elsie Baggs, Ely Rohman, and Florence Elbert Seckler Ahrens.

Seated L-R Ed Heining, Reynold Butte, Julius Gardner, Helen Butte, Ernest Gardner, Elmer Baggs, Marie Ahrens Griffiths, Susan Ahrens Kammerer and Bena Heining Dubois.

Teacher Mary Ray

Florence Elbert was in the first grade.

What's New...

DID YOU KNOW...?

The postage on letters sent in the 1840's could be paid for by either the sender or the receiver. Most were paid for by the receiver.

- A World War I Railroad Artillery blouse and cap belonging to Alex Skaggs who served in France. Thanks to donor Shannon Leach.
- A number of Woodford County bar dockets dating back as far as 1897. (See the Cyrus Niles story from last month's Newsletter.
- Old aerial shots of Metamora. My, have things changed!
- A tape of the 1976 Bicentennial play in the Courthouse depicting the Melissa Goings trial. Our outstanding high school musical director, Marge Schierer, was responsible for whipping this local group of thespians into shape. It was a lot of fun to see our friends as they were almost 40 years ago! We did get the tape converted to a windows format and it is available if you have a 4 gig thumb drive – and a \$5 donation to help cover the conversion cost.

Looking for Old Pictures...

Do you have pictures to share...?

We are always searching for old pictures and stories: If you have old pictures of family, events, businesses, friends, schools, military, etc., that you would be happy to share, we would very much appreciate it.

To share, you can stop by the Jim Maloof office at 119 E Partridge, next to the post office in Metamora. We'll scan your picture and give it right back.

If you have the background – names, dates, history, etc., that's even better!

New on the Website...

METAMORA HERMIT

Visit the website for the full story and others on Metamora's fascinating history.

My, how life has changed!!



Pictured at the left is Martin Becker with his cows that he trained to pull a wagon.

Mr. Becker and his brother Fred were recluses who lived several miles northwest of Hickory Point on a 20 acre farm.

For the full story and the Herald articles on their demise, visit www.historicmetamora.com

Contact Us

Questions, ideas, new content...

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, 645-0963 or jweddle@mtco.com; Board members: Dave Pohlman, 369-3290; pohlman46@yahoo.com; Lee Summer, 367-4059, 635-0259, lsummer@mtco.com; Mary Curry, 367-2185