

METAMORA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

NEWSLETTER

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December 2013



The Past and Present of Woodford County, 1878

The following is transcribed from: "From Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois (Wm. Le Baron, Jr. & Co., 1878)"

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JUSTICE IN GERMANTOWN HILLS.

A case once came before him, and when his son-in-law, Jefferson Hoshor, was Constable, wherein a Mr. Brown had sued one of the Sowardses, and Sowards, in true backwoodsman style, swore he would "whip him on sight."

The first time he saw him was on the day of trial, in the Justice's office, and, without words, "pitched into him."

"Set back the chairs," said the Squire, descending from his dignified seat of justice, "and give 'em room;" nor would he allow anyone to interfere until one of them "hollered nuff." And thus the case was decided.

New History Books Make Great Christmas Gifts...

What's New...

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Questions, ideas...

WOLF SCALPS. The County Board of any county in this State may hereafter allow such bounty on wolf scalps as the board may deem reasonable. Any person claiming a bounty shall produce the scalp or scalps with the ears thereon, within sixty days after the wolf or wolves shall have been caught, to the Clerk of the County Board, who shall administer to said person the following oath or affirmation, to-wit: "You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be), that the scalp or scalps here produced by you was taken from a wolf or wolves killed and first captured by yourself within the limits of this county, and within the sixty days last past."

FARM ANIMALS CENSUS. Horses of all ages 11,009 average value \$32.79

Cattle of all ages 17,992 - \$12.45

Mules and Asses of all ages 450 - \$36.10

Sheep of all ages 13,977 - \$1.28

Hogs of all ages 45,301 - \$2.24

THE FIRST COURTHOUSE. After the removal of the county seat to Hanover (now Metamora), and until the Court House was completed, court was held in a little house which stood at the southeast corner of the square, where Plank's law office now stands. The September session, in 1843, was the first Circuit Court held in the new metropolis. In those days there seem to have been no blue or red ribbon societies as now, as the records of the court for several years show that most of the indictments were for selling liquors, with a few variations occasionally, for "harboring slaves."

THE FIRST POST OFFICE established in Woodford County was in 183 and was kept by James Boys at his own house, about three miles north of the village of Hanover. It was called Black Partridge, after the old Indian chief of that name, whose wigwam, at one time, was not far from the place. The office did not last long. Rev. William Davenport petitioned for another office to be called Hanover, but there being already a Hanover office in the State, he had to suggest some other name, and finally settled on Partridge Point instead of Black Partridge, as Boys' office had been called. The office was kept at Parks' mill; about a mile from the present village of Metamora, and its affairs administered by Mr. Parks, though the Rev. Mr. Davenport, it is said, was the commissioned Postmaster. The office was called Hanover, and after R. T. Cassell came to the place, in 1838, he was prevailed on by Parks to take the post office. Upon his consenting to take it, he informed us that Mr. Parks brought the entire office over to the village, tied up in his pocket handkerchief.

The mail was carried by the four-horse stage-coach running between Bloomington and Ottawa. The mail for this point, with the exception of an occasional letter, was three newspapers and one magazine. Rev. Mr. Davenport took the Louisville Journal and the Illinois State Register; John Page, Sr., the New Hampshire Patriot, and a Mrs. Dutton took a little blue-back pamphlet; called the Mothers' Magazine. John Brotherhood drove the stage, and passed the Hanover post office between midnight and daybreak. Mr. Cassell remembers an occasion, when, one very dark night, John got lost on the prairie, and, after driving hours and hours, at daylight, found himself but a mile from Hanover. This stage route was probably the first road through Woodford County, and the trail was originally marked out, as Mr. Thomas McCord informed us, by dragging a log through the tall prairie grass.

TO ORDER: The new history books can be purchased for \$10 at Laure's "Shoe Store" Antique Store, Commerce Bank, the new Jim Maloof office at 119 E Partridge (next to the Post Office), or by contacting any board member. They may also be ordered via email and mailed (shipping and handling is an extra \$4.)

- 1846 Letter from a father to his son in Metamora (Partridge Post Office)
- New on the web – Metamora Orphanage story www.historicmetamora.com

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

