



**NEWSLETTER**

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**December 2014**

To Promote and Preserve Metamora's History

**Metamora Association for Historic Preservation**

Chartered Sept. 21, 2000

Illinois



Picture taken in front of Metamora Railroad Depot about 1913.

Left to right - Unknown, Unknown, Mrs. Allie Stehr, Iva Voelker, Possibly Betty Hahn, Jack Engel, Jack Malone, John Voelker, Sr. , Arthur Engel, Hugh Malone, Ed Hahn, Wilma Malone, Mrs. Ed Hahn, Unknown child being held, Gay Schierer, Grace and Jylie Engel, Rev. Irvin D. Spehr, Clarence Armbrust, Three small boys sitting in front - Wayne Armbrust, Carroll Voelker, Possibly a Hahn boy.



**Santa Visit - 1910**



**The Original Square Paving Celebrates a Big Birthday...**

The coming of the automobile age affected the town in many ways in 1914. Lack of decent roads in the village caused some concern amongst the more enterprising local citizens, particularly around the village square, the center of business in town. A big booster campaign was started which ended in a rally in the Opera House. Typical of the times the rally included speeches, songs, and a number of selections by the local band.

The referendum carried by a 3 to 1 vote in the following day's election.

A celebration opening the new streets around the square was held on July 24, 1915. The bars closing off the streets were let down and an impromptu parade of about 40 cars drove around the square. The celebration included speeches by prominent citizens and a free motion picture in the park. Intermittent showers threatened to dampen the spirits but a surprisingly large number of people stayed for the whole affair which also included a dance in the Midget Theatre and a band concert in the evening.

The cost of paving was \$15,257.60 shared equally by the Village and the businesses facing the square.



## Brick Street Extension – 1921-Style

July 22, 1921 – Metamora Herald

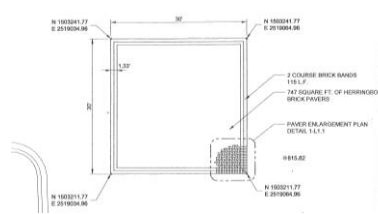
Maybe we should try to find out if that contractor is still in business... And that 6% interest looks pretty good, too!



“A special election will be held in the Village Board Room in the old Court House in the village of Metamora to vote on the proposition –”to issue bonds to pave Partridge Street with bricks from Davenport to the railroad tracks in the sum of \$2,600. Five bonds will be issued – four for \$500 and one for \$600.”

“Said bonds shall bear interest from their date until paid, at the rate of six (6) per cent, per annum.”

Otto Giehl, Village Clerk



Did you know there's a decorative brick square in the middle of the intersection??



October 20, 2014

## Bits and Pieces ...

Bob Fandel recalls the days before there was a concrete sidewalk around the Square. There were wooden steps that led up to what is now Zobrist Insurance.

Did you know that the first official seal of the village of Metamora was a design of a beehive with “Town of Metamora, Woodford County, Illinois”? Anyone know where that came from or why it was used??

- The fence around the Square was removed in 1923. Swings were available for kids to play on.
- The fence around the square was removed in 1923. The old fence, erected in 1887, had been used for generations as a hitch rack to accommodate farmers who still used a horse to come into town. A section of rack made of iron pipe sunk in concrete was placed on each of the four sides of the square.
- During the Blackhawk War, all the settlers around Metamora would gather in the late afternoon and go to Washington in a wagon train and spend the night in the stockade there. In the morning they'd come back and farm their land.



## New Artifacts ...

Thanks to the following for their generous donations!

- The McLean County Historic Society donated dinnerware from Stevenson descendent Elizabeth Ives.
- Renée Parks donated a basket and berry bucket from the estate of Bertha Snyder
- Shirley Adams donated School District Blanks from the 1900's

## Square Renovation 1943-Style...

12/11/1943 Herald.

Built in 1846 and Housed Many Business Ventures...

“The old two-story frame business building at the northeast corner of the square, a landmark since Metamora’s earliest days, is no more. Long condemned as a fire hazard, it has awaited for many months the time when workmen were available to effect its razing, which was begun by Shrepfer & Martin’s crew.”

The building was erected in 1846 by John Perry, who was an uncle of J.C. Percival and Eugene Irving, and who sank the old-time coal shaft several miles northwest of Metamora, which was operated for several years. It was related that Mr. Perry had bored a test hole for coal on this site and had planned a coal shaft there, but later decided on the site northwest of Metamora, where the coal seams were of shallower depth.

The two rooms on the lower floor were fitted up for storerooms and various businesses were established therein, including an implement store, saloon (west room), grocery store, jewelry store, tobacco shop, automobile salesroom (by F.C. Isch, and finally a barber shop. It also served as the village hall.

Many times the building has been afire, even when the fire truck was stored in the rear room.



This building was located where the American Legion/Community Center now stands

## Contact Us

Questions, ideas...

We would love to hear from you. Laure Adams, President, 369-2353 or [jrfarmer@mtco.com](mailto:jrfarmer@mtco.com); Kenneth Willman, Vice President, 367-4426; Jack Weddle, Treasurer, 645-0963 or [jweddle@mtco.com](mailto:jweddle@mtco.com); Board members: Dave Pohlman, 369-3290; [pohlman46@yahoo.com](mailto:pohlman46@yahoo.com); Lee Summer, 367-4059, 635-0259, [lsummer@mtco.com](mailto:lsummer@mtco.com); Mary Curry, 367-2185, [curry@mtco.com](mailto:curry@mtco.com); Jim Efaw 367-6099, [jimefaw@eggroll.com](mailto:jimefaw@eggroll.com)