

METAMORA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

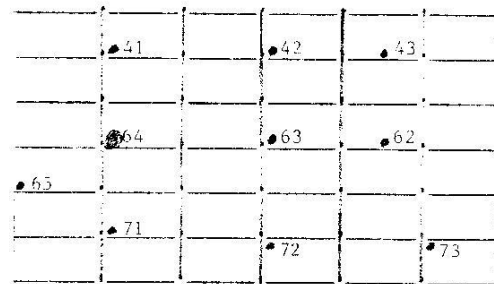
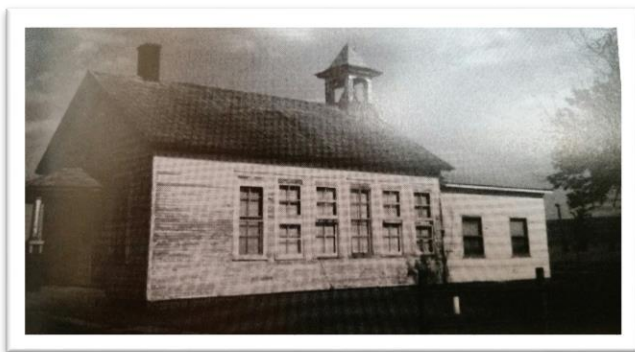


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“Standard Schools”

Between 1914 and 1918, there were eighty-six “Standard Schools” built in Woodford County. Each one was alike.



School Map above right: 41 – Hazel Dell; 42 – Morsetown; 43 – Harmony; 62 – Mt. Pleasant; 63 – Lowell; 64 – Metamora; 65 – Engel; 71 – Maple Grove; 72 – Happy Hour (Poor Farm); 73 – Tomb. Most of the rural schools were phased out by 1951. In 1890, 20% of the students were foreign-born.

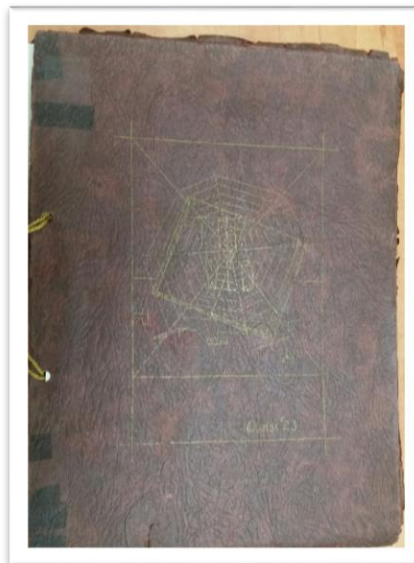
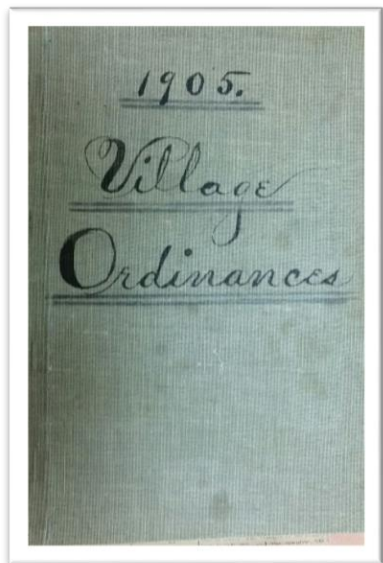
History Quiz...

Test your knowledge of important Metamora events. (Answers below – no peeking!!)

1. When was the first library in Metamora founded?
2. When was the Illinois Prairie District Library founded? How many branches does it have?
3. How long did Adlai Stevenson practice law in Metamora?
4. When did Metamora get electricity?
5. When were the streets around the Square paved with bricks?
6. When did the telephone system come to Metamora?
7. BONUS QUESTION - Which famous person graduated from Metamora’s Hanover College?

What’s New...?

Former Board Member Ken Willman’s family donated the 1905 Village Ordinances, 1923 Metamora Yearbook and the 1991 Sesquicentennial History book. Thanks so much!!



Looking For An Outing...?

If your group is searching for an educational, interesting outing, the Stevenson House offers a great connection to historic Metamora. Lots of things have been added since last fall! To arrange a tour, please contact any of the board members listed below.



Harry Summer,
 Class of 1923

1905 Village Ordinances – Mayor Frank Giehl’s copy

1923 Yearbook - Harry James Summer was president of the senior class, captain of the basketball team, and president of the Glee Club

Do You Know Anything About these Bottles...?

Found in a box of "old stuff" at a sale, do you know anything about these old bottles?



Imprinted on these bottles "Bottling Company Metamora Ill"



The bottom says "JE" – maybe Joe Eaton or Joe Ehringer?



The bottling "company" was apparently on the east side of the 100 block of N. Tazewell

Whisler's Corner

Do you remember when Mr. Whisler operated a gas station on Route 89, just outside of Lowpoint? Maybe you've driven by and wondered what it used to look like.

Here's what it looked like in 1947.

Any idea who the child in the picture is?

Wonder what a fill up would cost back then – or how much a Coke or 7 Up would cost?



"Fill 'er up and check the oil and water. And the bugs are really thick this summer..." Did you – or your Dad – every stop and get gas there? The structure is currently in much worse shape than it was in 1947.

Throwing Chickens off the Bank...

Bob Fandel recalls a big event in Metamora was (now the post office.) A big crowd would gather really got into it and there was a big scramble to today??)



when chickens would be thrown off the top of the old bank and if you caught one, you could keep it! Bob says the crowd get one. (Wonder what the PEDAs folks would say about that

How Many Questions Did You Get Right...?

If your answers are within 5 years, give yourself an "A"

1. Original library was founded in 1857. It contained 1,200 volumes.
2. The Illinois Prairie District Library was founded in 1950. Today it has 6 branches in Metamora, Germantown Hills, Spring Bay, Washburn, Roanoke, and Benson.
3. Adlai Stevenson practiced law in Metamora from 1859-1869. He lived at the southwest corner of Menard and Walnut (the current home of the Metamora Association for Historic Preservation).
4. Electricity came to Metamora in 1908. Lights were only available from evening to midnight. A controversy developed with the farmers east of town who had their own exchange in Cazenovia were asked to pay a fee to connect to the Metamora system.
5. The streets around the Square were paved with brick in 1914 at a cost of \$15,257.60. A grand celebration including a 40-car parade around the Square, a dance, and a band concert was held when the project was completed.
6. Peter Sommers installed a telephone system around 1907.
7. Trick question! Hanover College was organized in 1837. But it did not survive the financial panic of that year.

Contact Us

Questions, ideas - Love to hear from you

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