

METAMORA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

NEWSLETTER

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June 2012



You've Driven Past This Marker a Million Times...

But Do You Know What it Says...?

Standing at the corner of the Washington Blacktop and County Line Road...



Lincoln's Path Through Woodford County

Ninety years ago in 1922, this granite-faced concrete marker with a bronze medallion head of Abraham Lincoln was erected to mark the trail Lincoln used while traveling the eighth circuit. It reads: "Abraham Lincoln Traveled This Way As He Rode the Circuit of the Eighth Judicial District 1847-1859 – Erected 1922."

In 1921, the Woodford County Board was asked by the Lincoln Circuit Marking Association of Illinois to match their \$600 to erect the marker along the old roads that Lincoln and other judges and lawyers traveled. The marker was part of a general plan to mark the roads of the whole circuit of eighteen counties traveled by Lincoln and the county seats. Woodford County was the last county to approve.

Only two markers were erected in Woodford County – this one and one at the Courthouse in Metamora. The trail heading southeasterly to Eureka was not marked.



Did You Know...?

...that in the Presidential election of 1860 in Woodford County, Douglas defeated Lincoln – 1,419 votes to 1,238 votes?

...that before 1846, the children of Lourdes parish received their education in the log cabin of George J. Kerker?

Open Houses Resume...

Summer 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 the FIRST AND THIRD Sundays 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! Also, we're delighted to show the museum by appointment.

What's Old...

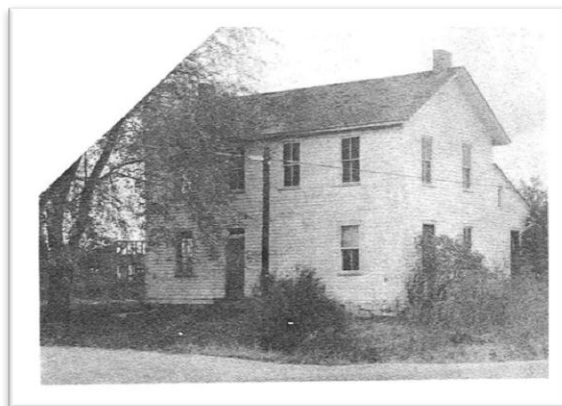
But new at the Stevenson House...

- MTHS Junior/Senior Prom Necklace
- 1925 Class picture
- Morton Federal ruler
- Home Ec pin
- Picture of Army nurses
- Chris Runyon's casket flag

Union House...

Where the State Police Headquarters now stands...

Did you know that the old road was just north of the present-day Route 116?



Germantown House and Union House

The first regular tavern in Worth Township was built in Germantown in 1850 by William Hoshor. It was a "large beer saloon and grocery store." The reason given for calling it by the fancy name of "Germantown House" was to "enhance the value of it." It was later changed to the Union House.

In 1855, Hoshor built a "supplement" to the Germantown House and named it "The Union House." It was located on the site of what is now the State Police Headquarters. Used as a "hotel, with a grocery and saloon" it was also used as a voting place.

Later, Peter Saale conducted a bar and grocery store there and by 1878, the building was operated by Frank Trapp and used for hotel purposes.

The Union House burned in 1865 and was rebuilt in 1870 on the same site. In 1900 it was converted to a homestead and in 1963 was demolished for the erection of the Police HQ.

This and That...

Mark Your Calendar...

- June 15 - Ice Cream Social in the Park - Gus Gustafson will play
- June 20-23 – Old Settlers
- Open Houses – 1st and 3rd Sundays from 1-4

Garden and Landscaping

Always looking for volunteers to help out with the landscaping (also known as weed maintenance!). If you have some time, just let us know...!

Wall Repair

The contractor who did much of the wall restoration called and informed us they had used a defective batch of mortar on the wall repair. They will return to fix the problem.

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